



The Legislature passed the final version of the state's \$45 billion budget last week and sent it to the Governor. The governor has until Wednesday to line item veto what he deems "turkeys" in that budget and sign it into law. Legislators are due to adjourn *sine die* on Friday. They hope to have enough time and votes to override any vetoes before leaving town.

Meanwhile, these elected officials are feverishly passing legislation. A bill to draw more airline competition to Tallahassee in an effort to produce lower fares for travelers was sent to the Governor last Friday. Several education bills still have a chance at final passage this week (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

Rumors are flying higher than ever this week that the legislature will complete their work and leave town a day or two early. Whether they leave on Wednesday or Friday though, this is the last week of the session!

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. Contact me by e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu or at 644-4453.

Kathleen Daly

Session Schedule April 27-May 1, 1998

Senate:

Monday, April 27	10:00am-6:00pm
Tuesday, April 28	9:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday, April 29	9:00am-6:00pm
Thursday, April 30	9:00am-6:00pm
Friday, May 1	9:00am-Sine die

House:

Monday, April 27	1:30pm-6:00pm
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1998-99 Budget

The Legislature passed the \$45.3 billion budget last week and sent it to the Governor for his approval. He has until midnight on Wednesday to veto and approve the spending plan. The following items are included in the budget, pending a veto:

State University System

Enrollment Growth	\$22,993,321
Salary Performance Package	\$6.3 million
Salary Performance Incentives	\$3.3 million
Americans with Disabilities	\$500,000
Library Resources	\$5.2 million
Law Enforcement	
800 MHZ	\$4 million
Challenge Grants	\$45.0 million
Gender Equity	\$2 million
P.O & M	
(2 yr phase-in)	\$7.5 million

Florida State University

British Open	
University	\$2.5 million
Program in Medical Sciences-	
Recurring	\$950,000
Campus Safety	\$1.5 million

A 7% tuition increase for all in-state students, and a 12.5% increase for all out-of-state students was also approved. One third of the increase will go into need based financial aid, one third for technology needs and one third will be the President's discretion. A technology fee failed to pass.



Spotlight on Bills

Voice Mail System

Representative Bill Posey is sponsoring **House Bill 4563** which requires state employees to answer their telephones when working at their desks, rather than allowing voice mail to answer. **HB 4563** also requires that state government units using a telephone menu options system provide callers with the option of being able to speak with a non-electronic attendant. **HB 4563** was amended on to **Committee Substitute to House Bill 4149** sponsored by the **House Governmental Operations Committee**. **CS/HB 4149** was read a second time on the House Floor with the amendments and adopted.

Public Employees Portable Retirement Act

House Bill 4333 by **Representative Debby Sanderson** creates the Public Employees Portable Retirement Option Act to require state and local public agency employers to provide certain state and local public agency employees a defined contribution alternative basic pension plan that is fully portable, immediately vested, and fully funded on a current basis from employer contributions. This bill provides that such plans are to be administered by employers or the State Board of Administration (SBA) to offer employees the option of participating in the Portable Retirement Plan (PRP) in lieu of continued membership in their existing retirement system. Any employee, except employees electing to participate in the State University System Optional Retirement Plan or the Senior Management Optional Annuity Program, may voluntarily elect membership in the PRP. **HB 4333** was read a second time on the House Floor with the amendments adopted. There is a companion bill in the Senate, **SB 754** by **Senator Charles Williams (FSU Alumnus)**. **SB 754** died in committee earlier this session.

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Single Statewide Building Code

The **Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill's 1190 and 868** by the **Senate Governmental Reform and Oversight Committee** establishes the Florida Building Code (FBC), a single statewide building code and codifies many of the recommendations of the Governor's Building Codes Study Commission. The committee substitute for the committee substitute includes:

*Beginning in 2001, local governments shall assume expanded responsibilities for permitting, plans review and inspection of facilities that are currently reviewed by state agencies.

*There will be a building code training program developed which will become part of current continuing education requirements for occupations related to construction and construction regulation.

*The Department of Business and Professional Regulation is required to implement an automated information system which tracks disciplinary actions taken against construction-related occupations on a statewide basis.

CS/CS/SB's 1190 & 868 is on its second reading on the Senate Floor. There is a similar bill that has passed out of the House, **Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 4181** sponsored by the **House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee**. **CS/CS/HB 4181** is on the Special Order Calendar to be heard on the Senate Floor this week.

Direct Support Organizations

Senator Patsy Kurth is sponsoring **Senate Bill 564** which would increase oversight of direct-support organizations that benefit community colleges and state universities and would prohibit a community college from using or pledging public funds for a direct-support organization. **SB 564** would also change the required evaluation of community college presidents from periodic to annual. **SB 564** was amended and passed on the Senate Floor last week. **SB 564** is in messages to the House. The similar bill in the House, **Committee Substitute to House Bill 3409**, by the **House Community Colleges and Career Prep Committee**, was read a second time on the House Floor with the amendments and adopted.