

GETTING READY FOR BUDGET CONFERENCE

The House has already passed a \$69.2B budget. The Senate is scheduled to take up its budget and conforming bills in the hope of passing out their \$71B budget by February 24th. Conference will begin shortly afterward with the both chambers working to negotiate on the \$1.6B difference.

The Legislature has also passed their redistricting plan, which has been signed by the Governor and sent to the Florida Supreme Court for review. The Supreme Court has until March 9th to respond, which is the last day of session. Lawsuits are expected.

A SPECIAL SESSION OR EXTENSION MAY BE ON THE HORIZON

Should the Florida Supreme Court reject the current redistricting plan, it may be impossible for the Legislature to revise the plan in time to end session on time (3/9) potentially requiring them to extend session or return for a special session.

PRISON PRIVATIZATION FAILS

Dramatic to the very end, a coalition of determined senators were able to stop the privatizing of 30 facilities in 18 counties by a 19 to 21 vote. Also this week, Governor Rick Scott said Thursday announced he will explore his opportunities to privatize state prisons.

DJJ BUDGET:

Where the House and Senate differ as we go into conference

<p>House DJJ Budget- \$506,392,727</p> <p>Current Year Budget-\$528,744,303 <i>\$22 million reduction</i></p>
<p>Senate DJJ Budget- \$536,006,537</p> <p>Current Year Budget-\$528,744,303 <i>\$7.2 million increase</i></p>

FJJA Mid-Session Briefing

DCF

Sex Trafficking/ Sexual Exploitation

HB7049, HB99, SB202

- updates and enhances Florida's human trafficking laws
- DCF to develop guidelines for serving sexually exploited children

DCF Reorganization- CS/HB1229, SB2048

- integrates substance abuse/mental health programs, aligns services with judicial circuits, and encourages community alliances, partnerships and advisory groups

Child Protection- CS/CS/HB803

- improves Florida Abuse Hotline, Child Protective Investigations, and the dependency process.

DJJ

Education- SB834, SB1610, H949

- SB1610 amended with new language to ensure equality of JJ youth education.

Juvenile Expunction- HB497, SB940

- Allows minors with certain felony arrests to expunge arrest record upon successful diversion.

Zero Tolerance-SB1886

- New amendments last week cast doubt on the bill passing.

Parole Juvenile Offenders- CS/SB212, HB05

- Moving in House and Senate

Mother Infant/Funerals- SB504, HB173

- Moving in House and Senate

Background Screenings-CC/CS/943

- Creates background screening clearinghouse, exempts volunteers, relatives, physicians, nurses, and other licensed professionals from Level 2 background screening.