

FPF Pre-Legislative Session Report

January 2018



With the deep freeze and accompanying sleet and snow gone, the legislature is set to return to a chilly and somewhat awkward environment. Due to resignations and the recent death of Representative Don Hahnfeldt, more than 1.1 million Florida voters won't have representation in the capitol. While we have lost a few of our best supporters, rest assured, we are prepared with a great team of firefighters to walk the halls ensuring our members' concerns are heard as the regular session gavel in this Tuesday.

There were 3,052 bills filed for the 2017 session; so far, 2,898 bills have been filed for the 2018 session. The breakdown of these bills for this session is 1,955 in the House and 943 in the Senate. Throughout the committee process, there were 17 Proposed Committee Bills (PCBs) filed. During the committee process and regular session in 2017 there were 80 PCBs filed.

We are currently tracking 35 bills, with 8 priority bills and 15 with a high level of importance. All bills are tracked daily for amendments that could either positively or adversely affect these bills. We are tracking approximately 39 bills that are potential vehicles for amendments, or are bills that we have concerns with. Regular session begins January 9th and ends March 9th.

We work hard at maintaining an open relationship with as many legislators as possible. The combined effort of all the interested parties has provided positive results with these potentially problematic bills. Several bills are in the preliminary steps and may not move out of the committee process. Should any of these bills take a turn in the wrong direction, we will be ready to oppose the bill or support amendments to correct the problem.

We have many members that have experienced tragic and troubling events, and we have a few that have experienced horrendous events, such as the Pulse Night Club shooting in Orlando, which compound the situation.

Post-traumatic stress and cancer-causing exposures are priority legislation for the Florida Professional Firefighters. We will continue to fight to increase benefits for our firefighters who are diagnosed with cancers connected by job-related exposures and the effects of post-traumatic stress.

We have been working with the bill sponsors to remove the physical injury requirement from current law and acknowledge the reality of stress injuries. Many of our local affiliates have contacted us with concerns about these bills, and we are pushing the bills that focuses on treatment and recovery from stress-related injuries as opposed to being focused on long-term disability benefits. The science on PTSD tells us that many people can recover from these injuries with treatment, and the sponsors are working with us to ensure that proper access to treatment is available.

Proposed Legislation: SB 376 by Senator Book and HB 227 by Representative Willhite, with similar bills SB 126 by Senator Torres and HB 629 by Representative Asencio. SB 376 passed the Banking and Insurance Committee unanimously. The bill has three more committees before it can be heard on the Senate floor.

We have continued to explore alternatives to the traditional “presumptive illness” language since it became apparent that the House would not entertain any version of the many Firefighter Cancer bills they received from the Senate. We had extensive discussion with Senator Latvala on the possibility of a new direction. Senator Latvala encouraged us to find some common ground with both the League of Cities and the House. To that end, we drafted a bill that would treat Firefighter Cancer as a line of duty injury and illness, while paying for the treatment outside of the typical Workers’ Compensation system.

There are a few other states that have adopted a similar model and we have discussed it extensively with their IAFF leadership; we looked to Colorado for guidance. Senator Latvala and Representative Latvala agreed, and have sponsored the identical bills in the Senate and House. With the resignation of Senator Latvala, Senator Flores has agreed to sponsor the bill. The passage of these bills will finally acknowledge the Firefighter Cancer crisis and acknowledge that it’s job-related in Florida.

When our firefighters seek treatment for mental health concerns, they should not be restricted to physical injuries. When diagnosed with mental health issues, or cancer caused by job-related exposures, our firefighters should get the treatment they need and deserve.

The government, both local and at the State level, have a responsibility to our firefighting community. Our members report to duty every day to serve and protect others, placing themselves in harm’s way. Increasing benefits for firefighters with PTSD and cancer are a top priority of the FPF.

Last but not least of our priority issues is the FRS COLA. The Florida Retirement System, the pension fund for hundreds of thousands of public employees, is sound and strong, and continues to prosper in the current economic environment.

