

State Representative

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District 23

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Session Week 9 (Sine Die)

• **HB 1: Florida House votes to prevent violence.** HB 1 protects our communities, our neighborhoods, and the police officers who risk their lives for us. Free speech and the right to peaceably assemble are the foundation of America. Nothing in the bill limits these rights – HB 1 protects these rights for all people, regardless of reason or viewpoint. HB 1 passed the House 76-39 on Friday, March 26, and the Senate 23-17 on Thursday, April 15, and was signed by the Governor on April 19.

• **HB 3: Florida House votes to enhance statewide literacy with the New Worlds Reading Initiative.** Reading plays an irreplaceable role throughout a child's development and is one of the cornerstones for a promising future. We can better educate our youth by encouraging literacy-rich environments at home with HB 3. HB 3 invests in our children by creating Florida's first statewide, free book distribution program and empowering parents to engage with their children's reading activities. The bill accomplishes this by delivering free books to struggling K-5 readers each month within this school year, giving children the option to choose book genres and topics they want to read most, and providing parents with resources to help their child's reading skills and instill a love of reading. HB 3 encourages donations to fund the New Worlds Reading Initiative with tax credits for contributions. HB 3 passed the House 114-0 on Wednesday, April 21, and the Senate 40-0 on Monday, April 26.



• **HB 5: Florida House votes to make patriotism a fundamental part of our state's K-12 public schools.** The U.S. is a melting pot filled with big dreams, diversity, and unique accomplishments. Florida's students deserve to hear more about the stories behind the life-changing experiences so many endured to achieve the American dream. To enhance integrated civics education in our state, HB 5 builds a "Portraits in Patriotism" video library of personal stories of diverse individuals who exhibit civic-minded qualities. It also requires the state to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum for K-12 students that must be a part of regular schoolwork, help students understand their shared rights and responsibilities, and encourage comparative discussion of political ideologies that conflict with our nation's principles. HB 5 passed the House 115-0 on Thursday, April 1, and the Senate 40-0 on Monday, April 26.

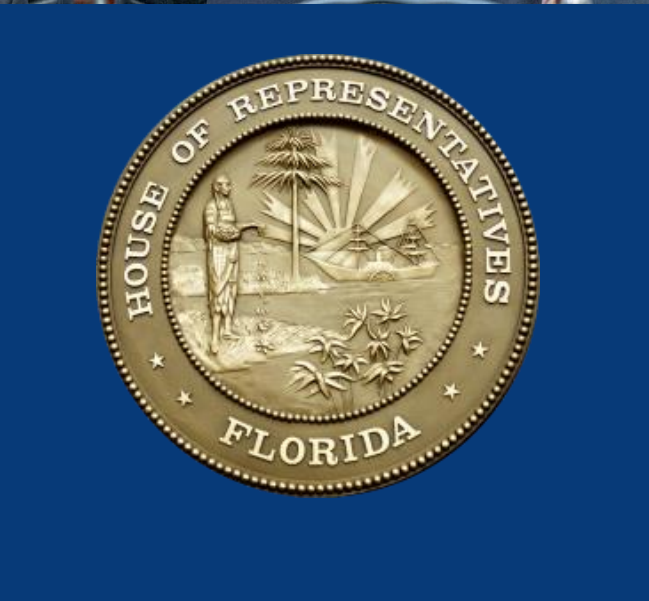


• **HB 9: Florida House passes bill to protect Floridians against COVID-19 vaccine and PPE scams.** Scammers are trying to use fake websites to lure unsuspecting Floridians into paying for COVID-19 vaccines, appointments, or PPE that never materialize. HB 9 establishes criminal penalties and authorizes civil remedies to protect Floridians from fraud as they seek PPE and vaccines during a pandemic. HB 9 will help prevent scammers from defrauding Floridians. HB 9 passed the House 113-0 on Friday, March 5, and the Senate 40-0 on Tuesday, April 27



• **HB 35: Florida House passes bill to improve access to public notices.** Floridians deserve free, 21st century access to information at the click of a button. Yet, local governments are forced to purchase costly print ads in newspapers to provide public notices. HB 35 modernizes outdated notice requirements to give Floridians simple and easy access to public notices while saving public dollars. To better inform residents about impactful judicial or local government actions or meetings, HB 35 expands publishing options for local governments to abolish related subsidies and reflect how most Floridians get their information - online. HB 35 passed the House 105-9 and the Senate 39-0 on Thursday, April 29.

