



***Dear Constituent and Friend:***

As the New Year began, so did the 2020 Florida Legislative Session. My colleagues and I have been working hard to bring forth legislation that will be suitable and fair for all of Florida’s citizens. The past two weeks have been action-packed!

Along with committee meetings, press conferences, rallies, interviews, constituent and advocacy group meetings, I offered, for consideration a response to the Governor’s State of the State.

[To view my full response, click HERE.](#)



*Supporters from Jacksonville rallying for Teacher's Pay in Tallahassee*



*Florida Pharmacists and Student Pharmacists*



*Senate Pages including Jaylen Walker from Jacksonville*

**Other bills of interest:**

**CS/SB 226: Athletic Trainers by Senator Harrell -**

Requires an athletic trainer to work within his/her scope of practice. The new provision restricts trainers from providing or attempting to provide care that they lack proper education, training, or experience in.

The bill also revises the educational and internship requirements for licensure by creating a new licensure pathway for applicants who hold a bachelor’s degree, have completed the Board of Certification, Inc. internship requirements, and hold a current certification from the BOC to become licensed in Florida.

**CS/SB 346: Criminal Justice by Senator Bradley -**

Provides for judicial discretion and allows the court to depart from the mandatory minimum sentencing and mandatory fines for drug trafficking offenses that do not carry a 25-year mandatory minimum term, EXCEPT for fentanyl and other fentanyl related drugs.

**My bills up for consideration:**

**SB 400 Elder Abuse Fatality Reviews**

**Teams** - This legislation passed unanimously in the Appropriations committee. Now, the bill will move to the Senate floor for a final vote.

SB 400 authorizes the creation of elder abuse fatality review teams in each judicial circuit, comprising of volunteers, to review facts and circumstances in closed cases where the death of an elderly person is confirmed to have been caused by abuse or neglect. The team will review files to identify potential gaps, or deficiencies in the delivery of services to elderly persons, or the need for policy changes. The team will review files to identify potential gaps, or deficiencies in the delivery of services to elderly persons, or the need for policy changes.

The findings of the review teams will be sent to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House.



*Representatives from the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists*

**SB 726: Florida Commission on Human Relations by Senator Rouson**

This bill makes changes to the rules for the Florida Commission on Human Relations, an organization established in 1969 by the Legislature to investigate and resolve discrimination complaints in employment, mediation, public accommodations, and



*Jacksonville Chapter of the Links, Inc.*

**SB 1362: Rental Agreements by Senator Rodriguez** - This bill provides that, if, for any reason, the federal, “Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act” is repealed, a state law providing most of the same rights to tenants in foreclosed properties will take effect.

Under this federal act, the buyer must give the tenant at least 90 days’ notice before evicting him/her. And if the tenant had signed a “bona fide” lease before foreclosure, the owner must allow him/her to remain for the term of the lease, even if that exceeds 90 days, unless the property is sold to a person who intends to occupy the property as a primary residence. This bill is good protection for Floridians!



*Jacksonville Women's Giving Alliance*



*Representatives from Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.*

Tune into these stations between 6 am-6 pm Mon to Fri to watch legislative action: [www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority](http://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.

housing.

Among other provisions, the bill changes the number of Commissioners required for a quorum from seven to a majority of the currently appointed commissioners. This ensures that meetings can occur.

For more information on this bill, click [HERE](#).



*Javon Knight and Charles Griggs, President of 100 Black Men of Jacksonville, Inc.*

As we continue through Session, I will keep you informed on various issues of impact. 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