



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

Volume 2, Issue 4

February 22, 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Energy Security</i>	1
<i>Unemployment Compensation</i>	2
<i>Education Standards</i>	2

The 2010 Legislative Session is right around the corner and we are gearing up to debate on one of the most challenging budgets in years. I want to assure you that I am using all of the resources available to ensure that we provide funding for the most essential state services and continue to take a hard look at the state's agencies to see what can be done to cut costs and improve accountability.

In this issue I would like to give you an update on legislation and issues that I feel are important to our district.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

Vero Beach Office:

1053 20th Place
 Vero Beach, FL 32960
 (772) 778-5077

Tallahassee Office:

317 House Office Building
 402 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 488-0952

Toll Free Numbers:

Phone – (866) 857-7289
 Fax – (888) 544-0393



Representative Mayfield celebrating with Mr. Joseph Steinitz on his 100th birthday.

ENERGY SECURITY

HM 563, sponsored by Rep. Seth McKeel, of which I am a cosponsor, calls on Congress to support the expedited removal of the moratorium prohibiting exploration and production of domestic supplies of oil and natural gas in federal waters surrounding Florida, and to include Florida in the revenue sharing resulting from the production of these valuable resources.

I was pleased to sign onto this legislation as a cosponsor and I fully supported HM 563 as it passed favorably out of the House General Government Policy Council. This legislation will be considered next in the Rules and Calendar Council.

Currently, the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) supplies more than 15 percent of the country's natural gas production, more than 25 percent of total domestic oil production and the offshore areas of the United States are thought to contain the majority of our future oil and gas resources.

"It's time for Florida to join the ranks as a Gulf Coast producing state. The cost and stability of energy is one of the greatest hurdles we face," stated Representative McKeel. "By urging Congress to take action, we are sending a message to Washington that we should be the ones to benefit from the production of energy in our own waters."



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

Max Lipkin a student at St. Edwards School in Vero Beach has been selected to serve the Florida House of Representatives as a Messenger during the week of April 12-16. Serving as a messenger will give him an opportunity to observe the legislative process first hand while providing much needed assistance to House members and staff during session.

Linda Delo, D.O. an osteopathic physician in Ft. Pierce was recently elected as President of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

John E. Moore III received the 2010 Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Award for the 19th Judicial Circuit awarded on January 28th at the Florida Supreme Court.



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

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION RELIEF

This past week in the House Finance and Tax Council, HB 7033, also known as the Unemployment Compensation Bill, unanimously passed and will be headed to House floor for consideration during the first week of session. This legislation will hold down drastic increases in unemployment rates for businesses over the next two years.

HB 7033 makes several changes to the existing law including:

- Reduces the taxable wage base from \$8,500 down to \$7,000 for the next two years.
- Regardless of the balance in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund no rate increase will be triggered for the next two years since the positive adjustment factor will be suspended. A three year recoupment period will commence in 2012, and then a return to a four year recoupment will start 2015.
- Grants employers the ability to make their 2010 and 2011 tax payments in quarterly installments without interest or penalties if the employers make the quarterly filing and payment according to the new schedule.

"In these harsh economic times when Florida is struggling to create jobs, this legislation is a step in the right direction and will help give a boost to our businesses and encourage job creation," stated Representative Mayfield.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

This past week in the House PreK-12 Policy Committee, Chairman John Legg proposed key legislation intended to strengthen accountability and raise Florida's education standards to better prepare Florida students to compete in the global marketplace for the high-paying careers of the future.

"By replacing the FCAT with end-of-course assessments, teachers can now focus on teaching their material continually throughout the year. This bill also helps free up more time for teachers to focus teaching their subjects and not teaching a test. I was proud to sign on as a cosponsor and I look forward to debating this issue in the up and coming legislative session." stated Representative Mayfield.

HB 7053 specifies geometry and Algebra II as two of the four mathematics credits needed for graduation from high school and specifies Biology I and chemistry or physics as two of the three science credits needed for graduation. For students selecting the accelerated college preparatory or career preparatory graduation options, HB 7053 increases the required mathematics credits from three to four credits. This bill also requires end-of-course (EOC) assessments to be administered in Algebra I, geometry and biology and eliminates grade 9 and grade 10 FCAT Mathematics and FCAT Science tests at the high school level replacing them with the EOCs.