

FSBA

BOARDER-LINE

Official Legislative Bulletin of the
Florida School Boards Association

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SPECIAL SESSION

On Wednesday, the legislature adjourned the Special Session that had been called to trim \$2.4 billion from the 2008-2009 state budget. The final budget package included about \$1.2 billion in spending cuts and taking about \$1.6 billion from the budget stabilization fund and various trust funds. These steps leave a “cushion” of about \$400 million available to address the additional revenue shortfall that are likely before the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The budget has been delivered to Governor Crist, who has until January 29 to act on it.

With respect to the FEFP, the budget reductions codify the 1.93% cut that districts have already implemented – totaling \$355 million statewide – and calls for an additional cut of about \$11 million for a total cut to the FEFP of \$366 million. This represents a 4% cut in the FEFP in total state and local funds, which translates into a total 2% cut for school districts. Another \$100.2 million was cut from non-FEFP allocations, including reductions to the Excellent Teacher program, mentoring programs, K-8 Virtual school programs, and State Board of Education administration allocations. We have created a **Budget Comparison** of key appropriations for 2007-08, 2008-09 3rd Calculation, and 2008-09 **Revised** 3rd Calculation to illustrate these budget reductions. This has been posted on the FSBA website at www.fsba.org along with the revised full FEFP run that was released by the Legislature. (To access, click on “Special Session Education Budget Materials” in the Hot Topics box or use this link: <http://www.fsba.org/briefsupdates.asp#educationbudget>).

The legislature also passed a budget conforming bill – SB 6A – that revises Florida Statutes to align state laws with the policy decisions relating to the budget reductions. SB 6A contains the following provisions:

School Board Salary

The conforming bill amends s. 1001.395, F.S., to authorize district school board members to reduce their salary rate on a voluntary basis. Please note that this DOES NOT change the method or formula for calculating school board member salaries that is set forth in s. 145.19 and s. 1001.395, F.S.

Superintendent and Employee Contracts

The conforming bill amends s. 1001.42, F.S. relating to the powers and duties of school boards and s. 1001.50, F.S. relating to appointed superintendents by adding a new provision that requires that on or after February 1, 2009, a district school board may not enter into an employment contract that is funded from state funds and that requires the district to pay an elected superintendent or an employee an amount in excess of 1 year of the employee’s annual salary for termination, buy-out, or any other type of contract settlement.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Programs

The conforming bill amends ss. 1002.53, 1002.63, and 1002.73, F.S. to repeal the requirement that school districts meet class size requirements in order to offer a school year VPK program. Section

1002.61, F.S. is amended to increase the student-to-teacher ratio from 10 students to 12 students for the summer program beginning in the 2009 summer session. The bill amends s. 1002.71, F.S. to provide for separate Base Student Allocations for regular school year programs and for summer programs. Section 1002.71, F.S. is also amended to provide that funding for students who withdraw for good cause and re-enroll in the same program can not exceed one FTE and that a student who has not substantially completed a VPK program may withdraw due to extreme hardship, re-enroll in one of the summer programs, and be reported for FTE funding. The bill amends the same section to provide that, beginning with the 2009-2010 fiscal year for school-year programs and the 2009 summer program, a student who meets the minimum requirement of 80% attendance of the total number of hours for the program may be reported for full FTE funding. The bill also amends this section to provide that, beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, each early learning coalition may retain no more than 4.85% (previously 5%) for administrative expenses. The conforming bill also provides that a school district may use their automated daily attendance reporting system to transmit attendance records to the early learning coalition. In addition, actions must be taken to reduce paperwork.

Class Size Reduction – Sanctions

The conforming bill amends s. 1003.03(4), F.S. to authorize the Commissioner to waive, in a year when appropriations are reduced, up to 50% (formerly, 10%) of the transfer of funds from operating to facilities appropriations for districts that fail to meet class size limitations.

Financial Emergency

The conforming bill creates s. 1011.051, F.S. to provide that the district school board must maintain an unreserved general fund balance that is sufficient to address normal contingencies. If at any time the unreserved general fund in the district's approved operating budget is projected to fall during the current fiscal year below 3% of projected general fund revenues, the superintendent must provide written notification to the district school board and the Commissioner. If the unreserved general fund in the district's approved operating budget is projected to fall below 2%, the superintendent must provide written notification to the district school board and the Commissioner. Within 14 days after receiving such notification, if the Commissioner determines that the district does not have a plan that is reasonably anticipated to avoid a financial emergency as determined pursuant to 218.503 relating to the determination of financial emergency, the Commissioner must appoint a financial emergency board that shall operate consistent with the requirements, powers, and duties specified in s. 218.503(3)(g).

