



TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION
THE FLORIDA BAR

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

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Weekly Wrap Up

FEBRUARY 18 – 21, 2008

TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION OF THE FLORIDA BAR

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 4th

First Day of Regular Session 2008

Final Member Bill Filing Deadline, 12:00 p.m.

April 22nd

50th day – last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings

April 28th

All bills are immediately certified
Conference Committee Reports require only one reading

May 2nd

60th day - Last Day of Regular Session 2008

Dear FLATLS,

Regular Session 2008 convenes Tuesday, March 4th. As we discussed at the January meeting, we will begin our weekly conference calls regarding trial lawyer positions on legislative activities, starting the first week of the legislative session, **Friday, March 7th, and each Friday thereafter, at 8:30 AM (EST)**. The session is currently scheduled to run from Tuesday, March 4th, to Friday May 2nd.

The phone number will be the same each week. Please call **1-866-285-2249** (the Dial-In Number). When prompted enter your Conference Code, **4167336344** followed by the # sign.

We will send email reminders of the calls on Wednesday of each week. Please contact the Chair, Mr. Palmer, if you have a topic you would like to discuss. Thanks for all your help.

****To best view the links, you may need to right click and open weblink in browser****

UPDATE: On Tuesday, February 19th, the **Senate Committee on Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations** met. The first item on the agenda was a presentation regarding the State Courts System Legislative Budget Request. **Committee Chair Senator Crist** started the meeting by stating that "it is not this committee's agenda to decertify judges" regardless of what the *Palm Beach Post* [story](#) and other media outlets say.

The **Honorable R. Fred Lewis, Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court** was the first to address the Committee and had a tone of urgency when he stated that 87% of the budget is used to pay salaries. He said that the 4% hold back has critical impact and will significantly upset the court system. He predicted 400 layoffs by next January and stressed that the court system would have to begin furloughing workers. The trial courts would lose their dependency on mediation, which is tremendously important to them and listed other downfalls including lacking funds to implement electronic access to the courts by disabled persons, lack of judicial compensation, salary cuts and a need for additional judge certifications. Other needs of the court system, such as capital improvement, were barely addressed so as to stress the important need for funds in every other area. The **Honorable Stevan Northcutt**, Chief Judge and Chair of District Court of Appeals Budget Commission, is afraid that after the budget cuts and staff furlough, there will be no one to work on civil cases, as 2/3 of cases are criminal and take priority because of civil liberties. The **Honorable Belvin Perry**, Chief Judge and Chair of Trial Courts Budget Commission stated that the elimination of mediation in county and circuit courts will have a significant impact on judges, but more importantly citizens. **Lisa Goodner**, State Courts Administrator also spoke on behalf of the trial courts.

The trial courts may have an ally in **Senator Joyner**, who passionately stated that she was afraid of "cutting the meat out of the judiciary". **Senator Dean**

**SESSION,
COMMITTEE &
COUNCIL
MEETINGS:**

Monday, 3/3

Senate Criminal & Civil
Justice Appropriations
11:30 – 3:45
(37 S)

House Policy & Budget
Council
1:00 – 5:00
(212 K)

Tuesday, 3/4

Regular Session
Convenes
8:00

House Session
11:00 – 12:00

Senate Session
11:00

Joint Session
5:30 – 7:00

Wednesday, 3/5

House Committee on
Courts
8:00 – 11:00
(216 C)

House Safety &
Security Council
8:00 – 11:00
(Reed Hall)

Senate Committee on
Judiciary
9:00 – 11:30
(110 S)

House Session
1:00 – 6:00

Thursday, 3/6

House Session
8:00 – 11:00

Senate Session
9:30 – 2:30

Friday, 3/7

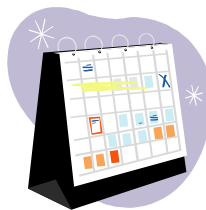
Senate Session
10:00

reminded everyone that “essential services only, not desired services” will be funded and **Senator Crist** concluded by saying that the judicial process will be slower, there will be longer lines, it may mean layoffs and a “more lengthy process”.

