



Good Morning!

As we approach the final weeks of the 2019 Legislative Session, the Florida Senate continues our work to advance important legislation to address the most pressing issues facing our state. One of the most important issues to me is the safety of my constituents and the citizens of Florida.

This week I continued my efforts to address the gaps in safety regulations governing higher speed rail operations. During the Senate Ethics and Elections confirmation hearing for Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin Thibault I pressed him on when FDOT will implement the recommendations specified in the [Office of Public Policy and Government Accountability \(OPPAGA\) Florida Passenger Rail System Study](#):

- Create a review process to certify new passenger rail lines.
- Set minimum grade crossing design standards.
- Set requirements for fencing along railroad corridors.
- Create guidelines for sealed corridor treatment along railroad corridors.
- Develop a methodology for analytically evaluating grade crossing closures.

You may watch my discussion with Secretary Thibault in full on the [Florida Senate website](#) located at 1:36 hours.

This week the Brevard County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of my efforts and encouraged Governor Ron DeSantis and FDOT to implement the recommendations listed above.

Thank you Chairwoman Kristine Isnardi and Commissioners John Tobia, Rita Pritchett and Curt Smith for your commitment to the safety of our constituents.

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Legislation Update

This week in **Committee**:

On Monday, [SB 1180: Consumer Protection from Nonmedical Changes to Prescription Drug Formularies](#) was presented to the Health Policy Committee. This proposal amends the Insurance Code to provide additional consumer protections. This bill requires a 60 day notice be issued to the consumer and their healthcare provider prior to any change to their prescription drug formulary during a policy year. Under this bill a treating physician may seek continuation of a prescription drug taken off a formulary by certifying its medically necessary for their patient. The bill also prohibits an insurer or HMO from reclassifying a drug to a more restrictive tier, increasing the cost sharing of an insured, or reclassifying a drug to higher cost-sharing tier during the policy year. This bill was considered favorable and will now go to the Rules Committee.

On Tuesday, I presented [SB 1278: Biosolids Management](#) to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. This bill specifies regulation for biosolids management in order to minimize the migration of harmful nutrients that impair our water bodies. The bill also calls for innovative technologies in biosolids processing to be implemented as a means of protecting our water resources and water quality. This legislation requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopt rules for biosolids management to include stringent land application rates and monitoring requirements. This will ensure that nitrogen and phosphorus do not impair our water quality. The bill was considered favorable and will now go to the Appropriations Committee for consideration.

On Thursday, [SB 426: Firefighters Cancer Coverage](#) was presented to the Appropriations Committee by Senator Anitere Flores. This bill offers insurance and death benefits for firefighters diagnosed with cancer. This legislation has passed unanimously in all three committee stops and will now go to the Senate Floor. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill and look forward to SB 426 becoming law so that our firefighters and their families will have the support they need.

Please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for live updates on this legislation and more.

From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis

Governor DeSantis received [SB 7016: State-Administered Retirement System](#) from the Florida Legislature this week. This bill establishes the contribution rates paid by employers participating in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). These rates are intended to fund the full normal cost and the amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability of the FRS.

The Governor has until April 16, 2019 to act on this bill. He can sign the bill into law or veto the bill. If no action is taken by April 16th, the bill will become law without his signature. If the Governor chooses to veto a bill, the Legislature can overturn the veto by a two thirds vote of both chambers. [Contact Governor DeSantis's Office](#) if you have any questions or concerns about legislation he has received.

This week Governor Ron DeSantis also signed the following bills into law:

[SB 180: Lost or Abandoned Personal Property](#) allows an owner or operator of a theme park, entertainment complex, zoo, museum, aquarium, public food service establishment, or public lodging establishment to elect to dispose of or donate lost or abandoned property found on its premises. The bill also notes that the rightful owner of the property may reclaim it at any time before its disposal or donation.

[SB 212](#) which extends the sunset provision for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. In collaboration with other states in our nation, the compact addresses educational transition issues for children of military families.

District Highlights

FDOT Public Workshop: Babcock St Corridor Planning

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is hosting a public workshop for the Babcock Street Corridor Planning Study in Brevard County.

The study, which is the first phase in the transportation development process, is evaluating current multimodal conditions and possible enhancements to a three mile stretch along Babcock Street (SR 507), from Palm Bay Road to New Haven Avenue (US 192). FDOT will be presenting their initial findings related to existing and future conditions and take input from interested parties.

The public workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 16, 2019**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Melbourne City Hall (900 E Strawbridge Ave, Melbourne). The meeting will be an informal open house during which attendees may view project information and speak with FDOT team members to ask questions and provide input.

Information about this project is also available online at www.CFLRoads.com. Written comments may be submitted no later than April 26, 2019 to Ennis Davis, AICP, 719 South Woodland Blvd, Deland, FL 32720 or email at ennis.davis@fdot.state.fl.us.

Vero Beach Children's Art Festival

The Vero Beach Museum of Art is hosting the Children's Art Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on **Saturday, April 27th**.

The Festival will be celebrating the Vero Beach Centennial with art-making, local youth performances, open art galleries and interactive play. The Museum's exhibition, Victorian Radicals, will be open for view and will include a dramatic storytelling performance by the "Mad Hatter" and his friends.

The Vero Beach Museum of Art, established in 1978, provides cultural leadership to the Treasure Coast by presenting exhibitions, collecting exceptional works of art and offering diverse programs in art education.

This event is open to the public and free to attend. For more information contact Sophie Bentham Wood at (772) 231-0707 or visit VBMuseum.org.

Nana's House Grand Opening

Yesterday [Nana's House](#) in West Melbourne hosted their Grand Opening Celebration and Family Fun Day.

Nana's House is a group children's home for neglected, abused, needy, or abandoned children ages newborn to 11 years old. Nana's House provides a healthy, safe and loving home to these children until their natural home is stabilized or until permanent care can be arranged.

Nana's House is a non-profit organization that relies on donations and volunteers to support their mission. The public is also invited to shop or donate gently used items to Nana's House Babcock Thrift Store located at 4490 S Babcock St, Melbourne.

For more information or to learn how you can get involved visit NanasChildrenHome.com or call (321) 724-5111.

Public Meeting: Registered Behavioral Technician Rates

Recently, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) proposed changes to provider enrollment, service authorization, electronic visit verification and payment for Registered Behavioral Technicians (RBT) enrolled in the Florida Medicaid program. This included a dramatic reimbursement rate reduction for RBTs.

Following inquiry by my office, AHCA has postponed any behavior analysis rate changes. AHCA has announced that they will be conducting a [series of statewide public meetings](#) to engage with interested parties "*to ensure that Medicaid recipients are receiving the right service, from the right provider, at the right time.*"

Thursday, April 18, 2019 10:30 a.m.

AHCA, Medicaid Field Office
400 W. Robinson St., Ste N109 A&B (North Tower)
Orlando, Florida 32801

Friday, April 19, 2019 10:30 a.m.

Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Public Health Laboratories
1217 N. Pearl Street
Jacksonville, FL 322202

In addition to the meetings listed above, AHCA will be hosting a series of rulemaking workshops to allow providers the opportunity to offer input on behavioral analysis coverage policies and fee schedules. For more information please visit AHCA.MyFlorida.com.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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