



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Criminal Justice, *Chair*
Energy, Environment, and Land Use -
Policy and Steering
Environmental Preservation and Conservation
Social Responsibility - Policy and Steering
Transportation
Transportation and Economic Development
Appropriations

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Public Counsel Oversight

SENATOR PAULA DOCKERY
15th District

Senator Paula Dockery *Sponsored Legislation – Major Issues*

2009 – Senate

Human Smuggling (HB 123)

Creates a state law against the smuggling of illegal immigrants into Florida. Allows local and state law enforcement first responders to make on-scene arrests, obtain witness testimony, and preserve crime scene evidence. This bill will save lives of unfortunate refugees who are thrown in the water by criminal smugglers avoiding the risk of beaching their boats on our shores.

DCF Open Records (SB 126)

Makes it abundantly clear that current and former foster children have complete access to their own records. Provides foster parents with greater access to information regarding the children to be placed in their care, in order to safeguard other children and vulnerable individuals in the home. Changes the length of time that DCF is required to maintain the case records from the age of 18 to the age of 30.

Public Records/Insured Dependents (HB 135)

Exempts the personally identifying information of children of all governmental employees from public records requests relating to group insurance plans.

Voting Conflicts (did not pass – SB 632)

Prohibits a member of the Legislature from voting upon or participating in any legislation that would result in the personal gain or loss of the member or his or her relative, business associate, employer, board on which the member sits, principal by whom the member is retained, or parent corporation or subsidiary of such principal.

Wine Shipping (did not pass – SB 272)

Creates rules and regulations for out of state shipment of wine either in person or through internet sales.

SHIP Relocation Grants (language from SB 2230 rolled into SB 360)

REPLY TO:

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- 302 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5040

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JEFF ATWATER
President of the Senate

MIKE FASANO
President Pro Tempore

Allows individuals who meet SHIP's income requirements to receive relocation assistance, including security and utility deposits, when through no fault of their own they are being evicted due to foreclosure upon the homeowner.

2008 – Senate

Lewd Lascivious Molestation (HB 85)

Requires life sentences for second or subsequent offenses of lewd or lascivious molestation committed by offenders 18 years of age or older against victims less than 12 years of age.

No Contact Orders (SB 622)

Requires that offenders convicted of specified violent offenses be prohibited from having any contact with the victim for the duration of the sentence imposed.

Murder of Law Enforcement Officer (HB 321)

Requires that a defendant be sentenced to imprisonment for life without eligibility for early release upon findings beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed a specified murder offense or attempted murder offense against a law enforcement officer.

Exploited Children's Rights Act (SB 1442)

Permits use of a pseudonym to designate the victim of a crime involving a victim of production, possession, or promotion of child pornography. Revises provisions relating to the sale or transfer of minors into sex trafficking or prostitution. Requires law enforcement officers to provide certain information to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

2007 – Senate

Anti-Murder (SB 146)

Denies bail or any form of pretrial release to violent felony offenders of special concern under certain circumstances; and requires that said offender remain in custody pending hearing on probation or community control violation.

Strangulation (SB 184)

Provides that a person commits domestic battery by strangulation if the person impedes the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of a family or household member or of a person with whom he or she is in a dating relationship, by applying pressure on the throat or neck of the other person or by blocking the other person's nose or mouth.

2006 – Senate

Babcock Ranch (HB 1347)

Provides for the purchase of Babcock Ranch and establishes a management plan.

Jeffrey Klapatch Act (HB 1173)

Gives parents/guardians online access to their son/daughter's driving records until they reach age 18.

Energy Bill (including Solar Energy) (SB 888)

Comprehensive energy package that creates the Florida Energy Commission and provides incentives for alternative energy sources.

Wine Shipping (did not pass – SB 282)

Creates rules and regulations for out of state shipment of wine either in person or through internet sales.

High Growth Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program (did not pass – SB 2480)

Revises eligibility criteria and provisions for allocation of funds for High Growth District Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program. This is necessary to ensure that these funds are being allocated to high growth communities that are bedroom communities to larger more urban neighbors with a much healthier economic tax base.

