



# Capitol Report

League of Women Voters of Florida

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## Session Wrap Up

## May 16, 2007

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This is the Capitol Report Wrap-up. The Wrap-up report is a summary of the legislation the League has been tracking through the 2007 legislative session.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Overview of Session
- Government in Florida
- Social Policy in Florida
- Natural Resources in Florida
- Education in Florida

### OVERVIEW OF THE SESSION

Despite strong statements by Governor Crist as the “People’s Governor” and an indication from Senate leaders that we were entering a new era of government responsiveness, the 2007 Legislative Session was at best a mixed-bag for the League’s priorities and is receiving a failing grade from many of our allies with respect to important social policy issues. With respect to government and election issues the League had some successes – most notably the voter verifiable paper ballot with funding, decent audits and a deadline for ADA marksense ballots. However this victory was sorely tainted by a number of provisions that run counter to the goal of the vvpb of encouraging meaningful civic engagement. Further, some of the most offensive provisions that were at one point in the vvpb bills later found their way into other stand alone bills. Our effort to kill

these bills was largely affected by a lot of behind the scenes political actions. Additionally, deals made by some of our allies were utilized by our opposition to pass other legislation on the coattails of these deals. In the environmental and educational arenas, the League fared decently by blocking the most offensive and assisting with passing a few good bills or provisions.

Overall the Session for our priorities was likely a B-/C+. Our efforts did not go unnoticed as we were frequently mentioned by Legislators on the record and in the public media, discussing why they acted one way or another on legislation dealing with these priority issues.

To achieve many of these successes we relied on other individual groups and worked in coalitions to achieve desired results. Some of these groups and coalitions have been mentioned in previous Capitol Reports and/or here in this wrap-up.

This Wrap-Up will detail the happenings and ultimate results of the major pieces of legislation the League worked on as our priorities.

### GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA ELECTION LAW

A number of issues in this area were addressed in this year’s Legislature. Both the Senate and House Judiciary and Ethics and Elections Committees were key areas where these issues were addressed. Sen.

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Lee Constantine (R, 22), Chairman of the Senate Ethics & Elections Committee, filed over 14 proposed shell bills expressing legislative intent to reform the current election laws.

### **Ethics and Elections**

**SB 960** originally proposed changing the dates of municipal elections from March to the date of the presidential primary election date, but ended up with the voter verifiable paper ballot, the move of the Presidential primary and more.

- The League **supports** efforts to reduce the number of elections while providing a uniform scheduling for municipal elections, but also wants to be sure that any change does not unduly burden the local governments, financially.
- April 17<sup>th</sup>, unanimously passed as a committee substitute, in Ethics and Elections, that combines **SB 960** with **SB 1010** and added various other election issues.
- Members of the committee agreed to work with Common Cause and the League as this was a massive bill that was not available for review until shortly before the committee meeting.
- The League and Common Cause worked closely with Sen. Rich and Sen. Justice as well as some communications with Chair Constantine to draft amendments for this bill at its next committee, Judiciary.
- Bill was withdrawn from Judiciary and sent directly to TED Appropriations the last week of committee meetings.
- At TED two of our amendments were offered and passed, although one was tailored. These were an amendment that provided a sunset on ADA non marksense ballots and an amendment that moved the audit timeframe closer to the election giving more days for audit review before the contest period expired. However, a number of other bad amendments were also tacked on in

Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee, April 24th.

- Passed TED 3 to 2 with Sen. Margolis and Hill voting no, after the slew of amendments and the League and others testifying against the bill as amended.
- The League with others continued to work with Sen. Constantine, Geller and Webster (Constantine being the sponsor and Geller and Webster being the partisan authorities on this issue) to get additional amendments on the following issues voter identification (the bill removes all but basically a passport, driver's license and military id), third party voter registration, better audits and elections commission issues.
- On the floor amendments addressing all of these issues except the elections commission issue were added to the bill. However, none of the amendments went as far as we would have liked. A few other amendments were added on but only one was VERY problematic for the League and this was an amendment limiting the petition process.
- Bill was then substituted by the Senate on April 27<sup>th</sup>, with HB 537.

**HB 537** – this bill began as the House's presidential primary bill but ended up as the big elections reform bill that combined this with vvpb and other election issues.

- 01/23/07 Filed by Rep.Rivera
- Referred to Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- Referred to Ethics & Elections by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- 02/08/07 HOUSE Favorable with 1 amendment(s) by Ethics & Elections unanimously
- 02/22/07 HOUSE CS by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council;
- 03/21/07 HOUSE Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; YEAS 115 NAYS 1

- Sent to Senate;referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations; Withdrawn from Ethics and Elections; Judiciary;Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations
- CS passed as amended; YEAS 37 NAYS 2; Immediately certified
- HOUSE Amendment(s) to Senate amendment(s) failed –House concurred with CS passed as amended; YEAS 118 NAYS 0
- Signed by Officers and presented to Governor on May 9th

**SB 1010-** proposes a change in the presidential preference primary dates, and included numerous other election issues.

- Sponsored by Sen. Ring (D, 32)
- Unanimously passed Ethics and Elections Committee on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Here it was combined with SB 960.
- See SB 960 and HB 537 for more info.

**SB 958-** is the Secretary of State’s “election overhaul” bill. It contained a number of provisions that the League felt would restrict citizen access to elections.

- This bill was supported by Sen. Constantine
- It passed unanimously with one amendment by the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
- The League **opposed** this bill as it decreases many time lines associated with voting process, which could further restrict civic participation.
- The amendment that was accepted was presented by Sen. Rich (D, 34). This amendment retained the 4-year period for qualifying a constitutional amendment for the ballot.
- The League supported and spoke in favor of the amendment; it helps to make the bill less offensive.
- Now in the Committee on Community Affairs.

- Bill died in Community Affairs

### **Voting Process**

Proposed bills were in both the House and the Senate urging for a system in every county that leaves a paper trail and even some bills calling for a statewide system to be put in place to create a unified voting system. All of these bills propose some form of a paper trail. It appears that pieces of the Governor’s bill have ended up in **SB 960 (as discussed above), 962 and 1174** and also in **HB 213**.