• **HB 233: Florida House passes bill supporting intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at state universities and colleges.** We won't allow suppression of protected free speech at Florida's universities and colleges. We can support our students and the First Amendment with HB 233 - a bill that provides answers as to whether our students feel silenced on their campuses. HB 233 requires colleges and universities to survey students and faculty and report on the status of intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at their institutions. HB 233 passed the House 77-42 on Thursday, March 18, and the Senate 23-15 on Wednesday, April 7.



• **HB 403: Florida House votes to promote home-based businesses.** Florida's home-based businesses are currently burdened by unnecessary regulations and unfair taxation by local jurisdictions. HB 403 clarifies that home-based businesses are homes first and businesses second, while ensuring property rights are protected. It empowers business owners to challenge impractical local mandates. It allows startup businesses to flourish without high overhead and encourages entrepreneurship by limiting business taxes to only the county and municipality where the home-based business is physically located. HB 403 allows local governments to regulate signage, storage, noise, vibration, heat, smoke, dust, glare, fumes, noxious odors, and hazardous or flammable materials as long as the regulations do not discriminate against home-based businesses. It also allows local governments to regulate parking, vehicles, trailers, and heavy equipment. HB 403 passed the House 77-41 and the Senate 19-18 on Friday, April 30.



- **HB 667: Florida House votes to modernize the building inspection process.** Modernizing the building inspection process in Florida will streamline building inspections and reduce the cost of construction. HB 667 makes the building inspection process more efficient while ensuring that construction meets the standards of the Florida Building Code. HB 667 simplifies code enforcement by allowing contractors to request inspections electronically and allowing inspections to be conducted virtually. HB 667 also improves work quality by requiring building inspectors to provide a specific reason for failing an inspection within five business days of the inspection. HB 667 passed the House 118-0 on Wednesday, April 21, and the Senate 39-0 on Monday, April 26.
- **HB 735: Florida House votes to reduce regulation.** HB 735 will allow Floridians to be free to work statewide without local hoops to jump through like extra fees, licensing requirements, and exams. HB 735 allows small businesses to grow and thrive throughout the state. It preempts the licensing of occupations to the state, prohibits local governments from requiring a local occupational license for a person whose job scope does not substantially correspond to that of a contractor, and continues to allow counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses for various trades. HB 735 passed the House 82-32 on Thursday, April 1, and the Senate 22-18 on Tuesday, April 27.
- **HB 1059: Florida House votes to streamline the construction permit process.** Streamlining the construction permit process, reducing the time it takes to obtain a construction permit, and removing unnecessary barriers to obtaining construction permits will modernize the building permit process. HB 1059 modernizes the building permit process by requiring local enforcement agencies to accept all parts of building permit applications electronically, post the current application status for building permits online, reduce building permit fees if they fail to meet deadlines for reviewing applications, and allow applicants for permits for single-family homes to correct their applications prior to rejection. HB 1059 passed the House 113-0 on Thursday, April 1, and the Senate 38-0 on Monday, April 26.
- **HB 1507: Florida House votes to reimagine education and workforce.** 58% of Floridians have lost their job, had a pay cut, or saw their hours reduced due to the pandemic. Floridians should not have to work so hard to get to work. It is clear now more than ever that our workforce and education systems need redesigning to effectively serve Floridians. Our state can transform our workforce system from one that is fragmented and inefficient into one that puts opportunities for long-term employment first. With HB 1507 – the REACH Act – we can lay the foundation for a framework overhaul that integrates the pieces, establishes accountability, and breaks down barriers to employment and economic mobility for students, workers, and job seekers of today and tomorrow. This bill creates a consumer-centered workforce system that meets Florida’s students, workers, and job seekers where they are – from middle, high school, and college campuses to those looking to get back into the workforce after a lapse in employment. Creating a single Workforce Information System will make it easier for consumers to access services and career planning and register for workforce training. Additionally, HB 1507 increases transparency and accountability for local workforce boards, modernizes Florida’s workforce delivery system, and gives the state more flexibility in overseeing workforce investment statewide. HB 1507 passed the House 117-0 on Wednesday, April 14, and the Senate 40-0 on Monday, April 26.



