

Session Begins

Besides delivering a balanced budget, the only other bill the legislature is required to pass this session involves redistricting. Other issues on the radar: the potential expansion of casinos/gaming, reform of (PIP) auto insurance, education funding, and downsizing Florida's prisons.

Newest General Revenue Estimates Show Little Change

Updated general estimates have confirmed that projected revenue will grow only slightly, about \$46 million higher than expected, and also predicted that revenue will not meet projection estimates next year by about \$20 million. This sets the stage for ongoing discussions by some legislators who are mulling over whether to end regular session in early February and come back in the spring hoping for revenue to improve.

But.....Will the Legislature End Session Early?

With projections basically unchanged, some House Republicans are determined to complete their budgets within the 60-day regular session. House Appropriations Committee chair Denise Grimsley announced yesterday that she will release a budget by week four of session. However, there is a growing majority of Senate members who support ending regular session in February and meeting in special session to complete budget work.

Governor Scott's State of the State: "Let's Get to Work Together"

Governor Scott addressed a joint meeting of both chambers this week. The Governor's priorities stayed consistent, increasing private sector jobs, ensuring high quality education opportunities, and reducing the size of government, and fostering a friendly business environment.

DJJ Briefs Legislature on 2011 Juvenile Justice Legislation

Secretary Walters provided the latest update on implementation and new data since last reported to include:

Status of \$5.4 million dollars in front end reinvestment

- Rate agreements - mental health and substance abuse providers.
- Funding for *PACE Center for Girls* to address current waiting list.
- Funding to expand *Young Parents Project* (60 additional slots).
- Funding to expand (MST) and (FFT) services in three circuits.
- Funding to enhance capabilities for intake screening assessments.
- Funding to implement the Electronic Monitoring program.

Status of implementation-HB997 (civil citation)

- 60 civil citation programs now registered with DJJ.
- 2,828 youth have been issued a Civil Citation in lieu of arrest
- Most offenses- petty theft (43%), simple battery, (19%) and misdemeanor drug violations (16%)

Status of implementation of SB 2114- (redirecting misdemeanant s)

- 49.5% reduction in commitments for misdemeanant offenses

FJJA Bill Tracking this Week

SB 504 - Juvenile Justice Evers

Removes court jurisdiction over an adjudicated delinquent child the authority to commit for placement in a program for serious or habitual juvenile offenders; authorizes a mother-infant program if child's mother is committed as a delinquent; authorizes DJJ to pay toward funeral expenses.

Passed through first 2 committee stops (CJ and Judiciary) now referred to last 2 committees- CJ Budget subcommittee and Budget committee

SB 834- Juvenile Justice Education Wise

Providing legislative intent regarding juvenile justice education and workforce-related programs;

Passed through first 1 committee stop, but was temporarily postponed prior to being heard at 2nd committee stop. New strike-all will be introduced at next mtg.

Filed this Week

SB 1886 - Zero Tolerance Wise

Requiring that school districts adopt a policy for reporting acts that pose a serious threat to school safety; requiring that acts that do not pose a serious threat to school safety be handled within the school's disciplinary system; requiring that a child accused of a misdemeanor offense not be arrested and formally processed in the juvenile justice system; requiring that minor incidents be diverted from the juvenile justice system or handled within the school system's disciplinary system.