**SB 962** - another election bill

- Sponsored by Sen. Constantine
- First discussed on April 10<sup>th</sup> Ethics and Elections Committee meeting.
- On April 17th, passed E&E unanimously as a committee substitute. The same day, the combo bill of SB 960 and 1010 also passed, SB 962 is completely duplicated in that bill.
- **SB 962** died in TED Appropriations.

**SB 1174** - provides definitions re electronic voting systems; provides additional capabilities that said voting system must possess before being approved for use; revises standards for accessible voting systems; provides requirements for voting methods at polling places; revises procedures for audits of voting machines; revises methods for manual recounts of ballots; revises cross-references.

- Introduced by Sen. Dockery and Sen. Villalobos
- Identical to **HB 213**
- February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations
- April 17th, unanimously passed as a committee substitute by the Ethics and Elections.
- April 23rd, passed by the Judiciary by a 7-2 vote.

- At both E&E and Judiciary, the League spoke about the provisions in SB 1174/HB 213 that were better than SB 960 to try to get some of these areas improved in SB 960. This worked with respect to audits.
- April 24<sup>th</sup>, died in Transportation and Economic Development.

**HB 213** - which creates an act called "Trust in Elections Act"

- Sponsored by Rep. Hukill (R, 28)
- Identical to **HB 1174**
- The League worked with Rep. Hukill throughout session and applauds her efforts at taking on this issue.
- Referred to the House Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council and the House Policy and Budget Council.
- Voted on by the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council on April 17<sup>th</sup>, with a strike all amendment. The revised bill was passed unanimously as a committee substitute.
- Bill got weaker with the strike all, but still had a number of good provisions.
- Bill passed House Policy and Budget Council on the last day of Committee meetings.
- Bill was temporarily passed by the House on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Bill then died on calendar.

**Other Election Bills**

**HB 43**

- Sponsored by Rep. Porth (D, 96)
- Identical to **SB 2242** by Sen. Ring (D, 32)
- Referred to the House Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council (EEIC) and the House Policy and Budget Council.
- Died in Ethics and Elections Committee of the EEIC.

**SB 2242**

- Supported by Sen. Ring (D, 32)
- Identical to SB 2242

- Referred to the Ethics and Elections, the Judiciary, and the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committees.
- Died in Ethics and Elections

**HB 377**

- Sponsored by Rep. Buchar (D, 88)
- Referred to the Ethics and Elections, the Judiciary, and the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committees.
- Died in Ethics and Elections Committee of the EEIC.

**SB 342**

- Sponsored by Sen. Wilson (D, 33)
- Referred to the Ethics and Elections, the Judiciary, and the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committees.
- Died in Ethics & Elections

**SB 462**

- Sponsored by Sen. Siplin (D, 19)
- Has no identical companion in the other chamber.
- Referred to the Ethics and Elections, the Judiciary, and the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committees.
- Died in Ethics & Elections

**HB 391** - provides for supervisor of elections to file request with Elections Div. of Dept. of State to designate additional early voting sites; provides requirements for such request; requires that division receive public comment on proposed said sites; specifies timeframe within which division must approve or disapprove request for additional sites; revises time when early voting sites are required to be open.

- Sponsored by Rep. Richter (R, 76)
- Identical to **SB 2560**
- The League supports this bill.
- March 8<sup>th</sup>, passed unanimously out of the House Ethics and Elections Committee

- Now in the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council
- Died in EEIC

### **SB 2560**

- Sponsored by Sen. Posey (R, 24).
- Identical to **HB 391**
- The League supports this bill.
- March 20<sup>th</sup>, introduced to the Senate
- Referred to the Senate Ethics & Elections, and Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committees.
- Died in Ethics & Elections

### **BUDGET**

The League tracked the budget closely because of its relationship to achieving the voter verifiable paper ballot.

**HB 5001** provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2007, & ending June 30, 2008, to pay salaries, & other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government.

- Passed by the House Policy and Budget Council
- April 12<sup>th</sup>, Substituted SB 2800 and laid it on the table.
- The Senate requested a conference committee to address the disagreement the two chambers have over **HB 5001**.

**SB 2800** provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2007, & ending June 30, 2008; pays salaries, & other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of State government.

- April 12<sup>th</sup>, Passed unanimously by the Senate
- April 12<sup>th</sup>, the House substituted an amended **HB 5001** for **SB 2800** by a 112 - 2 vote.
- Senate refused to concur

- On April 18<sup>th</sup> conference committee was agreed to.
- On May 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate passed it unanimously and the House with 4 No's.

### **Other Government Reform Bills**

**SB 2196** provides short title; eliminates authority for members of legislative committee to administer certain oaths & affirmations to witnesses; requires persons who address legislative committee to take oath or affirmation of truthfulness; provides exceptions; requires member of said committee to administer oath or affirmation; provides criminal penalties for certain false statements before said committee, etc.

- Introduced by Judiciary; Villalobos
- The League supported this bill and its companion
- Introduced, referred to Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Rules
- CS passed by Judiciary vote of 9-2
- Passed unanimously by Criminal Justice
- Withdrawn from Rules
- Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted; Ordered engrossed
- Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended by 36-3 vote
- Died in Messages

**HB 1145** - Truth in Government Act; provides short title; eliminates authority for members of legislative committee to administer certain oaths & affirmations to witnesses; requires persons who address legislative committee to take oath or affirmation of truthfulness; provides exceptions; requires member of said committee to administer oath or affirmation; provides criminal penalties for certain false statements before said committee, etc.

- Introduced by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council;
- Llorente; Porth; Planas
- Introduced
- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Rules & Calendar Council

- Referred to Audit & Performance (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Referral to Audit & Performance (GEA) revoked by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Now in Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- CS passed by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; 13-1 vote
- CS read 1st time on
- CS filed; Now in Rules & Calendar Council
- Died in Rules & Calendar Council

### **Voter Education**

The negative campaigning that was seen throughout the elections last year distracted voters from focusing and learning the issues at hand. There have been mixed reviews by both Senators and Representatives during the League interviews over voter education legislation. Two bills related to Student Voter Education. These bills will require voter education in the schools for high school seniors.