- **HB 7011: Florida House votes to improve student literacy rates and close achievement gaps statewide.** 43% of Florida's 3rd grade students are reading below grade level and nearly half of students are not ready academically for kindergarten. To improve literacy rates and close achievement gaps, we need to provide parents, teachers, and schools with the knowledge, skills, and support necessary to effectively teach reading. HB 7011 establishes the RAISE program – which identifies schools with low reading performance and provides them instructional planning, professional development, and other tools needed to improve student literacy. Support to schools is provided through 20 regional literacy teams. HB 7011 also increases parental involvement by enhancing communication between schools and parents, empowering parents to help advance their child's literacy skills. HB 7011 passed the House 117-0 on Wednesday, April 21, and the Senate 40-0 on Monday, April 26, and was signed by the Governor on Tuesday, May 4.
- **HB 7017: Florida House votes to prevent foreign theft and interference.** One of America's greatest strengths is our willingness to work with others to find solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. But some countries, most notably China, want to exploit the openness of our academic system in order to accelerate their technological advancement at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer. The Florida House will help end this growing problem by increasing disclosure, transparency, and accountability. HB 7017 protects institutions of higher education and safeguards public entities and recipients of public grants by requiring disclosure of certain foreign relationships, donations, gifts, and grants; increasing vetting of foreign applicants for research positions; and monitoring international travel. The bill also prohibits public entities from entering into cultural agreements with the seven foreign countries of concern that constrain the freedom of contract, allow the curriculum or values of a program to be controlled by the foreign countries, or promote an agenda detrimental to the safety and security of the U.S. HB 7017 passed the House 117-0 on Wednesday, April 14, and the Senate 39-0 on Monday, April 26.
- **HB 7045: Florida House votes to increase school choice.** Florida is at the forefront of the school choice movement, championing opportunities that empower families to decide what type of education best meets their child's individual needs. HB 7045 increases school choice by improving and expanding our state's scholarship programs to benefit Florida families. HB 7045 reduces complexity to make it easier for parents to navigate the school choice system by creating an omnibus school choice program to serve low-income students and students with disabilities. It combines the Gardiner (GSP) and McKay Scholarships, and moves them under the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) – creating one program to serve low-income students and students with disabilities. To further benefit Florida families, HB 7045 increases the scholarship amount for Florida Tax Credit (FTC), Hope and FES students so that they receive the full amount they would generate in the public school system. The bill also allows the following students to enroll, regardless of program capacity: foster children, adopted children, children of active-duty military families, and students who attended a public school in the year prior if they are low-income or are a student with a disability. HB 7045 passed the House 79-36 on Wednesday, April 21, and the Senate 25-14 on Monday, April 26.



