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Florida House of Representatives

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Inside this issue:

Reducing Regulations on Businesses	1
2011 Budget Allocations	2
House Business Week Four	2

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

Greetings from Tallahassee! We are now heading into the fourth week of the 2011 Legislative Session. This week we will be preparing to move forward with the budget. The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined the gap between anticipated revenues and needs to be within a range of \$2.9 billion to \$4.6 billion.

However, while the budget is a challenge in Tallahassee, it is merely a symptom of what Florida's families and small businesses are facing. In order to help the state budget improve, we need to help Florida's economy improve, and I am committed to making the tough decisions I was elected to make to ensure Florida maintains a balanced budget. The House budget will prioritize critical needs and develop realistic, achievable options to balance our budget and put Florida in the best position possible.

REDUCING REGULATIONS ON FLORIDA BUSINESSES



Many of you have contacted my offices regarding HB5005 outlining your concerns about the reduction of regulations of professions and businesses and the streamlining of the regulatory process. As such, I wanted to provide an update regarding this legislation.

HB 5005 and HB 5007 are both currently moving through the legislative process and will continue to be amended as they move through committees and onto the floor. At the last committee stop, HB 5005 was amended and no longer eliminates the **Division of Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes**. The bill also no longer deregulates **Homeowners Associations, Landscape Architects, or Home Inspectors**, along with additional professions. For the most up-to-date information on both bills, please check the House website at the following links: [HB 5005](#) & [HB 5007](#).

Florida currently regulates more than 200 licensee and registration categories. HB 5005 would repeal licensing and examination requirements and penalties for specified professions, occupations, and businesses currently regulated by the state. HB 5007 would reduce regulatory requirements for professions and businesses and streamline regulatory functions. Many of the professional and businesses regulations and licensing requirements included in these bills are regulated by the Federal Trade Commission, local government regulations, and national associations.

This legislation is an important step in promoting growth and expansion in Florida's business community. Our job is to allow competition in the private sector so that our businesses can meet the needs of our citizens, not the needs of government. To get our economy moving again, we must minimize obstacles for businesses and establish Florida as a state that inspires entrepreneurs, empowers the private sector to create jobs, and provides greater freedom to citizens.



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2011 FLORIDA BUDGET

Appropriations subcommittees have completed their initial work by proposing spending plans within their allocations. Speaker Cannon has repeatedly emphasized the need for prudent, realistic budgeting. Members have been given the opportunity to engage in the process and the freedom to prioritize spending, through base budget review, budget reduction exercise, and lump sum general revenue allocations.

BUILD YOUR OWN BUDGET

The House allocations reflect the following strategies and principles:

- The House budget will prioritize critical needs and develop realistic, achievable options to balance our budget.
- The House budget will not raise taxes or fees.
- The House budget will provide sufficient reserves to weather altered fiscal forecasts and preserve our bond ratings. Unallocated General Revenue, the Budget Stabilization Fund, and the Lawton Chiles Endowment should provide a total budget reserve that exceeds \$2.2 billion.
- The House budget will prioritize education, and K-12 education will receive the greatest percentage of the General Revenue allocation.
- When adjusted for the savings to the local school districts from FRS contribution rates, the K-12 proportional share of the general revenue funding for FY 2011-12 will be a reduction of two tenths of a percent (.2%) from FY 2010-11.
- The K-12 General Revenue funding level will exceed the General Revenue appropriation from FY 2009-10.
- The House budget will not adopt strategies to control Medicaid spending that result in cost shifts toward the other aspects of our state-funded health care infrastructure, including driving uncompensated care into our public hospitals and emergency departments.
- The House budget will not revise adult sentencing policies, change inmate release schedules, or take any action that jeopardizes the long-term safety of the public to save money in the current fiscal year.
- The House budget will reflect reasonable adjustments to state employee benefits, specifically the Florida Retirement System.
- The House budget will prioritize the delivery of services to people (education, health care, and public safety) over the purchase of things (transportation, general government, and the environment).

The construction and passage of a budget is the sole duty imposed on our Legislature by our state's constitution. If you have not had a chance to participate in the **"Build Your Own Budget"** program I have provided the link again in this issue (click the logo above or visit the House website). This program, introduced by Speaker Dean Cannon, allows the public to participate in the same budget exercises that the legislators use. I encourage you to try your hand at balancing Florida's budget and please share the results with my office.

SESSION WEEK FOUR

This week will feature Committee Action on the General Appropriations Bill. On Wednesday, March 30th, the Appropriation Committee will meet, and on Friday, April 1st, the General Appropriations Act, implementing bill, and conforming bills, as amended, will be published. For greater ease in finding the many documents and bills related to this process, the House has placed them all in one location:

2011 Appropriations Documents

House Appropriations Committee