### **HB 581**

- Sponsored by Rep. Bendross-Mindingall (D, 109)
- The League supports this bill.
- Referred to the House Committee on Ethics and Elections by the House Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council.
- Introduced, referred to Economic Expansion & Infrastructure
- Referred to Ethics & Elections (EEI) by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- Died in Committee on Ethics & Elections

### **SB 302**

- Sponsored by Sen. Fasano (R, 11)
- The League supports this bill.
- Passed favorably by the Senate Committee on Education Pre-K-12 by a 6-

0 vote.

- Referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections.
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

### **Felony Rights Restoration**

There were a number of pieces of legislation dealing with rights restoration for felons this session. Additionally, the Governor and Cabinet in their role in this process set in motion early in session certain activities as detailed in previous Capitol Reports. None of the legislation went anywhere this session.

**SJR 202** constitutional amendment to authorize Legislature to provide conditions under which convicted felon's right to register or vote may be restored by statute, & removes inoperative provisions re term limits for members of Congress & U.S. Senators, which provisions have been determined by U.S. Supreme Court to violate U.S. Constitution. Amends s. 4, Art. VI.

- Introduced by Lawson, Hill and Wilson
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Rules
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

**SB 204- Felons' Right to Vote/Restoration-** provides for automatic restoration of former felons' right to vote following completion & satisfaction of sentence of incarceration & community supervision; provides conditions for such automatic restoration; amends specified provisions to conform.

- Introduced by Dawson, Lawson; Hill & Wilson
- Linked to SB 0202, Identical to SB 0466, Compare HB 0101, HB 0103
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Criminal Justice; Judiciary
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

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**SB 466**- Felons' Right to Vote/Restoration- cites act as "Citizens' Empowerment Act"; provides for automatic restoration of former felons' right to vote following completion & satisfaction of sentence of incarceration & community supervision; provides conditions for such automatic restoration; amends specified provisions to conform.

- Introduced by Siplin
- Identical SB 0204, Compare HB 0101, HB 0103, SB 0202
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Criminal Justice; Judiciary
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

### **Campaign Finance**

**SB 734**- Campaign Financing/Local Government- defines terms "local government" & "public funds"; prohibits local government from expending, directly or indirectly, public funds to support or oppose issue, referendum, or amendment that is subject to vote of electors; prohibits local government from expending public funds for political advertisement, etc.

- Introduction by Justice
- Similar to HB 0749
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Community Affairs; Judiciary
- Unanimously passed with 1 amendment(s) by Ethics and Elections
- Died in Committee on Community Affairs

**HB 749** - Campaign Financing/Local Government; defines terms "local government" & "public funds"; prohibits local government from expending, directly or indirectly, public funds to support or oppose issue, referendum, or amendment that is subject to vote of electors; prohibits local government from expending public funds for political advertisement, etc.

- Introduced by Long, Legg, & Allen; Similar to SB 0734
- Referred to Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council & Ethics & Elections Committee

- Died in Committee on Ethics & Elections within the EEIC

**SB 2808** - Campaign Financing ; requires electioneering communications organizations to keep certain financial records; removes exception to reporting requirement to list occupation of certain contributors; provides additional requirements re certain radio & television political ads; revises disclosure statement requirements for certain telephone solicitations; repeals specified provision re signatures gathered for initiative petitions, etc.

- Introduced by Deutch; Identical HB 0393
- March 20<sup>th</sup>, referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations
- May 4<sup>th</sup>, died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

**HB 393** - Campaign Financing; requires electioneering communications organizations to keep certain financial records; removes exception to reporting requirement to list occupation of certain contributors; provides additional requirements re certain radio & television political ads; revises disclosure statement requirements for certain telephone solicitations; repeals specified provision re signatures gathered for initiative petitions, etc.

- Introduced by Randolph; Identical SB 2808
- Referred to Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to Ethics & Elections by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- Died in Committee on Ethics & Elections within the EEIC

**SB 1990** - Campaign Contributions ; prohibits legislators, statewide officeholders, & certain candidates from

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soliciting or accepting contributions to or on behalf of political committee, committee of continuous existence, electioneering communications organization, or any organization described in s. 527 of Internal Revenue Code from controlling or coordinating or consulting with any such committee or organization, provides exceptions & penalties.

- Introduced by Justice
- Identical HB 1149
- Introduced, referred to Ethics and Elections; Criminal Justice; Judiciary
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

**HB 1149** - Campaign Contributions; prohibits legislators, statewide officeholders, & certain candidates from soliciting or accepting contributions to or on behalf of political committee, committee of continuous existence, electioneering communications organization, or any organization described in s. 527 of Internal Revenue Code from controlling or coordinating or consulting with any such committee or organization; provides exceptions & penalties.

- Introduced by Fitzgerald
- Identical SB 1990
- 03/05/07 referred to Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council; Policy & Budget Council -HJ 00081
- Referred to Ethics & Elections Committee by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- Died in Committee on Ethics & Elections within the EEIC

**SB 2522** - Clean Up Florida Campaigns Act; prohibits contributions to candidates or for or in opposition to issues by organizations exempt from tax under s. 527 of Internal Revenue Code; prohibits candidates for certain offices from soliciting money for or from such organizations; redefines term "expenditure," for purposes of lobbying before executive branch or

Constitution Revision Commission, to exclude contributions or expenditures made by such organizations, etc.

- Introduced by Justice
- 03/20/07 Introduced, referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

**SB 2264** - Florida Clean Elections Act ; creates said act; provides eligibility requirements for clean-money campaign funding for candidates for statewide or legislative office; provides for disclosure of excess spending by nonparticipating candidates; eliminates authorization for unrestricted expenditures by political committees & political parties to jointly endorse three or more candidates, etc.

- Introduced by Wilson
- Introduced, referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

**SB 2648** - Political Advertisements ; creates Florida Campaign Sunshine website; requires any person or organization responsible for creating or publishing targeted political advertisement or electioneering communication to submit copy of advertisement or communication & certain specified materials & information to Elections Division; provides separate deadline for advertisements & communications published during final week of campaign, etc.

