



# Senator Wilton Simpson

## *Weekly Update*

Senate District 18

Friends,

Today marks the start of Florida's 2013 Legislative Session. Last week gave me a break from committee meetings, and I took advantage of the time to meet with constituents, participate in various events, and to do some research.



View of the Everglades from the helicopter.

On Monday, I had the opportunity to tour Florida's Everglades by helicopter with the South Florida Water Management District. It was both an exciting, and an eye-opening experience to see firsthand the beauty, and the issues that we face with this natural treasure's fragile ecosystems.

I spent the day Tuesday at my Brooksville district office meeting with constituents on topics ranging from virtual education, to economic development. On

Thursday, I had the pleasure of touring Micro Matic, a manufacturing business located near Brooksville Regional Airport in Hernando County. I was very impressed with the facility, and was interested to hear about how the company is growing and working to add more jobs to their business. Thursday afternoon, I was honored to announce the firm who will be constructing the new Boys & Girls Club facility in



Touring Micro Matic's Southeast headquarters in Brooksville, FL.



Boys & Girls Club announcement in Lacochee, FL.

Lacochee on behalf of the organization, to members of the community and to those who helped make the new location a reality. This new club location will give children in Lacochee and in East Pasco a place for safe extracurricular learning, recreation, and various crucial life skills programs.

Friday morning, I filed Senate Bill 1392, which aims to revamp Florida's current retirement system by adding choices for many State employees. Friday afternoon, I made my television programming debut on Friday as a guest



on Florida This Week, hosted by Rob Lorei and aired on WEDU. During this segment I was part of a panel with fellow state legislators, where we discussed topics ranging from healthcare to jobs growth.

Regards,  
Wilton

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## Senator Simpson Files Retirement Bill

Tallahassee, Fla. — On Friday, March 1st, Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) filed Senate Bill 1392, aimed at revamping Florida's current retirement system.

“This bill allows the Senate to start a meaningful conversation with the House of Representatives regarding the future of the State of Florida's Retirement System,” said Senator Simpson. “By creating incentives for employees to opt into the investment plan, the choice to have more control over individual retirement savings remains in the hands of the employee. This will ultimately help us to increase the pension fund's long-term sustainability and give more of our state employees the option of having control of their own financial future just as their peers do in the private sector. These are common sense changes that respect the retirement choices of our hardworking employees.”

“Our heroes in law enforcement, our brave firefighters, and our teachers who brighten the futures of so many children and all of our hardworking public sector employees will continue to have a choice when it comes to their retirement options under this legislation.”

The Senate bill makes four changes, effective January 1, 2014:

- 1) All newly hired employees in the Regular and Special Risk Classes who have never previously participated in the state retirement system continue to have a choice between the pension plan and the investment plan. If the new member fails to make an active election, the member will default into the Investment Plan.
- 2) All newly elected officials and newly hired employees within the Senior Management Service Class who have never previously participated in the FRS will be required to enroll in the investment plan.
- 3) The vesting period for the pension plan will be increased from eight years to ten years for members initially enrolling on or after January 1, 2014. The vesting period for the investment plan will remain one year.
- 4) Beginning January 1, 2014, all employees participating in the investment plan will contribute 2% of their salary towards retirement. Employees participating in the pension plan will continue to contribute 3%.

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## **2013 Legislative Session**

Start: Tuesday, March 5, 2013  
10:00 AM – The Capitol

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