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Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Digest

The Palm Beach Legislative Delegation is holding it's Local Bill and Public Hearing on [October 3, 2019](#) at the Norton Museum of Art. If you would like to be placed on the agenda to speak please fill out a Participation Request Form and submit all printed materials to the delegation office by **Noon, Monday, September 30, 2019**

Please provide fifteen (15) copies of printed material.

*Please note: The Delegation Office is not responsible for printing out materials for the presenter.

[Click Here for Participation Request Form](#)

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PALM BEACH COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

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WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33401
561-355-2406
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PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE AND WORKSHOPS

2019

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR AND PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Ballpark of the Palm Beaches

5444 Haverhill Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33407

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

LOCAL BILL AND PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Norton Museum of Art

1450 S Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

9:00 am – 12:00 pm (Noon)

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Palm Beach State College

Loxahatchee Groves Campus

15845 Southern Boulevard, Loxahatchee, FL 33470

9:30 am – 11:00 am

(More)

WORKSHOPS

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSION

Thursday, October 31, 2019 9:00 am – 10:30 am
Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens
4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach, FL 33446

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens
4000 Morikami Park Rd, Delray Beach, FL 33446

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Palm Beach State College
Loxahatchee Groves Campus
15845 Southern Boulevard, Loxahatchee, FL 33470

This schedule is subject to change.

**Anyone interested in addressing the Legislative Delegation at a
Public Hearing should call the Delegation Office at 561-355-3452
or email vnowlan@pbcgov.org.**

[Click Here to Print the Schedule](#)

As the 2019 Legislative Session has come to an end, the Palm Beach Legislative Delegation has compiled an End of Session Report. For the full report please click on the tab below.

[Click Here for the 2019 End of Session Report](#)



The Delegation Digest 2019 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organization.

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**Victoria Nowlan
Executive Director**

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[Visit the Legislative Delegation Website](#)

**Session Week 6
April 8-12, 2019**

- Week Recap

- Member Highlights
- Bills and Policy
- Local Bills
- Appropriations

Week Recap

The week was relatively quiet with committee meetings and session by each chamber. Here are some highlights of bills passed or defeated that are of interest to Palm Beach County residents:

[CS/CS/SB 96: Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses](#) by Senator Aaron Bean (R-Fernandina Beach)

One measure of interest is the final approval of SB 96/HB 67 that would increase criminal penalties for people who injure or kill dogs or horses that work with police officers and other first responders. SB 96 is now on its way to the Governor for his signature.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach, and Rep. Josie Tomkow, R-Polk City, would make it a second-degree felony, up from a third-degree felony, for people who kill or cause great bodily harm to police, fire or search-and-rescue dogs or police horses. The change would boost the amount of potential prison time from five years to 15 years.

Supporters said the bill stems, at least in part, from the death of Fang, a 3-year-old member of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office canine unit shot and killed last September by a teenager fleeing after carjacking two women at a gas station. House members Thursday also cited the Christmas Eve death of a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office police dog

named Cigo that was killed in the line of duty.

[CS/HB 19: Prescription Drug Importation Programs](#) by Representative Leek (R-Daytona Beach)

Floridians could eventually gain access to cheaper Canadian prescription drugs under legislation passed Thursday by the House, a top priority of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The GOP-led House voted 93-22 on Thursday for the measure, which if finalized creates a prescription drug importation program that would have to be approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration. A similar bill is moving in the Senate and the two versions must be reconciled to win final passage.

Representative Al Jacquet (D-Lantana) was quoted in the attached article urging lawmakers to slow down.

“The concept of making sure medication is cheaper is a good one. We have to tailor it in a way that is responsible. We’re not ready for this yet,” he said. “It’s not the time to be going this big, or this far.”

Full

article: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/apr/11/florida-house-passes-bill-on-canadian-drug-imports/>

[CS/CS/HB 987: Public Lodging Establishments](#) by Representative J. Grant (R-Tampa)

On Wednesday April 10, the House Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Committee voted 9-2 to pass HB 987 that would further preempt local government ordinances on vacation rentals. The bill is sounding alarm bells for many throughout Florida.

The bill provides that “property owners who choose to use their property as a vacation rental have constitutionally protected property rights” and goes on to provide that “the regulation, of vacation rentals, including but not limited to, inspection, licensing and occupancy limits is expressly preempted to the State.”

The bill would invalidate ordinances that had been previously approved. Local governments would still be able to place regulations on AirBnB, which was placed on the Scrutinized Companies list due to its policy on Israel. The House bill also changes HOA authority, which

many members have concerns over. The bill has one more committee of reference in the House. The Senate bill was temporarily postponed and is no longer being considered.

[CS/CS/SB 366: Infectious Disease Elimination Programs](#) by Senator Braynon (D-Miami Gardens)

The Senate voted unanimously to pass SB 366 that would authorize a county commission to establish a sterile syringe and needle exchange program within their county.

The bill provides oversight, substance abuse counseling, and reporting requirements. It is modeled after a Miami-Dade pilot program. South Florida has one of the highest rates of new HIV transmissions in the nation, which is exacerbated by the current drug use epidemic.

The Chair stated that he used to be an opponent of the legislation but has since learned more about the program's effectiveness in harm reduction and connecting people with treatment. Meanwhile the House bill unanimously passed out of its second of three House committees this week and is scheduled to be heard in its final committee next week.



