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Florida House of Representatives

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Although this past week was shortened due to the Passover and Easter holidays, significant progress was made on some important issues. I am excited to announce that the Appropriations Committee overwhelmingly passed [The Cancer Treatment Fairness Act](#) on Thursday. The bill is now on the way to its final committee stop--the [Health & Human Services Committee](#). I am proud of this much-needed legislation and look forward to its consideration by the full House of Representatives.

As we approach the halfway mark of the 2013 Legislative Session, I invite you to contact me so I can gain a sense of your perspective on issues that matter to you. If you are in the Tallahassee area, I invite you to stop by my office for a visit. Should you have problems with a State Agency or need assistance with an issue please contact my district office at 772-778-5077.



Thank you to everyone who has attended committee meetings in support of The Cancer Treatment Fairness Act

## Synthetic Drugs & HB 619

In recent years, synthetic drugs have become a real problem in Florida. Referred to as “bath salts” or “spice”, synthetic drugs are combinations of industrial grade chemicals that produce a “high” similar to cocaine or marijuana. Because these drugs can cause psychotic episodes, hallucinations, and paranoia, they are dangerous to both users and those around them. These drugs have no legitimate medical use, a high potential for abuse, and sadly are often marketed towards youth.

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## Email Representative

### Important Dates

**April 11th**

The Emerson Center  
Florida Humanities  
Series- The Florida  
Space Program: Its  
past, present, and future  
with Former Astronaut  
Jon McBride

Admission: Free  
Begins at 7pm

For more information  
click [here](#) or call  
772.778.5249

### Technology Corner:

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

During 2011 and 2012, the Legislature and Attorney General's office added several of these synthetic drugs to Florida's list of controlled substances. However, new formulas of synthetic drugs have been developed since this legislation was established that are not covered under the current law.

[HB 619](#), which I cosponsor, amends Florida's list of controlled substances to add numerous formulas of synthetic drugs. As a result, the criminal penalties associated with the possession, sale, and manufacturing of these drugs would range from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony. This bill is ready to be heard on the House floor.

## K-12 Education & HB 867

[HB 867](#), often referred to as the "Parent Trigger", would give parents a greater say in how to improve their child's failing public school. The idea behind this legislation is that if a school is inadequate, concerned parents should be allowed to take actions in their child's best interests. According to this proposal, if a school receives an "F" grade in two consecutive years, parents could petition the school board to adopt one of the following turnaround options:

- convert the school to a district-managed turnaround school
- reassign students to another school and monitor their progress
- close the school and reopen it as a charter school with a governing board that has a record of effectiveness
- contract with an outside experienced entity to operate the school; or
- a hybrid of the options above or other turnaround models that have a record of excellence.

The bill would also prohibit assigning a student to a classroom teacher with an unsatisfactory performance evaluation for consecutive years. HB 867 is being considered by the full house, and Florida will hopefully soon join the other seven states that have adopted similar legislation

## Unclaimed property & HB 797

I would like to familiarize you with one of the bills I have sponsored, [HB 797](#), regarding unclaimed property. Currently, Florida's Department of Financial Services (DFS) holds unclaimed accounts valued at more than \$1 billion.

*Examples of unclaimed property include:*

Dormant bank accounts, money orders, uncashed payroll or cashiers' checks, stocks, bonds, insurance benefits, refunds, security deposits, and safe deposit box contents.

Holders of unclaimed property, such as insurance companies, utility companies, and banks, are required to report unclaimed property to DFS. If the value of the property is over \$250, DFS will attempt to contact the owner.

Currently, submitting a claim for unclaimed property requires mailing DFS a claim form and a copy of a government issued photo identification card, or an affidavit affirming identification. My bill simplifies the claim process by authorizing DFS to allow a claimant to submit a claim electronically, and if the property is valued at \$1,000 or less, to accept an alternative method of identity verification.

There is no statute of limitations and no cost associated with making a claim. Please take a minute to visit the [CFO's website](#) to see if you have unclaimed property.