As you all know, FRS members hired prior to July 1, 2011, receive COLA credits for years prior to 2011 and no COLA credits for years after 2011. We have made some headway on the issue of the “Diminishing COLA” for pre-2011 FRS members. Current law has the perverse (incomprehensible and irrational) effect of lowering the members’ future COLA every year that they continue to work. We had extensive discussions with longtime supporters in the Senate and the House, which resulted in a bill in both chambers. We realize that this is not a full restoration of the benefits taken in 2011; we are taking the first step to “stop the bleeding” for our pre-2011 members that were hired under the expectation that they would retire with a COLA. We will continue working towards a long-term COLA solution for our post-2011 members who are rapidly approaching vesting in the FRS. The cost of this COLA “floor” bill is being evaluated, but we believe that the required funding will be hundreds of millions of dollars less than the cost of the full restoration bills that we have supported in the past.

We don’t believe an overhaul of the Florida Retirement System is likely this year. However, we remain vigilant and opposed to bills that would weaken the plan. We are concerned about future impacts to both regular and special risk class by moving the current retirement plan in a different direction.

We will send out weekly legislative reports to keep you informed as we move through the regular legislative session, which starts on January 9th. We will have a detailed discussion on our important bills during the Robert K. “Bob” Carver Legislative Conference February 5th through the 8th in Tallahassee.

Below you will find the information on the bills being tracked. We will add bills as they are filed or when current bills are amended making them applicable.

Retirement

[HB 251 Reemployment After Retirement \(C. Clemons\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 406 \(Steube\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Reemployment After Retirement: Authorizes retiree of FRS to be reemployed under certain circumstances. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/6/2017 HOUSE Filed. 10/18/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 10/18/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[HB 379 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(Willhite\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 606 \(Steube\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System: Adds 911 public safety telecommunicators to class; requires such members to have retirement benefits calculated in accordance with provisions for Regular Class members; specifies required employer retirement contribution rates for new membership subclass of 911 public safety telecommunicators; declares that act fulfills important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/19/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/1/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 11/1/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[SB 406 Retirement \(Steube\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 251 \(C. Clemons\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Retirement; Providing an exception to the reemployment after retirement limitations to authorize a retiree of the Florida Retirement System to be reemployed by an employer under certain circumstances, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/3/2017 SENATE Filed. 10/25/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.

[HB 493 Special Risk Class \(Diaz\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1758 \(Montford\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Special Risk Class: Adds specified Florida State Hospital employees to the class; declares that act fulfills important state interest. Effective Date: January 1, 2019. 11/1/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/8/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 11/8/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[SB 606 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(Steube\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 379 \(Willhite\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System; Adding 911 public safety telecommunicators to the class; requiring such members to have their retirement benefits calculated in accordance with provisions applicable to Regular Class members; specifying the required employer retirement contribution rates for the new membership subclass of 911 public safety telecommunicators, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/24/2017 SENATE Filed. 11/2/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.

[HB 615 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(Raschein\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1778 \(Flores\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System: Adds certain pilots & registered nurses to Special Risk Class beginning on specified date. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 11/9/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/15/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 11/15/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[HB 665 Retirement \(Clemons\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 722 \(Garcia\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Retirement: Specifies minimum amount of the factor used to calculate the cost-of-living adjustment of benefits for certain retirees & beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System; provides declaration of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 11/14/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[SB 722 Retirement \(Garcia\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 665 \(Clemons\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Retirement; Specifying the minimum amount of the factor used to calculate the cost-of-living adjustment of benefits for certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Florida Retirement System, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 11/1/2017 SENATE Filed. 11/15/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.

[HB 977 Retirement of Instructional Personnel & Administrative Personnel \(Fine\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1240 \(Mayfield\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Retirement of Instructional Personnel and Administrative Personnel: Revises limitations on maximum length of participation in DROP for certain instructional personnel & administrative personnel; requires employer to notify Division of Retirement of DMS regarding any change in termination date & program participation for each affected member. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 12/12/2017 HOUSE Filed. 12/20/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 12/20/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[SB 980 Publicly Funded Retirement Programs \(Brandes\)](#)

[FPF Position: Oppose](#)

Publicly Funded Retirement Programs; Revising minimum requirements for actuarial reports for retirement systems or plans subject to part VII of ch. 112, F.S.; requiring the governing body responsible for the retirement system or plan to review the enrolled actuary's statement within a specified timeframe; requiring the unfunded liability of retirement systems or plans established on or after a certain date to be amortized within a specified timeframe, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018. 11/21/2017 SENATE Filed. 12/13/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Community Affairs; Appropriations.