2005 – Senate

Water Sustainability (SB 444)

Comprehensive water bill. Allocates \$300 million for the development of alternative water supplies. Brought together groups from all sides of the issues to form a consensus piece of legislation.

Parental Notification (HB 1659)

Provides laws for the notification of parents when a minor seeks a termination of pregnancy.

Women's Health & Safety (HB 1041)

Authorizes AHCA to adopt rules regulating abortion clinics and ensuring patient safety, just as it regulates other medical facilities such as doctor offices, hospitals, and emergency rooms.

Enterprise Zones (SB 486)

Authorizes certain municipalities to apply to OTTED for the designation of an enterprise zone in an economically blighted portion of the city or county.

Greenways & Trails (HB 1141)

Emphasizes the importance of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Creates the Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Conserve by Bicycle Program.

Enterprise Florida

Cleans up outdated language in statutes relating to Enterprise Florida.

Veterans Memorials (SB 868)

Program for DOT to contract with organizations for the installation and maintenance of monuments and memorials honoring Veterans at highway rest areas around the state.

Campaign Sign Recycling (HB 1031)

Directs DEP to create a pilot project to collect campaign signs for reuse or recycling.

Oceans Council (HB 1855)

Creates the Florida Oceans Council to bring various agencies and institutes to the table to review and compile existing and ongoing ocean/coastal research.

2004 – Senate

Florida Greenways & Trails (vetoed – SB 2804)

Emphasizes the importance of the Florida National Scenic Trail. Creates the Conserve by Bicycle Program.

Name Change Petitions (SB 130)

Requires person seeking a name change to submit fingerprints to ensure that individuals cannot mask their identity through a series of name changes.

Florida Institute for Nuclear Detection and Security (FINDS) (SB 1820)

Creates FINDS to conduct cutting edge research and develop systems capable of detecting the importation and transport of nuclear materials and equipment within Florida.

Florida Kidcare (SB 2000)

Allocates \$25 million in federal funds made recently available for the KidCare program, which will eliminate the 90,000 person waiting list. Over \$100 million more will be used for applicants in FY 2004-2005. Reforms the enrollment process and eligibility verification to ensure that children who genuinely need services are receiving them.

Money Transmitters (SB 2562)

Allows for a service charge to be collected in money transfer transactions conducted via the Internet or telephone to verify the customer's identity in order to prevent fraud.

Absentee Ballots (SB 2566)

Removes the requirement for a witness signature on absentee ballots because signature is not checked against anything. Makes it easier for elderly or those living alone to vote absentee.

2003 - Senate

Seaport Security (SB 1616)

Creates a uniform badging (or credential) system among Florida's 12 active seaports that will serve as a model for the country.

Mobile Home Owners (SB 1944)

Allows for a permanent funding source to aid in the relocation costs of mobile homes. Brought the Mobile Home Owners (FMO) and the Mobile Home Park Owners (FMHA) together with a solution for the funding source.

Domestic Security (SB 2488)

Authorizes the State Technology Office (STO) to plan, manage, and administer the State Law Enforcement Radio System mutual aid channels and to make the channels available to federal, state, and local agencies for the purpose of public safety and domestic security.

Marina Fuel Tax/Boating & Waterways (SB 2586)

Redirects a portion of the fuel tax collected at marinas back into boating related activities and provides for an increase in on-the-water law enforcement and boater safety.

Environmental & Conservation Lands (SB 54-A)

Comprehensive lands bill, also creates an inventory of all conservation lands by county.

2002 – House

Everglades Restoration (HB 813)

Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), demonstrating the State's commitment to the preservation of the Everglades.

Solid Waste Management (HB 851)

Refocuses the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund's purposes toward the core solid waste management responsibilities of DEP, and creates a few competitive and innovative solid waste management grant program and a waste tire grant program. Requires counties to implement a recyclable materials program.

