



CAPITOL BEEZ



STATE SENATOR KEVIN RADER, DISTRICT 29

PRE-SESSION UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and a fantastic start to the new decade! On even-numbered years Legislative Session begins on the second Tuesday of January, making open day January 14, 2020. I will proudly be representing our community during this time in our Capitol and will be issuing my weekly Capitol Buzz to keep you updated. However, I urge you to use the Florida Senate user-friendly website, www.FLSenate.gov, which allows you to follow the legislative process from afar. Below I will be highlighting two pieces of legislation I have proposed for the 2020 Legislative Session that made some headway during Committee Weeks.

As always, feel free to contact my office with any issues or concerns.

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

January 14, 2020

Legislative Session Opening Day

January 14-15, 2020

Palm Beach County Days

January 20, 2020

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21-22, 2020

Broward Days

January 27, 2020

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

SB 364 INDEPENDENT LIVING TASK FORCE

I have refiled this bill due to the significant necessity for affordable, permanent, and supportive housing for our citizens with developmental disabilities or a mental illness.

SB 364 creates a task force charged with developing and evaluating policy proposals that incentivize developers or contractors to create units within mixed-use developments that may be used as low-cost, supportive, and affordable housing for individuals who have a disability defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, while giving special consideration to the needs of individuals who have a developmental disability or a mental illness. I am happy to report that it has unanimously passed both the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and Community Affairs Committees. I look forward to presenting this bill in the Rules Committee and then in the Florida Senate Chamber.

SB 444 CUSTOMER SERVICE STANDARDS FOR STATE AGENCIES

Several constituents have expressed frustration with their experience contacting various Florida Departments. They have spent an excessive amount of time on hold and, at times, been hung up on due to confusion with the automated telephone menu options. To me, this is unacceptable, and the departments should be made accessible to those it serves, and therefore, I have proposed this bill. It requires all Florida State Departments to have a telephone system in place, which allows a caller to press "0" to be connected to a live operator or to be provided with a call-back option. I am happy to report that it passed the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee unanimously during the last committee week.

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