

BROWARD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

NEWSLETTER

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Broward Legislative Delegation Office provides a communication resource between the Federal, State, local governments and Broward County citizens to facilitate the legislative process. Our responsibilities include maintaining an efficient means for the local bill process and monitoring bills approved by the Delegation Members through the Legislature. The Legislative Delegation has a responsibility to monitor the appropriations process, securing State Revenues and other allocated funds for programs, organizations and government agencies in Broward County.

Week 1: January 9-12

The 2018 Legislative Session has begun



Senate President
Joe Negron

Photo Courtesy of www.flsenate.gov

The 2018 Regular Session is the 120th Regular Session since Statehood in 1845 and it began on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

This first week of the 2018 Session brought about debate and bill passage in the Senate and House Chambers.



House Speaker
Richard Corcoran

Photo Courtesy of www.tampabay.com

Legislation on the Move

Senate Unanimously Passes Permanent Expansion of Bright Futures Scholarship SB 4 Secures Permanent Expansion of Bright Futures Academic and Medallion Scholarships

Tallahassee — The Florida Senate today unanimously passed Senate Bill 4, the Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018, sponsored by Senate President-Designate Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton). Senate Bill 4 expands the state university and student financial aid portions of the higher education agenda advanced last session in the Senate, a top priority of Senate President Joe Negron (R-Stuart). The bill includes approximately \$124 million to fund the scholarship programs addressed in the bill for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. SB 4 expands merit-based and need-based financial aid funding and establishes flexible tuition policies available to families so every student in Florida who qualifies and earns the privilege to attend one of our state universities has the opportunity to pursue a higher education. www.flsenate.gov

Photo Courtesy
of www.tampabay.com



Senate Bill 472 and Senate Resolution 184 both which are sponsored by Senate Perry E. Thurston, Jr. passed unanimously this week in the Senate Rules Committee. These pieces of legislation request that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approves the replacement in the National Statuary Hall. A Statute of Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune would replace that of Confederate General Edmond Kirby Smith @SenatorThurston

Sanctuary Cities

CS/HB 9 Federal Immigration Enforcement

The Florida House of Representatives passed a bill to ban sanctuary cities in Florida, a top priority for House leadership during the 2018 legislative session. The bill passed 71-35 on a party line vote.

[HB 9](#), sponsored by Rep. Larry Metz, R-Yahala, would prohibit Florida communities from acting as “sanctuary cities” for undocumented immigrants. Law enforcement agencies and local government entities would also be prohibited from adopting sanctuary policies.

Fines for city council members who violate the ban or refuse to comply with federal immigration policies could climb up to \$5,000. Local officials who refuse to work with federal authorities could be removed from their jobs if the bill becomes law.

Though the bill received significant support in the Florida House, the measure appears dead in the Senate, which would also need to pass the legislation for it to become law. <http://sunshinestatenews.com/story/florida-house-passes-bill-banning-sanctuary-cities>

Community Redevelopment Agencies: CS/HB: 17

In Part, the bill provides that the creation of new CRAs on or after October 1, 2018, may only occur by special act of the Legislature. It provides for the eventual phase-out of existing CRAs at the earlier of the expiration date stated in the agency’s charter or on September 30, 2038, with the exception of those CRAs with any outstanding bond obligations. However, phase-out may be prevented if a supermajority of board members serving on the board of the entity that created the CRA vote to retain the agency. The bill provides a process for the Department of Economic Opportunity to declare a CRA inactive if it has reported no revenues, no expenditures, and no debt for three consecutive fiscal years.

The bill may have a fiscal impact on the state and local governments. www.myfloridahouse.gov

More information, including the recorded votes, can be found at www.myfloridahouse.gov

February 7-8 in Tallahassee.

Join County, City, School Board, & Community Leaders, Broward Residents and Business Owners as we Bring Broward to Tallahassee. Details available at www.BrowardDays.com



STAY CONNECTED

Please be sure to view our social media networks, as well as our website, for up to date information and for messages from your Broward Legislators.



www.broward.org/legislative

Note: All Committee Meetings and Floor Sessions are available for live viewing and on demand at www.flsentate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov



Broward Legislative Delegation Office - Executive Director: Andrea C. Knowles

Broward Governmental Center, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 429, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Office Number: 954.357.6555

Fax Number: 954.357.6041

Email: DelegationInfo@broward.org

Website: www.broward.org/legislative

Disclaimer: The Broward Legislative Delegation office is a non-partisan office and does not, in any way, endorse or favor any particular political party or Delegation Member. The contents of this publication are strictly informational. Bill content is obtained from www.myfloridahouse.gov and/or www.flsentate.gov.