

FPF End of Committee Weeks Legislative Report

March 2019



There were 3,250 bills filed for the 2018 session; so far, there have been 3,244 bills filed for the 2019 session. The breakdown of these bills for this session is 2,318 in the House and 926 in the Senate. Throughout the committee process, there were 32 Proposed Committee Bills (PCBs) filed. During the committee process and regular session in 2018 there were 60 PCBs filed.

Regular Session starts March 5th and ends May 3rd. We are currently tracking 75 bills, with 6 priority bills and tracking 9 with a high level of importance. We are also tracking 27 Special (local) Appropriation Projects. All bills are tracked daily for amendments that could either positively or adversely affect these bills.

We are tracking several bills that are potential vehicles for amendments or are bills that we have concerns with. 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 bills that are potentially problematic.

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.

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 caused by job related exposures.

Our cancer legislation, SB 426 by Senator Flores, was heard in its first committee and passed unanimously. We had several of our members that are cancer survivors come to Tallahassee to deliver some very passionate testimony. Senator Flores has scheduled the bill for its second hearing in Community Affairs on Tuesday, March 5th.

We will continue working to get a hearing for the companion bill, HB 857 by Representative Willhite. When our firefighters seek treatment for cancer caused by job related exposures, our firefighters should get the treatment they need and deserve without the out of pocket costs for the deductible and co-payments.

The government, both at the local and State levels, 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 cancer is a top priority of the FPF.

Another priority issue is the Florida Retirement System COLA for members hired prior to July 1, 2011. These employees receive COLA credits for years prior to 2011 and no COLA credits for years after 2011. We have continued to make some headway on the issue of the “Diminishing COLA” for pre-2011 FRS members. This has the effect of lowering the members’ future COLA every year that they work beyond 2011.

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. The cost of this COLA “floor” bill is currently being evaluated.

We will send out weekly legislative reports to keep you informed as we move through the regular legislative session. We will have a detailed discussion on our important bills during the Robert K. “Bob” Carver Legislative Conference, which is April 1st through the 4th 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. We appreciate all the calls and emails in support of our legislative priorities.

Retirement

[HB 511 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(Willhite\)](#)

[Companion Bills: SB 574 \(Diaz\), HB 803 \(Aloupis\), SB 1190 \(Montford\), SB 744 \(Book\)](#)

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, 2019. 1/22/2019 HOUSE Filed. 1/30/2019 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee. 1/30/2019 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee.

[SB 744 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System \(Book\)](#)

[Companion Bills: SB 574 \(Diaz\), HB 803 Special Risk Class \(Aloupis\), SB 1190 \(Montford\), HB 511 \(Willhite\)](#)

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 for Regular Class members; specifying the required employer retirement contribution rates for the new membership subclass of 911 public safety telecommunicators, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019. 2/5/2019 SENATE Filed. 2/15/2019 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations.

[HB 779 Retirement \(Clemons\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 784 \(Gruters\)](#)

FPF Position: Support

Retirement: Specifies minimum amount of factor used to calculate cost-of-living adjustment of benefits for certain retirees & beneficiaries of FRS. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. 2/13/2019 HOUSE Filed. 2/20/2019 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee. 2/20/2019 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee.

[SB 784 Retirement \(Gruters\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 779 \(Clemons\)](#)

[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: Upon becoming a law. 2/6/2019 SENATE Filed. 2/15/2019 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations.

[Safety and Health](#)

[SB 426 Firefighters \(Flores\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 857 \(Willhite\)](#)

[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 dies as a result of cancer or cancer treatments, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019. 2/19/2019 SENATE Favorable by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/19/2019 SENATE Now in Community Affairs. 2/28/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 03/05/19, 2:30 pm, 301 S.

[HB 857 Firefighters \(Willhite\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 426 \(Flores\)](#)

[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 event of total & permanent disability; provides for death benefits to firefighter's beneficiary if firefighter dies as result of cancer or cancer treatments; specifies that any costs associated with benefits granted by act must be borne by employer; requires Division of State Fire Marshal to adopt certain rules. Effective Date: July 1, 2019. 2/15/2019 HOUSE Filed. 2/28/2019 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee. 2/28/2019 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee.

[SB 1704 Department of Financial Services \(Wright\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Department of Financial Services; Requiring the Division of Treasury to maintain, rather than turn over to the Division of Accounting and Auditing, warrants drawn by the Chief Financial Officer; adding the Chief Financial Officer to a list of persons receiving the annual financial audit of the Department of the Lottery; specifying the date by when the State Board of Administration must annually publish audited financial statements for the Florida Retirement System, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019. 3/1/2019 SENATE Filed.

[Collective Bargaining Representation](#)

[HB 13 Collective Bargaining \(Williamson\)](#)

[FPF Position: Oppose](#)

Collective Bargaining: Prohibits collective bargaining agreements that authorize or require public employer to compensate public employee or third party for employee organization activities. Effective Date: July 1, 2019. 2/28/2019 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee. 2/28/2019 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee. 3/4/2019 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee, 03/06/19, 8:00 am, 17 H.

Governmental Operations

HB 67 Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs (Tomkow)

Companion Bill: SB 96 (Bean)

FPF Position: Support

Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs: Revises terminology; increases penalty for certain offenses committed on police canines, fire canines, or search & rescue canines. Effective Date: October 1, 2019. 2/6/2019 HOUSE Favorable by Criminal Justice Subcommittee; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/6/2019 HOUSE Now in Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. 2/26/2019 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Criminal Justice Impact Conference, 02/27/19, 1:30 pm, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken).

