



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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This week marked the end of committee meetings in the Florida House. Action this week was focused on moving legislation through the first steps of the legislative process. Once bills have been through their initial committees, they are moving closer to the House Floor and final passage. This is always a fast-moving week as each member works to have their bills heard favorably and to listen to other members seek support for their own legislation.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

FCAT BILL UPDATE

HB 543, the FCAT Science Bill, will be considered in the House Full Appropriations Council on Education and Economic Development on March 30 at 1:15pm. The bill, which replaces the current 11th grade science FCAT with an end-of-course biology exam, has already been found favorable in the House PreK-12 Policy Committee and the House PreK-12 Appropriations Committee. If it is found favorable in its final committee stop on Monday it should be brought up for consideration on the house floor in the coming weeks.



Rep. Mayfield joins Florida Governor Charlie Crist at a press conference to promote the Florida Backyard Card



Mayor Bill Kenyon, Town Manager Robert Bradshaw, and his son Graham Bradshaw (of Indian River Shores) with Rep. Mayfield in Tallahassee

HB 1353– THE GO GREEN FLORIDA BILL

HB 1353, or the “Go Green Florida” Bill was brought up for consideration in the House Energy and Utilities Policy Committee on Tuesday, March 24th. This bill would create a “Go Green” Florida specialty license plate.

In a change from my originally filed bill, the committee substitute that passed favorably specifies that proceeds from the sale of this license plate help to fund the Florida Solar Energy System Incentive Program. The program has been plagued by a lack of available funds and a tremendous number of applications.

The funds generated from the “Go Green” Florida tag will help provide rebates to those Floridians who have invested in solar energy technology for their homes and businesses.

The expected revenue from the first year of sales is estimated at \$525,000.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

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



BUDGET UPDATE

Next week we will see the budget process begin as budget committees meet to make their first budget proposals. Throughout the session House members have been reviewing the budget line-by-line to find ways to have the state spend more efficiently and effectively.

We have also examined the budget to make sure that state agencies are focused on the core missions of government. Facing a multi-billion dollar shortfall, these reviews should serve House members well as we look for ways to meet our constitutional mandate to balance Florida's budget.



John and Barbara Drndak of Climatic Solar (In Vero Beach) visit with Rep. Mayfield in her Tallahassee office



Rep. Mayfield visits with city officials from District 80. Jim Gabbard, Charles Vitunac, Fellsmere Mayor Susan Adams, Vero Beach Councilman Bill Fish, and Vero Beach Mayor Sabin Abell



Victoria Allen and Debbie Butler, representing the Guardian Ad Litem Program with Rep. Mayfield in Tallahassee

ENDING WELFARE FOR POLITICIANS

Public financing for political campaigns is an outdated practice that has outlived its usefulness and is a ridiculous waste of taxpayer money. In the presidential elections, then-candidate Obama proved that candidates can raise record amounts of campaign cash without taking a dime of public financing. It adds insult to injury that Florida taxpayers would be adding to multi-million dollar campaign coffers at a time when they can least afford it.

To end this outdated practice, which has come to be known as "Welfare for Politicians," House Republicans supported **House Joint Resolution (HJR) 81** this week. If passed, the measure would end public financing of political campaigns and save Florida taxpayers millions of dollars. In 2006, Florida taxpayers gave over \$11 million to statewide politicians to spend on their political campaigns.

ENDING THE MARRIAGE PENALTY

Under a common-sense bill headed for the House floor, the playing field will be leveled for newlyweds wishing to add a spouse's name to a property deed. Under the current law, a document tax must be paid by a property owner if they marry and wish to add their spouse's name to the property deed. In an unfair twist, divorced spouses who remove their ex-spouses name from the property deed are not charged a document tax. As a tax fairness issue, I expect that **House Bill 237** will have broad support.