

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Nine / Number Thirteen • July 2, 2003



Happy July 4th!

The 60-day regular session is long over. Budget Session A finished in early June, with a bit of success. Medical Malpractice Session B went down in flames last week and Medial Malpractice Session C is set to begin next week on July 9th. Having been in perpetual session since March 2, legislators are weary and irritable, as are the lobbyists and staff.

Even so, Governor Bush has vowed to keep calling the legislators into session all summer and into the fall until they resolve the "medical malpractice crisis in Florida."

On the good news front, the Governor released his veto message last week and did not veto any FSU or university projects.

The Legislature passed a few bills during Special Session B. I've summarized those of interest in Spotlight On Bills for your review.

Each year at the conclusion of the session, the Miami Herald ranks legislators based on their effectiveness. This year is no exception, despite the continuous session. I've included the rankings of our local delegation and our legislative alums in this edition of the Legisletter for your perusal and interest.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions about the legislative process or if you need copies of bills and their analysis. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

Legislative Rankings

The Miami Herald released their annual ranking of state legislators on Saturday, June 14, 2003.

The Herald relies on a panel of experienced legislative observers to independently rank lawmakers. The panelists selected this year were:

Mike Abrams, lobbyist with Katz Kutter Alderman & Bryant in Miami.

Brian Ballard, lobbyist with Smith, Ballard & Logan in Tallahassee.

Sarah Bleakley, lobbyist with Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson law firm in Tallahassee.

Victoria Hernandez, lobbyist for Miami-Dade Community College.

Yolanda Cash Jackson, lobbyist with Becker & Poliakoff law firm in Fort Lauderdale.

Curt Kiser, lobbyist with Holland and & Knight law firm.

Sean Pittman, lobbyist with the Pittman Law Group in Tallahassee.

Peter Wallsten, The Herald's political writer and outgoing chief of the Herald's capital bureau.

These observers used the following standards for ranking lawmakers:

- Effectiveness at passing legislation that affects the entire state
- Effectiveness at influencing colleagues on behalf of legislation, particularly through debate
- Effectiveness at serving his or her district.

House Speaker Johnnie Byrd and Senator Ken Pruitt attained the number one rankings in individual chambers this year. Judges described Speaker Byrd as a strong leader in the House, "everything that happened, he directed," and "Byrd

dominated the House on every issue." Of Senator Pruitt, judges said, "the entire session came down to a fundamental, philosophical difference on spending, and Ken Pruitt was the intellectual and political force behind it."

The following list represents how our local delegation and legislative alumni ranked this session.

Senate Rankings

FOUR STARS:

Jim King, R-Jacksonville
Alex Villalobos, R-Miami
Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee

TWO STARS:

Nancy Argenziano, R-Crystal River
Steve Geller, D-Hallandale Beach

House Rankings

FOUR STARS:

Allan Bense, R-Panama City
Chris Smith, D-Fort Lauderdale
Bev Kilmer, R-Quincy
Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala
Jeff Kottkamp, R-Cape Coral

THREE STARS:

Marcelo Llorente, R-Miami
Curtis Richardson, D-Tallahassee
Ken Sorenson, R-Key Largo
Leslie Waters, R-Seminole

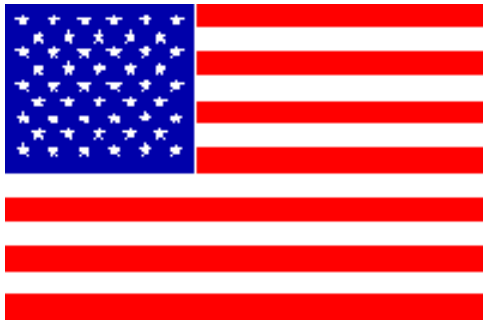
TWO STARS:

Loranne Ausley, D-Tallahassee
Audrey Gibson, D-Jacksonville
Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach
Mark Mahon, R-Jacksonville
J.C. Planas, R-Westchester
Ray Sansom, R-Destin
John Stargel, R-Lakeland

ONE STAR:

Carl Domino, R-Jupiter
Terry Fields, D-Jacksonville

Spotlight on Bills



Bills that passed during Special Session B

HB 23 - FCAT/ High School Graduation by Representative John Quinones (R- Kissimmee). Provides learning opportunities for out-of-state and foreign transfer students to meet high school graduation requirements and authorizes alternate assessments; requires district school superintendents to notify students of the consequences of failure to receive a standard high school diploma; provides for alternate assessments for the grade 10 FCAT and directs the Commissioner of Education to approve certain standardized tests if determined to meet certain criteria as equivalents to the FCAT and to permit passage of such tests in lieu of passage of the grade 10 FCAT for students graduating in the 2002-2003 school year. Signed by the Governor and became law on June 20, 2003

HB 85 - Biomedical Research, by Speaker of the House Johnnie Byrd (R-Plant City). Renames the Florida Biomedical Research Program as the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program; providing an appropriation of \$3,540,998 from the Biomedical Research Trust fund to the Department of Health to operate the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, thereby continuing current biomedical studies being conducted at Florida universities, including at FSU for the new fiscal year. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 26, 2003 and will take effect on July 1.

**Accidentally delete
your favorite issue of
the Legisletter?
Need to
reference a past issue?
Be sure to visit Florida
State University Office
of Governmental
Relations' website
located at
www.fsu.edu/~govrel
to download your copy
in Adobe Acrobat.**



Be sure to visit On-line Sunshine
on the World Wide Web for
budget and other legislative information.



www.leg.state.fl.us



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Kathleen M. Daly
Director

Lauren Larson
Coordinator, Information/Publications

Toni Moore
Senior Administrative Assistant

Chris Adcock
Executive Secretary