

# FPF Legislative Session Report

March 7-10, 2017



On Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the 119<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Session commenced and will continue for the next 60 days. During Governor Scott's annual State of the State address Tuesday, he vigorously defended the state's agencies for business incentives and marketing tourism. This has set the stage for a showdown between the Governor and the House. Speaker Corcoran warned that the House would not back down.

This year, the legislators have filed the most bills that we can remember. House and Senate members filed 2,905 bills before the bill-filing deadline. The trend in previous years has been fewer member bills. However, Speaker Corcoran's new process for members' appropriations project requests is driving the increased number of bills. The total bill number could increase due to proposed committee bills or PCBs as they can be filed after the deadline.

Friday, we were notified that HB 143 may be scheduled for a workshop on Monday. We have worked hard with the Chairman of the full Government Accountability Committee hoping we could get the "Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee" to take some action.

The official notice was posted late Friday for a workshop on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. in House Committee Room 17. We are being asked to "convince" this committee that our bill is "good policy" and present our case. We have received overwhelming support from our members and the families, even with such short notice. The IAFF is sending Larry Petrick, Deputy Director of the IAFF Occupational Health & safety Department. In addition, we will have our own Keith Tyson with the Florida Chapter of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network on scene address the Committee.

The House leaders have indicated that little bites at overhauling the pension system for state and county employees are a consideration during this legislative session. While SB 428 by Senator Jeff Brandes is not a small bite, it passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee by a 5-2 vote Monday. SB 428 and the companion bill, Representative Jason Fisher's HB 353, would close enrollment in the Florida Retirement System's defined benefit pension to any local government's option to enroll new employees in the FRS.

As a result of SB 428 and HB 353, if passed and signed by the Governor, new employers opting into the FRS, would be required to enroll new employees in the defined contribution or "investment" program. We believe many legislators think that if local government elects to put new employees in the FRS that somehow the unfunded liability from the local plan is carried over to the FRS. That is absolutely not the case as State Law is crystal clear. We will continue to track all these FRS bills very closely.

The House Appropriations Committee passed HB 7007, which gives state employees a health insurance plan with four different “benefit levels” to choose from starting in 2020. In offering the fourth option, a high deductible plan that has been in the works for a few years, moves quickly. If the state’s contribution exceeds the cost of the selected plan, these employees could put that money toward health savings accounts, purchase additional benefits, or increase their salary.

We have numerous bills that present different levels of concern that we are watching very closely. We have not opposed some of these bills yet to keep the lines of communication open with the sponsors. Many times we lose the ability to provide meaningful input or amendments once we openly oppose the bill. By letting them know we have concerns but are willing to work with them, we have maintained access and open dialog.

The last report had most of the bills filed that we are actively tracking with a brief description, committee referrals, and any action on the bill. Below you will find updates on the bills that are starting to move. Each week we will report on action during that week.

Many of our Local’s had representatives in Washington, DC for the IAFF Legislative Conference. We appreciate the time and energy of our members in DC and the assistance with our lobbying efforts in Tallahassee. We can’t thank our members enough for their effort back in the district. In addition to Vice President Rocco Salvatori and Secretary/Treasurer Gilbert Marsh, we had 5<sup>th</sup> DVP Doug Watler, 9<sup>th</sup> DVP Kurt Vroman, and Gator Fire Council President Scotty Taylor that traveled to Tallahassee. In addition, we had a large delegation of members from Palm Beach County, Local 2928, that traveled to Tallahassee. All of their assistance is greatly appreciated.

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## **RETIREMENT**

**[SB 428 Relating to Local Government Participation in the FL Retirement System \(Brandes\)](#)**  
**[Companion Bill: HB 353 \(Fischer\)](#)**

**FPF Position: Oppose**

3/6/2017 SENATE Favorable by Community Affairs; 5 Yeas, 2 Nays. 3/7/2017 SENATE Now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability.