[HB 1209 The Florida Retirement System \(Asencio\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1692 \(Torres, Jr.\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

The Florida Retirement System: Revises definition of "normal retirement date"; revises provisions related to early retirement benefit calculation, deferred retirement option program, benefit commencement age, & years of service to conform to changes made by act; provides declaration of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 1/4/2018 HOUSE Filed.

[SB 1240 Retirement of Instructional Personnel and Administrative Personnel \(Mayfield\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 977 \(Fine\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Retirement of Instructional Personnel and Administrative Personnel; Revising limitations on the maximum length of participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program for certain instructional personnel and administrative personnel; requiring an employer to notify the Division of Retirement of the Department of Management Services regarding any change in termination date and program participation for each affected member, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 12/11/2017 SENATE Filed.

[SB 1692 Florida Retirement System \(Torres, Jr.\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 1209 \(Asencio\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Florida Retirement System; Revising provisions related to the early retirement benefit calculation and the deferred retirement option program to conform to changes made by the act; revising provisions related to the benefit commencement age and creditable years of service for investment plan participants to conform to changes made by the act, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 1/5/2018 SENATE Filed.

[SB 1758 Special Risk Class \(Montford\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 493 \(Diaz\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Special Risk Class; Adding specified Florida State Hospital employees to the class, etc. Effective Date: 1/1/2019. 1/5/2018 SENATE Filed.

[SB 1778 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(Flores\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 615 \(Raschein\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System; Adding certain pilots and registered nurses to the class beginning on a specified date, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 1/5/2018 SENATE Filed.

Safety and Health

[HB 309 Fire Safety \(Antone\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 394 \(Bracy\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Fire Safety: Requires Division of State Fire Marshal to establish specified courses as part of firefighter & volunteer firefighter training & certification; revises firefighter certification requirements; specifies division's authority to adopt rules for training related to cancer & mental health risks within fire service. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/12/2017 HOUSE Filed. 10/18/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee. 10/18/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[HB 325 Public Service Announcements \(Santiago\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Public Service Announcements: Requires DEM to require future contracts that provide emergency alerts, to include a message concerning the potential hazards of generators. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/13/2017 HOUSE Filed. 10/26/2017 HOUSE Withdrawn prior to introduction.

[SB 394 Fire Safety \(Bracy\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 309 \(Antone\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Fire Safety; Requiring the Division of State Fire Marshal to establish specified courses as a part of firefighter and volunteer firefighter training and certification; specifying the division's authority to adopt rules for training related to cancer and mental health risks within the fire service, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/3/2017 SENATE Filed. 10/25/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Health Policy; Rules.

[HB 637 Fire Safety and Prevention \(Jacquet\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 820 \(Powell\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Fire Safety and Prevention: Prohibits person from committing or attempting to commit certain acts to influence fire safety inspectors; provides criminal penalties. Effective Date: October 1, 2018. 11/13/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Referred to Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

[HB 695 Firefighters \(C. Latvala\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 900 \(Flores\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Firefighters: Grants certain benefits to firefighter upon receiving diagnosis of cancer if certain conditions are met; requires employer to make certain disability payments to firefighter in the event of total and permanent disability; provides death benefits; specifies costs associated with benefits are to be borne by the employer; requires Division of the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules; provides declaration of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 11/14/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[SB 820 Firesafety Inspectors \(Powell\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 637 \(Jacquet\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Firesafety Inspectors; Prohibiting certain actions to influence a firesafety inspector to violate the Florida Fire Prevention Code, other rules of the State Fire Marshal, or ch. 633, F.S., etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2018. 11/8/2017 SENATE Filed. 11/17/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Criminal Justice; Rules.

[SB 900 Firefighters \(Flores\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 695 \(C. Latvala\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Firefighters; Granting certain benefits to a firefighter upon receiving a diagnosis of cancer if certain conditions are met; requiring an employer to make certain disability payments to a firefighter in the event of a total and permanent disability; providing for death benefits to a firefighter's beneficiary if a firefighter died as a result of cancer or cancer treatments; specifying that any costs associated with benefits granted by the act are to be borne by the employer, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 11/15/2017 SENATE Filed. 12/4/2017 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.

