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Florida House of Representatives

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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This was another busy week in Tallahassee, with Session reaching the half way mark, we are continuing to hear legislation regarding important issues in our committees as well as on the House Floor. The Florida Association of Counties held their Legislative Day Conference this past week. I had the opportunity to meet with Commissioners O'Bryan and Solari from Indian River County as well as Commissioners Mowery and Johnson from St. Lucie County. In addition, the Student Government Association held their Rally on Tally and I met with students from the University of Florida and The University of West Florida. We also had a few of our business leaders in town, José Conrado with McDonald's and Greg Burke and Peter Jones with the American Institute of Architects. It is always great to see my friends from home in Tallahassee.

The House Appropriations Committee passed out of their committee the 2013 -2014 General Appropriation Act. I have included in this issue some of the key points of our budget.

As always it is an honor to serve you in Tallahassee.

## Budget Overview

This week each Appropriation Committee passed their budget. I serve on Justice Appropriations and Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations. We presented a budget in both committees with reductions from the prior years. On Friday the House and Senate released our complete budget proposals for the fiscal year 2013 – 2014 making them ready for consideration by the full chamber. After each chamber passes its budget we will hold conference committees to work out our difference in the two versions. We will then vote on the final budget and it will be sent to the Governor for his review and approval.

### FY 2013-2014 House Recommended Budget

**Overall Spending - \$74.4 Billion** (6.3% increase over FY 12-13)

- \$26.6 Billion - General Revenue
- \$21.3 Billion - State Trust Funds
- \$26.5 Billion - Federal Funds

**Healthcare Appropriations: \$31.3 Billion** (4.7% increase)

**Education Appropriations: \$20.2 Billion** (7 % increase)

**Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations: \$10.9 Billion**

**Justice Appropriations: \$4.3 Billion** (7.84% decrease)

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations: \$3 Billion** (4.7% decrease)

**Government Operations Appropriations: \$1.8 Billion** (3.5% increase)

## Email Representative

### Community Events

**April 11, 2013**

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

Admission: Free  
Begins at 7pm  
For more information click  
[Here](#)

**April 15, 2013**

Riverside Theatre  
"Israel Can Live With A  
Nuclear Iran" Debate  
Admission: \$40 for adults  
\$12 for students

For more information click  
[Here](#)

### Technology Corner:

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

## Budget Highlights

- Demonstrates a continued commitment to quality education by increasing overall K-12 spending by \$1.3 billion.
- Sets aside \$676 million for teacher pay increases to be distributed by local school boards.
- Restores the \$300 million cut to the State University System, while also adding another \$65 million in performance-based incentives.
- Recognizes the hard work and dedication of state employees by providing an across the board \$1,400 per year salary increase for State and University employees.
- Provides an additional 3% pay increase above the \$1,400 pay raise for all state law enforcement officers.
- Fully funds the unfunded actuarial liability and normal cost of the Florida Retirement System Plan for State and University employees.
- Making sure that we continue with our high bond rating and maintaining our fiscal responsibility, we are placing \$1.2 billion into General Revenue Reserves.

## Legislation Update

### **HB 301**-The Cancer Treatment Fairness Act

HB 301 requires insurance companies to treat the out of pocket expense for cancer treatment the same whether it is in the oral form for treatment or the IV form for treatment. We have one more committee, Health and Human Services Committee. I am optimistic that it will be heard within the next two weeks then it will go to the floor. The Senate companion bill, Senator Benacquisto is carrying, passed unanimously from the senate floor Thursday.

### **HB 867**-Parent Empowerment in Education

HB 867 empowers parents with a greater say in how to improve their child's failing public school. We passed off the floor Thursday. The companion bill in the Senate has two more committee stops before it can be considered on the floor.

### **HB 155** - Prohibition of Electronic Gambling Devices

HB 867 bans "internet cafes" has now passed the House and Senate. It is on the Governor desk and he has until April 12th to act; his office has indicated he will sign the bill into law.