- Introduced by Ethics and Elections; Sen. Deutch (Compare HB 1335)
- CS with an amendment passed by Ethics and Elections; 6-3
- Died in Committee on Judiciary

## **FLORIDA CONSTITUTION**

### **Reapportionment**

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**SJR 1352** - constitutional amendment to replace existing provisions providing for legislative apportionment with new provisions that establish standards for said reapportionment & congressional redistricting & that provide for creation of nine-member commission to prepare apportionment plan for state legislature & redistricting plan for congressional districts of state.

- Introduced by Geller
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations; Rules
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

### **Initiative Petition Requirements**

**SB 900-** Initiative Petitions ; requires initiative petition forms to be signed by constitutionally required distribution of electors; prescribes time period within which signed petition form must be submitted to supervisor of elections to be verified as valid; provides procedures for revocation of signature on petition form.

- Introduced by Judiciary; Posey and Crist
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary
- Passed with amendments by Ethics and Elections vote of 6-3 along partisan lines
- The League spoke against this bill here
- CS passed by- Judiciary unanimously with a strike everything amendment that was represented as gutting the bill and leaving only a “self-initiating” revocation process – the League spoke indicating that because the amendment was late filed that we could not specifically speak to the language but that if it was crafted as represented that we could possibly be okay with it. We received assurance from Chairman Villalobos that it was as represented. Afterwards we found a loophole in the amendment which would create “cottage industry” harassment of those who signed petitions to revoke their signatures. We tried to circulate

amendments to make the bill as represented in Judiciary but were assured the bill was going no where further. We continued to oppose the bill and ask for an amendment behind the scenes.

- Read 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> time with amendments adopted that put the bill back to a more offensive posture. CS passed as amended by 27-9 vote; Immediately certified and sent to the House
- House then substituted HB 7009 for SB 900 and sent back to the Senate.
- The League and our allies pulled out all the stops and were assured that the Senate would kill the bill but instead of taking it to a vote they simply refused to concur and sent it back to the Senate asking them to concur with SB 900 as sent to them previously. The League and Common Cause indicated to all of our allies that if this happened the House would pass SB 900. We were assured by our allies with more access in the House that this would not happen. Unfortunately we were right.
- House passed CS for SB 900 by 96-22 vote.
- Veto being sought.

**HB 7009-** Petition Procedures & Standards; revises terminology re verification of signatures on petitions; requires name-by-name, signature-by-signature verification of initiative petitions & related petition revocations; revises procedures for placing initiative on ballot; provides requirements for information to be contained in petition forms; provides private property rights re activity on property that supports or opposes ballot initiatives, etc.

- Introduced by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council; Cannon
- League opposed this bill throughout session
- Referred to Policy & Budget Council
- Withdrawn from Policy & Budget Council; Placed on Calendar

- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Substituted for CS/SB 900
- See its fate above in SB 900

**SB 736** - Trespass on Commercial Premises [EPCC]; provides that person may not remain on commercial premises held open to public following order to leave on specified grounds. Introduced by Oelrich

- Identical HB 0233
- League vehemently opposed this bill throughout session
- Referred to Commerce; Criminal Justice; Judiciary
- Introduced, referred to Commerce; Criminal Justice; Judiciary
- Died in Committee on Commerce after being TP'd there three times

**HB 233** - Trespass on Commercial Premises; provides that person may not remain on commercial premises held open to public following order to leave on specified grounds.

- Introduced by Brown & Traviesa; Identical SB 0736
- Referred to Safety & Security Council
- Referred to Courts (SS) by Safety & Security Council
- Introduced, referred to Safety & Security Council; Referred to Courts (SS) by Safety & Security Council
- Died in Committee on Courts (SS)

**HB 559** - Private Property Rights/Ballot Initiatives; provides private property rights re: activity on property that supports or opposes ballot Initiatives.

- Introduced by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council; Brown; (Murzin; Proctor; McKeel (Similar CS/SB 1920)
- League opposed this bill throughout Session. Unfortunately some of our allies made a deal to not oppose this bill and the Chamber used that deal to garner support for this bill and SB 900

- Referred to Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- Referred to Ethics & Elections by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council
- Passed with 1 amendment by Ethics & Elections vote 9-0
- CS passed by- Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council; 10-4 vote
- Substituted CS/SB 1920
- See SB 1920 below

**SB 1920** - Ballot Initiatives; authorizes private property owners & others to prohibit or regulate activity on their property which opposes or supports ballot initiatives.

- Introduced by Commerce; Fasano; Crist
- Introduced, referred to Ethics and Elections; Commerce
- Passed unanimously with 1 amendment(s) by Ethics and Elections,
- CS passed by- Commerce; 8- 0;
- CS unanimously passed Senate floor (see deal brokered above with HB 559); Immediately certified
- Substituted for CS/HB 559; Read 2nd and 3rd times; CS unanimously passed

### **Fiscal Policy**

**SB 476** - Financial Impact Statements; constitutional amendment to require that statement be provided to public re probable financial impact of any proposed amendment to or revision of constitution, rather than requiring such statement only for amendment or revision proposed by initiative.

- Introduced by Hill
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations; Rules
- Introduced, referred to Ethics and Elections; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations; Rules
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

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**SB 478** - Financial Impact Statements; requires that, for every amendment to or revision of State Constitution, not merely for amendments proposed by initiative, a separate financial impact statement concerning measure & prepared by Financial Impact Estimating Conference must appear on ballot; provides deadlines for preparing &, if necessary, revises such financial impact statement.

- Introduced by Hill
- Linked to SB 0476
- Referred to Ethics and Elections; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Ethics and Elections; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Ethics and Elections

**SB 2206** - Homestead Exemption/Increase; constitutional amendment to increase amount of homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

- Introduced by Villalobos
- Identical to HB 0571
- Introduced, referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations; Rules
- Died in Committee on Community Affairs

**HB 571** - Homestead Exemption/Increase; constitutional amendment to increase amount of homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

- Introduced by Llorente
- Identical SB 2206
- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Introduced, referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council;

- Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council -HJ 00122
- Died in Committee on State Affairs (GEA)

**SB 454** - Homestead Exemption/Increase; increases amount of homestead exemption.

- Introduced by Dawson
- Referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Community Affairs.

