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Florida House of Representatives

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

*Greetings from Tallahassee! There are just two weeks left in the 2011 Regular Legislative Session and together with other members I am working hard to pass bills that are essential to promoting Florida's economic recovery.*

*There still remains significant technical and procedural work before the House and Senate can begin budget negotiations. Representative Grimsley, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, will lead the overall budget conference for the House. Conference committees will be appointed to resolve differences on the various budget issues as well as on conforming and implementing legislation.*

*I am optimistic that the conference process will produce a responsible, balanced budget that will address Florida's critical needs.*



This month Mike and Christine Bernard visited the Tallahassee office with their granddaughter, Anna Cardenal. Mike sent me a follow up email in which he stated, "This was a great learning experience for her (Anna) and she is more interested in state government than ever before." It is always a pleasure to visit with people from the district, especially young people who will be our future leaders.

## HOUSE VOTES TO PROTECT VOTER RIGHTS

The integrity of Florida's election process relies on efficiency, accountability, and transparency. To ensure this, we must preserve the reliability of our voter registration system, streamline our ballot, focus on greater voter protection, and create uniformity and clarity to existing election code and reporting guidelines. Last week the House voted in favor of HB 1355 regarding Election Transparency and Accountability. Key issues this bill addressed are:

- Provides multiple options for voters to update information
- Improves the ability of our absentee voters to receive ballots as soon as possible
- Strengthens political advertisement requirements so citizens will know who is paying for advertising
- Greater oversight of third party voter registration organizations

For additional information please visit:

[ELECTIONS](#)

Sponsored Bills

Email Representative

MyDistrictBuilder

July 2011

Launch MyDistrictBuilder

Summer-Fall, 2011

Florida Legislature to hold statewide public meetings on redistricting

Jan 10-March 9, 2012

2012 Legislative Session Districts Approved

June 18-22, 2012

Qualifying for Candidates



Technology Corner:

Follow me on twitter by clicking on the logo

Session Live:

You can follow daily events in the House of Representatives at [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)



PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION

The Florida House passed HB 7095, Controlled Substances, on Thursday, April 21, 2011. The bill outlines a number of strategies to address Florida's prescription drug problem including prohibiting physicians from dispensing Schedule II and III controlled substances and requiring physicians to follow standards of care.

The legislation also requires physicians to use tamper proof prescription pads to prescribe controlled substances and it requires distributor to credential physicians and pharmacies that buy controlled substances.

This bipartisan legislation fights this epidemic on multiple levels, but most importantly stops the problem at the source. By prohibiting doctors from dispensing medically unbelievable amounts of the most dangerous drugs, we can quickly and effectively put an end to the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in Florida.

GOWTH MANAGEMENT REFORM

HB 7129 was passed by Members of the Florida House this past Thursday. The bill proposes changes to the statutory requirements of local comprehensive plans, including removing the twice a year limitation on local government adoption of plan amendments. The legislation expands the expedited plan amendment process instituted via pilot in 2007, but retains the requirements for a more extensive review of plans for newly formed cities, plan amendments that impact areas of critical state concern, as well as large scale rural, undeveloped and environmentally sensitive areas.

The legislation also limits the scope of state review of local comprehensive plans and plan amendments and challenges to local comprehensive plans and plan amendments to encompass, for the most part, only impacts to state resources and facilities. The bill also increases local government access to large scale planning tools, such as sector plans and rural land stewardship areas, and eliminates certain areas of state required concurrency. Local governments will have a choice to maintain or implement similar concepts at the local level. This comprehensive reform eliminates layers of state-mandated bureaucracy and removes duplicative reviews that slow down the development process, allowing for greater government efficiency.

SESSION WEEK EIGHT APRIL 25-29, 2011

The schedule for week eight shows that the House is in Session this week from Tuesday, April 26, 2011 to Friday, April 29, 2011. Please use the following links to review information regarding the General Appropriations Act

QUICK FACTS

Number of practitioners authorized to dispense oxycodone:

Florida: 156 (11%)  
Nation 1,423

Grams of oxycodone sold by practitioners:

Florida: 111,934 (85.3%)  
Nation: 131,249

Number of practitioners authorized to dispense methadone:

Florida: 55 (49.5%)  
Nation: 111

Grams of methadone sold by practitioners:

Florida: 47,515 (93.1%)  
Nation: 51,046

2011 Appropriations Documents

House Appropriations Committee