



LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Unable to break the gridlock that plagued them throughout the regular 60-day session, lawmakers called it quits on Friday night without a budget, or resolution on any of the other major issues they promised to tackle.

The Governor is expected to call a special session to craft a budget for May 12 to 27.

Most of the issues the university system worked to get passed during the last few months died on the last night of the session. Some of these issues, like changes to the Bright Futures Scholarship program and the capping of presidential salaries will probably surface again during the budget session. School-code glitch items, the authority to impose an admissions deposit, the naming of university buildings, changes to the Major Gifts program including UMIFA, and our Trustees' confirmations - and the establishment of staggered terms for them - will most likely have to wait until next year (see Spotlight on Bills).

Other important issues still unresolved include Medical Malpractice and Workers' Compensation reforms, class-size reduction, and smoking-ban initiatives. It is predicted that additional special sessions will be called for later this year to complete these issues.

I will continue to keep you updated on the budget special session via this weekly newsletter. But please feel free to contact me in you have questions about the outcome of specific legislation during the regular session. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

Bills that Passed the 2003 Regular Session

HB 49 -- Library Confidentiality/Minors by Representative Bob Henriquez (D-Tampa). Authorizes municipalities to receive operating grants; permits eligible political subdivisions to receive warrants; revises provisions regarding confidentiality of public library registration and circulation records to authorize disclosure of information to parent or guardian of library patron under age 16, for purpose of collecting fines or recovering overdue books or other materials, etc. This bill was laid on the table, **SB 1434 by Senator Rudy Garcia (R-Hialeah)**, was substituted and passed. Effective July 1, 2003

HB 315 -- Institute of Human and Machine Cognition by Representative Holly Benson (R-Pensacola) and SB 1414, by Senator Charlie Clary (R-Destin). Establishing the Institute of Human and Machine Cognition at the University of West Florida as a not-for-profit corporation; authorizes the Institute to form subsidiaries provided that they also work for the state. Provides for a Board of Directors for the Institute. Effective upon becoming law.

SB 354 -- Bright Futures Scholarship Testing by Senator Lisa Carlton (R-Sarasota). Repeals the Bright Futures Scholarship Testing requirement (CLEP). Passed Legislature and will take effect on July 1, 2003.

SB 812 -- State University System Replacement Trust Fund by Senator Lisa Carlton (R-Osprey). Re-creates the State University System Replacement Trust Fund within the Department of Education without modification; carrying forward current balances and continuing current sources and uses thereof. Will take effect November 4, 2004.

SB 814 -- University Concurrency Trust Fund by Senator Lisa Carlton (R-Osprey). Re-creates the University Concurrency Trust Fund within the Department of Education, carrying forward current balances and continuing current sources and uses. Passed and ordered enrolled. Effective November 4, 2003.

HB 915 -- K-20 Education Accountability by Representative Joe Pickens (R-Palatka) and SB 2296 by Senator Lisa Carlton (R-Osprey). Relates to expanding legislative intent for K-20 education performance accountability system and provides requirements for implementation schedule and delays the universities for a year, for performance-based funding. The Senate bill was laid on the table and the House bill was taken up and passed. Effective upon becoming law.

SB 1006 -- State Employee Health Insurance by the Senate Subcommittee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity Relates to state employee health insurance; revising the terms of coverage and payment for officers and employees participating in state employee group health insurance; providing eligibility for state universities in the pretax benefits program; providing eligibility for universities in the pre-tax benefits program. **SB 1006** was substituted for **HB 1881 by House State Administration** and passed. Effective July 1, 2003.

Spotlight on Bills

Bills that did not pass the 2003 Regular Session

HB 31 -- Student Financial Assistance by Representative Dick Kravitz (R-Orange Park) and SB 1760 by Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville). Designates naming of various other SUS buildings and roads. The Senate passed out their bill, which later died in House Messages.

HB 83 -- FRS/Instructional Personnel/DROP, by Representative Fred Brummer (R-Apopka). Expands the period of time those members of the Florida Retirement System who are employed as instructional personnel in grades K-12 may partake in DROP. Died on the calendar. Similar bills filed in both the House and Senate also died.

HB 85 -- Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation by Representative Mitch Needelman (R-Palm Bay) and SB 2718 by Senator Anna Cowin (R-Leesburg). Relating to creating the Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation Task Force to address and report on the effects of consolidating all sworn law enforcement positions in the state and freezing all management positions. Died in Committee.

