



## Week Two Session Summary March 21, 2011

### **BUSY WEEK FOR THE RETIREMENT ISSUE**

Things heated up in the House this week regarding the retirement issue. [HB1405](#) by Rep. Workman from Melbourne addresses several provisions related to the Florida Retirement System and largely aligns with many of the Governor's proposals for reforming the FRS. It revises and provides provisions relating to definitions, election of benefits, employer and employee contributions, investment plans, pension plans, DROP, and retiree health insurance subsidies. HB1405 was heard in the Government Operations Subcommittee and voted favorably 9-5. AFC contract lobbyist Ken Plante testified on our behalf. It now moves to the Appropriations Committee. [CS/SB1130](#) by Sen. Ring from Margate is the bill the AFC was very integral in shaping and it is now with the Budget committee. Click on the link [Retirement Bill Analysis](#) for a full description of proposed changes.

#### **[SB1160](#) by Gaetz; [HB825](#) by Workman regarding DROP**

This bill would prohibit FRS employees retiring on or after July 1, 2011 (or entering DROP on or after July 1, 2011) from receiving both a retirement check and a salary from an FRS employer. Unlike the amendment proposed for SB1130, this bill still allows for re-employment of employees retiring on or after July 1, 2011. Retirees who retired on or prior to June 30, 2011 are not affected. There has been no movement of this bill. It remains with the Governmental Oversight and Accountability committee.

#### **[HB43](#) by Smith; [CS/SB88](#) by Gaetz regarding Severance Pay**

This bill would prohibit severance pay for non-elected public officers except under specified circumstances. The bill also contains provisions to prohibit certain limitations on discussing an employment dispute or settlement. SB88 was voted favorably in the Community Affairs committee and is now in the Judiciary committee. HB43 has had no movement and remains in the Government Operations Subcommittee.

### **OTHER BILLS WE ARE WATCHING**

#### **[SB1732](#) by Lynn; [HB 4153](#) (related) by Stargel regarding Baccalaureate Degree governance and Florida business and Education Collaborative**

As reported last week, SB1732 requires the Board of Governors (BOG) and the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) to establish a plan for transfer oversight of FCS institutions to BOG if an institution has 20% or more of its enrollment in upper division courses OR one that constructs dormitories after July 1, 2011. The bill also would allow universities to set higher scores for CLEP and it deletes the current exemption for certain students from the requirement to attend summer semester. It also eliminates authority for Colleges to obtain an exemption from going to the SBOE to seek permission for their BOT to offer baccalaureate degrees. Both bills propose deleting the Florida

Business and Education Collaborative established in 2007 since it was never appointed and has not met. HB1543 was voted favorably in K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee on March 17.

**HB331 by Weinstein; SB534 by Wise regarding Fire Safety**

This bill would correct issues that have been challenging the FCS for several years regarding fire safety inspection of campuses. The bill was referred to the House Government Operations Subcommittee on February 7. No vote history yet.

**HB35 by Ford; CS/SB84 by Lynn regarding College Name Changes**

This bill codifies the name changes for St. Johns River State College, Gulf Coast State College, Pensacola State College, and Valencia College. HB35 was voted favorably in K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee on March 17. SB84 has been voted favorably in all committees and is up for second reading on the Senate floor.

**HB 881 by Bemby; SB1194 by Oelrich regarding Postsecondary Education; SB1278 by Storms.**

These bills would delete provisions relating to CLAST and the use of test scores for student college-level communication and computation skills. In addition, it establishes an Articulation Coordinating Committee. The bill also revises provisions relating to eligibility to substitute requirements for admission to or graduation from an institution, requirements of the common placement testing program, and approval of community service work for eligibility for the Bright Futures award. The bill has been referred to K-20 Competitiveness in the House. SB1194 moved favorably out of the Senate Higher Education committee.

**HB007 by Chestnut; CS/SB654 by Oelrich regarding Student Transportation Fees**

This bill would authorize the Santa Fe College BOT to establish a transportation access fee to provide bus transportation for students. The bill limits the amount of the fee to a maximum of \$3.00 per credit hour and provides a timeframe for fee increases and implementation of the increase. The SB654 has moved favorably through three committees and is now with the budget committee. There has been action on the House bill.

**HB523 by Diaz; SB1518 by Altman regarding Capital Improvement Fees**

This bill would make it more efficient for colleges to move forward on capital improvement projects. It has been referred to Senate Higher Education Committee and the House Higher Education Appropriations committee.

**CS/SB45 by Gaetz; CS/HB402 by Negron regarding Firearms and Ammunition**

This bill would allow colleges to store ammunition for Law Enforcement training. It prohibits knowingly and willfully regulating or attempting to regulate firearms or ammunition in any manner except as specifically authorized. The bill also covers penalties and eliminates the authority of counties to adopt ordinance requiring a waiting period between the purchase and delivery of handgun. The bill also includes that public funds may not be used to defend unlawful conduct of any person charged with a violation of this section and includes fines for governmental entities in whose service or employ provisions of this section are knowingly and willfully violated. The bill provides for investigation of complaints of criminal violations and prosecution of violators by state attorney.

**SB234 by Evers; HB517 by Dorworth regarding Firearms**

These bills are now identical and allow for the carrying of concealed weapons by duly licensed citizens. Both bills now maintain the current exemption against carrying firearms on a college campus.