

# FPF Legislative Session Report

February 19-23, 2018



We are quickly approaching the end of the regular session. With the seventh week complete, there are two weeks remaining to complete a lot of work. Most committees will not meet again, so many bills are lost in the process. There is still hope for a few bills, although they are long shots.

At the start of the week, the House and Senate appeared to be stuck in budget negotiations, but we knew that wouldn't last long. During these discussions, we see posturing, and sometimes verbal jabs are common, but not very productive.

With both chambers passing their proposed budgets, they will caucus to reconcile the differences in the specific dollar amounts. While there is speculation or insinuation that this process could go beyond March 9<sup>th</sup>, it's not likely.

Clearly, there are several important issues that must be worked out for both sides to move forward. They are: strengthened mental health programs in schools, school security, and new gun restrictions in response to the Valentine's Day Parkland shooting

Early in the week, budget negotiations appeared to be gridlocked as viewed by the House. However, the Senate leaders seemed optimistic they could reach an agreement on a new \$87 billion-plus spending plan and finish on time. The expenditure differences in the budget bills are approximately \$100 million apart.

The Post Traumatic Stress bills continued moving with SB 376 by Senator Book getting a hearing in Appropriations next week. While HB 227 by Representative Willhite has not been placed on the agenda, we understand it should get a hearing in its last committee stop.

We are continuing to push the Cancer Bill, SB 900 by Senator Flores, for a hearing, and we continue to push for a vehicle in the House. The Fire Safety bills, HB 309 by Representative Antone and SB 394 by Senator Bracy passed out of committee unanimously and are on the House and Senate Calendar for second reading.

Two local bills continue to move; HB 1141 Firefighters' Relief and Pension Fund of the City of Pensacola and HB 1139 City Pension Fund for Firefighters and Police Officers in the City of Tampa, passed without a single nay vote, and are now in Senate messages.

In addition to Vice President Rocco Salvatori and Secretary/Treasurer Gilbert Marsh, we had 5<sup>th</sup> DVP Watler, 7<sup>th</sup> DVP Kennell, and 9<sup>th</sup> DVP Vroman that traveled to Tallahassee; their assistance is greatly appreciated.

## Retirement

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

#### Companion Bill: SB 1240 (Mayfield)

2/20/2018 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Accountability Committee, 02/22/18, 9:00 am, 17 H.  
2/22/2018 HOUSE Favorable by Government Accountability Committee; 22 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/22/2018 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

### SB 1758 Special Risk Class (Montford)

#### Companion Bill: HB 493 (Diaz)

#### FPF Position: Support

2/21/2018 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays.  
2/23/2018 SENATE Now in Appropriations.

## Safety and Health

### HB 309 Fire Safety (Antone)

#### Companion Bill: SB 394 (Bracy)

#### FPF Position: Support

2/20/2018 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Accountability Committee, 02/22/18, 9:00 am, 17 H.  
2/22/2018 HOUSE Favorable by Government Accountability Committee; 22 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/22/2018 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

### SB 394 Fire Safety (Bracy)

#### Companion Bill: HB 309 (Antone)

#### FPF Position: Support

2/19/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Rules, 02/22/18, 10:00 am, 110 S. 2/22/2018 SENATE Favorable by Rules; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/22/2018 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

### SB 820 Fire Safety Inspectors (Powell)

#### Companion Bill: HB 637 (Jacquet)

#### FPF Position: Support

2/21/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Rules, 02/26/18, 2:30 pm, 412 K.

## Workers Compensation

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

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

#### FPF Position: Support

2/19/2018 HOUSE Now in Government Accountability Committee.

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

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

#### FPF Position: Support

2/22/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 02/27/18, 11:00 am, 412 K.

## Watch Bills

### SB 746 Florida Fire Prevention Code (Bean)

#### Companion Bill: HB 529 (Diaz)

2/19/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Rules, 02/22/18, 10:00 am, 110 S. 2/22/2018 SENATE Favorable by Rules; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/22/2018 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

### HB 1395 City of Marco Island, Collier County (Rommel)

2/20/2018 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Government Accountability Committee, 02/22/18, 9:00 am, 17 H. 2/22/2018 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Government Accountability Committee; 22 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/22/2018 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 2/22/2018 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.