



Debbie Mayfield, District 54
Florida House of Representatives

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Legislative Assistant
Andrew Liebert

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



As we prepare to move into the fourth week of the 2013 Legislative Session, I want to highlight a number of bills that are making their journey through the legislative process. I would also like to familiarize you with our State's budget process and the recently released preliminary House Budget Allocations.



On Thursday, I was delighted to welcome students and administrators from Liberty Magnet School in Vero Beach to Tallahassee. The group got a first-hand look at daily activities of the legislature.

Second Amendment Rights & HM545

In the wake of recent national tragedies, over two-dozen gun control bills have been filed in the Florida Legislature. The purposes of these bills range from requiring universal background checks, to placing new taxes and fees on gun sales. To date, none of these bills have gained significant support. Although we must take reasonable steps to keep guns out of the hands of those who would commit violence, none of the proposed bills would effectively serve this purpose.

I believe that our innate rights are to be protected by government. **Please be assured that I oppose any legislation that in any way infringes upon the fundamental Second-Amendment right to keep and bear arms.** I am a gun owner and lifetime member of the National Rifle Association (NRA), and believe the Second-Amendment is essential because it was meant to protect all other rights. To that end, I co-sponsored [House Memorial 545](#), which declares to the President of the United States and the United States Congress the intent of the Florida House to use its authority to protect the citizens of Florida against any federal gun control measure that violates the right of the people of Florida to keep and bear arms.

Email Representative

Making Progress

Florida's economy is emerging from one of its greatest economic downturns in recent history: 282,200 private sector jobs have been added since December 2010 AND Last week it was announced that our unemployment rate fell to 7.8%. This is below the national average of 7.9%, and the lowest level since January 2008. We have a long way to go, but clearly we're headed in the right direction.



Florida's Old and New Capitols

Florida's Budget

Background:

The creation of Florida's budget begins each fall with the development of the Long Range Financial Outlook. This report provides a three-year picture of the state's fiscal position by aligning budget needs with estimated revenues. Shortly after the report is released, Florida's state agencies submit their budget requests to both the Legislature and the Governor, who then consider these requests while developing their budget proposals. Before the start of Legislative Session, the Governor presents his budget proposal to the Legislature. Legislative committees then hold public meetings with agency leaders and interested citizens while considering the proposed budget.

Where we are now:

During Legislative Session, both the House and Senate work to pass their own versions of the budget. The House released its preliminary budget allocations last week, which revealed that, for the first time in seven years, we are no longer facing a significant budget shortfall. This provides an opportunity to appropriately provide additional funding for state priorities. Some highlights of the House preliminary allocations include a long overdue pay raise for state workers, and restoration of past cuts to university funding. Over the next few weeks, we plan to refine and pass our proposed budget, which is referred to as a General Appropriations Act.

What happens next:

After the House and Senate pass their respective budget bills, disparities between these proposed budgets are addressed in a joint conference committee, which results in a single budget called the General Appropriations Act. This Act is then sent to the Governor to sign into law.

Did you know that Florida is constitutionally required to balance its budget each year? To learn more about Florida's budget process click [here](#):

My Bills: An Update

[HB 301](#) The Cancer Treatment Fairness Act: This bill would require insurers to provide identical coverage for oral and intravenous cancer medications. Currently, the bill is in the [Appropriations Committee](#); afterwards it goes to the [Health & Human Services Committee](#). If you consider this legislation important, and especially if you are a constituent of one of the committee members, please voice your support by contact them via the links above.

[HB 1379](#) Service of Process: This bill changes the way law enforcement serves and executes summons, subpoenas, and injunctions. It streamlines the service process which provides increased security for people who are under the protection of an injunction, and those who are involuntarily committed to a treatment institution. This bill is currently in the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

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Technology Corner:

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Firefighter Appreciation Week



This week was Florida Firefighter Appreciation Week. On Monday, the State Fire Marshall held the [2013 Fire Service Awards](#). Congratulations to each honoree; the courageous service of these men and women make them true heroes.

Other Important Legislation

[HB 569 Florida Election Code:](#) Voters must know who is donating money to which campaigns in order to make informed decisions. The purpose of this bill is to increase the transparency and accountability of Florida's campaign finance laws by eliminating committees of continuous existence (CCEs), raising the cap on direct campaign contributions to candidates and Political Committees, and making Political Committees more able to effectively participate in the electoral process. This bill passed the House today but must still be passed by the senate before it can be signed into law.

[HB 155 Prohibition of Electronic Gambling Devices:](#) Over the past several years, Florida has witnessed an explosion of electronic sweepstakes that simulate casino-style games. Updating current laws concerning charitable drawings, game promotions, and slot machines would close the legal loophole that allows for these means of gambling and effectively ban "internet cafes" in the State of Florida. This bill passed the House today but still must be passed by the senate before it can be signed into law.

[HB 7011 Florida Retirement System \(Pension Reform\):](#) Unless we make modifications, Florida's current pension system will prove unsustainable. This legislation (detailed in last week's issue) would limit new employees to a "defined contribution" plan, thereby promoting fiscal certainty for both the retirement system and taxpayers. It is important to understand that this legislation would not change the pension of current employees. This bill passed the House today but still must be passed by the senate before it can be signed into law.



Florida's Old and New Capitols