**SB 2056** - Local Government Revenue Sharing; provides additional condition that limits non-ad valorem tax revenues & that local governments must comply with in order to be eligible to participate in revenue sharing.

- Introduced by Storms
- Introduced, referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Community Affairs

### **Tax Reform**

**HB 7089** - Ad Valorem Taxes/Discretionary Sales Surtax [FPCC]; constitutional amendment to provide for ad valorem tax exemption for tangible personal property, clarify that ad valorem tax relief to renters may be provided in form of tax relief to owner of property, authorize counties & school districts to grant homestead property exemption & impose discretionary sales surtax upon approval by referendum, etc.

- Filed; Introduced
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted; Amendment(s) failed
- Read 3rd time; Passed as amended by 78-40 vote; Immediately certified
- Received, referred to Finance and Tax; Withdrawn from Finance and Tax ; Read 2nd time

- Amendment(s) adopted; Read 3rd time; Passed unanimously as amended 3; Immediately certified; Requested House to concur, or failing to concur, appoint conference committee
- Refused to concur, acceded to request for conference committee; Conference Committee appointed: Cannon, Altman, Attkisson, Bogdanoff, Brown, Cusack, Flores, Garcia, Gelber, Grant, Lopez-Cantera, Murzin, Scionti, Seiler, Weatherford
- Conference Committee appointed: Sen. Haridopolos, Chair; Deutch, Atwater, Geller, Storms, Webster, Carlton
- Died in Conference Committee

**HB 1483 - Local Government Revenue Sources**; requires super majority vote for actions by local government to levy new, increase existing, expand base or area subject to, or eliminate exemption from taxes, special assessments, non-ad valorem assessments, or impact fees; requires super majority vote of electors voting in referenda on laws taking same actions; provides exception for certain emergencies; provides for non-application to certain other revenue sources; provides definition.

- Introduced by Policy & Budget Council; Flores; Schenck; Grant; Altman; Homan
- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to Urban & Local Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Referral to Urban & Local Affairs (GEA) revoked by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Now in Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Passed by State Affairs (GEA); 4-3 vote
- Now in Government Efficiency & Accountability Council

- Passed unanimously by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- CS passed by- unanimous vote Policy & Budget Council;
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Read 3rd time; CS passed 98-18 vote; Immediately certified
- Received, referred to Finance and Tax; Withdrawn from Finance and Tax; Read 2nd time; Amendment adopted; Read 3rd time; CS unanimously passed as amended; Immediately certified; Requested House to concur, or failing to concur, appoint conference committee
- In returning messages; Refused to concur, acceded to request for conference committee; Conference Committee appointed: Cannon, Altman, Attkisson, Bogdanoff, Brown, Cusack, Flores, Garcia, Gelber, Grant, Lopez-Cantera, Murzin, Scionti, Seiler, Weatherford
- In returning messages; Conference Committee appointed: Senators Haridopolos, Chair; Deutch, Atwater, Geller, Storms, Webster, Carlton
- Died in Conference Committee

**HB 7001 - Ad Valorem Tax Millage**; specifies form for advertisements of proposed tax increases in excess of millage limitation; provides ad valorem tax millage limitations; provides for increasing millage limitation for certain counties for certain purposes; prohibits certain counties or municipalities from participating in certain revenue sharing & local government half-cent sales tax distributions under certain circumstances, etc.

- Filed; Introduced, referred to Policy & Budget Council
- CS passed by- Policy & Budget Council; 24-7 vote
- CS read 1st time on 03/20/07; CS filed

- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted  
Amendment(s) failed
- Read 3rd time; CS unanimously passed as amended; Immediately certified
- Received, referred to Finance and Tax; Withdrawn from Finance and Tax; Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted; Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; 38-0 vote; Immediately certified; Requested House to concur, or failing to concur, appoint conference committee
- In returning messages; Refused to concur, acceded to request for conference committee ; Conference Committee appointed: Cannon, Altman, Attkisson, Bogdanoff, Brown, Cusack, Flores, Garcia, Gelber, Grant, Lopez-Cantera, Murzin, Scionti, Seiler, Weatherford
- In returning messages; Conference Committee appointed: Senators Haridopolos, Chair; Deutch, Atwater, Geller, Storms, Webster, Carlton
- Died in Conference Committee

**HB 261** - Just Valuation of Property; provides for consideration of zoning changes & permits in determining highest & best use; includes cost of removal of tangible personal property as consideration in net sale proceeds factor; provides for consideration of value adjustment board decisions for all properties; revises criteria for presumption of correctness of ad valorem taxation assessments & burden of proof in actions challenging such assessments, etc.

- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Introduced, referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council;

- Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Passed with 1 amendment(s) by State Affairs (GEA); 7-1 vote
- CS passed by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; 13-0 vote
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed
- CS/CS passed by- Policy & Budget Council; 25-2 vote; CS read 1st time on ; CS filed;
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Read 3rd time; Amendment(s) adopted; CS passed as amended; 117-1 vote; Immediately certified
- Received, referred to Finance and Tax; Withdrawn from Finance and Tax; Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted; Read 3rd time; CS passed unanimously as amended; Immediately certified; Requested House to concur, or failing to concur, appoint conference committee In returning messages; Refused to concur, acceded to request for conference committee; Conference Committee appointed: Cannon, Altman, Attkisson, Bogdanoff, Brown, Cusack, Flores, Garcia, Gelber, Grant, Lopez-Cantera, Murzin, Scionti, Seiler, Weatherford
- In returning messages; Conference Committee appointed: Senators Haridopolos, Chair; Deutch, Atwater, Geller, Storms, Webster, Carlton
- Died in Conference Committee

**SB 1020** - Ad Valorem Taxation [FPCC]; requires that property appraiser provide instructions to taxing authorities for computing rolled-back rate; provides that certain tax increment finance payments, taxes levied for payment of bonds, & voted tax levies are exempt from limitations on millage rates; amends specified provisions re taxpayer rights, approval of assessment rolls, disclosure of tax impact, & school district taxes, etc.

