

Top News: 2019 Florida Legislative Session Begins



First day of the 2019 Florida Legislative Session.

The 60 day 2019 Legislative Session began on Tuesday as Florida's 46th Governor, Ron DeSantis, urged Legislators to "Be bold..." in his [State of the State Address](#) to Florida's 160 legislators. As has been the case for the last 20 years, Republicans have majorities in the House (73-47) and the Senate (23-17). Last Monday, 3,289 bills had been filed for consideration during the session, but the only bill the Legislature is constitutionally required to pass is the 2019-2020 state budget, which will likely be in the range of \$90 billion. A multitude of major issues face the Legislature, but among the highest profile will be bills related to guns, school choice, health care reform, Hurricane Michael recovery, school safety, abortion, marijuana, and immigration.

Priority United Way Bills Heard this Week

Week of March 4-8, 2019

CS/SB 90 Early Childhood Courts (Book; D-Broward) - Creates an Early Childhood Court program to address cases involving children typically under the age of three that uses specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. Passed the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice on March 6.

CS/HB 217 Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel (Hattersley; D-Hillsborough) - Requires creation of a uniform system to enable service members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level training, education, and experience acquired in the military. The bill delineates the minimum required procedures for evaluating military credentials and experience and awarding academic college credit based on such credentials and experience. Passed by the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee on March 4.

SB 374 Children and Youth Cabinet (Harrell; R-Martin) - Adds a representative of the Florida Dental Association to the Children and Youth Cabinet, to be appointed by the Governor. Passed by the Health Policy Committee on March 4.

HB 3693 United Way of Florida - Financial Literacy and Prosperity Program (Raschein; R-Miami-Dade) - Requests an appropriation of \$1.2 million to support income tax consulting and preparation by United Way and its partners to help 31,000 low- and medium- income working Floridians recoup \$48 million in tax refunds and credits they have earned. Passed by the Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee on March 7.



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Questions or Comments?

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