[HB 1061 Community Association Fire and Life Safety Systems \(Moraitis\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1432 \(Farmer\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Community Association Fire and Life Safety Systems: Requires certain condominium or cooperative associations to post certain signs or symbols on buildings; requires State Fire Marshal to adopt rules governing such signs or symbols; revises provisions relating to evidence of condominium & cooperative association compliance with fire & life safety code; revises unit & common elements required to be retrofitted; revising provisions relating to

association vote to forego retrofitting. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 12/21/2017 HOUSE Filed. 1/3/2018 HOUSE Referred to Careers & Competition Subcommittee; Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee. 1/3/2018 HOUSE Now in Careers & Competition Subcommittee.

[SB 1432 Community Association Fire and Life Safety Systems \(Farmer\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 1061 \(Moraitis\)](#)

[FPF Position: Watch](#)

Community Association Fire and Life Safety Systems; Requiring certain condominium or cooperative associations to post certain signs or symbols on buildings; revising provisions relating to evidence of condominium and cooperative association compliance with the fire and life safety code; revising unit and common elements required to be retrofitted, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 1/2/2018 SENATE Filed.

[Collective Bargaining](#)

[HB 25 Labor Organizations \(Plakon\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1036 Labor Organizations \(Steube\)](#)

[FPF Position: Oppose](#)

Labor Organizations: Revises required information to be included in application for renewal of registration of employee organization; provides for revocation of certification under certain conditions; requires certain employee organizations to recertify as certified bargaining agents; provides nonapplicability with respect to employee organizations that represent or seek to represent certain employees; provides appropriation & authorizes positions. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/31/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/8/2017 HOUSE Referred to Government Accountability Committee. 11/8/2017 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee. 11/28/2017 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Accountability Committee, 12/05/17, 10:30 am, 17 H (PCS). 12/5/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Government Accountability Committee; 14 Yeas, 9 Nays. 12/6/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 12/7/2017 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

[SB 1036 Labor Organizations \(Steube\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 25 Labor Organizations \(Plakon\)](#)

[FPF Position: Oppose](#)

Labor Organizations; Revising the information required to be included in an application for renewal of registration of an employee organization; providing for the revocation of certification under certain conditions; requiring certain employee organizations to recertify as bargaining agents, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 11/29/2017 SENATE Filed. 12/13/2017 SENATE Referred to Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations; Rules.

[EMS Issues](#)

[HB 285 Emergency Medical Services \(Pigman\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 488 Emergency Medical Services \(Grimsley\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Emergency Medical Services: Exempts certain governmental entities from requirement to obtain certificate of public convenience & necessity to provide advanced life support nontransport services under specified conditions. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/10/2017 HOUSE Filed. 10/18/2017 HOUSE Referred to Health Quality Subcommittee; Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee. 10/18/2017 HOUSE Now in Health Quality Subcommittee.

[SB 488 Emergency Medical Services \(Grimsley\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 285 Emergency Medical Services \(Pigman\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Emergency Medical Services; Exempting certain governmental entities from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide certain emergency services under specified conditions, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/10/2017 SENATE Filed. 10/25/2017 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Community Affairs; Rules. 11/27/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 12/05/17, 10:00 am, 412 K. 12/5/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Health Policy; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays. 12/6/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 12/13/2017 SENATE Now in Community Affairs.

Governmental Operations

HB 225 Employment Discrimination (Davis)

FPF Position: Support

Employment Discrimination: Prohibits employer from taking retaliatory personnel action against employee for evacuating under emergency evacuation order; provides exceptions; provides for remedies, relief, & attorney fees & costs. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/3/2017 HOUSE Filed. 10/12/2017 HOUSE Referred to Careers & Competition Subcommittee; Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee; Commerce Committee. 10/12/2017 HOUSE Now in Careers & Competition Subcommittee.