Instructional Materials

The conforming bill amends s. 1006.40 to waive the requirement that school district to purchase instructional materials within the first 2 years after the effective date of the adoption cycle for the adoption cycle occurring in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Capital Outlay Millage Flexibility

The conforming bill amends s. 1011.71(2)(d), F.S. to provide that, effective July 1, 2008, a school district may expend 1.75 mill funds for the purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of enterprise resource software applications that are classified as capital assets in accordance with definitions of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, have a useful life of at least 5 years, and are used to support district-wide administration or state mandated reporting requirements. The bill also amends s. 1011.71(4) to provide that, effective July 1, 2008, and through June 30, 2010, a school district may expend up to \$100 per unweighted FTE (formerly, \$65) in 1.75 mill funds for the purchase, lease-purchase, or lease of driver's education vehicles, motor vehicles used for the maintenance or operation of plants and equipment, security vehicles, or vehicles used in storing or distributing materials and equipment and for the payment of the cost of premiums for property and casualty insurance. The bill also eliminates the requirements (meeting class size targets and meeting capital outlay needs for the next five years) to be eligible to take advantage of this flexibility.

Merit Award Program

The conforming bill creates an unnumbered section of law to provide that awards for instructional personnel and school-based administrators selected for the Merit Award Program in 2008-2009 shall be paid in 2009-2010 only to the extent that funds are available and specifically appropriated in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Audit Findings

The conforming bill creates an unnumbered section of law to authorize the Commissioner to waive fiscal penalties based on certain audit findings of district expenditures of discretionary capital funds for property and casualty insurance and software. This provision is contingent upon a specified school board dismissing related pending litigation.

We have posted the full conforming bill on the FSBA website. (Click [HERE](#) to access it or use this direct link: <http://www.fsba.org/userfiles/File/FinalConforming.pdf>.)

It is important to emphasize that Florida's economic woes are far from over. In recognition that these were mid-year cuts, the legislature tried to minimize the size of the cuts by using the Budget Stabilization funds and trust fund balances to fill the current year shortfall. However, this means that, given current economic indicators, there will be a general revenue shortfall for 2009-2010 that could easily exceed \$4 billion. Despite some efforts to limit cuts to education, the fact remains that spending for education – Prekindergarten through Postsecondary – consumes the vast majority of the state's general revenue income. This will make it impossible to avoid even more dramatic cuts in education appropriations in the next fiscal year if no new or enhanced revenue sources are identified. Although several legislators from both sides of the aisle have begun to consider identifying new or increased taxes and fees, no clear plan has emerged to date. It is essential that FSBA members and other interested groups contact their legislators during the next two weeks – while they are in their home districts – to urge them to carefully consider all available options to bring in new revenue to support education.

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Interim Committee Meetings

In addition to the recently concluded Special Session, legislators have also been conducting Interim Committee meetings which will resume during the first three weeks of February. These interim meetings lay the groundwork for many of the issues that are likely to take center stage during the 2009 Legislative Session that begins on March 3, 2009. Although budget concerns will be in the forefront, a variety of other education issues are likely to be considered, including voucher programs, charter schools, virtual school programs, career education, impact fees, graduation requirements, dropout prevention, class size requirements, and learning standards. In addition to these topics, FSBA has been working with key legislators, education groups, and other policy leaders to pursue our legislative priorities relating to adequate funding, class size reduction, elimination of unfunded and under-funded mandates, restoration of capital funding options, and local control and flexibility.

Key Legislators & Committees

Senate President Jeff Atwater and House Speaker Ray Sansom have named the chairs, vice chairs and members of the various committees and councils. We have created a list of the key education related committees and attached it at the end of this issue of Boarder-Line. It is important that you familiarize yourself with these committees, note those members who represent your school district, and contact these legislators to discuss issues of concern to school districts.

