



Florida Juvenile Justice Association

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Week Eight: April 25, 2014

Budget Conference Begins and Bills Rush to the Finish Line

With the clock ticking down to the May 2 end of session, there was a mad dash to convene remaining appropriations committee meetings and to begin the budget conference. By Friday, many budget differences had been resolved with looming issues “bumped” up to the chairs of appropriation committees for resolution.

FJJA Priority Bill Updates

DJJ Education

HB173 (Adkins R- Fernandina Beach) passed through the House floor and was taken up in messages to the Senate, where the Senate picked it up.

SB598 (Bean R-Jacksonville) is still in play. The Senate version has been amended to include language relating to Career and Professional Education, (CAPE) a priority of the Senate President, the first school superintendent to champion it in Okaloosa County. CAPE training has had a huge impact on the job readiness of youth statewide who attend CAPE academies in their school districts.

With time running out, we are hopeful that the amended bill will still have time to be heard by the Senate on the floor, and be taken up by the House in Messages.

The **FJJA Education bill** provides for DJJ youth to have an individual educational plan with access to vocational credentials or industry certification. The bill also focuses education services to a youth's individual need, and provides opportunities to participate in post-secondary online courses or virtual school. This legislation and funding will provide DJJ youth with GED, postsecondary and industry certification opportunities, increasing their success, lowering recidivism rates, and realizing a return on investment for Florida taxpayers.

985 Rewrite- Juvenile Justice Statutes

SB700 (Bradley R-Fleming Island) was laid on the table on Friday and the House bill (HB 7055) was picked up.

HB 7055 (CJ Subcommittee/Pilon (R-Sarasota) passed on the House floor Friday, April 25th.

These bills seek to **revise Chapter 985** to reflect DJJ’s current focus to concentrate resources on front-end interventions, as well as codify prevention, trauma informed care, reframing the mission to more of a rehabilitative model than punitive.

House and Senate Agree to Increase FEFP DJJ Supplemental Funding

House and Senate budget chairs have agreed to a \$2M increase for FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program) for DJJ Supplemental funding. This funding in the DOE budget will provide increased funding for local school districts and providers who serve DJJ youth, giving them an additional \$350 per year to educate youth.

Child Welfare Reform Bill Passes in Senate

The Senate has approved a comprehensive child welfare reform bill (SB 1666) this week, which requires college degrees for child protection investigators, increases accountability from CBC agencies, and requires rapid reporting when a child dies in state care. The bill also creates an Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare. The House will receive the Senate bill in messages this week.

More in-depth details coming soon in the FJJA End of Session Report.

Budget Conference Agreement	Recurring GR
Boys and Girls Club	\$2.5M
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$1.1M
PACE Expansion	\$2M
Youth Advocacy Project	0
Pasco Summer Camp Program	0
Prodigy Expansion	\$200K
Time to be Parents again	0
Broward JAC	0
CINSFINS Expansion	\$3.4M
Education Program Expansion	\$500K
Monique Burr Foundation	0
Word and Action	\$125K
Family Impression	\$25K
AMIkids	\$750K
The Greatest Save Program	\$181K
CDC Tampa Bay	0
Human Trafficking Assessment Tool	0
Total DJJ Proposed Budget	\$518M