## **EMS ISSUES**

**[HB 61 Relating to Emergency Services for an Unintentional Drug Overdose \(L. Lee Jr.\)](#)**  
**[Companion Bill: SB 558 \(Passidomo\)](#)**

**FPF Position: Watch**

3/10/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Health Innovation Subcommittee, 03/14/17, 2:00 pm, 306 H.

**[HB 229 Relating to Programs for Impaired Health Care Practitioners \(Byrd\)](#)**  
**[Companion Bill: SB 876 \(Young\)](#)**

**FPF Position: Watch**

3/6/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Health Quality Subcommittee, 03/08/17, 9:00 am, 306 H. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Health Quality Subcommittee; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/10/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed.

[SB 558 Relating to Emergency Services for an Unintentional Drug Overdose \(Passidomo\)](#)  
[Companion Bill: HB 61 \(L. Lee Jr.\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Emergency Services for an Unintentional Drug Overdose; Requiring a hospital providing emergency services to a person suffering from an unintentional drug overdose to provide certain services and information; providing conditions for transfer of a patient to a licensed detoxification or addictions receiving facility, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2017. 1/27/2017 SENATE Filed. 2/9/2017 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Judiciary; Rules.

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

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

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

3/9/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/14/17, 10:00 am, 412 K

## **PRESUMPTION**

[HB 143 Relating to Firefighters \(Fitzenhagen\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 158 \(J. Latvala\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/9/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee, 03/13/17, 1:00 pm, 17 H – Workshop.

## **GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

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

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

[FPF Position: Oppose](#)

3/6/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee, 03/08/17, 12:00 pm, 17 H. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; 10 Yeas, 3 Nays. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee.

[HB 383 Relating to Pub. Rec./Former Firefighters Personal Identifying Info \(Willhite\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1108 \(Artiles\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/6/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee, 03/08/17, 12:00 pm, 17 H. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; 12 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/9/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 3/10/2017 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee.

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

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

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses: Specifies information to be included in an application for certain tax exemptions; provides exemption from taxation for certain first responders; provides exemption from taxation for certain surviving spouses of first responders; specifies documentation required to receive exemption; requires use of physician's certification; grants rule making authority; specifies procedures for receiving tax exemption for 2017; specifies procedures for denials of tax exemptions. Effective Date: July 1, 2017. 1/24/2017 HOUSE Filed. 2/6/2017 HOUSE Referred to Ways & Means Committee; Appropriations Committee. 2/6/2017 HOUSE Now in Ways & Means Committee.

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

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

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses; Providing an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain first responders under specified conditions; providing an exemption from ad valorem taxation for certain surviving spouses of first responders who have died; specifying the documentation required to receive the exemption, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. 2/7/2017 SENATE Filed. 2/23/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations. 2/27/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 03/06/17, 4:00 pm, 401 S. 3/2/2017 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 03/03/17, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken). 3/6/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/7/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 3/8/2017 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 03/10/17, 1:30 pm, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken). 3/8/2017 SENATE Now in Community Affairs.

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

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

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/6/2017 SENATE Referred to Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules. 3/9/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Banking and Insurance, 03/14/17, 10:00 am, 110 S.

## **LOCAL BILLS**

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

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

City of Tampa, Hillsborough County: Authorizes city to enter into supplemental contract with certain firefighters & police officers to comply with specified law; authorizes board to adopt rules under certain circumstances. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. 1/25/2017 HOUSE Filed. 2/6/2017 HOUSE Referred to Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee. 2/6/2017 HOUSE Now in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. 3/6/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, 03/08/17, 8:00 am, 12 H. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

## **SAFETY**

[HB 389 Relating to Building Safety \(Willhite\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

3/7/2017 HOUSE Withdrawn prior to introduction.

## **STATE EMPLOYEES**

[SB 900 Relating to State Group Insurance Program \(T. Lee\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 7007 \(Health & Human Services Committee\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

State Group Insurance Program; Authorizing an employee to use a specified portion of the state's contribution to purchase additional program benefits and supplemental benefits under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Management Services to develop a plan for implementation of the benefit levels; providing that the department shall determine and recommend premiums for enrollees for the 2018 plan year, etc.