HB 91 -- Designation University Building and Roads by Representative Ray Sansom (R-Fort Walton Beach, FSU Alum) and SB 2122 by Senator Durell Peadar (R-Crestview). Designates the Track and Field Center at Florida State University as the "Michael Allen McIntosh Track and Field Center"; designates the Student Life Building, 113 South Wildwood Drive, at Florida State University as the "Reubin O'D. Askew Student Life Center"; designates the proposed entrance pavilion at the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art at the Florida State University Ringling Center for

Cultural Arts in Sarasota as the "John M. McKay Visitors' Pavilion"; designates the Education and Administration Building at Florida State University as the "John E. Thrasher Building"; designates the new residence hall complex at Florida State University as "Sherrill Williams Ragans Hall"; designates naming of various other SUS buildings and roads. The Senate passed out their bill, which later died in House Messages.

HB 137 -- Sales Tax Holiday by Representative Bev Kilmer (R-Marianna) and SB 474 by Senator Anna Cowin (R-Leesburg). Creating the Sales Tax Holiday, on sales of specific items, i.e. school clothing and supplies, were exempt from sales tax; makes exemption contingent upon funding in General Appropriations Act; provides definitions of school supplies and clothing and clarifies any exceptions. Died in committee

HB 319 -- Governance of State Universities by Representative David Meador, (R-Lake Mary) and SB 1520 by Senator Lee Constantine, (R-Altamonte Springs). Establishes a Board of Governors; allows membership and terms of office; revises membership of university boards of trustees and terms of office; creates the Florida Uniform Management of Institutional Funds Act (UMIFA); provides for the expenditure of endowment funds by the governing board; provides investment authority, delegateds the investment and management costs, The bill also contains **Representative Loranne Ausley's (D-Tallahassee)** admissions deposit language. Died in Messages

HB 901 -- Best Florida Teaching Act of 2003 by Representative Bev Kilmer (R-Marianna) and SB 1032 Educational Leadership by the Senate Subcommittee on Education.

Requiring district school boards to provide clerical personnel or volunteers to assist teachers in non-instructional activities; provides for cooperation and support of district school superintendents and school principals; provides student rights regarding classroom orderliness; requires specified student conduct; provides for support of authority of teachers and bus drivers, etc. Died in Committee.

HB 1279 -- Charter Schools, by Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala, FSU Alum) and SB 2242 by Senator Dan Webster (R-Winter Garden). 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 House bill was laid on the table, the Senate bill was substituted and died in messages.

SB 1370 -- Annual Remuneration/State University Presidents by Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville). Limiting the annual salary of state university presidents from public funds to \$225,000. Died in House Messages.

SB 1526 -- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs). relating to revising the Bright Futures Scholarship program died in committee.

SB 1772 -- School Code Rewrite by the Senate Education Committee, HB 1831

(continued on page 3)

Spotlight on Bills

by House Education K-20 Committee and SB 1520 by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs). Glitch bills did not pass. These bills contained direct deposit of funds, deferred comp, consolidated financing of deferred payment purchases, UMIFA and major gifts, as well as all Board of Governors and glitch items.

HB 1745 -- Higher Education Finance Policy by House Subcommittee Appropriations on Education K-20 and SB 1798 by Senator Rod Smith (D-Gainesville). Revising provisions relating to determination of resident status for tuition purposes; providing for reclassification; providing for classification of certain graduate teaching assistants or graduate research assistants; deleting provisions relating to fines assessed by community colleges; revising provisions relating to undergraduate tuition and fees; authorizing a nonrefundable admissions deposit. Died in House messages.

HB 1837 -- Workers' Compensation by the House Subcommittee on Insurance Regulation. Authorization to claim exemptions and requirements relating to submitting notice of election of exemption; specifying effect of exemption; amending revising provisions relating to failure to secure compensation; providing that a corporate officer electing to be exempt may not receive benefits; revising provisions relating to compensation for subsequent injuries; providing definitions; revising provisions relating to drug testing; specifying effect of criminal acts; providing for compensability of mental and nervous injuries. Died on the calendar.

HB 1887 -- Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement by the House Subcommittee on Education Appropriations K-20 and SB 1522 by

Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs). Creates the Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act; provides parents with specific information about their child's educational progress; provides parents with comprehensive information about their choices and opportunities for involvement in their child's education; provides a framework for building and strengthening partnerships among parents, teachers, principals, district school superintendents, and other personnel. The Senate bill was substituted and died in House Messages.

SB 2112 -- Collective Bargaining/ Board of Trustees by Senator Rod Smith (D-Gainesville) and HB 1437 by Representative Bob Allen (R-Merritt Island). Providing that for certain collective bargaining, the respective university board of trustees is the successor public employer to the Florida Board of Education, died in committee.

SB 2136 -- Postsecondary Student Fees by Senator Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, (D-Pembroke Pines) and HB 619, by Representative Loranne Ausley (D-Tallahassee). Authorizes university boards of trustees to impose a nonrefundable admission deposit and provides for the use of the deposit if the student failed to enroll following admission. Died in House messages.



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