

LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT

Daytona Regional Chamber



EDITION VI
April 29, 2011

Vince Lopez, Chairman, Legislative Action Committee
Jim Cameron, Sr Vice President, Government Relations

BUDGET – S2000/H 5001 as a means to resolve differences between the House and Senate budgets, 13 separate conference committees were appointed to complete the process.

There have been some differences in the \$29 billion Health Care budget of which \$22 billion is Medicaid. Differences involved medically needy, cancer research, and doctor reimbursements.

Any unresolved differences as of 12 noon today (April 29) will be decided upon by House and Senate budget chairs (**Rep Denise Grimsley and Sen JD Alexander**).

Any resolved differences after today will be decided upon by the house speaker (**Rep Dean Cannon**) and Senate President (**Sen Mike Haridopolos**) tomorrow.

In order to meet the May 6 adjournment date, the final budget draft should be before the legislature by Tuesday, May 3 for their review.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - [H 287](#) allows charter county council to call referendum to grant economic development ad valorem tax exemptions; revises language of ballot questions relating to authority to grant economic development tax exemptions. It is now on the House floor. **CHAMBER SUPPORTS.**

**“WELCOME BACK/AWARDS LUNCHEON FOR THE VOLUSIA
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION”**

MAY 20, 12 noon at Holiday Inn - LPGA

**Our Legislators will be asked to share their thoughts on the outcome of
the session and what issues they foresee in the future.**

Notices to be sent soon.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING - [H 991](#) by Rep Patronis seeks to streamline the State’s environmental permitting process. Proponents say one of the biggest problems companies have in the state is getting permits done faster and at a practical price, and H 991 would remove some of the layers of review that a permit must go through. Right now a permit is reviewed by multiple municipalities and governing bodies cities, counties, water management districts, the department of environmental protection, department of

transportation, and that list goes on and on, and this just simply streamlines that review process into a more condensed version before a permit if approved or not approved."

H 991 is on the House floor today.

CONTAMINATED SITE REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT (Brownfields) –

H 641 by Rep Mayfield - Increases annual cap amount for contaminated site rehabilitation tax credit. H 641 will have a major impact on local redevelopment projects.

Now before House/Senate Conference Committee. CHAMBER SUPPORTS.

TRUST FUNDS/STATE ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

TRUST FUND - H 7205 - consolidates 6 trust funds into State Economic Enhancement and Development Fund (SEED) and creates the State Economic Enhancement & Development (SEED) Trust Fund to be used to fund infrastructure and job creation opportunities. The overall fund would total about \$436 million and it would be controlled by the Governor.

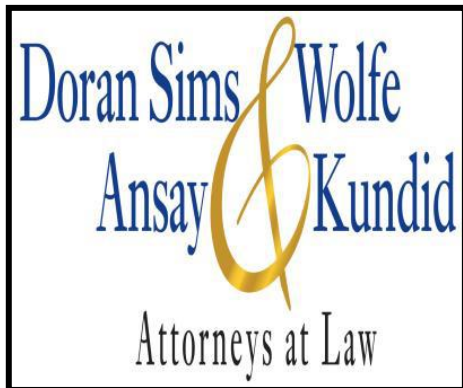
Now before House/Senate Conference Committee. CHAMBER SUPPORTS.

GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)-

S 2156 combines 4 agencies i.e. functions/ duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Office of Tourism, Trade, & Economic Development to a newly created department called Jobs. Fla.

Now before House/Senate Conference Committee. CHAMBER SUPPORTS.

LIABILITY OF SPACEFLIGHT ENTITIES S 652 by Sen Simmons - revises the



term "spaceflight entity" to include certain manufacturers/suppliers for immunity from liability. It encourages private sector economic activity by providing additional incentives for private space flight companies to locate in Florida.

S 652 was approved by the Senate; en route to House.

WATER QUALITY - passed by the House last week, **H 239** by Rep Williams would prohibit local governments from implementing federal water quality standards and will aid Florida in its legal challenge against the federal government's overreaching and costly Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) rule.

Consumers and businesses could see the cost of their utility bill rise upwards of \$700 annually to cover the infrastructure upgrades required under the federal government's NNC rule. It would allow the State to incorporate this measure into its legal toolbox in an effort to prevent the federal rule from being implemented.

