

State Senator Audrey Gibson

Session in Review - Week 7

April 17-21, 2017



Dear Constituent and Friend,

This week in Jacksonville, several Senators and I attended an event designed to familiarize legislative and business leaders with the capabilities of the F-35 Lightning II and the benefits of basing a fleet of the stealth fighters in Jacksonville.

As Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security committee, I believe the F-35 Lightning II is the future of The Florida National Guard 125th Fighter Wing, since it is the most technologically advanced aircraft in the world. If the planes call the state of Florida home, they will bring more than 14,000 jobs to the state and have more than a \$3 billion economic impact. The Florida National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville is primed and ready to be the next Air National Guard F-35 base. The 125th Fighter Wing fulfills critical missions to safeguard airspace over the southeastern United States and deploys to protect our national security interests aboard. The addition of the F-35 will enhance their critical mission.



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Email Senator Gibson

My bills presented in committee this week:

SB 1576: Florida Film Investment Corporation, creates a mechanism to bring film production jobs in Florida and maximize film-induced tourism in our state. The motion picture industry began in Jacksonville, and Florida has always been a place where movies are made. Now many movies are produced in Georgia, a state with strong incentive programs, rather than Florida. The bill would create an investment program not incentives, through a one-time infusion of funds. An appointed board would determine those projects that have the most promise of repaying an advance plus just under 20% interest.

Why should we lose Florida stories like "Hidden Figures" which storyline happened in Florida, to filming in Georgia on a "fake" Florida set. Go figure!

SB 1580: Admission of Children and Adolescents to Mental Health Facilities, requires a receiving facility to start an evaluation under the Baker Act within 12 hours of a child's arrival, for children 10 and younger. The bill addresses an unfortunate situation that happened in Jacksonville when a 6 year old who was held for 3 days on a psychiatric ward and according to his parents 'merely had a temper-tantrum'. The bill would also establish a task force to study several timeline and notice requirements.

On the Senate Floor:

CS/CS/SB 1124: Newborn Screenings, is a preventive program in the state to identify, diagnose, and manage newborns for selected disorders that, without detection treatment, can lead to permanent developmental and physical damage or death. Florida's Newborn Screening Program conducts screening for 53 disorders on all newborns for metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result in significant impairment of health. The bill adds screenings listed on the federal Recommended Uniform Screening (RUSP) and Genetic and Newborn Screening Advisory Council (GNSAC) to the state's Newborn Screening Program.

I was happy to support this bill on the Senate Floor, for the health and well-being of our little ones!

As we continue through Session, I will keep you informed of various issues that will come before us. If you have questions or comments 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

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Session snapshots:



With Senator Victor Torres - District 15 Osceola and Orange Counties at Florida Air National Guard 125th Fighter Wing



Getting information on flying the F-15



Elizabeth Ryon, Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Staff Director



F-35 Lightning II cockpit simulator demo