



# LegisLetter

## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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The budget negotiations have stalled, only about 27 bills have passed to the Governor thus far, and this week, the seventh of the regular session, is a short one, due to the Passover/Easter holidays. The House and Senate will hear bills in committee today and Tuesday then go home to their districts for the remainder of the week.

Hopefully, when they return, they will appoint conferees and begin closing the \$1.4 billion gap between their spending plans. Despite resistance to tax increases by House members and the Governor, state lawmakers quietly continue to nudge along legislation that would boost state revenue. Both legislative chambers are contemplating measures that would tax the purchase of out-of-state natural gas and manufactured gas for in-state use. This would potentially generate an estimated \$2.4 million a year. Other options include the Senate's proposed elimination of sales tax exemptions for stadium skyboxes, including those found on college campuses.

On Friday, the House Education Appropriations Committee combined their teacher pay legislation with their classroom-size reduction bill. Currently, the Senate does not provide funds in their budget for teacher pay increases. However, in order to comply with the class size amendment passed by voters last fall, legislation must pass this session. But **Senate President Jim King**, (R. Jacksonville, FSU Alum) said the move strips more money from higher education. "The House budget has \$315-million in it for a teacher incentive plan that we fully endorse," King said. "If we had the money to do it, we would do it. But it takes it off the backs of the community colleges and universities and shortchanges them, and we just don't think that's the right thing to do."

Higher education substantive issues are scattered in several bills in both the House and the Senate. We will be working to combine several of these bills for final passage to the Governor after the holiday break. (See related chart).

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about issues that may concern you. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

*Kathleen*

### STATUS OF MAJOR SUS LEGISLATION

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>SENATE</u>
<b>"Glitch" Bills</b>	HB 1831 (filed 4-9-03)	SB 1772 (ED, AED, AP)
Direct Deposit of Funds (17.076)	HB 1831	SB 1520
Pretax Benefits (110.161)	HB 1831	SB 1520
Deferred Comp (112.215)	HB 1831	SB 1520
Consolidated financing of deferred-payment purchases (287.064)	HB 1831	SB 1520
Insurance issues (workers' comp: 440.38)	HB 1831	SB 1520
Oversight of student governments (1004.26)	HB 1831	SB 1520
Liability insurance – financial audits (1004.24)	HB 1831	SB 1520
<b>Governance Bills</b>	HB 319 (HigherED, K-20, Ed App, App)	SB 1520 (ED, GO, AED, AP, RC)
Direct Deposit of Funds (17.076)		SB 1520
Pretax Benefits (110.161)		SB 1520
Deferred Comp (112.215)		SB 1520
Consolidated financing of deferred-payment purchases (287.064)		SB 1520
Insurance issues (workers' comp: 440.38)		SB 1520
Determination of in-state residency status		SB 1520
UMIFA (new version)	HB 319	SB 1520
Major Gifts	HB 319	
<b>Higher Ed Finance Policy/Fees</b>	HB 1745 (F&T, Ed App, App)	
Bright Futures Issues	HB 1745	SB 1526
Admissions Deposit	HB 1745	SB 2136
Technology Fee	HB 1745	
Education Enhancement Fee	HB 1745	
Determination of in-state residency status	HB 1745	SB 1520
Abolish Bright Futures CLEP Testing Program	HB 1745	SB 354
<b>Presidential Salaries</b>	House Appropriations Act	SB 1370
<b>Naming Bill</b>	HB 91 (HigherEd, K-20, Ed App, App)	SB 2122 (ED, GO)

Passed Higher Ed, K-20 today Includes FAU amendments

# Spotlight on Bills

**SB 638 — Student Tuition Assistance by Senator Charlie Clary, (R-Destin)** Establishes the Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program which allows two for-profit colleges and universities in Florida to offer a “FRAG” like stipend to their in-state students, subject to funding by the Legislature. This bill is now in Appropriations. The House has filed the companion bill, **HB 917, by Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala, FSU Alum)**, which passed the K-20 Education Committee today.

**SB 1914 — Career and Technical Education by Senator Michael Bennett, (R-Bradenton)** Requires career technical education programs within comprehensive high school courses to be certified by the industry; provides career and technical education endorsements on high school diploma and incentive money will be sent to school districts with students graduating with that endorsement. The House has filed the similar bill, **HB 191, by Representative Ed Jennings (D-Gainesville)**.

**SB 2296 —K-20 Education Accountability by Senator Lisa Carlton, (R-Osprey)** Increases the legislative intent for K-20 achievement timetable for performance-based financial support; offers a mission, and the goals and measures to achieve it; requires compilation of specific information; presents eligibility criteria for participation in Florida School Recognition Program. The House companion bill is **HB 915 by Representative Joe Pickens (R-Palatka)**, which was amended and passed the K-20 Education Committee today.

**SB 2576— Access to Postsecondary Education by Senator Stephen Wise, (R-Jacksonville)** Establishes stipulations relating to the access to postsecondary education and significant careers for

students with disabilities; revises the provision relating to high school graduation requirements; obligates the State Education Board to assume rules that allow for test accommodations and modifications of measures students with disabilities must complete; updates the stipulation relating to admissions of students to community colleges and universities. The House has filed the companion bill, **HB 1739, by Education Appropriations Committee.**

**HB 1279 — Charter Schools by Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala, FSU Alum)** Mandates an emphasis on reading; requires specific accountability measures; permits community colleges and universities to develop one charter school; calls for specific fiscal projections in, and revisions of, charter applications; expands the time that is permitted for the State Board of Education to act on appeal; creates the Charter School Accountability and Funding Authority and providing purpose, composition and duties; state universities may grant a charter to a lab school created under s.1002.32 and will be considered to be the school’s sponsor. Such school will be considered a charter lab school. The bill is on the Education Appropriations Subcommittee agenda for today at 4:00 p.m. in Morris Hall. The Senate has filed the similar bill, **SB 2242, by**

**Senator Daniel Webster (R-Winter Garden).**

**HB 1745 — Higher Education Finance Policy by Education Appropriations Committee** Amends the requirements relating to the determination of resident status for tuition purposes; allows for categorization of specific graduate teaching assistants or graduate research assistants; makes changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; allows for financial assistance to public postsecondary education institutions. The bill also contains the admission deposit language, creates a technology fee and an enhancement fee and repeals the CLEP testing mandate for Bright Futures Scholars. This bill is on the Finance and Tax agenda for today at 4:00 p.m. in Reed Hall. There is not an identical bill filed in the Senate, however there are several senate proposals moving that contain some of these provisions. **(Please see chart)**

## SESSION SCHEDULE

### SENATE

Wednesday, April 16  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

The House will not meet this week and will convene on Tuesday, April 22nd.

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