



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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On Thursday, the House approved a \$67.2 billion budget. The House's budget is \$1.8 billion less than the Senate budget. The stage is now set for negotiations with the Senate during Budget Conference, a process by which differing versions of the state budget are reconciled by the Senate and House.

The House's budget priorities were protecting classroom education, providing health care for our most vulnerable, and preserving public safety to keep our communities safe. Once again, we made the tough choices required to meet our constitutional obligation to balance the budget. In crafting the House budget, House Republicans remained focused on the needs of Floridians who cannot afford to wait for Washington bailouts and need help now. The bottom line is this is the right budget at the right time.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

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ADOPTION - HB 315

During the 2010 legislation session, I am co-sponsoring House Bill 315 relating to adoption. I recognize and value the importance of our 2nd Amendment right. Our freedom to exercise this right should have no bearing on our ability to become an adoptive parent.

HB 315 prohibits adoption agencies from restricting the lawful possession, storage or use of a firearm or ammunition as a condition for a person to adopt. Furthermore, this legislation also prohibits an adoption agency or entity from requiring the adoptive parent or prospective adoptive parent to disclose such firearm and ammunition information. The bill also requires the Department of Children & Families to adopt a form on which adoptive parents are required to acknowledge the receipt of statutory language relating to current laws and to the safe storage of firearms.

I am pleased to inform you that after passing the House unanimously and passing the Senate by a 38-2 vote, the Bill was signed by officers on March 30th and presented to the Governor for his signature.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT - HB 1319

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you that HB 1319 has not been considered by any committee in the House of Representatives. As such, this legislation is not anticipated to be heard this year.



I value the work and service of current and former state employees. It is, however, important to understand that to continue making promises that we cannot afford to future employees would be irresponsible. Government employee retirement and healthcare benefits have grown significantly in recent years, while private sector benefits have declined dramatically. Our inability to fund these increasing obligations is why we must begin to tackle these difficult issues.

HB 1319 was filed to start this important dialogue. Please note that the proposed bill would not have affected - in any way - the existing promises we have made to vested government employees.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

Should you have any state constituent issues, please do not hesitate to contact Sandi Harpring in my Vero Beach office at (772) 778-5077.

Constituent Milestones

Congratulations
Isaac Christopher Taylor
Eagle Scout

Technology Corner:

Twitter

I will be posting updates on my Twitter account and you can stay up to date by following me at www.twitter.com/debbie_mayfield

Session Live:

You can follow daily events in the House of Representatives at www.myfloridahouse.gov.



EDUCATION REFORM - HOUSE BILL 7189

After 8 hours of debate and public testimony yesterday the House Education Policy Council passed landmark legislation to bring about education reform to reward teachers for classroom excellence. House Bill (HB) 7189 passed by a vote of 12 to 5 and now moves to the House floor for consideration. As a State Representative and, more importantly, as a mother of two children attending public schools in Indian River County I place a high value on raising standards, accountability, reversing failure and offering opportunities in education. HB 7189 is an important next step in education reform here in Florida.



A few important facts on HB 7189:

- **HB 7189 DOES NOT reduce teacher pay. HB 7189 deals with the ways to reward excellent teachers in the future through increased salary for classroom performance.**
- **NO current teacher will lose their tenure status under HB 7189.**
- **Teachers who work with learning disabled or lower performing students will BENEFIT from the bill.**

Let me also be clear that HB 7189 does not punish teachers whose students are not on grade level. These reforms require that demonstrated progress – what students actually learn during the school year – be considered as the determining factor. Teachers can't control what their students know when they show up on the first day of school, but they most certainly influence what is learned throughout the year in their classroom. In fact, measuring progress may actually benefit teachers who teach low performing students and students with disabilities.

Furthermore, this legislation also sets aside over \$900 million to reward teachers who teach in either high-poverty or low-performing schools, high-demand subjects such as math and sciences or those who teach students with disabilities. This money is in addition to a teacher's current salary.

The most important factor we can control in education is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. And this legislation deals with the important question: Should teachers' raises be based on longevity or on classroom performance?

I encourage you to take the time to read and review the proposed legislation for yourself at this official [analysis of HB7189](#). I am hopeful that by exercising your independent thought regarding this proposal we can have a rational discussion about the best way to reward our excellent teachers and most importantly provide our children with the highest quality education.

PARENTAL NOTICE - HB 1449

This session I am a co-sponsor of HB 1449 this session pertaining to Parental Notification of Abortion. Under this Bill, a physician must notify a parent or guardian of their minor child's intention to terminate a pregnancy 48 to 72 hours prior to the abortion. Furthermore, the Bill gives the Court specific guidelines in the event a minor petitions the Court asking to waive Parental Notification.