



Senator Wilton Simpson

Weekly Update

Senate District 18

February 11th – February 15th, 2013

Friends,

Last week in Tallahassee I filed Senate Bill 716, the Military Protection Act of 2013. Attorney General Pam Bondi brought me this legislation with the goal of simplifying, clarifying and modernizing the law governing consumer protection, while also extending the existing protections in the deceptive and unfair trade practices act to cover military service members and their families. I'm proud to have filed this bill to help protect our servicemen and servicewomen and their families.

Two weeks ago, my bill SB 338, Theft of Utility Services, unanimously passed with bipartisan support through the Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities Committee. This Tuesday I will be presenting SB 338 to the Criminal Justice committee.

Please visit my webpage at <http://flsenate.gov/Senators/s18> where you can sign up to get my media alerts in real time, see more details about the bills that I have filed, and track them to see how they progress through committees. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your questions or concerns at: simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov.

Regards,
Wilton

Senator Simpson Files Military Protection Act

Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) has filed Senate Bill 716, the Military Protection Act of 2013. "This legislation was brought to me by Attorney General Pam Bondi," said Senator Simpson. "The goal of Chapter 501, Florida Statutes, is to simplify, clarify and modernize the law governing consumer protection. This bill will extend the existing protections in the deceptive and unfair trade practices act to cover military service members and their families."

"I fully support enhanced penalties for those who specifically target members of the military and their families with deceptive and unfair practices. Our military

members and their families make great sacrifices for our country, and this legislation better protects them here at home," said Attorney General Bondi.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittees Continue to Push Toward Session

During this past week's committee meetings, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittees continued their intensive review of government agencies' base budgets in order to prepare for the drafting of the 2013-2014 General Appropriations Act. The goal of the review is to provide all Senators, new and returning, with a complete understanding of what is included in the base budget so that each Senator can be equipped with the information necessary to make decisions on what priorities should be funded moving forward. Next week will conclude the Senate's Intensive Budget Review before the 2013 Legislative Session begins on March 5.

Additionally on Tuesday, the Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development unanimously passed a bill that facilitates improvement to Florida's economy and continued decreases to our unemployment rate. Sponsored by Senator Nancy Detert (R- Venice), SB 224 establishes several provisions related to the Florida Small Business Development Center Network which links state economic development efforts with those of higher education.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Education reviewed the implementation of university incentive funding required by House Bill 7135, which passed through the Legislature in 2012. Among other things, the bill created a pilot project to establish performance funding (\$15 million) for certain computer science and information technology degree programs offered by universities.

Meet the Staff of Senate District 18: Patty Harrison

Patty Harrison serves as District Office Manager for the Brooksville satellite office in historic downtown Brooksville. She is a native Floridian from the Tampa Bay area. Patty has over 41 years of experience working in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Florida government. She has served under two Florida House members, and two members of the Florida Senate. Patty has served on many community boards, including boards on correctional advisory and mental health. Feel free to visit Patty at the district office located at 10 West Jefferson Street in Brooksville, or reach her by phone at (352) 540-6074. She will be glad to assist you with any information, questions, or concerns.

2013 Committee Week Schedule

February 2013 - Week of the 18th
Session Begins: March 5th 2013

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