

Florida Juvenile Justice Association

Legislative

Update

Mid Session Report

Week Five

April 10, 2013

Last week marked the half way point of this year's session, beginning the process of budget negotiations, the rush to hear bills, and finally budget conference. Priorities this year have been diverse and include ethics and election reform, education salaries and reform, Medicaid expansion, state employee pay, property insurance and pension reform. Many of these issues have significant fiscal impact on the health of Florida. In typical fashion the Republicans and Democrats have been far apart on some of these issues. Other issues came into play unexpectedly. Such as the issue of internet cafes, illuminated by the resignation of Florida's Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll. A current bill if signed by the Governor will shut them down.

The most divisive issue by far remains the matter of expanding Medicaid, with both the Senate and House opting to come up with other solutions rather than aligning with the Governor's budget proposal to expand Medicaid. The Senate has put two proposals on the table, one of which has the support of the Governor and the House will soon as well.

Budgets will be heard the sixth week of session; House members will be on the floor all day on Wednesday and Senate members will be on the floor all day on Thursday to pass their respective budgets. It is reasonable to assume that budget conference meetings will begin the week of April 15th.

Quick Glance: Substantive Legislation

Cross-Over Youth

HB 7103 is on its way to the floor. The bill creates a pilot project addressing the needs of crossover youth. This joint collaboration DJJ and DCF would seek proposals to fund a pilot to provide training, intervention programs, and security measures at the pilot homes. The bill seeks to use existing resources within DCF and DJJ and will have a slight fiscal impact to DCF and none to DJJ. The Senate companion is struggling after it was already identified that similar pilots funded by Georgetown University exist in multiple counties.

FIIA Juvenile Justice Education

HB 441 has moved through all its committee stops and is headed for the House floor. Its companion, SB 1406 remains in the Senate Education Committee. Funding language is out of the bill, but in appropriation language in the House.

Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Boards and Juvenile Justice County Councils

HB 617 has passed through all committee stops and is headed for the floor. The House companion, SB 676 passed out of Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations last week, and is currently in Appropriations, its final committee.

Quick Glance: DJJ Repealer Legislation will now be combined.

Youth Custody Officers, Jail Tours, and Criminal penalties for employees who inflict cruel or inhuman punishment upon juvenile offenders will be rolled into one bill.

Highlights of Proposed DJJ BUDGET (Side by Side)	Governor's Proposal	Senate Proposal	House Proposal
Investments			
Expand PACE Center - Miami PACE/additional slots in JAX	\$618,750	\$776,598	\$1,118,750
Telephonic Psychiatric Consultation	\$37,200	\$37,200	\$37,200
Contracted Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist	\$108,160	\$108,160	\$108,160
Internet GED Testing	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
Expand CINS/FINS to Rural Underserved Areas	\$1,501,605	\$1,501,605	\$1,551,605
Documentation and Analysis of Dozier Gravesite		\$200,000	
Alliance of Florida Boys and Girls Clubs NR funding also in current year budget		\$2,000,000	\$250,000
Web Based Early Intervention Program		\$250,000	
Informed Families of Florida Program		\$200,000	
Expansion of Florida Youth Challenge Academy		\$500,000	\$100,000
Additional staffing for DJJ Bureau of Contracts		\$219,110	\$100,000
Increase Juvenile Justice Prevention Services			\$1,000,000
YAP program (Duval and Nassau)			
Reductions			
Reduce Detention Bed Capacity- 53 FTEs	(\$3,696,024)	(\$2,730,998)	(\$898,300)
Reduce Vacant Positions over 180 Days- 11 FTEs	(\$514,082)		
Reduce Vacant Probation Positions- 21.5 FTEs	(\$925,667)		
Reduce Non-Secure Bed Capacity-133 beds, 14 FTE	(\$5,830,907)	(\$5,830,907)	(\$5,612,444)
Reduce Funding for Redirections		(\$8,900,000)	(\$6,000,000)
Eliminate Funding for Girls Advocacy Project Program		(\$150,000)	
Eliminate Funding New Horizons Community Mental Health		(\$184,317)	
Eliminate Funding for Community Coalition Program		(\$574,080)	
Reduce Staffing in DJJ Residential Services Staff-12 FTEs		(\$663,696)	(\$663,696)
Real Estate Savings	(\$520,217)		(\$520,217)

Amendments filed of interest

#33SA Senate- pulls \$1M from Secure residential commitment to fund restoration of historic county courthouses. #34 Senate-pulls \$381,250 from DOC residential to provide additional funding to PACE Miami

Other Budgets: K-12 Education

The House has proposed a \$1 billion increase; a \$395 increase in per student funding; \$250 for each teacher to spend on school supplies and \$296.9 million toward the pension system. The House is asking that 50 percent of raises be merit-based. The Senate has proposed a \$1.2 billion increase; a \$372 increase in per student funding; \$250 per teacher for school supplies; and \$269.9 million toward teacher pensions. All teacher raises must be merit-based.

Post Secondary Education

The House has proposed an increase to the state college system by 3.3 percent and includes \$300 million to return to the prior year's funding level. The House budget includes a 6 percent tuition increase, generating \$37 million for the university system and \$52.8 million for the state college system. The Senate has proposed \$300 million to return to the prior year's funding levels and provides \$33 million to state colleges. The Senate budget doesn't include a tuition increase.

State Employee Raises

The House proposal gives 110,000 state employees an across-the-board raise of \$1,400. The Senate proposal gives state employees a 3 percent pay increase.