SB 96 Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses (Bean)

Companion Bill: HB 67 (Tomkow)

FPF Position: Support

Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses; Increasing the penalty for intentionally and knowingly causing great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to, or using a deadly weapon upon, police canines or horses, fire canines, or SAR canines, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2019. 2/12/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 2/13/2019 SENATE Now in Judiciary. 2/26/2019 Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Criminal Justice Impact Conference, 02/27/19, 1:30 pm, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken).

HB 161 Firefighters' Bill of Rights (Casello)

Companion Bill: SB 494 (Hooper)

FPF Position: Support

Firefighters' Bill of Rights: Revises definition of "interrogation" to include questioning pursuant to informal inquiry; requires witnesses to be interviewed & certain information to be provided before firefighter is interrogated; authorizes firefighter to provide voluntary statement at any time after being informed of certain right; prohibits firefighter from being threatened; requires copy of interrogation to be provided to firefighter within specified time; provides firefighter may not be retaliated against for exercising his or her rights; requires firefighter be notified & provided certain information before certain actions are taken; provides firefighter with opportunity to address certain findings; requires certain information to be kept confidential until specified time. Effective Date: July 1, 2019. 1/2/2019 HOUSE Filed. 1/9/2019 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee. 1/9/2019 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee.

HB 203 Pub.Rec./Civilian Personnel Employed by Law Enforcement Agency (Zika)

Companion Bills: SB 7004 (Health Policy), HB 7009 (Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee), SB 248 (Hooper)

FPF Position: Support

Pub. Rec./Civilian Personnel Employed by Law Enforcement Agency: Defines term "home address" for purposes of public records exemptions for personal identifying & location information of certain agency personnel & their family members; exempts personal identifying & location information of active or former civilian personnel employed by law enforcement agency, & of spouses & children of such personnel, from public records requirements; authorizes certain persons to request release of exempt information in specified manner; provides for legislative review & repeal of exemptions; provides statements of public necessity. Effective Date: July 1, 2019. 2/20/2019 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; 13 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/20/2019 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 2/25/2019 HOUSE Now in Judiciary Committee.

[SB 248 Public Records/Civilian Personnel Employed by a Law Enforcement Agency \(Hooper\)](#)
[Companion Bills: SB 7004 \(Health Policy\), HB 7009 \(Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee\), HB 203 \(Zika\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Public Records/Civilian Personnel Employed by a Law Enforcement Agency; Expanding exemptions from public records requirements for agency personnel information by defining the term "home addresses" for purposes of public records exemptions for personal identifying and location information of certain agency personnel and their family members; exempting personal identifying and location information of active or former civilian personnel employed by a law enforcement agency, and of spouses and children of such personnel, from public records requirements; providing for legislative review and repeal of the exemptions; providing statements of public necessity, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019. 2/12/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 2/13/2019 SENATE Now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability. 3/1/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 03/06/19, 10:30 am, 301 S.

[SB 494 The Firefighters' Bill Of Rights \(Hooper\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 161 \(Casello\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Firefighters' Bill Of Rights; Revising the definition of the term "interrogation" to include questioning pursuant to an informal inquiry; requiring that witnesses be interviewed and certain information be provided to a firefighter subjected to interrogation before the interrogation is conducted; prohibiting a firefighter from being threatened with certain disciplinary action during the course of an interrogation, etc.; Effective Date: 7/1/2019. 1/24/2019 SENATE Filed. 2/8/2019 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules. 2/28/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 03/05/19, 2:30 pm, 301 S.

[SB 7004 OGSR/Department of Health Personnel \(Health Policy\)](#)

[Companion Bills: HB 203 \(Zika\), SB 248 \(Hooper\), HB 7009 \(Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

OGSR/Department of Health Personnel; Amending provisions relating to an exemption from the public records requirements for personal identifying and location information and photographs of certain Department of Health personnel; removing the scheduled repeal of the exemption, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2019. 2/4/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 02/12/19, 4:00 pm, 301 S. 2/12/2019 SENATE Favorable by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/13/2019 SENATE Now in Rules.

[HB 7009 OGSR/Identification and Location Information/Department of Health \(Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee\)](#)

[Companion Bills: HB 203 \(Zika\), SB 248 \(Hooper\), SB 7004 \(Health Policy\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

OGSR/Identification and Location Information/Department of Health: Removes scheduled repeal of exemption from public record requirements for certain personal identifying & location information of specified personnel of DOH, & spouses & children thereof. Effective Date: October 1, 2019. 2/20/2019 HOUSE Favorable by Health Quality Subcommittee; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays. 2/21/2019 HOUSE Now in State Affairs Committee. 3/1/2019 HOUSE On Committee agenda - State Affairs Committee, 03/05/19, 4:30 pm, 17 H.

[Workers Compensation](#)

[HB 983 Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services \(Casello\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1210 \(Book\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services: Ratifies specified rule of DFS relating to implementation of certain expanded workers' compensation benefits to satisfy condition on effectiveness pursuant to s. 120.541(3), F.S., which requires ratification of rules that likely create adverse impact or increase regulatory costs. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. 2/20/2019 HOUSE Filed. 2/28/2019 HOUSE Referred to Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee; Commerce Committee. 2/28/2019 HOUSE Now in Insurance & Banking Subcommittee.

[SB 1210 Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services \(Book\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 983 \(Casello\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services; Ratifying a specified rule relating to implementation of expanded workers' compensation benefits for first responders for the sole and exclusive purpose of satisfying any condition on effectiveness pursuant to s. 120.541(3), F.S., which requires ratification of any rule meeting any specified thresholds for likely adverse impact or increase in regulatory costs, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. 2/19/2019 SENATE Filed. 3/4/2019 SENATE Referred to Banking and Insurance; Rules.