



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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In the week following the Easter and Passover holidays, the Florida House conducted council meetings during a post-holiday Session week as well as took up legislation on the House Floor. The House sped up our work as we approached the last few weeks of session.

The focus this past week was passage of legislation on the House Floor that will reward teachers for excellence in the classroom, right size the class size amendment to give local districts and principals more flexibility, and help provide our children with a world-class education.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

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CLASS SIZE AMENDMENT - HJR 315



In order to provide a first-rate learning experience for our children, we must have policies that are practical and applicable. The House passed Senate Joint Resolution 2 sponsored by Sen. Don Gaetz and Rep. Will Weatherford by a vote of 77 to 41.

This legislation will change the way class size limits are calculated to give local school district more flexibility. The measure will have a positive fiscal impact on school district expenditures by calculating compliance at the average number of students per class rather than the actual number of students assigned per classroom. Furthermore, it allows voters to review what progress has been made, but gives the necessary flexibility to the school districts to avoid unintended consequences of the hard caps.

The legislation provides for the following:

- Establishing the school level average number of students per teacher which may not exceed the following limits:
 - ⇒ PreK - grade 3 at 18 students;
 - ⇒ Grades 4 - 8 at 22 students; and
 - ⇒ Grades 9 - 12, at 25 students.
- The maximum number of students who can be assigned to a teacher in any individual classroom shall not exceed the following:
 - ⇒ PreK - grade 3 at 21 students;
 - ⇒ Grades 4 - 8 at 27 students; and
 - ⇒ Grades 9 -12 at 30 students.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

By right sizing the Class Size Amendment we will create a classroom environment that provides local districts with the ability they need to free up critical funding to be spent in the classroom in order to benefit their students.

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



Max Lipkin from Vero Beach is currently in Tallahassee serving as a messenger for the Florida House of Representatives. Max recently visited with me in my Tallahassee office.

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.



REWARDING EXCELLENT TEACHERS-HB 7189

I recognize that Florida's teachers play a critical role in the remarkable learning gains that our students and schools have achieved over the past decade as a result of our state's education reforms. I am also confident that you share my belief that the most important factor that we can control in education is the quality of the teachers in our classrooms. That is why I believe it is so important to recruit, retain and reward high quality teachers.

To that end, on April 9th the House passed a common sense approach that recognizes and financially rewards excellent teachers while promoting greater accountability within our schools. This legislation is focused on ensuring that we encourage our best teachers to stay in the classroom and not feel that to advance they need to become administrators or leave teaching altogether.

If you have more questions regarding this issue, please allow me to refer you to a website that includes more information regarding these common sense reforms. The website - RewardingExcellentTeachers.com - hosts many of the documents released by the House Majority Office and information from other sources regarding the legislation.

VISITING THE DISTRICT 80 TALLAHASSEE OFFICE



I routinely receive visitors from back home. Representatives from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office (left) and Indian River State College (right) made the trip to Tallahassee. Thank you to (left to right) Major Andrew Walker and Sgt. Alex Herrera from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and Dr. Edwin Massey and students from Indian River State College for visiting my Tallahassee office.

BACK TO SCHOOL TAX HOLIDAY - HB 1449

Parents understand how every little bit helps when it comes to crafting a family budget, especially in these challenging economic times. This is especially true when it comes to Florida families as they prepare their children for the school year at a time when every dollar counts.



To provide Florida families with some needed relief from burdening taxes, this past week saw the return of the Back-to-School tax holiday, through the unanimous passage of **HB 483**, sponsored by Representatives David Rivera and Anitere Flores. The measure provides for a one-time 3-day sales tax holiday for clothing and other school supplies purchased from **August 13-15** of this year. It also expands the school supply list to include, among other items, books, pens, pencils, notebooks, notebook paper, rulers, glue, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers and folders. The legislation now moves to the Senate for passage.