



Florida Juvenile Justice Association

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Session Ends Week Nine: May 2, 2014

Session ended Friday on time, 1812 bills filed and only 264 passing, the fewest since 2001. The 2014 legislative budget (**HB 5001**) was approved by the House and Senate on the last day of session. In addition to a large number of tax cuts and tax holidays recommended by the Governor, the legislature added more than \$3 billion to the state's reserves. This year's budget includes a large number of local "member projects", some of which may not survive the Governor's veto pen. Lawmakers passed a \$77B budget, the largest in the state's history. As the economy continues to recover, many programs previously receiving non-recurring funding are now recipients of recurring general funding, which will provide consistency in services.

Children's issues were front and center crossing the entire service continuum. One of the most significant was an increase of \$50 million to strengthen the child welfare system and improve needed services. From school readiness, health services, child welfare, after school, K-12 education and juvenile justice, some advocates would argue that still more needed to be done.

FJJA Priorities: DJJ Education—Bill Passes

As we mentioned last week, to ensure passage, FJJA's education bill, **HB173/SB598** was amended on to **SB850**, an omnibus education bill. In addition to the juvenile justice education components, **SB850** included CAPE accountability, dual enrollment options, financial accountability for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. There was much debate over this bill, with a majority of Democrats voting against the bill. However, the bill passed and is on its way to the Governor for his signature.

The **FJJA Education bill** will provide DJJ youth an educational plan with improved access to vocational credentials and/or industry certification. The bill focuses education services to each youth's individual need, and provides opportunities to participate in post-secondary online courses or virtual school. This legislation 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.

Additionally, an increase of \$2 million dollars has been added to the FEFP DJJ supplemental allocation. Currently there is proviso on the House side that suggests utilization of these dollars for GED and CTE, however, the language says "may" which allows the language to be permissive rather than prescriptive, so current school districts and providers will be able to utilize the funding for current needs without restrictions.

Rewrite of 985 Juvenile Justice Statutes- Bill Passes

HB7055 is now on its way to the Governor for his signature. Thanks to all FJJA members who worked hard to support the passage of this bill.

Final Budget Conference Agreement	Non-Recurring GR	Recurring GR
SPECIAL PROJECTS—SPECIFIC APPROPRIATIONS		
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$1.1M	\$400K
PACE Expansion	—	\$2M
Youth Advocacy Project	0	0
Pasco Summer Camp Program	—	\$36K
Prodigy Expansion Pasco	—	\$200K
Time to be Parents Again	0	0
Broward JAC	\$500K	—
CINSFINS Expansion	—	\$3.4M
Boys and Girls Club	\$3M	\$2.5M
Monique Burr Foundation	0	0
Word and Action	\$125K	—
Family Impression	\$25K	—
AMIkids	—	\$750K
The Greatest Save Program	\$181K	—
CDC Tampa Bay	\$25K	—
PAR Adolescent Intervention Center	\$650K	—
Education Expansion: New Horizons online training	—	\$500K
TOTAL DJJ BUDGET	\$551M	

Other Legislation of Note

SB526	Increases penalties for sex offenders- PASSED
HB7035	Changes juvenile sentencing laws in cases of murder and other serious crimes- PASSED
HB953	Revises criteria for evaluating state contracts- PASSED
HB7141	Provides new guidelines for assessing trafficking victims, a statewide safe house network and specialized treatment - PASSED
HB7029	Prevents children who play with simulated weapons in school from facing suspension or expulsion- PASSED
SB1666	Requires child protection as paramount, immediate investigations of deaths, keeping siblings together, improving abuse investigations, creates a consortium to advise, creates a criminal offense for desertion of a child.- PASSED