Taxing Authority

SB 1284 The Homestead Exemption For Disabled First Responders (Simmons)

FPF Position: Support

Homestead Exemption for Disabled First Responders; Revising the definition of the term "first responder" to include law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, or paramedics whose injuries are certified by their employing organizations to be caused by service in the line of duty on September 11, 2001, in New York City while responding to terrorist attacks, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 12/18/2017 SENATE Filed.

Workers Compensation

SB 126 Workers' Compensation for First Responders (Torres, Jr.)

Companion Bills: HB 227 (Willhite), SB 376 (Book), HB 629 (Asencio)

FPF Position: Support

Workers' Compensation for First Responders; Revising the standard by which a mental or nervous injury must be demonstrated for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits for employment-related accidents and injuries; removing the limitation that only medical benefits are payable for a mental or nervous injury unaccompanied by a physical injury; revising eligibility for certain payments provided under the Workers' Compensation Law, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 8/9/2017 SENATE Filed. 8/28/2017 SENATE Referred to Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations; Rules.

HB 227 Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders (Willhite)

Companion Bills: SB 126 (Torres, Jr.), HB 629 (Asencio), SB 376 (Book)

FPF Position: Support

Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders: Deletes certain limitations relating to workers' compensation benefits for first responders; provides first responders are entitled to workers' compensation benefits for mental or nervous injuries regardless of whether such injuries are accompanied by physical injuries. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 10/3/2017 HOUSE Filed. 10/12/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee. 10/12/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

[SB 376 Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders \(Book\)](#)

[Companion Bills: SB 126 \(Torres, Jr.\), HB 629 \(Asencio\), HB 227 \(Willhite\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders; Revising the evidentiary standard for demonstrating mental and nervous injuries of first responders; deleting certain limitations relating to workers' compensation benefits for first responders; providing that law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics are entitled to benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law for mental or nervous injuries, regardless of whether such injuries are accompanied by physical injuries requiring medical treatment, under specified circumstances, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/2/2017 SENATE Filed. 10/25/2017 SENATE Referred to Banking and Insurance; Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations; Rules. 11/27/2017 SENATE On Committee agenda - Banking and Insurance, 12/05/17, 10:00 am, 110 S. 12/5/2017 SENATE Favorable with CS by Banking and Insurance; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays. 12/7/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 12/13/2017 SENATE Now in Commerce and Tourism.

[HB 629 Workers' Compensation for First Responders \(Asencio\)](#)

[HB 227 \(Willhite\), SB 376 \(Book\), SB 126 \(Torres, Jr.\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Workers' Compensation for First Responders: Revises burden of proof to demonstrate mental or nervous injury involving first responders for workers' compensation claims; provides that benefits may be paid even if there is no physical injury. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 11/13/2017 HOUSE Filed. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee. 11/27/2017 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

Watch Bills

[SB 106 Firesafety Standards \(Campbell\)](#)

Firesafety Standards; Authorizing certain buildings to have specified balcony guard openings, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 8/9/2017 SENATE Filed. 8/28/2017 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Banking and Insurance; Rules.

[SB 272 Local Tax Referenda \(Brandes\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 317 \(Ingoglia\)](#)

Local Tax Referenda; Revising the voter approval threshold required to pass a referendum to adopt or amend local government discretionary sales surtaxes when the referendum is held at any date other than a general election, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/24/2017 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 10/30/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax. 12/7/2017 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 12/08/17, 9:30 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken).

[HB 317 Local Tax Referenda \(Ingoglia\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 272 \(Brandes\)](#)

Local Tax Referenda: Requires local government discretionary sales surtax referenda to be held on specified dates & approved by specified percentage of voters. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 11/29/2017 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference, 11/30/17, 8:30 am, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken). 12/5/2017 HOUSE Favorable by Ways & Means Committee; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays. 12/5/2017 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee.

[SB 474 Physician Orders for Life-sustaining Treatment \(Brandes\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 476 \(Brandes\)](#)

Physician Orders for Life-sustaining Treatment; Establishing the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Program within the Department of Health; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to establish and maintain a database of compassionate and palliative care plans by a specified date; authorizing specified personnel to withhold or withdraw cardiopulmonary resuscitation if presented with a POLST form that contains an order not to resuscitate the patient; requiring the Department of Elderly Affairs, in consultation with the agency, to adopt by rule procedures for the implementation of POLST forms in hospice care, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/10/2017 SENATE Filed. 10/25/2017 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations.

