

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 8: Feb. 26 - Mar. 3

Moratorium of Sales of AR-15

The Florida Senate broke out into a moment of chaos Saturday after accidentally passing an amendment that would put a moratorium of sales on AR-15 rifles.

It was among many amendments being considered by the full Senate as it works to pass a contentious gun reform bill in the aftermath of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., that left 17 dead. Police said the gunman, Nikolas Cruz, who confessed to the murders, used an AR-15 that he had legally purchased.

The Senate is holding a rare Saturday session to try and pass the huge measure by the end of session, which is next Friday. Most amendments were filed by Democrats — and were quickly defeated by the GOP-controlled chamber.

There was visible surprise when Senate President Joe Negron said the moratorium on AR-15's amendment was "adopted." Because it was a "voice vote," it was unclear if the amendment passed until Negron declared it was adopted.

Those on the Senate floor say it was a mistake. Negron thought he heard more vocal support of the amendment than against it.

"The President calls balls and strikes. He thought he heard more senators say yes than no," said Senate budget chief Rob Bradley in a text message. "When we went to the board, it turned out that he was wrong. There were more senators voting no than yes."

The amendment was proposed by Senate Democratic Leader Oscar Braynon, who said it was written as a compromise. Democrats want a ban on all military-style semiautomatic rifles. GOP leaders are dead set opposed to that idea.

"The goal here is to find compromise," Braynon said.

The amendment that was briefly added to the bill would have banned the sales of solely AR-15s for two years while the Florida Department of Law Enforcement studied whether the state should ban AR-15's for public safety, or if putting in place some regulations. The language would not expire until the Legislature acted — either pass or reject — on FDLE's recommendations.

<https://www.politico.com/states/florida/story/2018/03/03/senate-briefly-passes-the-removes-moratorium-on-ar-15-sales-291612>

BUDGET: Cultural and Historic Preservation Grants

So far, the 2018 Florida legislative session isn't shaping up so well for cultural and historic preservation grants. Lawmakers seem poised to reduce funding even more than [they did last year](#).

Neither the Senate nor the House have allocated any money for cultural projects, facilities or endowment grants.

The House recommends \$5 million for cultural general support grants, but the Senate has earmarked only \$203,985 to be spread among 489 organizations statewide. That's far short of the nearly \$42 million in eligible grants recommended by the [Florida Division of Cultural Affairs](#) for the state's largest cultural grants program.

Continued on next page

BUDGET: Agriculture & Natural Resources

The Agriculture & Natural Resources/Environment and Natural Resources Budget

Conference met as a group for a final meeting Friday morning. The Senate presented an [offer on the budget](#) and [bill language](#) for the state's environmental agencies, and after a period of review, the House accepted several of the proposals.

A couple dozen line-items will bump to the budget chairs, including millions in funding differences for citrus canker eradication and claims, land acquisition funding, water projects, and beach recovery from this year's hurricane season.

All of the bill language related to these funding areas will bump to the budget chairs.

Some proviso language was agreed to with the notable exception of a quarterly travel reporting requirement for state agencies the House is pushing.

Conference chairs **Sen. Rob Bradley** and **Rep. Carlos Trujillo** have until 10:30 a.m. Sunday to decide on the remaining issues. Anything they cannot agree on will then go to **Senate President Joe Negron** and **House Speaker Richard Corcoran**.

https://apps.lobbytools.com/tools/ch.cfm?a=article&id=38139806&utm_source=lt_user_current_email&utm_medium=article_link&utm_campaign=current_email

BUDGET: Cultural and Historic Preservation Grants, cont'd

In Palm Beach County, the division recommended 38 groups for a total of nearly \$4.2 million in general support grants. They include the Norton Museum, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Palm Beach Opera, Kravis Center, South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, Armory Art Center, Flagler Museum and Palm Beach Zoo — all for \$150,000 each.

The House has proposed nearly \$1.47 million for small historic preservation grants, while the Senate zeroed out the program. Bigger historic preservation projects were recommended for nearly \$3.1 million by the House and around \$1.1 million by the Senate.

Legislators also have floated proposals for millions of dollars in grants to projects in their districts that bypass the Division of Cultural Affairs' and [Division of Historical Resources'](#) judging processes.

The Senate has been particularly generous in its proposed funding for special projects. Sherron Long, president of the [Florida Cultural Alliance](#), speculates that's because it's an election year.

It's now up to Senate and House leadership to resolve the discrepancies. A reconciled budget must be presented to the Legislature by Wednesday if the session is to end on time on Friday.

Long doubts leaders will boost funding for the grants. "We have leadership that doesn't have a lot of cultural grants in their counties," she said. "They're not hearing from their constituents."

Last year, the Legislature approved nearly \$25 million in cultural grants and more than \$8.8 million in historic preservation grants. That was a drop from the more than \$33 million in cultural grants and \$12.6 million in historic preservation grants allocated in 2016.

<http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/local/legislature-poised-slash-cultural-and-historic-preservation-grants/FR39NshuJv0fWm8ZKHr0p/>

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