NEWS & NOTES:

- **Governor Crist, Chief Financial Officer Sink and Attorney General McCollum** [confirm](#) recommendation of Federated Investors, Inc. to manage local government investment pool.
- **Governor Crist** [appoints](#) **Lisa Walsh** to the **Miami-Dade County Court**.
- **Governor Crist** [appoints](#) **Kathleen Smith** as the public defender for the **20th Judicial Circuit of Florida**.
- “Cuts would stymie justice system, state attorneys say” per [this article](#) appearing in the *Orlando Sentinel*.
- “Court workers may face unpaid leave” according to [this article](#) in the *Tallahassee Democrat*.
- Sarasota County leaders are seeking alternatives to arresting homeless people who break city ordinances because it has led to overcrowding in jails. A *Herald-Tribune* analysis based on the cost of keeping a person in jail and processing their case through the court system shows that it costs taxpayers about \$925 each time police arrest a homeless person according to [their article](#).
- “Judgeships may fall to budget problems, key senator warns” per [this article](#) in the *Palm Beach Post*, although **Senator Crist** said that “it is no the committee’s (Committee on Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations) to decertify judges”.
- **House Speaker Marco Rubio** sent House members a [summary](#) of 2008 legislative priorities.

DATES & DEADLINES:



Regular Session 2008 begins Tuesday, March 4th.

[Click here](#) to view the House calendar for March 3rd – 7th.

[Click here](#) to view the Senate calendar for March 3rd – 7th.

*Calendars subject to change.

BILLS OF INTEREST: Many more bills have been filed in the House and Senate and we’ve added a few to track for the Trial Lawyers Section. Similar and identical bills are listed together. Committees and Councils are *italicized*; bills on an agenda and votes are noted in **red**.

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HB 45 – Adoption

GENERAL BILL by Brandenburg (CO-SPONSORS) Heller; Jenne; Kiar; Kriseman; Porth; Sachs; Skidmore; Vana; Waldman (**Similar [SB 200](#)**)

Adoption: Provides that person who is homosexual is eligible to adopt child under certain circumstances; requires that certain eligibility criteria be met by clear & convincing evidence; provides that person who is homosexual is eligible to adopt child if child's parents are deceased, person proposing to adopt child is child's guardian, & petition, declaration, or will or codicil meeting requirements of act is filed on or after July 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

07/31/07 HOUSE Filed

09/10/07 HOUSE Referred to *Healthcare Council*

10/12/07 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Healthy Families by Healthcare Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 200 – Relating to Adoption [SPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Rich (**Similar [HB 45](#)**)

Adoption [SPCC]: Provides that a homosexual is eligible to adopt a child under certain enumerated circumstances including but not limited to, if the child has resided with the person, the child's parents are deceased, and the person proposing to adopt the child is the guardian. Provides that certain provisions apply only with respect to a petition, declaration, or will or codicil that is filed or executed on or after July 1, 2008, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

09/06/07 SENATE Filed

11/28/07 SENATE Referred to *Children, Families, & Elder Affairs; Judiciary*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 47 – Civil Rights

GENERAL BILL by Skidmore (CO-SPONSORS) Brandenburg; Bucher; Machek; Schwartz (**Similar [SB 572](#), Compare [HB 191](#)**)

Civil Rights: Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, familial status, & marital status; defines terms; conforms terminology.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

08/01/07 HOUSE Filed

09/10/07 HOUSE Referred to Safety & Security Council; Policy & Budget Council

11/02/07 HOUSE Withdrawn prior to introduction

[Click here](#) for more information.

HB 191 – Relating to Civil Rights/Prohibited Discrimination

GENERAL BILL by Skidmore; (CO-SPONSORS) Taylor; Vana; Bucher; Heller; Sachs; Fitzgerald; Kriseman; Brandenburg; Gibbons; Machek; Jenne; Kiar; L. Garcia; Porth; Randolph; Schwartz; Waldman; Bullard; Meadows; Soto; Long; Fields; Chestnut; Sands (**Compare [HB 47](#), [SB 572](#)**)

Civil Rights/Prohibited Discrimination: Includes sexual orientation, familial status, and gender identity or expression as impermissible grounds for discrimination under the Florida Civil Rights Act and in public lodging and food services establishments. Includes sexual orientation, familial status, gender identity or expression, and marital status as impermissible grounds for discrimination under the Fair Housing Act, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

10/11/07 HOUSE Filed

11/09/07 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council; Policy & Budget Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 572 - Relating to Civil Rights/Sexual Orientation & Familial Status

