News You Can Use from State Senator Audrey Gibson

2019 Legislative Session in Review
Week 8
April 22-26, 2019

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Dear Constituent and Friend,

The process of matching up the House and Senate spending plans began in full this week. Both spending plans must match-up and balance before the budget is sent to the Governor, who can either sign, line item veto, or veto entirely. We also continue to discuss and vote on legislation important to our state. To track legislation, please click here www.flsenate.gov.

My bills this week:
I'm excited that Governor DeSantis has signed **SB 64: Transportation Facility Designations/Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway**. A marker can now be erected designating I-295 between Alta Drive and Pulaski Road as the "Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway."

My **Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams** legislation unanimously passed the Senate floor and is now heading to the House!

Other bills of interest this week:
SB 302: Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services by Senator Jeff Brandes: authorizes a transportation network company authorizes a transportation network company like Uber or Lyft or a transportation broker under contract with a Medicaid managed care plan, or with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) directly, to provide Medicaid nonemergency transportation services. All drivers must undergo a background screening as determined by AHCA. This will likely create more available trips for medical visits.

On the Senate floor:
SB 354: Immunization Registry by Senator Bill Montford: directs doctors, nurses and other practitioners to report vaccination data to the Department of Health (DOH) immunization registry when vaccinating, children up to 18 years of age or college or university students at a college or university health center who are 19 to 23 years of age. A parent or guardian of a child up to 18 years of age or a college or university student 19 to 23 years of age can opt out of being included in the immunization registry. For more detailed information on this important legislation visit here.

SB 426: Firefighters by Senator Anitere Flores: makes firefighters who are diagnosed with certain cancers eligible to receive certain disability or death benefits. Under the bill, cancer treatment for firefighters' will be covered by an employer-sponsored health plan, and ensure a one-time cash payout of $25,000, upon the firefighter's initial diagnosis. To be eligible for the benefit the individual must:

- Be employed full-time as a firefighter
- Be employed by the state or a university, city, county, port authority, special district, or fire control district
- Have been employed for at least five continuous years
- Not have used tobacco products for at least the preceding five years
- Not have been employed in any other position which is proven to create a higher risk for cancer in the preceding five years before diagnosis.

For additional information click here.

If you have questions or comments, about these or other bills being considered this session, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6

Week 8 in the Senate!

Senate "Page" this week Brandon Griggs of Jacksonville, FL

NAACP Day at the Capitol with James Morton, Jacksonville Branch NAACP Assistant Treasurer and Ricky Anderson, Executive Committee Member

Joined by Representatives Scott Plakon and Matt Willhite at the Alzheimer's Association Brain Bus Tour

Also tune into these stations between 6 am-6 pm Mon to Fri to watch legislative action: www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority or WJCT-TV-Comcast channel 212, or WJCT-DT 7.4 or WUFT-TV-Comcast channel 210, Digital Channel 5.2 or Cox 13.