



The Delegation Digest 2020 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Session Week 1
January 14-17, 2020

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Week Recap

After four months of committee meetings, where members filed numerous bills and budget requests, the 2020 legislative Session got underway on January 14, 2020. The first day of the session was marked with the Governor's State of the State address and the ceremonial convening of the legislative session. Committee meetings are ongoing with appropriation subcommittees continuing to hear budget requests in the House and the Senate will be hearing policy legislation.



Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Delegation Chair
Rep. Rick Roth

Delegation Vice Chair
Rep. David Silvers

Senators

Gayle Harrell
District 25

Kevin Rader
District 29

Bobby Powell, Jr.
District 30

Lori Berman
District 31

Representatives

Tina Polsky
District 81

MaryLynn Magar
District 82

Rick Roth
District 85

Matt Willhite
District 86

David Silvers
District 87

Al Jacquet
District 88

Mike Caruso
District 89

Joseph Casello
District 90

Emily Slosberg
District 91

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Palm Beach County Day 2020

In addition to the start of Session, Palm Beach County Days were held on January 14-15. Over 250 Elected officials, education partners, community and business leaders traveled to Tallahassee to meet with legislators advocating for the shared priorities of the County. Thank you to all the Delegation Members and Staff for your continued efforts that make Palm Beach County a great place to live, work, and play!

Palm Beach County Day Highlights



Bills and Policy

On Monday, Representatives Caruso, Jacquet, Polsky, Roth, Silvers and Willhite all had appropriations bills heard in subcommittees that passed favorably and are now waiting for the appropriations process to begin.

On Tuesday, SB 878-Public Records/Emergency Room Health Care Practitioners, SB 544 Husband-Wife Communications Privilege and SB 500 Prohibited Acts by Health Care Practitioners by Senator Harrell passed favorably out of their first committee and are now moving into their second committee.

SB 1296 Health Access Dental Licenses by Senator Berman also passed favorably out of its first committee.

During Wednesday's Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Willhite's two bills passed favorably, HB 57 Dispensing Medicinal Drugs and HB 59 Automated Pharmacy Systems and are moving on to Health & Human Services Committee, their final stop before heading to the House floor for final passage. HB 919 Property Tax Exemptions Used by Hospitals by Rep. Caruso was heard in its first subcommittee, Health Market Reform, having passed favorably it is now on to its next committee stop, Ways and Means.

The week culminated on Thursday with HB 945 Children's Mental Health by Rep. Silvers being passed favorably in the Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee. It is now on to its second committee stop, Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. HB 61 Adoption Benefits by Rep. Roth was also heard in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, after passing favorably it is now on to its last stop before heading to the House floor for final passage.

Although only a handful of bills by Delegation members were heard this week, our Delegation members have filed a combined total of 171 House and Senate bills, local bills and resolutions. Each member is dedicated to passing legislation that will not only benefit their district constituents but also Palm Beach County and Florida residents.

Local Bills

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation members have three local bills this legislative session:

- HB 975 - Indian Trail Improvement District, Palm Beach County by Rep. Roth,
- HB 753 - Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Palm Beach County by Rep. Silvers
- HB 673 - Port of Palm Beach District, Palm Beach County by Rep. Willhite.

Each of these local bills was heard on October 3rd, 2019 at the Delegation local bill hearing and were passed unanimously for submission to the legislature for action. They are all now awaiting a hearing in their first committee, Local Administration Subcommittee.

Member Highlights

This week Rep. Caruso was proud to sponsor Alexa Concannon to the House of Representatives Page and Messenger program. This historic program provides the opportunity for students to observe state government in action during the 60-day regular legislative session.



Appropriations

This week was a busy week for appropriations, 20 of our delegation member bills were heard. These delegation sponsored appropriation requests have passed favorably out of their subcommittees and are now waiting for the appropriations process to begin. Our Delegation House members have filed over 90 budget requests to bring home much-needed dollars for programs and projects throughout Palm Beach County. Our delegation Senate members have filed matching requests but the process in the Senate does not require actual bills to be filed and heard in committees.

Monday, January 13

- HB 2451 Boca Raton 20-inch Critical Wastewater Force Main Resiliency Project Replacement/Redundancy by Rep. Caruso
- HB 3223 Palm Springs Davis Road North Basin Drainage Improvements by Rep. Silvers
- HB 3399 Haitian American Food Bank of South Florida by Rep. Jacquet
- HB 3665 South Florida Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Exhibition Building by Rep. Roth
- HB 2309 Palm Beach County-Lake Okeechobee Shoreline Restoration by Rep. Polsky
- HB 2369 Lake Worth Beach Florida Ocean Current Energy Initiative by Rep. Caruso
- HB 2405 Palm Beach County-Lake Worth Lagoon Continuing Authorities Program Section 1135 Project by Rep. Caruso
- HB 4007 West Palm Beach Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Cybersecurity Technology Upgrades by Rep. Roth
- HB 3803 Mangonia Park Bryn Mawr Water and Sewer Connection Phase 1 by Rep. Jacquet
- HB 4045 Delray Beach Reclaimed Water Main Construction along SW 4th Street by Rep. Caruso
- HB 4001 Riviera Beach Utilities Special District Intracoastal Essential Force Main Replacement by Rep. Jacquet
- HB 4003 Riviera Beach Utilities Special District Intracoastal Critical Water Main Replacement by Rep. Jacquet

- HB 4103 Palm Beach County Public Land Decontamination Project by Rep. Willhite
- HB 4097 Loxahatchee Groves Canal System Rehabilitation by Rep. Willhite

Tuesday, January 14

- HB 4639 City of Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Program by Rep. Jacquet
- HB 4751 Palm Beach County - Glades Homeless Resource Center by Rep. Polsky
- HB 4451 The Guatemalan Maya Center - The All-County Community Empowerment Project by Rep. Silvers
- HB 4183 Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service - Mental Health First Aid by Rep. Silvers
- HB 2895 The American Association of Caregiving Youth's Florida Caregiving Youth Expansion Project by Caruso

Friday, January 17

- HB 4089 Glades Communities Street Resurfacing and Reconstruction by Polsky
- HB 9089 Everglades Restoration Workforce Training Program by Polsky
- HB 4005 Riviera Beach Utilities Special District Water Treatment Plant Crucial Infrastructure Improvements by Jacquet

This was a busy week for the Palm Beach Legislative Delegation members and staff, with the start of the Legislative Session and Palm Beach County Days. Please look for our weekly newsletter for updates on delegation legislation and do not hesitate to follow on your own at www.flsenate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov . Feel free to contact the delegation office at any time.

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organization.



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