

# Broward SLI

State Legislative Information

March 6, 2013

Number 8 – Volume XV

## Table of Contents

### 2013 Legislative Session Convenes

### Amendment Drawing on Broward's Tourism Development Tax Revenue Defeated in the House

### Living Wage Preemption

### Bill for Homelessness Funding Passes in Both Chambers

### After OIAPS Meetings in Tallahassee Ocean Outfall Clears First Committees

### Texting While Driving Legislation Continues to Advance

### Bill Giving Locals Authority to Regulate Smoking on Public Property Gets Through Committee

### Need for Drug Court Funding Expressed to Senate Committee

## 2013 Legislative Session Convenes

---

On Tuesday, March 5, 2013, the 2013 State Legislative Session officially began. Following the Senate and House opening up their respective chambers for business, the Governor addressed a joint session to provide the "State of the State." The session opening ceremonies also included the House of Representatives formally nominating the 2016 Speak of the House. Rep. Steve Crisafulli was voted the Speaker-Designate by his peers. The 2013 Legislative Session will convene for a constitutionally required 60 days, ending on May 3, 2013, unless otherwise extended.

## Amendment Drawing on Broward's Tourism Development Tax Revenue Defeated in the House

---

On Friday, March 8, 2013, the House Finance and Tax Committee heard [HB 165 – Professional Sports Franchises](#), also known as the "Dolphins" bill. The originally filed bill did not directly impact Broward County but an amendment filed minutes before the committee hearing attempted to direct revenues collected under the County's tourist development tax towards renovations for SunLife Stadium in Miami-Dade County. OIAPS staff learned of the potential amendment, immediately engaged the entire lobby team, educated members of the committee, and testified against the measure. With several members speaking against Rep. Carlos Trujillo's amendment, the committee defeated the measure on a voice vote and Broward's tourism development tax will not be threatened.

## Living Wage Preemption

---

On Thursday, the House State Affairs Committee approved a bill that would preempt local government ordinances which require certain wages and benefits for companies doing business with the local governments. [HB 655 – Political Subdivisions](#) would essentially override all "living wage" ordinances. OIAPS Staff negotiated a deal to remove the preemption language, but to no avail. The main argument posed by supporters was that the government should not interfere with private employee/employer relationships. Staff spoke against the measure in committee, but it passed on a party-line vote 12-5.

## Bill for Homelessness Funding Passes in Both Chambers

---

Legislation aimed at increasing funds to the State Office on Homelessness passed committees in both chambers during the opening week of session. [SB 402 - Homelessness](#) and [HB 93 - Homelessness](#) will require vehicle registration/renewal forms and driver's license application/renewal forms to include an option to make a voluntary contribution to aid the homeless. Funds generated would go directly into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the Department of Children and Families for use by the State Office on Homelessness. Both bills have one more committee of reference before reaching the floor in their respective chambers.

## After OIAPS Meetings in Tallahassee Ocean Outfall Clears First Committees

---

During the opening week of the Legislative Session, OIAPS staff, accompanied by other stakeholders, met with the House sponsor of the ocean outfall legislation and Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation staff. The important legislation was scheduled to be heard in committees in both chambers and OIAPS staff wanted to ensure a smooth start. [SB 444 – Domestic Wastewater Discharged Through Ocean Outfalls](#) and [HB 707 – Domestic Wastewater Discharged through Ocean Outfalls](#) cruised through their respective first committees of reference with no recognized opposition. Each committee recorded a unanimous vote on the measure and staff has already been given positive signs the bill will be heard the following week.

## Texting While Driving Legislation Continues to Advance

---

Companion bills drafted to prohibit drivers from texting or manually inputting information into cell phones while driving advanced through committees in each chamber. [SB 52 – Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving](#) by Sen. Detert unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Communications, Energy and Public Utilities. In the House, [HB 13 – Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving](#) by Rep. Holder also passed with a unanimous and bipartisan vote. SB 52 has one more committee before reaching the Senate floor while HB 13 will need to clear two more committees.

Follow us on Twitter  
[@BrowardSLI](#)

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STAFF

Eddy Labrador  
Marty Cassini  
Nick Matthews  
Daphnee Sainvil

## **Bill Giving Locals Authority to Regulate Smoking on Public Property Gets Through Committee**

---

[SB 258 – Florida Clean Indoor Air Act](#) will allow counties and cities to restrict smoking on certain public properties. Currently, that authority is preempted to the state government. On March 7, 2013, the bill passed the Senate Health Policy Committee with a 6 – 3 vote. The bill has one more committee stop before consideration on the Senate floor but the House companion has not been heard in committee.

## **Need for Drug Court Funding Expressed to Senate Committee**

---

On Wednesday, March 6, 2013, the Senate Committee of Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations heard presentations and testimony on the need for drug court funding in the coming fiscal year. The Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the Office of State Courts Administrator provided analysis on the productivity of drug courts in Florida. They highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the drug court program while noting that some federal funding is due to expire on June 30, 2013. Judges and court administrators asked the committee to commit \$5.8 million to keep the program funded. Members appeared to consider that request seriously.