H 239 is now before the Senate.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS – H 381 by Rep Costello & others - would reduce the annual growth in assessment limitation on certain non-homestead property from 10% to 3% upon voter approval of the amendment. Owners of existing non-homestead residential rental and commercial real property may experience property tax savings. **Approved by Senate, en route to House. CHAMBER SUPPORTS.**

Launch for Northeast Florida Counts

Friday, May 6, 2 pm at the Museum of Arts & Sciences Daytona Beach
Launching a regional web-based information system providing health-related
quality indicators and best practices from 25 community partners

Invited guests include Lt Governor Jennifer Carroll & Secretary of Health Frank Farmer
RSVP to Joyce Case 323-2046 or joyce_case@hpcnef.org Pd adv.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE – H 479 by Rep Fred Costello (co-sponsor) - allows a prospective defendant to interview a claimant's health care providers without the presence of the claimant with 10 days notice. It requires the claimant to execute an authorization for release of health information and creates an "expert witness certificate" that one must obtain before testifying in a medical negligence case. It also provides for discipline against the license of a physician/dentist that provides misleading expert witness testimony related to the practice of medicine or dentistry.

Passed the House; en route to the Senate.

YOUR CHAMBER'S LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE DID A CONFERENCE CALL WITH REP DWAYNE TAYLOR THIS WEEK ON CURRENT ISSUES. CALLS TO TALLAHASSEE ARE BEING SET NEXT WEEK.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES – H 7095 by Rep Schenck requires registration for Physicians prescribing controlled substances to treat chronic, non-cancer pain and maintain a log of all prescriptions and make these logs available to the Dept of Health (DOH) and the Fla Dept of Law Enforcement (FDLE) upon demand.

Requires wholesale distributors to credential physicians/pharmacies that purchase Schedule II or III controlled substances and prohibits community pharmacies from dispensing these substances unless the pharmacy is owned by a corporation having more than \$100 million of annual business revenues in Fla. **Now between House & Senate.**

S 818 by Sen Evelyn Lynn (co-sponsor) says practitioners authorized to dispense controlled substances be required to register with the Board of Pharmacy and pay a \$100 registration fee initially and renew the registration every 4 years. The Dept states that individuals with "management access" to the database be required to submit a state/federal background check. **Approved by Senate, en route to House.**

CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS S 1466 by Sen Simmons - would change terms of "core subjects" for grade levels regarding class size requirement. It would also provide greater operational flexibility to school districts in meeting the class size requirements. In addition, it provides that once a school district meets the maximum class size requirements, the district may use the class size reduction operating categorical funds for any lawful operating expenditure. **Approved by Senate, en route to House.** **CHAMBER SUPPORTS.**



PROPERTY INSURANCE - [S 408](#) by Sen Alan Hays Requires the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to provide reimbursement for —all incurred losses including amounts paid as fees on behalf of the policyholder, with exclusions; increases the minimum surplus requirements for residential property insurers to \$15 million. Its intent is to strengthen Fla’s private insurance market in Florida. **Approved by Senate, en route to House.** **CHAMBER SUPPORTS.**

Watch for our Chamber Bill Tracker on Monday morning with a list of bills on our Watchlist.

ANYONE TO CARPOOL TO TALLAHASSEE FOR A ONE-DAY TRIP NEXT TUESDAY, MAY 3? DEPART 6 am and RETURN BY 8 pm. IF SO, CALL Jim Cameron at 566-2140 or email jim@daytonachamber.com

OTHER NEWS.....

SENATOR MARCO RUBIO ADDRESSES 200 + AT NEWS JOURNAL CENTER – on April 26, Sen Rubio told of dire consequences of increased debt for the US. He also stated that Medicare will be bankrupt in 9 years unless action is taken. He stated that while the US economy is the largest in the world (3 times the size of the China), it is not growing, it is still economy but our debt load is reaching dangerous levels. In fact, our debt is growing faster than economy and if we continue our current path (spending \$1 trillion a year more than we take in) debt will reach \$22-\$24 trillion. Just as critical is that Medicare will go bankrupt in 9 years if we don’t address it.



