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Florida House of Representatives**

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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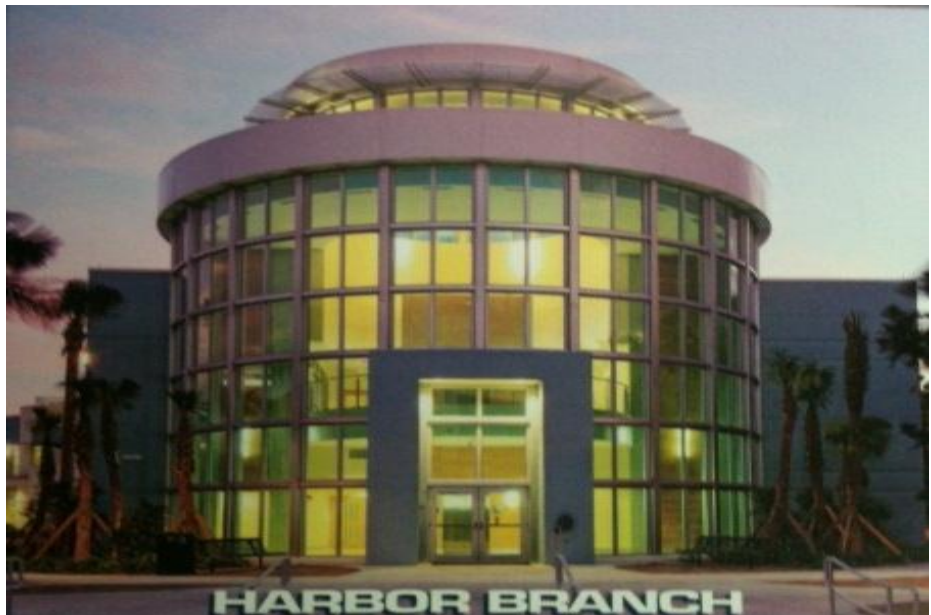
Florida's Old and New Capitols

I always enjoy meeting and working with my local constituents in Tallahassee. Taryn Tolle worked as a page in my office this past week. It was a pleasure meeting with Brevard County School Board member Andy Ziegler. If you are in Tallahassee during Legislative Session, please stop by my office for a visit.



HABOR BRANCH MARINE SCIENCE LAB DEDICATION

Florida Atlantic University and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute dedicated the new Marine Science Lab on January 24, 2012. This new building is a state of the art facility for marine science and engineering research, discovery and education.



HARBOR BRANCH

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PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION INSURANCE

Since the program's inception, the number of PIP claims has grown significantly each year, despite a marked decline in the number of auto accidents. The Florida Department of Financial Services attributes much of the increase to fraud and abuse, including staged accidents, unnecessary or improper medical care and illegal billing practices. Over the years, the Legislature has worked to enact programmatic changes to fight fraudulent activity by strengthening licensing requirements for clinics providing health services to accident victims.

House Bill 119 (CS/HB 119) Motor Vehicle Insurance proposes to replace the existing Personal Injury Protection insurance system with the Emergency Care Coverage (ECC) Law. The proposed system would retain the required minimum coverage of \$10,000 and the availability to recover lost wages and receive funeral benefits. In addition, the bill would:

- Base the coverage of medical services on the severity of the injury as determined by medical professionals in a hospital emergency department within 72 hours after the accident;
- Cover a limited range of services including emergency transport, diagnosis and treatment, and follow up services related to the initial diagnosis;
- Cap attorney fees in individual and class action disputes;
- Establish a presumption that, unless rebutted by clear and convincing evidence, the determination by a physician of an emergency medical condition is correct;
- Establish a 30-day payment delay period when fraud is suspected;
- Bar the payment of benefits to anyone who submits false material statements or information related to an automobile accident;
- Require beneficiaries to comply with the policy terms established in the new law; and
- Create a presumption, unless otherwise disputed, that an insured person's failure to appear for two examinations is an unreasonable refusal or failure to submit to the examination (which is required to receive benefits).

REDISTRICTING

The House Redistricting Committee passed a series of redistricting bills today:

- HB 6005 (Congressional)
- HJR 6011 (House)
- HJR 6001 (Senate)

Each of the plans follows the constitutional requirements passed by voters in 2010. Each of the plans also uses existing county, city, and geographical boundaries to decrease the number of split counties and split cities. In addition, the maps were drawn without regard to where incumbents live. For example, the House Map draws 38 sitting members into a district of another incumbent.

Each of these plans will now go to the House floor for approval by the entire House, as early as the end of next week. To see the proposed maps and follow the process, please visit the [House Redistricting Committee's website](#).