

BROWARD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

NEWSLETTER

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Broward Legislative Delegation Office provides a communication resource between the Federal, State, local governments and Broward County citizens to facilitate the legislative process. Our responsibilities include maintaining an efficient means for the local bill process and monitoring bills approved by the Delegation Members through the Legislature. The Legislative Delegation has a responsibility to monitor the appropriations process, securing State Revenues and other allocated funds for programs, organizations and government agencies in Broward County.

Week 3: January 22-26

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORTS RELEASED

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education introduced its budget proposal Wednesday, calling for a 6.6 percent increase in spending for colleges and universities, or \$383 million. Meanwhile, the House's proposal, unveiled Tuesday, proposes to cut \$217 million from universities alone with about a \$45 million net reduction for colleges.

Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, who chairs the subcommittee, said the extent of the House cuts caught him off guard.

"The level of cuts proposed by the House was more than I expected," he said. "It just means there's a bigger delta that has to be negotiated going forward into conference."

Because these plans are so different, higher education will likely become a major bargaining chip in the weeks to come if lawmakers want to approve a state budget by the time regular session ends on March 9.

Sen. Gary Farmer, D-Lighthouse Point, said the House's proposed higher education budget was a "departure" from where the Senate is heading.

"A lot of people are speculating that this is about the back and forth between the House and the Senate and the House is aware that our president's priority legislation is his higher education bill," said Farmer, who sits on the higher education budget committee. "I'm hopeful the Senate stands strong on our policy and the products we've come up with that are a result of a lot of discussion and compromise. That's the way the legislative process is supposed to be. It's not supposed to be about forced tactics." Courtesy of <http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/01/24/more-than-600-million-thats-a-key-difference-between-florida-house-and-senate-higher-education-plans/>



Senator Gary Farmer
District 34
@FarmerForFLSen

SB-1466 State Emergency Communications and Warning System requires the Division of Emergency Management to include in the state comprehensive emergency management plan a provision mandating that a qualified interpreter is included in any televised broadcast of a developing weather emergency. A qualified interpreter is defined in the bill as a person who is certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf or the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. www.flsenate.gov

SB-1472 Disabled Parking Permits requires that disabled parking permits, issued on or after July 1, 2018, display the applicant's photograph as it appears on his or her driver license or identification card. The photograph must be concealed by a movable flap or cover while the placard is displayed in the vehicle. The bill provides an exemption from this requirement for applicants who are certified by a physician as having a severe disability that prevents the applicant from physically visiting or being transported to obtain a driver license or identification card.

More about SB-1472 on next page

SB-1472 Continued

SB-1472 adds a mandatory civil fine of \$250 for a person who fraudulently obtains or unlawfully displays a disabled parking permit that belongs to another person while occupying a disabled parking space or who uses an unauthorized replica of such permit, which is currently a second degree misdemeanor.

The bill adds that a person who commits the following offenses commits a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a nonmoving violation with a \$250 fine:

- Knowingly providing a disabled parking permit to another person for its unlawful use; or
- Displaying an expired disabled parking permit.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) will likely incur costs to redesign the disabled parking permit; however, such costs are indeterminate at this time.

www.flsenate.gov

Both SB-1466 and SB1472 unanimously passed their first committee stop, **Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security** and are sponsored by our Delegation Chair, State Senator Gary Farmer, Senate District 34.

HJR-7001: Supermajority Vote for State Taxes or Fees

This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the state Constitution that would provide that no state tax or fee may be imposed, authorized, or raised by the legislature, or authorized by the legislature to be raised except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the legislature.

The joint resolution requires that any proposed state tax or fee imposition, authorization or increase must be contained in a separate bill that contains no other subject. The joint resolution also specifies that the proposed amendment does not authorize the imposition of any state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the state Constitution, and does not apply to any tax or fee imposed by, or authorized to be imposed by, a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

The amendment proposed in the joint resolution will take effect on January 8, 2019, if approved by sixty percent of the voters during the 2018 general election or earlier special election. The joint resolution is not subject to the governor's veto powers.

This resolution passed the House with a vote of 80-29. Courtesy of www.myfloridahouse.com



BROWARD DAYS in Tallahassee: February 7-8.

Join County, City, School Board, & Community Leaders, Broward Residents and Business Owners as we Bring Broward to Tallahassee. Details available at

www.BrowardDays.com

STAY CONNECTED

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www.broward.org/legislative

Note: All Committee Meetings and Floor Sessions are available for live viewing and on demand at www.flsenate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov

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