Member Highlights

This week, Representative David Silvers presented [HB 361 Behavioral Health of Minors](#) to the Health and Human Services Committee. This committee stop is its last committee of reference and is now headed to the floor of the House for passage.

Representative Silvers filed HB 361 to address the alarming number of children getting involuntary examinations, also known as the Baker Act. These numbers have doubled since 2002, leading to concerns about children's mental health.

In 2017, the Legislature created a task force in DCF to look at the issues around this increase in the number of involuntary examination of minors.

This bill implements two of the Task Force's recommendations. It:

- Prevents children's suicides by enhancing the voluntary Suicide Prevention Certified Schools Program; and
- Helps DCF collect more data on children who had involuntary examinations so we can learn how to address this issue.

"With the recent deaths of students who had been present during the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School" Representative Silvers stated, "We must address the mental health of our youth, especially the heightened risk for suicide."



Representative David Silvers presents HB 361- Mental Health before the Health and Human Services Committee

Bills and Policy

Many of the delegation members had substantive bills heard in committee this week, many bills are ready to be heard in their respective chambers. .

Monday April 8, 2019

[SB 1136 Cyberharassment](#) by Senator Harrell

[SB 832 Adoption Records](#) by Senator Rader

[SB 410 Long-acting Reversible Contraception Pilot Program](#) by Senator Berman
[SB 876 Juvenile Justice](#) by Senator Powell
[HB 57 Percentage of Elector Votes Required to Approve Constitutional Amendment or Revision](#) by Representative Roth
[SB 1222 Services for Veterans and Their Families](#) by Senator Harrell
[SB 1592 Assisted Living Facilities](#) by Senator Harrell

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

[HB 1157 Access to Health Care Practitioner Services](#) by Representative Caruso
[HB 361 Behavioral Health of Minors](#) by Representative Silvers
[HB 363 Pub. Rec./Admission to Mental Health Facilities](#) by Representative Silvers
[HB 601 Public Records](#) by Representative Roth
[HB 1115 Dispensing Medicinal Drugs](#) by Representative Willhite
[SB 1712 Hospital Licensure](#) by Senator Harrell
[SB 900 Substance Abuse Services](#) by Senator Harrell
[SB 434 Ambulatory Surgical Centers](#) by Senator Harrell

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

[SB 980 Public Records/Petition for Certain Protective Injunctions](#) by Senator Harrell
[SB 188 Department of Health](#) by Senator Harrell
[SB 374 Children and Youth Cabinet](#) by Senator Harrell
[SB 828 Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition](#) by Senator Rader
[SB 844 At-Risk Adult Alert Plan](#) by Senator Berman

The following bills have been heard in their final committees and are now on second reading awaiting being heard on the floors of their respective chambers.

[SB 198 Trademark Classifications](#) by Senator Berman
[HB 361 Behavioral Health of Minors](#) by Representative Silvers
[HB 363 Pub. Rec./Admission to Mental Health Facilities](#) by Representative Silvers
[HB 369 Substance Abuse Services](#) by Representative Caruso
[SB 374 Children and Youth Cabinet](#) by Senator Harrell
[HB 515 Licensure of Unarmed Security Guards](#) by Representative Willhite
[HB 595 Alcohol or Drug Overdose Prosecutions](#) by Representative Silvers
[HB 613 Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement](#) by Representative Roth
[HB 615 Campaign Finance](#) by Representative Roth
[HB 687 Automated Pharmacy Systems](#) by Representative Willhite
[SB 828 Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition](#) by Senator Rader

[HB 901 City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County](#) by Representative Willhite
[SB 980 Public Records/Petition for Certain Protective Injunctions](#) by Senator Harrell
[HB 1115 Dispensing Medicinal Drugs](#) by Representative Willhite

The following two bills are on Special Order calendar for this week to be heard on the floor of the House for final passage.

[HB 983 Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services](#) by Representative Casello

[HB 1175 Martin County, Village of Indiantown](#) by Representative Magar

The following bill, [SB 462 Judicial Process](#) by Senator Powell, has been heard and passed by both chamber and now is headed to the Governor for signature into law.

On March 14, 2019, Senator Berman passed Senate resolution SR 1810 recognizing March 2019 as [Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month](#).

On April 10, 2019 Representative Silvers passed HR 8001 recognizing October 2019 as [Dupuytren Disease Awareness Month](#).

Local Bills

Rep. Matt Willhite's local bill, HB 901 - City of West Palm Beach, is waiting to be heard on the floor of the House for final passage and to be sent to the Senate for passage. The West Palm Beach Firefighter's Pension Fund receives tax revenue under the Clayton Act, a special act by the Florida Legislature. So as such, must meet statutory requirements

to maintain its eligibility. This bill would increase the minimum benefit accrual factor to the statutory minimum of 2.75%, adjust the plan's assumed investment rate of return from 8% to 7.5%, and finally, revise the claims appeals process to extend board action deadlines and allow the plan administrator to tape and maintain hearings.

Appropriations

Both chambers, the House and Senate have passed their respective budgets and while the House is proposing to spend \$88.9 billion and the Senate is proposing to spend \$90.3 billion, the differences still need to be ironed out. Budget conferees are still to be named and conference dates to be set and until that happens the differences remain.

The Senate and House continue negotiations on a gambling agreement, which expires at the end of May. A new deal, however, could include sports betting in Florida, a possibility opened by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year. If a negotiation is not met, \$350 million in payments to the State of Florida could be in jeopardy. This loss is affecting budget decisions and will have a large impact on money available for programs in need.

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