

# LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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The House and Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittees advanced their spending proposals to the full Appropriations Committees last week, the third of the 2003 Legislative Session.

The Senate budget is considerably more favorable to the universities than the House spending plan (**see related story**). The House budget is more in line with the Governor's recommendations – cuts in state library funding, for example (while the Senate funds it). Neither chamber proposes new taxes, although the Senate appears to be building a case for revenue-generating options.

Beside the budget, many substantive issues are moving through the process. The universities have several school-code "glitch" bills waiting for hearings in both the House and the Senate. The bill limiting presidential salaries to \$225,000 of public funds passed its second committee of reference in the Senate last week. And a comprehensive teacher recruitment and retention bill passed the House K-20 Committee last Friday. The university building-naming bill will have its initial hearing in the House today.

The University Presidents are meeting with the Governor today in Tampa, on the campus of the University of South Florida. They will discuss the budget, reading initiatives, homeland security, and other issues pending before the Legislature.

As always, live and taped coverage of all the activities of the Legislature can be seen on The Florida Channel, which is available in Leon and Wakulla Counties from midnight to 6:00 p.m. daily on FSU4 (local cable channel 4). The Florida Channel is fed by satellite 24 hours a day to cable outlets throughout Florida. For more information, see [WFSU.org](http://WFSU.org).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns you might have. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or at [kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu).

*Kathleen*

## FIRST GLANCE AT HOUSE AND SENATE SPENDING PROPOSALS

Below is a comparison of the House and Senate education budget plans that were released late last week. The Senate proposes a substantially lower cut to the universities than the House, instead sacrificing many lower-education programs, including the Governor's reading initiatives. The House cuts universities much deeper, primarily because they designate more money for the reduced class-size initiative than the Senate does, and fund many of the Governor's priority projects.

### SENATE BUDGET:

- \$36.6 million cut spread among all the public universities.
- 7.5 percent tuition increase across the board, and the flexibility for each school to increase all tuition categories (except in-state undergraduate) by up to 10 percent.
- \$23.5 million non-recurring General Revenue for the Challenge Grant program.
- \$4.3 million for the FSU Medical School.
- \$2.3 million for an FSU School of Chiropractic.

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- \$2.2 to restore Ringling Museum operating dollars.
- \$1.6 million for the FSU-based Florida Center for Reading Research.
- No enrollment-growth funding.
- Funds new space and annualizations.

## HOUSE BUDGET:

- \$118 million cut spread among all the public universities.
- A \$34.4 million lump sum (not earmarked) from Lottery proceeds.
- \$4.3 million for the FSU Medical School.
- \$1.6 million for the FSU-based Florida Center for Reading Research.
- No enrollment-growth funding.
- No new-space funding.
- Some annualization funding.

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# Spotlight on Bills

**HB 901, by Representative Bev Kilmer (R.-Quincy)**, is a comprehensive educational plan designed to recruit, retain and reward excellent teachers. The bill creates a career ladder that would provide educators with annual bonuses of up to \$10,000 when their students make significant gains on the FCAT. In the second year of the program, a minimum teacher salary of \$31,000 would be set for all teachers, up from the current \$25,000 entry-level pay. The bill passed the full House K-20 Committee on Friday. **Senator Evelyn Lynn (R-Ormond Beach)** filed the companion, **SB2418** in the Senate.

**SB 1268 – Lottery and Unclaimed Prize Money by Senator Evelyn Lynn (D-Ormond Beach)** Provides that unclaimed prize money shall be distributed to public schools, community colleges and universities on a pro rata basis based on the number enrolled. **Representative Leslie Waters (R-St. Petersburg, FSU Alumn)** filed identical bill, **HB893**, in the House.

**SB 1526 – Bright Futures Scholarship Program by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)** Expresses legislative intent to revise laws concerning the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The House has not filed a companion at this time.

**SB 1798 – Relating to Postsecondary Education by Senator Rod Smith (D-Gainesville)**

Allows university boards of trustees to establish fees for the university, including instate undergraduate matriculation, instate graduate and professional tuition, and requires a plan for setting fees. The House Education K-20 Committee filed the similar bill, **HB1745**.

**HB 703 – Class Size Reduction by Representative Joe Pickens (R-Palatka)** Defines terms “core-curricula courses” and “extracurricular courses”; establishes constitutional class size caps; establishes

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## SESSION SCHEDULE

### SENATE

Wednesday, March 26  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 27  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### HOUSE

Tuesday, March 25  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Thursday, March 27  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

# Spotlight on Bills

Classrooms for Kids Program; creates Class Size Reduction Small County Assistance Program for fiscal year 2004-2005; establishes District Equity Recognition Program; establishes Class Size Reduction Lottery Revenue Bond Program; creates Florida Learning Access Grants, etc. Numerous comparable bills have been filed in the House and Senate.

**HB 805 – Military Dependents and Scholarships by Representative Carey Baker (R-Eustis)** Makes eligible dependent children of veterans, active duty military personnel and members of Florida National Guard for certain scholarships; provides tax credits to corporations funding such scholarships subject to certain limitations. The Senate has not filed a companion at this time.

**HB 915 – K-20 Education Accountability by Representative Joe Pickens (R-Palatka)** Expands legislative intent for K-20 education performance accountability system; provides requirements and implementation schedule for performance-based funding; provides mission, goals and measures; requires collection of certain data; provides eligibility criteria for participation in Florida School Recognition Program. **Senator Lisa Carlton (R-Osprey)** filed identical bill, **SB2296**, in the Senate.

**HB 955 – Intercollegiate Athletics by Representative Roger Wishner (D-Plantation)** Requires football teams of University of Miami and the University of Florida to play each other on annual basis. The Senate has not filed a companion at this time.

**HB 1195 – Student Financial Assistance by Representative Bruce Antone (D-Orlando)** Creates Innovation Florida Scholarships for developing High-Tech Jobs program; authorizes need-based scholarships for students enrolled in certified degree programs in targeted employment areas at Florida postsecondary educational institutions. **Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres)** filed identical bill, **SB1810**, in the Senate.

## World Wide Web

The Florida Senate's home page, <http://www.flsenate.gov/>, is available on the Internet. A variety of legislative information including bill text, bill history, Daily and Final Bill Information Book, Florida Statutes, lobbyist information and forms, Senate calendars and journals, and member information is accessible using a browser such as Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer.



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