- Introduced by Finance and Tax; Haridopolos; Atwater; Storms; Deutch; Geller; Baker
- Filed
- 02/22/07 Referred to Finance and Tax; Community Affairs; General
- Government Appropriations; Rules
- Introduced, referred to Finance and Tax; Community Affairs;
- General Government Appropriations; Rules
- CS passed by Finance and Tax; 5- 0 vote -; CS read
- 1st time on -; Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2); Original reference(s) removed: Community Affairs; General Government Appropriations; Rules, Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time; Amendments adopted ; Ordered engrossed
- Died on Calendar

**SB 1022** - Affordable Housing [FPCC]; requires appraisers to use income approach when assessing affordable housing property that has low-income tax credit; provides for just valuation of affordable housing property; requires property appraisers to use income approach when assessing such property; specifies kinds of property subject to assessment. Sponsored by Finance and Tax; Haridopolos; Atwater; Storms; Deutch; Geller; Baker

- Filed
- Referred to Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations; Rules
- Introduced, referred to Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations; Rules
- CS passed by Finance and Tax; 5-0; CS read 1st time on ; Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2); Original reference(s) removed: General
- Government Appropriations; Rules; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time

- Died on Calendar

**SB 560** - Local Governments; requires that value of expected future tax benefits for homestead property be compensated for in eminent domain taking; requires that county, municipality, or special district hold certain public hearings before adopting ordinance or resolution increasing impact fee; specified data to be used for tabulating property value & taxation including information concerning ad valorem taxes & millage rates, etc. Sponsored by Finance and Tax; Community Affairs; Atwater; Storms; Deutch; Haridopolos; Geller; Baker

- 01/11/07 Filed
- Referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- CS passed by Community Affairs; 9- 0 vote; CS read 1st time on
- Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2)
- Now in Finance and Tax
- CS/CS passed by Finance and Tax; 5- 0; CS read 1st time on
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted
- Died on Calendar

**SB 3034**- Ad Valorem Taxation/Tangible Personal Property [FPCC]; constitutional amendment to authorize, by general law, exemption from ad valorem taxation of up to \$25,000 of assessed value on each tangible personal property tax return & to schedule amendment to take effect on January 1, 2009; to provide that assessed value of new homestead must equal or exceed assessed value of previous homestead, etc. Sponsored by Finance and Tax; Atwater; Storms; Deutch; Haridopolos; Geller; Baker

- Filed
- Introduced, referred to Finance and Tax

- CS passed by- Finance and Tax; 5- 0 vote; CS read 1st time on ; Pending reference review -under Rule 4.7(2); Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Died on Calendar

**HB 261** - Just Valuation of Property [FPCC]; provides for consideration of zoning changes & permits in determining highest & best use; includes cost of removal of tangible personal property as consideration in net sale proceeds factor; provides for consideration of value adjustment board decisions for all properties; revises criteria for presumption of correctness of ad valorem taxation assessments & burden of proof in actions challenging such assessments, etc. Sponsored by Policy & Budget Council; Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Lopez-Cantera; Legg; Rivera; Richter; Zapata; Patronis; Frishe; Bean; Llorente; Precourt; Heller; Nehr; Schenck; Kreegel; Anderson; Traviesa; Robaina; Altman; R. Saunders; Murzin; Machek; Patterson; Hasner; R. Garcia; Kravitz; Bucher; Galvano .

- 01/12/07 Filed
- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Introduced, referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Passed with 1 amendment by State Affairs (GEA); 7-1 vote
- Now in Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- CS passed by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; 13- 0 vote
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed

- Now in Policy & Budget Council
- CS/CS passed by- Policy & Budget Council; 25-2 vote; CS read 1st time on ; CS filed; Placed on Calendar
- Read 2nd time
- Read 3rd time; Amendment(s) adopted; CS passed as amended; 117- 1 vote; Immediately certified
- Received, referred to Finance and Tax; Withdrawn from Finance and Tax; Read 2nd time; Amendment adopted; Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; 39- 0 vote; Immediately certified; Requested House to concur, or failing to concur, appoint conference committee
- In returning messages; Refused to concur, acceded to request for conference committee; Conference Committee appointed: Cannon, Altman, Attkisson, Bogdanoff, Brown, Cusack, Flores, Garcia, Gelber, Grant, Lopez-Cantera, Murzin, Scionti, Seiler, Weatherford In returning messages; Conference Committee appointed: Senators Haridopolos, Chair; Deutch, Atwater, Geller, Storms, Webster, Carlton
- Died in Conference Committee

**HB 1483** - Local Government Revenue Sources [FPCC]; requires super majority vote for actions by local government to levy new, increase existing, expand base or area subject to, or eliminate exemption from taxes, special assessments, non-ad valorem assessments, or impact fees; requires super majority vote of electors voting in referenda on laws taking same actions; provides exception for certain emergencies; provides for non-application to certain other revenue sources; provides definition. Sponsored by Policy & Budget Council; Flores; Schenck; Grant; Altman; Homan

- 03/05/07 Filed
- Introduced
- 03/12/07 Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council

- Referred to Urban & Local Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Referral to Urban & Local Affairs (GEA) revoked by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Now in Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Referred to
- State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Passed by State Affairs (GEA); 4- 3 vote
- Now in Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Passed by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; 13- 0 vote
- CS passed by- Policy & Budget Council; 32- 0 vote
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Read 3rd time; CS passed; 98- 18 vote; Immediately certified
- Received, referred to Finance and Tax; Withdrawn from Finance and Tax; Read 2nd time; Amendment adopted; Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; 39- 0 vote; Immediately certified; Requested House to concur, or failing to concur, appoint conference committee
- Refused to concur, acceded to request for conference committee; Conference Committee appointed: Cannon, Altman, Attkisson, Bogdanoff, Brown, Cusack, Flores, Garcia, Gelber, Grant, Lopez-Cantera, Murzin, Scionti, Seiler, Weatherford
- Conference Committee appointed: Senators Haridopolos, Chair; Deutch, Atwater, Geller, Storms, Webster, Carlton
- Died in Conference Committee

**HB 503** - Ad Valorem Taxation/Local Government; provides that local government may

- not participate in receiving revenues from local government half-cent sales tax in given year if government levies millage rate in excess of rate calculated as

specified; requires that instructions for calculating such maximum millage be included on form on which property appraiser certifies to each taxing authority the taxable value within taxing authority's jurisdiction. Sponsored by Cusack

