



Debbie Mayfield, District 54
Florida House of Representatives

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Legislative Assistant
Audra Robitaille

District Executive Secretary
Mayra Hernandez

Vero Beach Office:

1053 20th Place
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 778-5077

Tallahassee Office:

303 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5054

Toll Free Numbers:

Phone – (866) 857-7289
Fax – (888) 544-0393

One of the most important issues the Legislature must tackle in the 2013 Session is how Florida will implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We must consider not only the Health Insurance Exchange, but also the effects of PPACA on Florida's residents and business community. In this issue, I detail how you can stay up to date with the active role the Legislature is taking in responding to PPACA, and how you can best ensure that your opinion is heard. I have also provided a brief overview of some of the challenges the State faces with implementation.

As mentioned in the previous issue, the Indian River County and St Lucie County Legislative Delegations will meet next week in preparation for Session. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my district office.

SELECT COMMITTEES ON PPACA

The Legislature has taken a proactive role in considering how the state will respond to PPACA, and how best to mitigate the effects that new mandates will have on small business and individuals. The State Senate and House of Representatives has created two Select Committees on PPACA. These committees will provide comprehensive assessments of the impact of PPACA on Florida, and will properly vet the ideas on how the state will respond. Its research will be fundamental in providing recommendations for lawmakers for legislation as we move forward with implementation. To stay up to date on the documents and presentations presented in these committees, please visit the Senate committee website, <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/SPPA> or House Committee website, <http://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committeesdetail.aspx?Committeed=2738>

In collaboration with the Committee, the Senate has provided an additional webpage with helpful resources on Florida's role in PPACA as well as the timeline of positions and responses taken by the Legislature. There is also a section where to provide your personal comments to the Committee, select to follow the Committee meetings, and write to your congressional member. Please visit <http://www.flsenate.gov/topics/ppaca> to utilize this resource.



Email Representative

Important Dates

December 17th—
St. Lucie County
Legislative
Delegation
Meeting
9 AM—Noon
IRSC Ft. Pierce

December 19th—
Indian River
County Legislative
Delegation
Meeting
9 AM—Noon
Vero Beach
City Hall

Technology Corner:

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QUESTIONS FACING FLORIDA

The full implementation of PPACA requires that Florida now decide whether to assume the major costs to implement the Act's key provisions, or to leave the costs and some of the responsibilities to the federal government. Three of the major areas the state must consider are the expansion of the Medicaid program, the expansion of state employee benefits, and the Health Care Exchange that is mandated by PPACA.

Medicaid: With the new individual mandates for health care insurance, Florida must decide whether to accept federal funding under the Act's terms and conditions and to expand Medicaid to insure new individuals, or to retain its existing program and reject federal funds. In the wake of the difficulties we have already seen in fully funding the obligations of the current Medicaid program, we must seriously consider the additional costs associated with the expansion, which would effectively add double the amount of recipients. This expansion and acceptance of federal funds will also affect Florida's efforts in cost reduction and improved patient care recently seen in Medicaid Reform.

State Employee Benefits: The state is an employer and must abide by the same guidelines as any other employer affected by PPACA. The federal government has prescribed a certain level of health insurance coverage for all employees working 30 or more hours a week, which would include part-time state employees who are not currently eligible to participate in the State Group Insurance Plan. A revised plan must either change to include an increase of 21,580 employees and more than \$200 million per year by 2014-2015, or the state must pay a substantial annual penalty.

Health Care Exchange: PPACA mandates the creation of health insurance exchanges, which will operate as a marketplace where individuals and small businesses are able to purchase and compare policies and premiums, using government subsidies when applicable. Florida must make a final decision whether or not to accept federal grants and create a state-run exchange, or to leave the creation and administration of the exchange to the federal government. The question of whether a state exchange will give states more control over federal mandates on Floridians has been left unanswered, and it will be an important consideration for the Committee.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

