



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

Greetings from Tallahassee! Three of my bills came up for consideration before House committees and councils this week, and I'm pleased to report that all of them passed favorably. As we prepare to move forward on the budget next week, it is clear that Florida's estimated \$6.37 billion deficit will define the challenges that we will face this session. However, while the budget is a challenge in Tallahassee, it is merely a symptom of what Florida's families and small businesses are facing. In order to help the state budget improve, we need to help Florida's economy improve, and I plan to work hard this session to help Florida to get back on track towards a prosperous future.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield



Joseph St. Louis, Naomi Ware, Edwin Rojas, Gloria Tausch, Bob Galbraith, Jewel Graham, and Madellenne Milien, of District 80, in Tallahassee with Rep. Mayfield



Darlene Dawson and Donna Fogal of the Florida Retired Educators Association with Representative Mayfield in her Tallahassee office

HB 1355– THE LAND MANAGEMENT BILL

My Land Management Bill, or HB 1355, provides for the creation of two privatization pilot projects; one for the management of state parks and recreation lands and one for the management of state conservation lands.

There are currently three separate state agencies that manage the majority of Florida's conservation and recreation lands: the Department of Environmental Protec-

tion, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Much of this land is open to the public for recreation: including more than 500 state parks, preserves, forests, wildlife management areas, and other conservation and recreation areas.

A privatization pilot program would allow the Legislature to better evaluate the effectiveness

and efficiency of the state's land management activities by identifying and achieving cost efficiencies and reductions in administrative and operating costs and by eliminating duplication between the managing agencies.

This bill came before the House Government Accountability Act Council on Tuesday and was found favorable with a unanimous vote.

If you have any issues, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact our district secretary, Bethany Fretwell, at (772) 778-5077 or toll-free at (866) 957-7289.

For more detailed information on legislative issues, please check out the Florida Legislature's website!
www.myfloridahouse.gov



HEART RESEARCH BILL UPDATE

My Heart Research Bill, HB 361, was brought up for consideration in the House Economic Development and Community Affairs Policy Council on Tuesday. This bill would add a voluntary contribution check box to Florida driver's license applications and renewal forms. Proceeds from this check box would go to the Florida Heart Research Institute in Miami to support important heart disease research, education, and prevention. The bill was found favorable with a unanimous vote, and is now awaiting a hearing on the House floor.



Norman Tomaka, Theresa Tolle, and Kathy Petsos of the Florida Pharmacy Association in Tallahassee with Rep. Mayfield



Mark Boston of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans with Representative Mayfield in Tallahassee



Thomas Cooper, Peter Jones, and Ronald Johnson of the American Institute of Architects - Treasure Coast Chapter

INCREASING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

On Tuesday, the House Government Accountability Act Council unanimously passed House Bill 971, the Transparency Florida Act. This legislation empowers the taxpayer by allowing citizens to track the spending of their tax dollars online. House Bill 971 provides access to up-to-date information on state government revenues and expenditures through a single searchable website. The website would provide information on the date, amount, and source of each expenditure. House Republicans are committed to transparency in the spending of federal and taxpayer dollars. It's the taxpayers' money, and they deserve to know exactly where it is being spent. The passage of this legislation fittingly took place during "Sunshine Week," when the media reminds us of Florida's cherished tradition of public access to government records and proceedings.

HB 1293- EDUCATING FOR THE FUTURE

On Wednesday, hundreds of Floridians visited the Capitol to show their support for Florida's education system. I understand their sense of urgency and consider educating our children a top priority. To prepare our students for the careers of tomorrow, House Republicans have introduced legislation designed to raise the bar for Florida's high school students. House Bill 1293, known as the 21st Century Diploma Initiative, raises the standard diploma requirements by requiring students to take and pass algebra, geometry, biology, and chemistry classes before graduation. Our children are no longer just competing with children in Seattle and Boston for careers; they are now competing with students in Beijing and Bangalore, and Florida's students need to be ready to thrive. The bill enjoys broad support and is moving forward in the House.