- 01/23/07 Filed; Identical SB 0220
- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to Urban & Local Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Introduced, referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to Urban & Local Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Died in Committee on Urban & Local Affairs (GEA)

**SB 220** - Ad Valorem Taxation/Local Government; provides that local government may not participate in receiving revenues from local government half-cent sales tax in given year if government levies millage rate in excess of rate calculated as specified; requires that instructions for calculating such maximum millage be included on form on which property appraiser certifies to each taxing authority the taxable value within taxing authority's jurisdiction. Proposed by Lynn

- 12/14/06 Filed; Identical HB 0503
- 01/09/07 Referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Community Affairs

**SB 1746** - Ad Valorem Millage Rates ; provides for annual adjustment to rolled-back millage rate; provides for limitation on millage rate levied by counties & municipalities that participate in state revenue sharing; limits independent special

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districts to rolled-back millage rate; provides additional certification requirements for local government to be eligible to receive state revenue-sharing funds. Sponsored by Gaetz

- 02/20/07 Filed; Similar HB 1403
- Introduced, referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax;
- General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Community Affairs

**HB 1403** - Ad Valorem Millage Rates; provides for annual adjustment to rolled-back millage rate; provides for limitation on millage rate levied by counties & municipalities that participate in state revenue sharing; limits independent special districts to rolled-back millage rate; provides additional certification requirements for local government to be eligible to receive state revenue-sharing funds. Sponsored by Patronis

- 03/03/07 Filed; Similar to SB 1746
- Introduced
- Referred to Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to State Affairs (GEA) by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
- Died in Committee on State Affairs (GEA)

A Special Legislative Session is scheduled for June to revisit the Property Tax issues which were not resolved during the conferencing.

## **SOCIAL POLICY IN FLORIDA**

### **Equal Rights for Men and Women**

**HB 8003** - Equal Rights for Men & Women; ratifies proposed amendment to Constitution of United States re equal rights for men & women. Sponsored by Cusack; L. Garcia; A. Gibson;

- Porth; Robaina; Zapata; Roberson; Bullard; Planas; Brandenburg; Randolph; Brise; Gelber; Waldman; Skidmore; Long;

Sands; Richardson; Culp; Holloway; Fitzgerald; Meadows; Ausley; Schwartz; Kiar; Reed

- 02/23/07 Filed; Identical SB 0272
- Introduced
- Died reference deferred

**SB 272** - Equal Rights for Men & Women; ratifies proposed amendment to Constitution of United States re equal rights for men & women. Sponsored by Margolis; Joyner; Wilson; Rich; Bennett; Ring; Geller; Bullard; Justice

- 12/14/06 Filed; Identical HB 8003
- Referred to Judiciary; Rules
- Introduced, referred to Judiciary; Rules
- Died in Committee on Judiciary

## **NATURAL RESOURCES IN FLORIDA**

**HB 535** - Lake Okeechobee Protection Program; expands said program to include protection of Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie Rivers & their estuaries; provides for Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie River Estuary Protection Program, including Estuary Protection Plan, Estuary Construction

- Project, Estuary Watershed Pollutant Control Program, & Estuary Research, Water Quality, & Habitat Monitoring Program; revises requirements re annual progress report of SFWMD, etc.
- Sponsored by Williams; Long; Nehr; Traviesa; Aubuchon
- 01/23/07 Filed; Identical SB 1474
- Referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Introduced, referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council

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- Died in Committee on Environmental Protection (ENR)

**SB 1474** - Lake Okeechobee Protection Program ; expands said program to include protection of Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie Rivers & their estuaries; provides for Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie River Estuary Protection Program, including Estuary Protection Plan, Estuary Construction Project, Estuary Watershed Pollutant Control Program, & Estuary Research, Water Quality, & Habitat Monitoring Program; revises requirements re annual progress report of SFWMD, etc.

- Introduced by Saunders; Identical HB 0535
- Filed
- Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Agriculture; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Agriculture; General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation

**HB 197** - Surface Water Protection Programs; provides for regulation of peat mines in certain wetlands; provides applicability of variance provisions for activities in surface waters & wetlands in Northwest Fla. WMD; provides exemption for certain water quality standards in said district; authorizes DEP & South Fla. WMD to adopt basin-specific criteria under Lake Okeechobee Watershed Phosphorus Control Program; repeals provision re permitting of peat mining, etc.

- Introduced by Policy & Budget Council; Environment & Natural Resources Council; Machek; Taylor; Sands
- 01/09/07 Filed
- Referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council

- Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Introduced, referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Referral to Environmental Protection (ENR) revoked by Environment & Natural Resources Council; Now in Environment & Natural Resources Council
- CS passed by Environment & Natural Resources Council; 13- 0 vote
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed
- CS/CS passed by- Policy & Budget Council; 28-0 vote; CS read 1st time on ; CS filed;
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Read 3rd; CS passed; 117- 1 vote
- In Messages; Received, referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; General Government Appropriations
- Withdrawn from Environmental Preservation and Conservation; General Government Appropriations; Substituted for CS/SB 594; Read 2nd time; Amendments adopted
- Read 3rd time; Amendment(s) reconsidered, withdrawn; CS passed as amended; 39-0 vote
- 05/03/07 Concurred; CS passed as amended; 117- 0 vote; Ordered engrossed, then enrolled

**SB 392** - Watershed Restoration; provides for expanded uses of bonds issued for Everglades restoration; provides certain requirements before release of funds; creates Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Program; creates St. Lucie River Watershed Protection Plan; expands authorized uses of funds deposited into Save Our Everglades TF;

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extends period of time in which funds may be deposited into trust fund, etc.