APPROPRIATION: \$658,762.00 Effective Date: 7/1/2017. 2/13/2017 SENATE Filed. 2/23/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations; Rules.

### [SB 1020 Relating to Collective Bargaining Impasses \(Powell\)](#)

#### FPF Position: Watch

Collective Bargaining Impasses; Revising notice requirements for issues at impasse, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2017. Current Committee of Reference: Appropriations. 2/16/2017 SENATE Filed. 2/23/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations. 2/27/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 03/06/17, 4:00 pm, 401 S. 3/6/2017 SENATE Favorable by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/7/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations.

### [HB 7007 Relating to State Group Insurance Program \(Health & Human Services Committee\)](#)

#### Companion Bill: [SB 900 \(T. Lee\)](#)

#### FPF Position: Watch

State Group Insurance Program: Authorizes state group insurance program to include additional benefits & for employees to use certain portion of state's contribution to purchase additional & supplemental benefits; requires DMS to develop plan for implementation of benefit levels, submit report, & contract with independent benefits consultant & entity that provides comprehensive pricing & certain inclusive services; directs DMS to provide premium alternatives to Governor & Legislature by specified date; provides criteria for calculating premium alternatives; provides appropriation & authorizes positions. Effective Date: July 1, 2017. 2/20/2017 HOUSE Filed (Formerly PCB HHS1). 2/22/2017 HOUSE Referred to Appropriations Committee. 2/22/2017 HOUSE Now in Appropriations Committee. 3/6/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Appropriations Committee, 03/08/17, 3:30 pm, 212 K. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Appropriations Committee; 18 Yeas, 9 Nays. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Placed on Calendar.

## **WORKERS COMPENSATION**

### [SB 1088 Relating to Workers' Compensation for First Responders \(Torres, Jr.\)](#)

#### Companion Bill: [HB 1019 \(M. Miller\)](#)

#### FPF Position: Support

3/6/2017 SENATE Referred to Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations; Rules.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### [SB 418 Relating to Soldiers' and Heroes' Monuments & Memorials Protection Act \(Steube\)](#)

#### Companion Bill: [HB 529 \(Drake\)](#)

#### FPF Position: Watch

Soldiers' and Heroes' Monuments and Memorials Protection Act; Citing this act as the "Soldiers' and Heroes' Monuments and Memorials Protection Act"; providing criminal penalties for criminal mischief that causes damage to certain remembrances erected to honor or commemorate a soldier, a historical military figure, a military organization, a military unit, a law enforcement officer, a firefighter, or an astronaut, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2017. 1/20/2017 SENATE Filed. 2/1/2017 SENATE Referred to Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Rules.

### [HB 529 Relating to Soldiers' and Heroes' Monuments & Memorials Protection Act \(Drake\)](#)

#### Companion Bill: [SB 418 \(Steube\)](#)

#### FPF Position: Watch

Soldiers' and Heroes' Monuments and Memorials Protection Act: Provides criminal penalties for criminal mischief that causes damage to certain remembrances erected to honor or commemorate soldier, historical military figure, military organization, military unit, law enforcement officer, firefighter, or astronaut. Effective

Date: October 1, 2017. 1/24/2017 HOUSE Filed. 2/6/2017 HOUSE Referred to Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee. 2/6/2017 HOUSE Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee. 2/15/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Criminal Justice Subcommittee, 02/22/17, 8:30 am, 404 H - PCS. 2/22/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Criminal Justice Subcommittee; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/23/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 3/1/2017 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Criminal Justice Impact Conference, 03/02/17, 9:00 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken). 3/5/2017 HOUSE Now in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. 3/6/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, 03/08/17, 8:00 am, 12 H. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays. 3/8/2017 HOUSE Now in Judiciary Committee.