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Florida House of Representatives

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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*As we move into the Holy Week I always find myself reflecting on life's many blessings. I am so fortunate to have great friends and family and for my health.*

*As we celebrate and worship this week please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and that I wish each of you a joyous and blessed Passover and Easter Holiday.*

*Debbie Mayfield*

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I had the pleasure of visiting with Terri McKenzie and her family in my Tallahassee Office earlier this month. The family traveled to Tallahassee in support of the Parental Rights Amendment (HM 557). It is always a special day when I get to visit with people from home.

## SEPTIC TANK INSPECTION REPEAL PASSES HOUSE

This past Friday, a bill to repeal burdensome septic tank inspections took a major step toward becoming law, passing the Florida House of Representatives.

HB 13 repeals language found in SB 550, passed during the 2010 legislative session, that requires individuals and businesses to pay for costly inspections to comply with a statewide septic tank evaluation program. This bi-partisan legislation is an important step in protecting our property rights.

HB 13, now in Senate messages, must be voted on by the Florida Senate before being sent to the Governor to be signed into law.



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## 2011-12 BUDGET

The House budget prioritized critical needs and realistic, achievable options to balance our budget.

Our state's current economic challenges do not allow us to expand government revenues on the backs of Florida's families. Furthermore, unlike other states, we will not carry unresolved deficits.

In Education Appropriations, due to the massive budget shortfall we face, no program or line item was spared a budget reduction. It is not possible to achieve balance and spare the largest segment of General Revenue spending in the budget from significant reduction. However, the Florida House continues to value Education, and this is highlighted by the fact that K-12 Education has received the largest allocation of general revenue funds of all the budget areas.

Keep in mind last year's funding for PreK-12 included \$872 million in nonrecurring stimulus for per student funding. Aside from Medicaid, the Florida Education Finance program (FEFP) is the single largest cost driver in the state budget.

The House's health care budget focuses on maintaining programs that are vital to provide health care to Florida's most vulnerable citizens. There are no reductions proposed to any eligibility categories. The House budget has proposed fully funding the Medically Needy, MEDS AD, and Kidcare programs. Likewise, the budget fully funds the funding need for an estimated 230,000 additional Medicaid beneficiaries expected to enroll in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Lastly, the goal in the creation of the justice budget was the protection and security of Florida's citizens. To that end, the House crafted a \$4.4 billion public safety budget that prioritizes safety in our communities and maintains the constitutional requirements of our judicial system.

## SESSION WEEK SEVEN APRIL 18-22, 2011

The schedule for week seven shows that the House is in Session this Wednesday, **April 20, 2011** from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. and then again on Thursday, **April 21, 2011** from 2:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. I am scheduled to be in committee meetings this week on Wednesday (FINANCE & TAX) and Thursday (STATE AFFAIRS). Please use the following links to review information regarding the General Appropriations Act



Rep. Debbie Mayfield, R-Vero Beach, offers remarks on the House floor promoting the House budget Thursday, April 7, 2011.

[2011 Appropriations Documents](#)

[House Appropriations Committee](#)