Community Redevelopment (HB 1341)

Amends the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 to revise the definitions of slum and blight, and to require a local government to ensure that conditions in the area meet the definition of a “slum area” or of a “blighted area” prior to establishing a community redevelopment agency (CRA).

High Speed Rail Authority Act (HB 1515/261)

Creates the High Speed Rail Authority Act; provides legislative findings, policy, purpose and intent regarding the development, design, financing, construction, and operation of the high speed rail system in the state.

2001 - House

Rural and Family Lands Act (SB 1922)

Creates the “Rural and Family Lands Protection Act” for the purpose of limiting subdivision and conversion of ranch and farm lands. Would allow the state to buy the development rights to the land, so that nothing could be done on it other than what the governor and Cabinet approve.

Absentee Ballots/Florida Election Reform Act (SB 1118)

Historic piece of legislation designed to address the problems highlighted in the 2000 United States Presidential election.

Mining (SB 1376)

Authorizes DEP to use funds from the Nonmandatory Land Reclamation Trust Fund for the purpose of closing certain abandoned phosphogypsum stack systems in order to protect the environment.

Florida High Speed Rail Authority (HB 489)

Creates the Florida High Speed Rail Authority, and provides membership, terms, organization, reimbursement of expenses, and duties of authority.

Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust Fund (HB 1265)

Creates said trust fund within DBPR to fund the administration and operation of the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation, which requires that mobile home park owners make specified payments to the trust fund upon change in use of mobile home park which requires that a mobile home owner move.

2000 – House

Sovereign Lands/Florida Land Title Protection Act (passed House only – HB 1807)

“Florida Lands Title Protection Act” created to equally protect private property owners of lands bordering navigable non-tidal waters and preserve the public’s ownership of and right to use navigable waters and sovereignty submerged lands. The bill defines the “ordinary high water mark” to clearly mark the line between private and sovereign submerged lands up to the ordinary high water mark.

Insurance Countersignature Law (SB 106)

Amends several sections of the Insurance Code which relate to: the resident agent and countersignature provisions, the use of a credit card under the unfair competition and deceptive acts law, and the provisions related to motor vehicle insurance.

Intangible Personal Property Taxes (HB 67)

The bill makes the changes to current law regarding the intangible personal property tax, including: reduction in the rate of annual intangible personal property tax, all accounts receivable are exempt from intangible personal property taxes.

1999 – House

Florida Forever (SB 908)

Creates the Florida Forever program as the successor to Preservation 2000 for all of the state’s conservation and recreation land purchases.

Creation of FWCC (SB 864)

Implements Revision 5 to the Constitution that was approved by voters in 1998, which creates the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Florida WWII Veterans Memorial Trust Fund (SB 716)

Creates the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial Trust Fund to be administered by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for purpose of receiving private contributions and matching state funds to build a Florida World War II Veterans Memorial.

Tax Exemption – Photographic/Printing (HB 643)

Creates a sales and use tax exemption for film, photographic paper, dyes used for embossing and engraving, artwork, typography, lithographic plates, and negatives when used by printers.

Florida College Savings Program (SB 1984)

Establishes the Florida College Savings Program to be operated by the Florida Prepaid College Board.

1998 – House

Secondhand Dealers (HB 3199)

Revises secondhand dealers recordkeeping requirements so that small sporting goods, such as balls, gloves etc, are exempt from the records required for the resale of larger sporting items (treadmills, golf clubs, etc). Removes unnecessary paperwork for stores such a Play It Again Sports.

Abuse/False Reports (SB 1024)

Enhances the tools that can be used to penalize persons who file false reports of child abuse, neglect or abandonment and adult aging abuse, neglect or exploitation.

1997 – House

Florida College Savings Program (SB 398)

Brings the existing prepaid tuition programs into compliance with the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. This bill also enables the Florida Prepaid Postsecondary Education Expense Board to adopt rules and revive programs.

Midwives – Medicaid Recipients (HB 1465)

Allows the Agency for Health Care Administration to reimburse licensed midwives for home deliveries conducted for eligible Medicaid recipients.