In addition to the committees listed below, President Atwater has established a Senate Select Committee on Florida's Economy. The mission of the Select Committee is to create incentives and eliminate disincentives to economic recovery and growth and to ensure that government functions

more simply, more transparently, less expensively, and more effectively. The Select Committee will be in existence for two years – the full term of Senator Atwater’s Presidency – and is authorized to develop and propose statutory change and constitutional change that is “hard-wired” to the Senate floor. FSBA believes that there is great potential for this Select Committee to bring about much needed reforms to Florida’s economic and tax structure. We will be monitoring the work if this Committee closely and posting related materials on the FSBA website. We urge our members to take advantage of all opportunities to discuss your concerns about Florida’s economy and its effect on public education. The Select Committee will be soliciting public testimony and has created a website at floridaseconomy@flsenate.gov where Floridians may submit their ideas and concerns. The members of the Select Committee include Senators Don Gaetz (Chair), Jeremy Ring (Vice Chair), JD Alexander, Mike Bennett, Dan Gelber, Mike Haridopolos, Tony Hill, Jim King, Ken Pruitt, Garrett Richter, and Eleanor Sobel.

BILL ACTION

A number of education related bills have been filed for consideration during the legislative session. Below is a list of bills that have been filed thus far that are of particular interest.

HB 7 Driver License Restrictions by Skidmore *(Similar to SB 608 by Lynn)*

Restricts number of passengers permitted in vehicle operated by person under certain age; provides for secondary enforcement; provides citation procedures for violations.

HB 13 Relating to Public K-12 Education by McBurney

Requires Sunshine State Standards for social studies to include emphasis on civics education; requires social studies standards to be included in assessments; requires FCAT to measure student content knowledge and skills in social studies; provides requirements for administration.

HB 17 Public School Attendance by McBurney

Creates Student Preparedness Pilot Program to include Duval County School District as one of selected school districts; allows students 16 to 18 years of age to terminate school enrollment if they meet pilot program requirements for attendance and completion; provides for nontraditional academic options; provides for study and report by OPPAGA. (Identical to SB 520 by Hill)

HB 19 Public K-12 Educational Instruction by Jenne *(Identical SB 268 by Ring)*

Deletes provisions that require schools to teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age students as part of instruction in human sexuality.

SB 70 School Nurses/Epinephrine Auto-injectors by Aronberg

Provides that a district school board may authorize a school nurse to maintain supplies of prefilled epinephrine auto-injectors at schools in the school district. Provides requirements for prescriptions. Authorizes use for emergency treatment, etc.

SB 78 School Grading System by Wilson

Removes letter grades from the performance grade categories by which schools must be identified in the Commissioner of Education's annual report of the results of the statewide assessment program. Conforms provisions to changes made by the act.

SB 80 School Progression and Retention/Reading by Wilson *(Compare to SB 290 by Bullard)*

Revises the components of school district student progression programs. Eliminates guidelines for allocating resources for school district remedial and supplemental instruction. Eliminates mandatory retention requirements for certain students in grade three. Eliminates midyear promotion. Eliminates standards for exemption from mandatory retention. Revises guidelines for remedial reading instruction and intervention strategies, etc.

SB 82 Compulsory School Attendance/Age Requirement by Wilson

Changes the ending age for mandatory school attendance from 16 to 18 years of age.

HB 87 Speed Zones at K-12 Schools by Scionti

Requires installation of traffic and pedestrian control devices at certain K-12 schools unless traffic engineering analysis determines that devices are not necessary.

SB 88 Statewide Educational Assessment Program by Wilson

Requires that the Commissioner of Education receive input as to the statewide educational assessment program from a minimum of two persons recommended by the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and from a minimum of two persons recommended by the Americans with Disabilities Working Group.

SB 92 Students Withdrawing from School by Wilson

Requires that a student who is withdrawing from school be assigned a counselor or other school personnel to provide educational information until the student is 18 years old. Requires 9th graders and students who are withdrawing from school to receive instruction about the effects of withdrawing from high school and certain available options.

SB 94 Teachers/Public Schools/Cost-of-living Increase by Wilson

Requires the Legislature to fund a cost-of-living increase in the General Appropriations Act for teachers who teach prekindergarten through grade 12 in the public school system.

SB 98 Public Schools/Reading Lab for Grades 1-3 by Wilson

Requires that certain students who are enrolled in a public elementary school and reading below grade level be placed into an intensive reading lab. Specifies criteria for such a reading lab. Provides for oversight of the progress of students assigned to a lab. Requires the principal of a public school where students in grades 1 through 3 are enrolled to create, by hiring or training, a team of teachers having expertise in specified areas, etc.

