



Florida Juvenile Justice Association

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Week Four: March 28, 2014

Budget Process Moving Forward

We are almost to the halfway point of session, with budget committees meeting and passing out their budgets. The House has the budget this year (HB 5001) and last week, the House Appropriations Committee passed its \$75.3 billion budget. The \$74.9B Senate spending plan was approved unanimously, with all Democrats voting in approval. The Senate and House budgets differ by \$400M. House leadership has refused to consider Medicaid expansion, which resulted in some House Democrats voting against the budget.

Both budgets will head to the floors next week for full approval. Once approved, we will move into Budget Conference.

FJJA is monitoring amendments.

FJJA Priority Bill Updates

DJJ Education

This week the Senate Criminal Justice Committee heard **SB598** (Bean R-Jacksonville) and approved a committee substitute to conform to the House version of the bill. Secretary Walters and Cathy Craig-Myers testified in support of the bill.

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

SB700 (Bradley R-Fleming Island) was approved with technical amendments at the third committee stop, CJ Appropriations and is now on its way to final stop, Appropriations. **HB 7055**, (CJ Subcommittee/Pilon (R-Sarasota), also received amendments and was approved by the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee at its final committee stop. FJJA was on hand to support the bill.

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.

Healthy Families Committee Finalizes Child Welfare Reform Proposal

The bill, which had been work-shopped during recent meetings, has received a bill number (**HB 7169**.) The bill has undergone changes and revisions to include: delaying college degree requirements until 2018, allowing staff with BA/BS in any field, with 5 years of experience and allowing CBC's to serve youth at risk for abuse and neglect without a filed report.

On the Senate side, all related bills (**SB 1666, SB 1668 and SB 1670**) were postponed to review the issues highlighted in the Miami Herald expose of youth deaths. The Committee will pick up where they left off.

The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee meets on Wednesday, April 2 at 1 PM.

Human Trafficking Bills Up for Review this Week

The Senate Children and Families and Elder Affairs committee is expected to take up PCB HFS 14-02 on Tuesday, which passed in the House weeks back, continuing the discussion on detaining victims in "secure facilities" to protect them from returning to their perpetrators. Also under discussion will be how a continuum of care should be developed for this unique population.

Advocates are expected to be on hand to dispute the need to "lock up" this population of youth.

Bills of interest to be heard Week Five:

SB1532 - Juvenile Detention Costs

On agenda - Community Affairs, 04/01/14, 3:00 pm, 301 S

SB914 - State Contracting

On agenda - Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, 04/02/14, 1:00 pm, 110 S

HB1017/HB 989 - Human Trafficking

Bill to be Discussed During the Office of EDR's Criminal Justice Impact Conference, 03/25/14, 2:30 pm, 117 K (No Votes Will Be Taken)

HB1021—Human Trafficking

On agenda - Government Operations Subcommittee, 03/31/14, 1:30 pm, 212 K

HB1019- Safe Houses

On agenda - Government Operations Subcommittee, 03/31/14, 1:30 pm, 212 K

SB426- Public Records- Human Trafficking Victims

On agenda - Criminal Justice, 03/31/14, 4:00 pm, 37 S

SB1440- Human Trafficking

On agenda - Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, 04/01/14, 9:00 am, 37 S