Sen Marco Rubio

DB CITY COMMISSION MEETS WITH VOLUSIA SCHOOL BOARD - on April



School Bd Chair Stan Schmidt & Supt Margaret Smith discuss school matter with DB City Commission

25, the Daytona Beach City Commissioners discussed current issues with members of the Volusia School Board. At that meeting, it was stated that student enrollment was expected to go down. Also, Federal stimulus funds will go away on top of declining property values which will also affect future revenues.

It was also stated that Volusia Schools .25 critical needs millage will go into their General

Fund and expected revenue from the District’s half-cent sales tax is expected to go down.

The City Commission asked the Chamber to provide positive information on its website on schools in the City. City officials also want local realtors to also improve the image of local schools.

VOLUSIA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION



Sen Evelyn Lynn - 416 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5033 fx 850-487-5439
536 N Halifax Ave; Ste 101 Daytona Beach 238-3180
Aides – Charlyn Thompson; Kathleen Roe; Frankie Roberts
lynn.evelyn.web@flsenate.gov

Committees – [Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations; Chair ; Budget ; Budget Subcommittee on Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations ; Commerce/ Tourism ; Communications; Energy, Public Utilities ; Higher Education ; Reapportionment](#)



Sen John Thrasher - 400 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5030
9485 Regency Square Blvd; Suite 108 Jacksonville (904) 727-3600
Aides – Kay Rouseau; Kelly Williams; Becky Stagg
thrasher.john.web@flsenate.gov

Committees – [Rules; Chair ; Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations, Vice Chair ; Budget ; Budget Subcommittee on Criminal/Civil Justice Appropriations ; Community Affairs ; Judiciary ; Reapportionment ; Regulated Industries ; Rules Subcommittee on Ethics & Elections](#)



Sen Tony Hill - 213 Senate Office Building (850) 487-5024
Daytona State College Bldg 540;Room 214 506-3306
Aides – Cynthia Appling; Valerie Chrispin
hill.anthony.web@flsenate.gov

Committees – [Children, Families, Elder Affairs - Vice Chair; Military Affairs, Space, Domestic Security - Vice Chair; Budget Subcommittee on General Govt Appropriations; Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, Economic Development Appropriations ; Community Affairs ; Regulated Industries](#)



Sen. Alan Hays - 324 Senate Office Building (850) 487-5014
871 South Central Ave Umatilla (352) 742-6441
Aide – Nanci Cornwell, Paul Runk
hays.alan.web@flsenate.gov

Committees – [Budget Subcommittee on General Govt Appropriations; Chair ; Agriculture ; Banking & Insurance; Budget ; Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations; Children; Families; Elder Affairs ; Reapportionment](#)



Rep Dorothy Hukill - 204 House Office Bldg (850) 488-6653
 1402 Dunlawton Ave Suite 1A Port Orange 322-5111
 Aide – Lindsey Swindle; Edith Little
dorothy.hukill@myfloridahouse.gov

Committees – **Economic Affairs Committee**, Chair; **Appropriations Committee**



Rep Dwayne Taylor - 1302 Capitol (850)488-0580
 732 Orange Ave Daytona Beach 239-6202
 Aides – Shanee Green; Beth Beekman
dwayne.taylor@myfloridahouse.gov

Committees – **Government Operations Subcommittee** ; **Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee** ; **Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee** ; **Select Committee on Water Policy** ; **State Affairs Committee**



Rep Fred Costello - 1003 Capital (850) 488-9873
 Deland City Hall Rm 206 120 S Florida Ave 736-5100
 Aides – Daniel Barrow; Maria Becker
fred.costello@myfloridahouse.gov

Committees – **Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee** ; **Finance & Tax Committee** ; **Govt Operations Appropriations Subcommittee**; **Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee**



Rep Jason Brodeur - 1101 Capital (850) 488-0468
 114 West First Street; Suite 208 Sanford
 Aides – Jon Yapo
jason.brodeur@myfloridahouse.gov

Committees – **Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee** ; **Criminal Justice Subcommittee** ; **Finance & Tax Committee** ; **Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee** ; **Select Committee on Water Policy**



Rep. Larry Metz - 1003 Capitol (850)488-0348
 301 West Ward Ave, Eustis
 Aide – Hilda Quintero; Lance Stephan
larry.metz@myfloridahouse.gov

Committees - **Civil Justice Subcommittee** ; **Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee**; **Judiciary Committee** ; **Justice Appropriations Subcommittee** ; **K-12 Innovation Subcommittee**