

Florida Juvenile Justice Association

Legislative

Update

Week Two

March 15, 2013

Legislative Session Continues Amid Changes

The second week of session saw the abrupt resignation of Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll, state economists revising their latest forecasts for the Legislature in preparation of building next year's budget, and the House and Senate voting against supporting the Governor's proposal to expand Medicaid.

FJJA Bill Tracking

HB 441, SB 672, SB 678, SB 676, HB 617, HB 353 all passed in their respective legislative committees this week.

Legislative Presentations

DJJ provide the Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Subcommittee an overview of DJJ's targeted budget reductions required by Schedule VIII B.

FJJA Education Bill Passes through First Committee Stop

This week, HB 441, passed out of the House Choice and Innovation Committee. A strike all bill was introduced that kept the integrity of our proposed language but eliminated proposed funding streams. We continue to work together with stakeholders to identify ways to fund these much needed improvements to DJJ education. In addition to FJJA, others who testified in support: DJJ, PACE and AMikids. More information will be provided as HB441 (and SB 1406) moves through committees.

House and Senate Receive Updated Economic Forecast

Florida economists have projected that a surplus of \$3.5 billion will be available to spend for next fiscal year. However economists have acknowledged that the impacts of sequestration (*cuts of \$85 billion in federal spending*) have yet to be felt in Florida and could offset any improvements to the state economic recovery. House and Senate will release budget allocations this coming week.

Agency News

DJJ has announced the appointment of Joni Wimmer as Assistant Secretary of Probation and Community Intervention. Joni was the Director of the DJJ Office of Education, and previously was the chief of policy and planning for the Office of Residential Services, where she was responsible for developing and overseeing new programs and policies.

Bill Activity

SB 0676- Relating to Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Boards and Juvenile Justice County Councils -*Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice (3rd stop)*

HB 617-Companion bill- passed through first committee, *now in local and federal affairs committee (2nd stop)*

HB 353- Criminal penalties for employees who inflict cruel or inhuman punishment upon juvenile offenders- *Now in Judiciary (final stop)*

SB 0678 - Companion bill --*Now in Judiciary (final stop)*

HB 441- Juvenile Justice Education Passed through 1st committee, now in Criminal Justice (2nd stop)

SB 1406- Companion bill - On Criminal Justice agenda next week, (1st stop)

