

# FPF Legislative Session Report

March 20-24, 2017



The third week of the session was extremely busy with the cancer presumption bill at the top of the list. Several bills are still in a holding pattern while the session continues to move. Some committees are approaching their final meeting for this session. This is bitter sweet in that bills we support will probably die, but bills we oppose or bills with serious concerns absent amendments, will die also.

This is the positive and negative of the bicameral system of government, but fundamentally makes passing laws extremely difficult. While it does not insure that bad laws will not be passed, it serves to reduce the number of bad laws that are placed into the statute books.

The attendance was good at the Executive Council meeting and walking the halls meeting their legislators. We had several guest speakers that talked about several issues currently in the legislative process. The weather cooperated this year, which allowed for a great 34<sup>th</sup> Annual King of the Hill Softball Game. We used a different venue this year, which worked out well, and a good time was had by all.

The Executive Council met Thursday morning to recap their visits and report on additional cosponsors to the cancer presumption bills, with most of the members walking the halls reporting favorable comments concerning the bills. The Executive Board met Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. We truly appreciate all the hard work of our members during their visit.

We also held our Florida Fire Service Caucus Reception at the Hotel Duval again this year. The FPF, Florida Fire Chiefs, Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association jointly-sponsored this reception. We greatly appreciate their support and look forward to continuing this partnership. The reception provides our members an opportunity to share a little time with several legislators in a relaxed social setting.

We added an impressive number of cosponsors to the Cancer Presumption bills. The House Bill now has one prime cosponsor and 40 more cosponsors, remember there are only 120 members in the House. The fact that we are approaching a majority of the House as cosponsors would not have happened without all of you working in concert. The Senate bill has 10 cosponsors, in addition to the sponsor, out of the 40 members in the Senate.

Unfortunately, the House Bill (143) has NOT been placed on the agenda in the House Committee for their next meeting, which may be the last time this Committee meets this session. The next committee for the Senate Bill (158) is not meeting the last week of March, but they are scheduled to meet during the first week of April. This is disappointing, but we will continue working the issue to move the bill forward.

We appreciate everyone traveling to Tallahassee to visit their legislators and assist with delivering the softball jerseys and caps.

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## **RETIREMENT**

### **HB 603 Relating to Publicly Funded Defined Benefit Retirement Plans (Fischer)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 632 (Brandes)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/24/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee, 03/28/17, 3:30 pm, 17 H.

## **EMS ISSUES**

### **HB 61 Relating to Emergency Services for an Unintentional Drug Overdose (L. Lee Jr.)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 558 (Passidomo)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/21/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Health & Human Services Committee, 03/23/17, 9:00 am, 17 H.  
3/23/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Health & Human Services Committee; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/24/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed.

### **HB 229 Relating to Programs for Impaired Health Care Practitioners (Byrd)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 876 (Young)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/21/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/21/2017 HOUSE Now in Health & Human Services Committee.

### **HB 249 Relating to Drug Overdoses (Rommel)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 588 (Passidomo)**

#### **FPF Position: Support**

3/20/2017 HOUSE Reference to Criminal Justice Subcommittee removed; Remaining reference: Health & Human Services Committee. 3/20/2017 HOUSE Now in Health & Human Services Committee. 3/21/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Health & Human Services Committee, 03/23/17, 9:00 am, 17 H. 3/23/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Health & Human Services Committee; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays.

### **SB 588 Relating to Drug Overdoses (Passidomo)**

#### **Companion Bill: HB 249 (Rommel)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/22/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/27/17, 4:00 pm, 412 K.

[SB 876 Relating to Programs For Impaired Health Care Practitioners \(Young\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 229 \(Byrd\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

3/20/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

[HB 11 Relating to Labor Organizations \(Plakon\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1292 \(Baxley\)](#)

[FPF Position: Oppose](#)

3/20/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Accountability Committee, 03/22/17, 9:15 am, 17 H.  
3/22/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Government Accountability Committee; 14 Yeas, 8 Nays. 3/22/2017 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 3/23/2017 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/29/17.

[SB 168 Relating to Career Development for Officers and Firefighters \(J. Latvala\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 247 \(Payne\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/22/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 03/27/17, 4:00 pm, 401 S.

[SB 278 Relating to Local Tax Referenda \(Steube\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 139 \(Ingoglia\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

3/22/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Ethics and Elections; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/23/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed.

[HB 455 Relating to Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses \(Metz\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 764 \(Baxley\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/21/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Ways & Means Committee; 17 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/23/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed.

[SB 764 Relating to Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses \(Baxley\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 455 \(Metz\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/22/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/23/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed.

[SB 1108 Relating to Public Records/Firefighters and their Spouses and Children \(Artiles\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 383 \(Willhite\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/22/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 03/27/17, 4:00 pm, 401 S.

## **LOCAL BILLS**

[HB 533 Relating to City of Tampa, Hillsborough County \(Cruz\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

3/20/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays.  
3/20/2017 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee.

## **STATE EMPLOYEES**

### **HB 7007 Relating to State Group Insurance Program (Health & Human Services Committee)** **Companion Bill: SB 900 (T. Lee)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/22/2017 HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 03/23/17. 3/23/2017 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 77 Yeas / 37 Nays).

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **HB 465 Relating to Firefighter Emeritus (Raburn)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/21/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/22/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 3/24/2017 HOUSE Reference to Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee removed; Remaining references: Government Accountability Committee. 3/24/2017 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee.

### **HB 529 Relating to Soldiers' and Heroes' Monuments and Memorials Protection Act (Drake)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 418 (Steube)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/21/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Judiciary Committee, 03/23/17, 9:00 am, 404 H. 3/23/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Judiciary Committee; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/24/2017 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

### **HB 653 Relating to Community Associations (Moraitis)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 744 (Passidomo)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/21/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Careers & Competition Subcommittee; 8 Yeas, 5 Nays. 3/22/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 3/24/2017 HOUSE Now in Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee. 3/24/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee, 03/28/17, 3:30 pm, 404 H.

### **SB 744 Relating to Community Associations (Passidomo)**

#### **Companion Bill: HB 653 (Moraitis)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/23/2017 SENATE Senate - On Committee agenda - Regulated Industries, 03/28/17, 11:00 am, 110 S.

### **HB 901 Relating to Florida Building Commission (McClain)**

#### **Companion Bill: SB 7000 (Community Affairs)**

#### **FPF Position: Watch**

3/24/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Careers & Competition Subcommittee, 03/28/17, 8:00 am, 212 K.