SB 100 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program by Wilson

Revises the number of instructional hours that are required for a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a private kindergarten provider and by a public school. Revises the number of instructional hours that are required in order for a student in a school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public school or a private prekindergarten provider to be considered a full-time equivalent student in the Voluntary Pre-K Education Program.

SB 112 Relating to Cell Phone Use/Operating Vehicles in School Zones by Bullard

Prohibits the use of a cellular telephone while operating a motor vehicle in a school zone. Provides an enhanced penalty.

SB 116 Contributions/Electioneering Communication Organizations by Justice

Limits the amount of contributions to electioneering communication organizations to a specified amount per person or committee.

SB 122 Exceptional Students with a Disability by Constantine

Requires the Department of Children and Family Services, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and residential facilities licensed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to notify certain school districts following the placement of an exceptional student in a private residential care facility. Requires review of the student's individual educational plan. Provides for determining responsibility for educational instruction, etc.

HB 139 Driving Restrictions by Porth

Revises age restrictions on issuance of driver's licenses by DHSMV; prohibits issuance of driver's license to person under certain age unless driver education requirements are met; prohibits person under certain age from operating motor vehicle with more than one passenger and from operating motor vehicle during certain times; provides exceptions; revises age of eligibility for learner's driver's license; provides citation procedures for violation of such restrictions; provides applicability.

SB 146 School Entry Requirements/Swimming Life Skills by Bullard

Requires children who enter public or private schools in the state to present evidence of having completed a class in swimming life skills conducted by a certified instructor. Provides for certain exemptions from the requirement, etc.

HB 157 Service Learning/Public School System by Kriseman (Similar to SB 450 by Fasano)

Requires DOE to encourage school districts to initiate, adopt, expand, and institutionalize service-learning programs, activities, and policies in K-12; provides for department assistance to school districts that elect to implement service-learning activities; requires development and adoption of service-learning courses; authorizes service-learning activities to count toward graduation and academic awards.

HB 175 Local Government Officers and Employees by Soto

Expands eligibility for participation in state group health insurance program and prescription drug coverage program to include all counties, municipalities, special taxing districts, and district school boards rather than only small counties and municipalities and certain school boards; specifies prerequisites and conditions for participation; provides minimum period of enrollment; requires that participating county, municipality, special taxing district, or school board reimburse DMS for its costs, including administrative costs; prohibits county, municipality, special taxing district, or school board from participating in state's plan allowing for pretax treatment of premium contributions; authorizes DMS to adopt rules. (Identical to SB 356 by Justice)

SB 178 AIDS Education Grants/Public School Districts by Wilson

Requires the DOE to award grants to public school districts to implement schools-based AIDS educational activities. Provides for the grant awards to be made from funds appropriated by the Legislature. Specifies requirements for grant proposals by school districts. Requires that the DOE consider specified factors in awarding grants. Requires each school district that receives a grant to file an annual report with the DOE.

SB 190 School-based Health Centers by Wilson

Defines the term "school-based health center" for purposes of the School Health Services Act. Provides that such a center is a health care entity acting as an instrumentality of the state for purposes of certain limitations on liability.

SB 194 School-entry/Vision Examinations by Wilson

Requires children who enter public or private schools in the state to present evidence of having received a comprehensive vision examination. Requires the imposition of a fee on the retail sale of nonprescription eyeglasses. Provides for the fee to be used by the DOH to assist parents in paying for school-entry comprehensive vision examinations. Requires rules for eligibility for and the distribution of funds, etc.

HB 195 Public Employees' Charitable Campaigns by Rouson

Creates Florida Public Employees' Charitable Campaign for public employers residing within identified geographic areas, excluding state and federal employees; requires certain public employers to conduct charitable campaign as sole fundraising drive conducted during work hours; provides for public employee payroll deductions and workplace campaign activities; requires all campaign contributions to be voluntary; provides criteria for application and withdrawal from

campaign; provides that participation must be limited to certain not-for-profit charitable federations and member agencies; excludes certain charitable organizations from participation; provides for selection of fiscal agent; authorizes specified percentage of gross receipts to be withheld to pay costs of public employer and fiscal agent; provides for distribution of contributions.

SB 196 Relating to School Wellness and Physical Education Policies by Wilson

Revises each school district's requirement for reviewing its wellness and physical education policies. Provides specific guidelines for a school district's wellness and physical education policies with regard to nutrition education, physical activity, school-based activities, and nutritional guidelines for food and beverages sold or served on campus, etc.

SB 202 Apportionment and Redistricting by Justice

Proposes amendments to the State Constitution replacing existing provisions providing for legislative apportionment with new provisions that establish standards for legislative reapportionment and congressional redistricting and that provide for the creation of a nine-member commission to prepare an apportionment plan for the state legislature and a redistricting plan for the congressional districts of the state.

SB 214 Hurricane Preparedness/Sales Tax Exemption by Baker

Provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for sales of certain tangible personal property for a certain period. Provides an exception for sales within a public lodging establishment, theme park, entertainment complex, or airport. Authorizes the Department of Revenue to adopt rules. Appropriation: \$311,183.

SB 216 Campaign Financing/Local Government Expenditures by Justice

Defines the terms "local government" and "public funds." Prohibits a local government from expending, and a person or group from accepting, public funds for a political advertisement or electioneering communication concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment that is subject to the vote of the electors. Provides an exception for certain electioneering communications. Clarifies restrictions with respect to local officials.

SB 220 Human Sexuality Education by Deutch *(Identical to HB 265 by Fitzgerald)*

Creates the "Florida Healthy Teens Act." Requires public schools that provide certain information or programs to students concerning human sexuality to provide information that meets specified criteria. Provides a process to review compliance with such requirement. Authorizes parents and guardians to seek review of a school's compliance, etc.

HB 227 Impact Fees by Aubuchon *(Identical to SB 580 by Haridopolos)*

Requires challengers of impact fees to prove specified elements by preponderance of evidence; prohibits courts from using deferential standards that favors either party to such actions.

SB 230 Elections/Qualifying Fee for Write-in Candidates by Wilson

Requires a write-in candidate who seeks to qualify for nomination or election to any office to pay a qualifying fee equal to a specified percentage of the annual salary for the office sought.

SB 232 Full-time Public School Teachers/Minimum Salaries by Wilson

Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to set minimum salaries for new and experienced full-time public school teachers, commencing in 2012. The minimum salary for a new school teacher must be the national average salary for new school teachers. The average salary for experienced teachers must be no less than the national average salary for public school teachers, etc.

SB 252 Local Government/Code of Ethics by Constantine

Specifies standards of conduct for officers and employees of entities serving as the chief administrative officer of a political subdivision. Provides for penalties to be imposed against persons other than lobbyists or public officers and employers for violations of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees. Provides for the Commission of Ethics to report violations to Governor.

SB 254 School Food Service Programs by Siplin

Creates the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Requires the department to work with the Department of Education to recommend policies and rules to the State Board of Education relating to school food services which encourage schools and school districts in this state to buy fresh and local food, etc.

SB 256 Electrical Journeymen/New Construction Sites by Wise

Requires that an electrical journeyman be present on any industrial or commercial new construction site when certain electrical work is being performed.

SB 278 Charter Schools by Gaetz

Provides that a charter technical career center is subject to certain requirements in a financial emergency. Provides for the development of a financial recovery plan, which may be approved by the Commissioner of Education. Provides for duties of a charter school sponsor and governing board if a charter school or charter technical career center experiences a deteriorating financial condition or is in a financial emergency, etc.

SB 290 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test by Bullard *(Compare to SB 80 by Wilson)*

Removes the requirement that a district school board adopt policies for meeting class size maximums which allow a student to graduate from high school if the student passes the grade 10 FCAT. Removes the requirement that a student earn a passing score on the FCAT or alternative assessment to graduate from high school. Removes the requirement that a student pursuing an accelerated 3-year high school graduation earn a passing score, etc.

SB 302 Slot Machine Revenue Tax/K-12 Education Funding by Sobel

Provides that funds derived from the slot machine revenue tax, which are transferred to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, be used only to supplement funding for K-12 public education.

SB 330 School Health Services by Wilson

Cites this act as the "One School, One Nurse Act." Provides legislative intent and purpose relating to public-private partnerships for the provision of school nurse services. Provides duties of the DOH and the DOE. Provides a process for a community to submit a proposal to receive matching funds. Provides for the scope of services to be provided. Provides review and selection criteria. Provides legislative intent relating to funding the act. Appropriation: \$75,000.

SB 346 High School Graduation Requirements/Health Education by Justice

Provides for a mandatory one-half credit in health education, independent of physical education credit requirements, for high school students who enter their first year of high school in 2008-2009. Provides a waiver for students who request to take and successfully complete a health education assessment developed by DOE. Reduces the number of credits in elective courses.

SB 390 Public School Dress Requirements by Siplin

Prohibits a student from exposing below-waist underwear in a specified manner while on the grounds of a public school.

SB 396 Sales Tax Exemption/Books/Clothing/School Supplies by Baker

Specifies a period during which the sale of books, clothing, and school supplies is exempt from the sales, use, and other transactions tax. Provides definitions and exceptions. Authorizes the Department of Revenue to adopt rules. APPROPRIATION: \$240,312.

SB 398 District and School Advisory Councils/Members by Sobel

Provides that a majority of the members of a school advisory council not be employed by the school.

SB 404 Commissioner of Education by Sobel

Authorizes the Commissioner of Education, upon the request of a district school board, to waive the final examination requirement for a student who meets certain criteria.

SB 406 School Safety/Zero Tolerance by Sobel

Revises a provision relating to a policy of zero tolerance to include the victimization of teachers and other school personnel. Clarifies a provision that requires students who have committed certain felony offenses to be expelled.

HB 409 Personal Identifying & Health Information/Education Employees by Jones

Provides exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information of employees of public educational institutions in state, and spouses and children of such employees, and for personal health information of such employees, and spouses and children of such employees, held by public educational institution pursuant to employee's participation in group health insurance plan; provides for disclosure of personal identifying information under specified circumstances; provides for future review and repeal and provides statement of public necessity.

SB 530 Florida Education Finance Program/Requirements by Lynn

Revises provisions relating to the minimum requirements that each school district must meet to participate in the Florida Education Finance Program. Revises the term "full-time equivalent student" to conform to changes made by the act.

SB 534 Defined Contribution Retirement Program by Fasano

Changes the name of the Public Employee Optional Retirement Program to the Public Employee Retirement Investment Program. Limits the option of enrolling in the defined benefit program or defined contribution program to public employees employed before January 1, 2010. Requires employees employed on or after January 1, 2010, to enroll in the defined contribution program, etc.

SB 544 Class Size Requirements/Extracurricular Courses by Sobel

Redefines the term "extracurricular courses."

SB 592 Automated External Defibrillators/Public Schools by Constantine

Requires public schools to have an automated external defibrillator on school grounds. Encourages public and private partnerships to assist with the cost of the defibrillators.

SB 598 Schools/Funds for Operation by Baker

Revises provisions relating to the computation of the statewide adjusted aggregate amount for the required local effort millage rate of each school district.

SB 602 Prekindergarten Instructors/Credentials by Fasano

Provides legislative findings. Requires that prekindergarten instructors meet certain educational goals by a specified period.

SB 606 Florida Prepaid College Program by Wise

Revises provisions relating to the transfer of benefits received from the Florida Prepaid College Program to private and out-of-state colleges and universities and to career centers. Amends a provision relating to professional guardians.

SB 616 Public Construction Projects by Haridopolos

Revises exceptions to the requirement that certain public projects be competitively awarded. Requires a local government to support a decision to perform a project with its own employees and to make a factual finding that the project cost will be the same or less than the lowest bid. Provides additional exceptions for projects related to public-use airports, certain ports, and certain public transit systems, etc.

SB 630 Impact Fees/Moratorium on Imposition or Collection by Bennett

Provides for a 3-year moratorium on the imposition or collection of impact fees by a county or municipality. Provides for future expiration of the moratorium.

SB 732 Surplus Public Funds by Smith

Requires that the Chief Financial Officer and local governments deposit surplus funds in financial instruments insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation rather than in certificates of deposit.

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Important Legislative Dates

January 12-16, 2009	Interim Committee Meetings
February 1-3, 2009	Federal Relations Network Conference
February 2-6, 2009	Interim Committee Meetings
February 9-13, 2009	Interim Committee Meetings
February 16-20, 2009	Interim Committee Meetings
March 3, 2009	2009 Legislative Session Convenes
March 18-19, 2009	FSBA Day In the Legislature Conference
May 1, 2009	2008 Legislative Session Adjourns

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FLORIDA SENATE

President: Jeff Atwater

President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano

COMMITTEES OF INTEREST

(Note: Senate committees are grouped under Policy and Steering Committees)

POLICY & STEERING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chair: Ken Pruitt

Vice Chair: Charlie Justice

Committee on Education PreK - 12

Chair: Nancy Detert

Vice Chair: Frederica Wilson

Members: Larcenia Bullard, Lee Constantine, Don Gaetz, Eleanor Sobel, Ronda Storms, Stephen Wise

POLICY & STEERING COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Chair: JD Alexander

Vice Chair: Ted Deutch

Members: Thad Altman, Carey Baker, Victor Crist, Mike Fasano, Don Gaetz, Rudy Garcia, Dan Gelber, Mike Haridopolos, Tony Hill, Sr., Charlie Justice, Al Lawson, Jr., Evelyn Lynn, Durell Peaden, Jr., Ken Pruitt, Nan Rich, Gary Siplin, Alex Villalobos, Frederica Wilson, Stephen Wise

Committee on Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations

Chair: Steve Wise

Vice Chair: Gary Siplin

Members: Mike Bennett, Larcenia Bullard, Nancy Detert, Rudy Garcia, Ken Pruitt, Garrett Richter

Committee on Finance and Tax

Chair: Thad Altman

Vice Chair: Charlie Justice

Members: Mike Bennett, Ken Pruitt, Jeremy Ring

POLICY & STEERING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Chair: Don Gaetz

Vice Chair: Jeremy Ring

Committee on Banking and Insurance

Chair: Garrett Richter

Vice Chair: Chris Smith

Members: JD Alexander, Mike Bennett, Mike Fasano, Al Lawson, Jeremy Ring, Ronda Storms, Alex Villalobos

POLICY & STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE

Chair: Lee Constantine

Vice Chair: Nan Rich

Committee on Community Affairs

Chair: Mike Bennett

Vice Chair: Gary Siplin

Members: Thad Altman, Ted Deutch, Rudy Garcia, Andy Gardiner, Tony Hill, Jeremy Ring, Ronda Storms, Stephen Wise

POLICY & STEERING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Chair: Mike Haridopolos

Vice Chair: Dave Aronberg

Committee on Ethics and Elections

Chair: JD Alexander

Vice Chair: Charlie Justice

Members: Carey Baker, Alex Diaz de la Portilla, Mike Fasano, Andy Gardiner, Arthenia Joyner, Nan Rich, Garrett Richter

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker: Ray Sansom

Speaker Pro Tempore: Larry Cretul

COUNCILS & COMMITTEES OF INTEREST

(Note: House committees are grouped under Councils)

SCHOOLS & LEARNING COUNCIL

Chair: Faye Culp

Vice Chair: Marti Coley

Members: Charles Chestnut, Anitere Flores, Bill Heller, Martin Kiar, John Legg, Seth McKeel, Stephen Precourt, William Proctor, Betty Reed

PreK-12 Policy Committee

Chair: John Legg

Vice Chair: Anitere Flores

Members: Dwight Bullard, Rachel Burgin, Clay Ford, Erik Fresen, Mia Jones, Martin Kiar, Rick Kriseman, Charles McBurney, Scott Plakon, Kelli Stargel, Ritch Workman

State & Community Colleges & Workforce Policy Committee

Chair: Seth McKeel

Vice Chair: Will Weatherford

Members: Leonard Bembry, Brad Drake, Tom Grady, Kurt Kelly, Bryan Nelson, Kevin Rader, Betty Reed, Richard Steinberg, John Tobia, Michael Weinstein

FULL APPROPRIATIONS COUNCIL ON EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair: David Rivera

Vice Chair: Marti Coley

Members: Ronald Brisé, Charles Chestnut IV, Faye Culp, Greg Evers, Anitere Flores, Joseph Gibbons, Richard Glorioso, Eduardo Gonzalez, Bill Heller, Evan Jenne, Martin Kiar, John Legg, Seth McKeel, Dave Murzin, Stephen Precourt, William Proctor, Ron Reagan, Ron Saunders, Geraldine Thompson, Will Weatherford

PreK-12 Appropriations Committee

Chair: Anitere Flores

Vice Chair: John Legg

Members: Ellyn Bogdanoff, Dwight Bullard, Gwendolen Clarke-Reed, Erik Fresen, Martin Kiar, Kelli Stargel

State & Community Colleges & Workforce Appropriations Committee

Chair: Will Weatherford

Vice Chair: Seth McKeel

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