- **SB 54: Florida House votes to improve the state's broken motor vehicle insurance system.** Florida is one of only two states left that does not require mandatory bodily injury coverage (BI). Florida's antiquated and inadequate "No-Fault" insurance system (Personal Injury Protection - PIP) needs to be reformed so that drivers that are not at fault for an accident are not penalized. SB 54 (HB 719) repeals and replaces PIP by requiring mandatory BI coverage to protect the insured against loss if found at fault in an accident and responsible for bodily injury. To implement this new system, the bill increases minimum coverage limits, ensures drivers show proof of insurance at the time of vehicle registration, and provides good-faith provisions for insurers to follow when handling claims and seeking settlement. The bill allows households to exclude a named driver from their policy so that an unsafe driver does not affect the rates of an entire family. Also, SB 54 requires insurers to provide a minimum death benefit and an opt-out offer of medical payments coverage to prospective policyholders so that healthcare providers are timely reimbursed for their care following an accident. SB 54 passed the House 100-16 and the Senate 37-3 on Friday, April 30.
- **SB 72: Florida House votes to protect health care facilities and providers, businesses, schools, nonprofits, and religious institutions.** Health care facilities and providers, businesses, schools, nonprofits, and religious institutions have done their best to stay safe, to stay open, and to serve us during the COVID-19 pandemic. They all confronted changing government guidance, and health care entities experienced personal protective equipment and staffing shortages. They deserve protections from overreaching lawsuits so they can focus on what is important - for health care entities, it's patient and long-term care facility resident health; for businesses, schools, nonprofits, and religious institutions, it's serving their customers, students, and members. SB 72 protects health care entities from being unnecessarily second-guessed while balancing their special duty to patients and residents in their care by maintaining patients' and long-term residents' ability to hold reckless entities accountable. It also provides COVID-19 lawsuit protections for businesses, schools, nonprofits, and religious institutions making good-faith efforts to follow government safety guidelines. SB 72 passed the House 83-31 on Friday, March 26, and the Senate 24-15 on Thursday, March 18, and was signed by the Governor on March 29.
- **SB 90: Florida House votes to expand security, accessibility, and transparency in our elections.** Florida has become a leader in administering elections. To build upon our successes, we must take proactive measures to ensure Florida's ballots remain secure, the election process remains transparent, and that access is maintained for all eligible voters who want to vote. SB 90 (HB 7041) increases ballot security and improves accountability by maintaining drop boxes while requiring better monitoring and placement, prohibiting an individual from possessing more than two ballots unless they are an immediate family member, requiring a request for a vote-by-mail ballot for each general election cycle, and ensuring Canvassing Board Members' names be posted on Supervisor of Election (SOE) websites. The bill also expands transparency by ending the practice of private funds and grants being gifted to election officials to conduct elections, clarifying access to observe and review ballot duplication and signature matching, and requiring election records to be retained for 22 months. SB 90 (HB 7041) passed the House 77-40 and the Senate 23-17 on Thursday, April 29, and was signed by the Governor on Thursday, May 6.



- **SB 2512: Florida House votes to mitigate the effects of flooding, sea level rise, and wastewater.** Flooding, sea level rise, and water quality are critical issues that go hand-in-hand with housing. All of these issues need to be addressed, and housing issues are not being ignored. SB 2512 (HB 5401) helps mitigate the effects of flooding, sea level rise, and wastewater by sharing documentary stamp tax distributions with trust funds dedicated to addressing these issues, and prohibits sweeping the Sadowski Trust Funds to the General Revenue Fund. SB 2512 (HB 5401) passed the House 78-38 on Thursday April 8, and the Senate 25-14 on Wednesday, April 7.

District 23 Weekly Update

- **SB 1028 (HB 51): Florida House votes to expand charter schools and promote fairness in women's sports.** Title IX has empowered girls and women to play sports since 1972 - protecting their right to succeed in sports and in life. This bill maintains opportunities for young female athletes to excel and receive recognition for their athletic accomplishments. SB 1028 (HB 51) - The Fairness in Women's Sports Act - requires interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, and club athletics teams or sports at the public secondary and public postsecondary levels to be designated based on biological sex at birth and reserves female teams for biological women and girls. It ensures that biological women and girls have the opportunity to play on a level playing field and enjoy the benefits that come with competing in sports. Without this bill, female athletes run the risk of being displaced and deprived of athletic scholarships and other benefits that would enhance their futures. This bill also expands access to school choice by allowing state universities and colleges to sponsor charter schools, in addition to school districts, to help meet Florida's workforce and educational needs. SB 1028 (HB 51) passed the House 79-37 and the Senate 23-16 on Thursday, April 28.
- **CS/CS/CS/HB 59- Growth Management:** Requires comprehensive plans & certain land development regulations of municipalities effective after certain date to incorporate certain development orders; requires local governments to include property rights element in their comprehensive plans; provides statement of rights; requires local government to adopt property rights element within specified timeframe; provides that certain property owners are not required to consent to development agreement changes; provides requirements & procedures for right of first refusal; authorizes certain developments of regional impact agreements to be amended. Passed both chambers and is on its way to the Governor for signature.
- **Good News for Marion County:** The amount of money that Marion County received out of the Florida budget for FY 21-22 is \$139,890,504.



COVID-19 Vaccination Information

Publix Vaccine Information

[COVID-19 Vaccine | Publix Super Markets](#)

Marion County COVID-19 Information

[HOME | Covid \(marionflcovid.org\)](#)

Walmart and Sam's Club will begin administering vaccines

[Administering COVID-19 Vaccines \(walmart.com\)](#)

[COVID-19 Resources \(flgov.com\)](#)

[Resources | Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Outbreak \(floridahealthcovid19.gov\)](#)



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