

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Patriotism filled the air on the opening day of the 2004 Legislative Session last Tuesday. The Florida Legislature saluted one of their own - State Representative Carey Baker (R-Eustis), a National Guardsman who returned to his duties in the Florida House after a 14-month tour in Iraq - with a moving tribute to troops in all branches of the military. Meanwhile, as the Governor delivered his State of the State address, over 2,000 protesters rallied against him and his civil-rights and labor policies outside of the Capitol.

Once the formalities of opening day concluded, legislators went straight to work tackling tough, controversial issues, which is not typical during the first week of the session. Abortion, seat belts, low-income subsidized insurance for children and a School of Chiropractic at Florida State University were debated and moved closer to final passage. (See related **Chiropractic Story**.)

The Revenue Estimating Conference will meet this Friday to determine the amount of revenue available for this year's state budget. Furthermore, several bills of interest are scheduled for hearings this week, including a proposal allowing Community Colleges to graduate additional teachers in the State of Florida. (See **Spotlight on Bills**.)

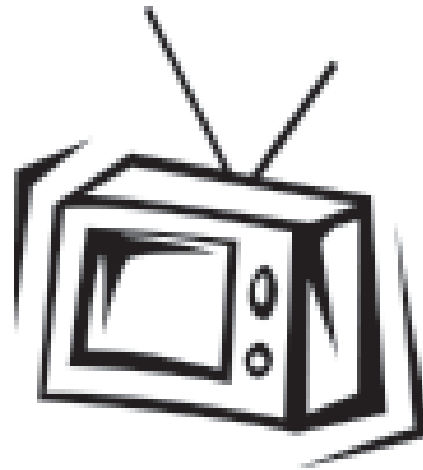
As always, please feel free to contact me if you need copies of bills and their analysis or have comments and concerns about issues or specific legislation. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

School of Chiropractic Approved for Florida State University

Legislation creating a School of Chiropractic at Florida State University passed both the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature, all during the first week of Session. **Senate Bill 2002, by Senator Durell Peaden (R - Crestview)** also contains an Alzheimer's Institute supported by Speaker Johnnie Byrd, and a Biomedical Center to be named for Senate President Jim King's parents.

The new school at FSU will be the first public school for training Chiropractors in Florida, and in the U.S, and will provide students with a cost-effective, in-state alternative. Florida exports thousands of students seeking a chiropractic degree each year. The bill also provides a \$9 million annual appropriation to operate the school. The Governor's signing deadline is March 12.



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.

Spotlight on Bills

PCB EDK 04-03, School Code Glitch Bill, the House proposed committee bill and **SB 340** fix "glitches" from the 2002 school code rewrite legislation. While the bills are not identical, they both do contain the same university glitch issues including direct deposit of funds, pretax benefits, deferred compensation, consolidated financing of deferred-payment purchases, workers compensation, determination of in-state residency status, the original UMIFA language, and major gifts. The House Education K-20 Committee passed **Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) EDK 04-03** last week. **SB 30** was heard on Wednesday by the Senate Education Committee, amended, passed, and will be voted on by the full Senate at its next stop.

SB 412 Resident Status for Tuition Purposes, by Senator Larcenia Bullard (D - Miami), provides state resident status for active duty members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. The bill passed the Senate Education Committee and is now in Military and Veterans Affairs. The House companion, **HB 119 by Representative Juan Zapata (R - Miami)**, has been referred to the Education Appropriations Committee and is awaiting its first hearing.

SB 544 Local Government Prompt Pay Act by Senator Mike Bennett (R- Bradenton), relates to timely payment for purchases of construc-

tion services, revises deadlines for payment, provides procedures for project closeout and payment, and revises deadlines for the payment of subcontractors, sub-subcontractors, materialmen, and suppliers on construction contracts for public projects. The bill was amended and passed out of the Senate Comprehensive Planning Committee last week and is now in the Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee. The House companion, **HB 487 by Representative Ron Reagan (R-Sarasota)**, has been referred to the Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SB 174 Lottery/Unclaimed Prize Money, by Senator Charlie Clary (R-Destin), distributes unclaimed prize money to public schools, community colleges and universities on a pro rata basis based on enrollment. The identical bill, **HB 37 by Representative Charlie Justice (D- St. Petersburg)**, has been referred to the House Gaming & Pari-mutuels Subcommittee. There are numerous bills relating to unclaimed lottery prize money, however, most of those bills distribute funds to K-12 only.

SB 612 Flags in Classrooms, by Senator Mike Fasano (R- New Port Richey), requires all educational facilities to display the American flag in every classroom. The bill currently requires University's to use Activity and Service fees to purchase and maintain the flags. The House K-20 Committee passed **PCB EDK-04-01 by Representative Frank Attkisson (R - Kissimmee)**, on Tuesday, which is similar to the Senate bill except that it requires the president to seek

donations or fund-raise for one year to pay for the flags. At the end of the year, the president may request an additional funding source from the Board of Trustees.

HB 471 Community Colleges/ Teacher Institute, by Representative Heather Fiorentino (R - New Port Richey), authorizes community colleges to create teacher institutes that will offer competency-based alternative teacher certification programs. The bill will be heard in the House K-20 Committee today. The Senate Companion, **SB 1804 by Senator Jeffery Atwater (R-North Palm Beach)**, has been referred to the Education and Education Appropriations committees.



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SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE

Wednesday, March 10
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

HOUSE

Tuesday, March 9
9:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon