

The Dean Document

2012 Legislative Session

Greetings from Tallahassee!

Week seven of the 2012 Legislative Session comes to an end while setting the stage for budget negotiations beginning next week with the House of Representatives. This is a result of the Florida Senate completing a lot of hard work Thursday evening as we passed our version of the state budget.

Every year, legislators are required, by law, to produce a balanced budget. Totaling \$70.7 billion, the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget accomplishes this feat. As the recession continues, it is paramount to do what is right and not burden Florida taxpayers who are struggling to stay in their homes and pay their bills. This budget, although not perfect, does not raise taxes or fees while still providing the basic services which keeps the state running. As conference committees begin next week with the House, I look forward to working with my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to create a responsible, affordable, balanced budget.

Other action this week included the passage of Senate Bill 996 on Wednesday, relating to Property Fraud. SB 996 prohibits a person from filing fraudulent claims on real or personal property which would result in a third degree felony. Also passing this week was SB 806, relating to Enterprise Zones. This bill authorizes Citrus County to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for designation of an enterprise zone. It is now headed to the Budget Committee.

Once again, thank you for taking time to read this weekly update. Should you have any questions or would like to express your thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Sincerely,

Tax Exemption to Help Florida Farms

Senator Gary Splin (D-Orlando) has sponsored Senate Bill 592, which provides a sales tax exemption for electricity used by fresh fruit and vegetable packinghouses. This bill specifies the tax exemption does not apply to electricity used in buildings or structures where agricultural products are sold at retail.

A packinghouse is a facility where fresh fruits and vegetables are cleaned, sorted, sized, and packaged prior to distribution to markets and stores. Current law exempts electricity used directly or indirectly for production or processing of agricultural products on a farm from the sales and use tax.

Senator Splin stated, “The Senate Agricultural Committee heard testimony earlier this year from citrus packers who stated how this exemption would increase their productivity and ability to hire more employees.” This bill will be heard next in the Senate Budget Committee before being heard on the Senate Floor.



SB 996 Protecting Your Property

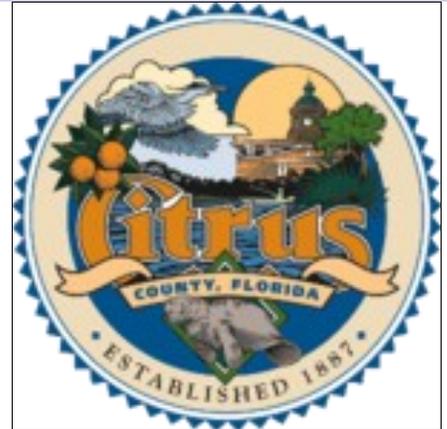
On Wednesday, the Senate Criminal Justice Committee unanimously gave its approval to Senator Charlie Dean’s Senate Bill 996. SB 996 makes it a third degree felony to intentionally create a fraudulent interest in real or personal property. A person commits the offense if they defraud another person, files or causes to be filed any document against property containing a intentional material misstatement, misrepresentation, or omission of fact.



Senate Bill 996’s last committee stop is the Senate Budget Committee. Its companion, House Bill 1331, was passed unanimously by the Florida House of Representatives on Thursday. Many legislators have shown their enthusiasm for this good bill, including Senator Mike Bennett, the Senate President Pro Tempore, to exclaim, “Absolutely!” when voting on the bill in the Criminal Justice Committee.

One Step Closer For Citrus County

The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax voted Senate Bill 806 favorably by a 4-0 vote on Thursday. SB 806, sponsored by Senator Dean, would allow Citrus County to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for an enterprise zone with an application deadline of December 31, 2012. If passed, this bill would place Citrus County on the same playing field with counties in its area including Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter.



An enterprise zone is designed to encourage economic development and restoration in blighted or economically depressed communities by a combination of state and local business incentives to encourage these zones. Many local councils including the Citrus County Economic Development Council, the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, and the Citrus County Tourism Development Council have all thrown their support behind Senate Bill 806.

Who Stopped by this week to Senate Office Building 302

- Chiefland Middle School
- Secretary Walters of Department of Juvenile Justice
- Children's Homeless Society of Florida
- Florida Gateway College Student Government Association
- AMI Kids of Suwannee County
- Florida Police Chiefs Association
- Florida Professional Firefighters
- Florida Education Association Members of Marion and Citrus County





THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS

Senate District 3 Staff

Legislative Aides:

Inverness Office

Judy Wells
Janet Oehmig

Tallahassee Office

Travis Hart
Nicholas Abrahams

Deputy Legislative Aides:

Drew Aldikacti
Steven Schwartz

Legislative Interns:

Betsy Boyce
Haley Hickman
Kyle Champagne
Blake Johnston
Kathryn Ingler
Stephen Davis
Madeline Rosenfeldt
Brock Magruder
Allison Kraemer
Ashley Paine*
Intern of the Week *



Senator Dean with FEA Members from
Citrus and Marion County



AFSCME Florida Council 79



Florida Professional Firefighters



Chiefland Middle School

Find ME on Facebook and Twitter :

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charles-S-Dean/293492737381172?ref=tn_tnmn



<https://twitter.com/#!/CharlieDeanSD3>

302 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee FL 32399 | 850-487-5017