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Florida House of Representatives

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

*This week marks the halfway point in the 2011 Legislative Session. I am pleased to report that legislation I filed this year HB 641 was passed in the House Chamber last week with a 117-0 vote! This past week also saw a lot of floor action on the General Appropriations Act. We made strategic cuts and utilized limited taxpayer funds to prioritize people over things and to ensure the safety and security of Floridians.*

*The Office of Public Information has published several budget summaries which describe key budget issues overseen by each Appropriations Subcommittee in the Florida House. I have provided links to each budget summary below (please note you will have to open the attachment to this email to enable the links):*

[Agriculture & Natural Resources](#)

[Government Operations](#)

[Health Care](#)

[Higher Education](#)

[Justice](#)

[PreK-12](#)

[Transportation & Economic Development](#)

## BALLOT REFORM PROPOSAL

The House State Affairs Committee passed **House Bill 1261**, Election Ballots, on Thursday, April 7, 2011. This bill addresses the manner in which amendments to the Florida Constitution are proposed by the Legislature and presented to voters. The legislation specifies that a Joint Resolution may include a ballot summary or alternative ballot summaries that describe the chief purpose of the proposal in clear and unambiguous language and requires legal challenges to ballot language in a Joint Resolution be filed within 30 days after the Joint Resolution is submitted to the Secretary of State. To learn more visit: [STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE](#)

## REGULATORY REFORM PASSES HOUSE FLOOR

Two bills passed the House Floor last week affecting business and consumer regulation and licensing. The first bill, **House Bill 5005**, repeals licensing and examination requirements and penalties for specific professions and businesses currently regulated by the state. The second bill, **House Bill 5007**, streamlines regulatory requirements for specific professions and businesses.

You can learn more at the following links:

[ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE](#)  
[OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION](#)

Sponsored Bills

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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

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**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR FLORIDA**

The House Select Committee on Government Reorganization of which I am a committee member proposed and passed favorably a proposed committee bill (PCB) related to government reorganization this past Friday. PCB SCGR 11-03 proposes to create the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), which would be responsible for coordinating the efficient delivery of services and programs related to economic development, workforce development, community planning and development, and affordable housing.



In addition, the bill proposes to require the DEO to assist local governments and their communities in finding creative planning solutions related to comprehensive planning and community development.

**PENSION REFORM LEGISLATION**

The Florida House has examined ways in which the Florida Retirement System (FRS) can be modernized and improved to address current budget constraints. The goal of this approach has been to ensure employees receive the benefits they have earned and that future benefits are provided fairly and in a fiscally responsible manner.

The House Pension Reform package passed the Florida House last Tuesday. This legislation makes several changes to the Florida Retirement System including requiring a three percent employee contribution for current and future members of all classes of the FRS Pension Plan and Investment Plan, closing the deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) to new participants effective July 1, 2011, and increasing the retirement age for Special Risk members to 60 years old or 30 years of service and for all other members to 65 years old or 33 years of service. The increased retirement age would be effective only for members newly enrolled in FRS on or after July 1, 2011.

I value the hard work and service of current and former state employees especially those individuals who have dedicated their careers to public safety and education. This is an important issue which elicits passionate arguments on both sides and I respect and appreciated hearing concerns and comments from constituents.

For more information click the following link:

[OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION](#)

**SESSION WEEK SIX**

The schedule for week six shows that the House is in Session this Thursday, **April 14, 2011** from 1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and then again this Friday, **April 15, 2011** from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. I am scheduled to be in committee meetings this week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please use the following links to review information regarding the General Appropriations Act which passed last week in the House.

[2011 Appropriations Documents](#)

[House Appropriations Committee](#)