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Florida House of Representatives

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Inside this issue:

Property Tax Relief	1
Solemnity of Funerals	2
2nd Amendment	2
Beach Nourishment	2

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VISIT TALLAHASSEE

There are just two weeks left in the 2012 Regular Legislative Session and together with other members I am working hard to pass bills that are essential to promoting Florida's continued economic recovery. There still remains significant work to be done between the House and Senate to reach agreement on budget negotiations, but I am optimistic that the conference process will produce a responsible, balanced budget that will address Florida's critical needs.

My office and staff are always available to assist you with questions or difficulties you may have with a state agency. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns.

Rep. Debbie Mayfield



The Council of Catholic Women
Rita Gilchrist, Marge Grall, Kathleen Mueller and Beverly Matsoukas

HOMESTEAD ASSESSMENT LIMITATION / SR. CITIZENS HJR 55



The Florida House unanimously passed CS/HJR 55 - Homestead Assessment Limitation/Senior Citizens. This bill proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize counties and municipalities to freeze the assessed value of the homesteads of certain low-income senior citizens.

The bill would limit the freeze to those low-income seniors who currently qualify for the double homestead exemption, with an annual adjusted gross income of less than \$26,000, therefore ensuring it would appropriately target those who are least able to pay for even modest increases in property taxes.

HJR 55 must be approved by the Florida Senate, before being placed on the November 2012 ballot.

Email Representative

Sales Tax Holiday

The Florida House unanimously approved a 3-day sales tax holiday for Aug. 3 - 5, 2012.

You can buy clothing, shoes, wallets and bags costing up to \$75 tax-free. You can also get school supplies tax-free as long as they cost \$15 or less.

Session Live:

You can follow daily events in the House of Representatives at www.myfloridahouse.gov

Technology Corner



SOLEMNITY OF FUNERALS - HB 31

The Florida House passed House Bill 31, which creates a 500-foot buffer around a funeral from those wishing to disrupt or protest the service.

The bill makes the act of knowingly engaging in activities to disrupt a funeral a first degree misdemeanor which can be punished by up to one year in jail.

This bill protects the rights of the family and friends of the deceased to properly mourn in a safe and solemn manner.

**Florida Servicemembers Enhanced Second Amendment Rights
HB 463**

Today the Florida House passed CS/HB 463 - The legislation allows Florida military servicemembers and honorably discharged veterans who are under 21, and are otherwise qualified, to be issued a concealed weapons permit.



The bill also allows military servicemembers and honorably discharged veterans under the age of 21, who are not Florida residents and hold a concealed weapon license from another state which honor's Florida's concealed weapons licenses, to exercise the same rights as Florida concealed weapons license holders. The bill additionally requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to accept background check fingerprints for any military concealed weapons license applicants which have been prepared by military law enforcement officials.

HB 463 must now be voted on by the Florida Senate before being made available for the Governor to sign into law.

**BEACH RENOURISHMENT
HB 691**



HB 691 is a bill to streamline the permitting process for beach nourishment and inlet management projects received bipartisan support as it unanimously passed the Florida House.

"This is much needed legislation. If we do not expedite the permitting process and reverse escalating regulatory and construction costs, Florida will no longer be able to sustain its 62 existing beach nourishment projects," said Representative Jim Frishe. "Beaches are vital to Florida's economy. They are our number 1 tourist attraction." In 2010, Florida beach tourists spent \$11.7 billion, and accounted for a total impact of \$22.7 billion.

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