- Introduced by General Government Appropriations Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Saunders; Gaetz; Aronberg; Bullard; Lynn; Rich; Constantine; Similar HB 7157
- Filed
- Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; General Government Appropriations
- CS passed by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 6-0 vote; CS read 1st time on
- CS/CS passed by- General Government Appropriations; 5- 0; CS read 1st time on 03/20/07
- Pending reference review -under Rule 4.7(2); Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time; Amendments adopted; Ordered engrossed
- Read 3rd time ; CS passed as amended; 35-0 vote
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Substituted for; Read 2nd and 3rd times; CS passed; 116- 0 vote
- Ordered enrolled

### **Environmental Protection**

**HB 1031** - Economic Development Projects/Permitting Process; requires DEP & WMDs to adopt programs to expedite processing of permits for certain economic development projects; requires municipalities & counties to identify certain businesses by commission resolution; provides timeframe for permit application approval or denial; provides that issuance of certain notice constitutes compliance.

- Filed
- Referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council

- Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Introduced, referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Passed with 1 amendment(s) by Environmental Protection (ENR); 3- 2 vote
- CS passed by Environment & Natural Resources Council; 12-3 vote
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed
- Withdrawn from Policy & Budget Council; Placed on Calendar
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time; Amendment(s) adopted
- Read 3rd time; CS passed as amended; 91-25 vote
- Died in Messages

**HB 297** - Incentive-based Permitting Act; provides for Incentive-based Permitting Program; provides compliance incentives for certain environmental permitting activities; provides requirements & limitations; provides for administration by DEP; requires DEP to adopt certain rules; specifies application of said program provisions; revises criteria for DEP permit issuance to conform, etc.

- Introduced by Boyd; Similar SB 0738; 01/16/07 Filed
- Referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Introduced, referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Resources Council

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- Died in Committee on Environmental Protection (ENR)

6- 0 vote; Died pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2)

**SB 738** - Fla. Incentive-based Permitting Act ; provides for Incentive-based Permitting Program; provides compliance incentives for certain environmental permitting activities; provides requirements & limitations; provides for administration by DEP; requires DEP to adopt rules; specifies application of said program; revises criteria for DEP permit issuance, to conform, etc.

- Introduced by Oelrich; Similar HB 0297
- 01/23/07 Filed
- Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; General Government Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; General Government Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation

**SB 2082** - Environmental Permitting ; authorizes certain dry slip storage to be constructed under specified conditions; revises provisions requiring DEP to develop & consolidate federal & state wetland permitting programs; authorizes implementation of state programmatic general permit or regional general permits by DEP & WMDs for certain dredge & fill activities; requires DEP & WMDs to provide applicants with written notice of permit denial, etc.

- 02/23/07 Filed
- Introduced, referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Governmental Operations; General Government Appropriations
- passed with 1 amendment by Environmental Preservation and Conservation; 4- 2 vote
- Withdrawn from Governmental Operations -; Now in General Government Appropriations CS passed by- General Government Appropriations;

**H957** - Environmental Permitting; authorizes certain dry slip storage to be constructed under specified conditions; revises provisions requiring DEP to develop & utilize mechanism consolidating federal & state wetland permitting programs; authorizes implementation of state programmatic general or regional general permits by DEP & WMDs for certain dredge & fill activities; requires DEP & WMDs to provide applicants with written notice of permit denial, etc.

- Introduced/ by Policy & Budget Council; Environment & Natural Resources Council; Williams; Similar CS/SB 2082
- Referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council
- Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- Introduced, referred to Environment & Natural Resources Council; Policy & Budget Council; Referred to Environmental Protection (ENR) by Environment & Natural Resources Council
- passed with 1 amendment y Environmental Protection; 6- 2 vote; Now in Environment & Natural Resources Council
- CS passed by Environment & Natural Resources Council; 9-3 vote
- CS read 1st time on ; CS filed
- CS/CS passed by- Policy & Budget Council; 22- 9 vote; CS read 1st time on ; CS filed;
- Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read 2nd time
- Read 3rd; Amendments adopted -; CS passed as amended; 82-37 vote
- Died in Messages

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## EDUCATION IN FLORIDA

### Civic Education

**HB 451** - Teacher Preparation Program; specifies uniform core curricula for persons majoring in education to be adopted by State Board of Education. Rule; provides applicability.

- Introduced by Proctor; Traviesa ;Identical SB 1214
- 01/22/07 Filed
- Referred to Schools & Learning Council
- Referred to Postsecondary Education (SL) by Schools & Learning Council
- Introduced, referred to Schools & Learning Council
- Referred to Postsecondary Education (SL) by Schools & Learning Council
- Died in Committee on Postsecondary Education (SL)

**SB1214**- specifies uniform core curricula for persons majoring in education to be adopted by State Board of Education rule; provides applicability.

- Introduced by Wise, Identical HB 0451
- Filed
- Referred to Higher Education; Education Pre-K - 12; Higher Education Appropriations
- Introduced, referred to Higher Education; Education Pre-K-12; Higher Education Appropriations -
- Died in Committee on Higher Education

**SB1234**- Student Performance Standards; specifies said standards that must be used for civics education; establishes Fla. Joint Center for Citizenship; provides purpose & location; provides membership & for advisory board; authorizes center to solicit & receive funding; provides for annual report; requires Education Commissioner to include social studies as part of FCAT.

- Introduced by Education Pre-K - 12; Gaetz; Aronberg; Crist Referred to

Education Pre-K - 12; Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations; Rules

- Introduced, referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Education Pre-K- 12 Appropriations; Rules
- CS passed unanimously by Education Pre-K - 12; CS read 1st time on
- Remaining references corrected to Higher Education Appropriations; Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations
- Died in Committee on Higher Education Appropriations

**SB 334** - School Grading System [SPCC]; removes letter grades from performance grade categories by which schools must be identified in Commissioner of Education's annual report of results of statewide assessment program; corrects references to letter grades, to conform.

- Sponsored by Wilson; Bullard.
- Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations
- Unfavorable by Education Pre-K - 12

### FOR FURTHER INFO:

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### GET INVOLVED, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

#### Jeanne Zokovitch, Legislative Coordinator/Lobbyist

*Jeanne is a Staff Attorney with WildLaw in their Florida Office. She also Directs WildLaw's Assisting Communities with Environmental Solutions Program (ACES). WildLaw provides a variety of legal and professional services to communities and grassroots organizations working on environmental issues in the public interest. Jeanne will be representing the League this session on election reform issues and writing and publishing the Capitol Report, as disseminated by the LWVF Tallahassee office.*