[SB 476 Public Records/Compassionate and Palliative Care Plans/Agency for Health Care Administration \(Brandes\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 474 \(Brandes\)](#)

Public Records/Compassionate and Palliative Care Plans/Agency for Health Care Administration; Creating an exemption from public records for personal identifying information in compassionate and palliative care plans filed with the Clearinghouse for Compassionate and Palliative Care Plans managed by the Agency for Health Care Administration or its designee; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption under the Open Government Sunset Review Act; providing a statement of public necessity, etc. Effective Date: On the same date that SB 474 or similar legislation takes effect if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law. 10/10/2017 SENATE Filed. 10/25/2017 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules.

[HB 529 Florida Fire Prevention Code \(Diaz\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 746 \(Bean\)](#)

Florida Fire Prevention Code: Requires specified containers be allowed in exit corridors of certain apartment occupancies under certain circumstances; authorizes authorities having jurisdiction to approve alternative containers; requires such authorities to allow phase-in period to comply; provides for future repeal. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 11/15/2017 HOUSE Referred to Careers & Competition Subcommittee; Commerce Committee. 11/15/2017 HOUSE Now in Careers & Competition Subcommittee. 1/5/2018 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Careers & Competition Subcommittee, 01/09/18, 1:00 pm, 212 K.

[SB 556 Emergency Medical Air Transportation Services \(Stewart\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 943 \(C. Watson\)](#)

Emergency Medical Air Transportation Services; Creating the "Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act"; directing the Department of Health to establish the Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act Account within the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund; providing conditions for the department to increase Florida Medicaid reimbursement payments to emergency medical air transportation services providers, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 10/18/2017 SENATE Filed. 11/2/2017 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations.

[SB 746 Florida Fire Prevention Code \(Bean\)](#)

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

Florida Fire Prevention Code; Requiring that doorstep refuse and recycling collection containers be allowed in exit corridors of certain apartment occupancies under certain circumstances; authorizing authorities having jurisdiction to approve certain alternative containers and storage arrangements, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 11/3/2017 SENATE Filed. 11/15/2017 SENATE Referred to Banking and Insurance; Regulated Industries; Rules.

[HB 943 Emergency Medical Air Transportation Services \(C. Watson\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 556 \(Stewart\)](#)

Emergency Medical Air Transportation Services: Directs DOH to establish Emergency Medical Air Transportation Act Account within Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund; provides conditions for department to increase Florida Medicaid reimbursement payments to emergency medical air transportation services providers. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 12/7/2017 HOUSE Filed. 12/13/2017 HOUSE Referred to Health Quality Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee. 12/13/2017 HOUSE Now in Health Quality Subcommittee.

[SB 1006 Disaster Response and Preparedness \(Montford\)](#)

Disaster Response and Preparedness; Modifying requirements for the state comprehensive emergency management plan and statewide public awareness programs administered by the Division of Emergency Management; authorizing any individual to bring a service animal or comfort animal to a special needs shelter; requiring Florida College System institutions and state universities that provide transportation assistance in an emergency evacuation to coordinate the use of vehicles and personnel with local emergency management agencies, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 11/27/2017 SENATE Filed. 12/13/2017 SENATE Referred to Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

[HB 1109 State Emergency Communications and Warning System \(Stark\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1466 \(Farmer\)](#)

State Emergency Communications and Warning System: Directs Division of Emergency Management to require that qualified interpreters are included in certain emergency broadcasts. Effective Date: July 1, 2018. 1/2/2018 HOUSE Filed.

[SB 1466 State Emergency Communications and Warning System \(Farmer\)](#)

[HB 1109 \(Stark\)](#)

State Emergency Communications and Warning System; Requiring the Division of Emergency Management to include a qualified interpreter in certain emergency broadcasts, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 1/3/2018 SENATE Filed.

[SB 1518 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(J. Rodriguez\)](#)

Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System; Adding to the class employees of a water, sewer, or other public works department of a participating employer who work in certain hazardous conditions and individuals employed as police service aides, etc.; Effective Date: 7/1/2018. 1/4/2018 SENATE Filed.