GENERAL BILL by Deutch (Similar [HB 47](#), Compare [HB 191](#))

Civil Rights/Sexual Orientation & Familial Status; Includes sexual orientation and familial status as impermissible grounds for discrimination under the Florida Civil Rights Act and in public lodging and food services establishments. Includes sexual orientation, familial status, and marital status as impermissible grounds for discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. Defines "disability," deletes the definition of "handicap," and conforms terminology, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

10/26/07 SENATE Filed

12/13/07 SENATE Referred to *Commerce; Community Affairs; Judiciary; General Government Appropriations*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 95 – Legislature

GENERAL BILL by Llorente (Similar [SB 268](#))

Legislature: Designates act "Truth in Government Act"; revises current provisions for oaths & affirmations for committee witnesses & penalties for false swearing; requires committee witnesses to take oath or affirmation; provides exceptions; requires committee member to administer oath or affirmation; provides penalties for false statements; provides for use of signed appearance card in lieu of oral oath or affirmation & penalties for making false statement after signing card.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

08/29/07 HOSUE Filed

09/17/07 HOUSE Referred to *Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Rules & Calendar Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 268 – Relating to Truth in Government Act/Legislature [LPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Ring (Similar [HB 95](#))

Truth in Government Act/Legislature [LPCC]; Requires any person who addresses a legislative committee to take an oath or affirmation of truthfulness. Excepts members of the general public who are not registered lobbyist or paid to appear and minors who are determined to understand the duty to tell the truth from such requirement. Authorizes the use of a signed appearance form in lieu of an oral oath or affirmation prior to addressing the committee, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008

09/19/07 SENATE Filed

11/28/07 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Rules*

01/28/08 SENATE **On Committee agenda** - *Judiciary, 02/06/08, 3:30 pm, 110S*

02/06/08 SENATE **Favorable** by *Judiciary; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays*

02/07/08 SENATE Now in *Criminal Justice*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 145 – Court Actions Involving Families

GENERAL BILL by Planas (Compare [SB 628](#))

Court Actions Involving Families: Provides additional purposes relating to implementing unified family court program in circuit courts.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

09/24/07 HOUSE Filed

10/10/07 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council; Policy & Budget Council*

10/23/07 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts by Safety & Security Council*

01/16/08 HOUSE **On Committee agenda** - *Courts, 01/23/08, 1:30 pm, 216 C*

01/23/08 HOUSE **Favorable** with 1 Amendment by *Courts; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays*

01/28/08 HOUSE Now in *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 628 - Relating to Court Actions Involving Families

GENERAL BILL by Rich (**Compare [HB 145](#)**)

Court Actions Involving Families; Provides legislative intent with respect to implementing a unified family court program. Revises qualifications for guardians ad litem to include a citizen affiliated with a not-for-profit legal aid organization after he or she has completed a positive security background investigation, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law.

11/16/07 SENATE Filed

12/13/07 SENATE Referred to *Children, Families, & Elder Affairs; Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations*

02/11/08 SENATE **On Committee agenda** – *Children, Families, and Elder Affairs*, meeting 02/20/08, 2: 15 pm (412 K)

02/20/08 SENATE **Favorable** with CS by *Children, Families, and Elder Affairs*; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays

02/22/08 SENATE Committee Substitute (C1) Filed

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 209 – Service of Process

GENERAL BILL by Seiler (**Similar [SB 300](#)**)

Service of Process: Allows criminal witness subpoenas & summonses to be served by special process server appointed by sheriff or certified process server; allows unsatisfied executions held by sheriff docketed before specified date or held after specified time period to be returned to issuing court; requires submission of affidavit before levying judgment on real property; requires sheriff to furnish copy of notice of sale, notice of levy, & affidavit within specified period; requires priority of liens on real property be based on effective date of judgment lien; requires levying creditor to deliver affidavit to sheriff at time of levy request setting forth certain information & attestations; authorizes clerks of court to transmit facsimile copies of previously certified injunctions in cases of domestic violence or sexual abuse to sheriffs on request; requires sheriffs to verify receipt before attempting service; authorizes law enforcement officers to serve facsimiles the same as certified copies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

10/30/07 HOUSE Filed

12/12/07 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council; Policy & Budget Council*

12/19/07 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts* by *Safety & Security Council*

1/16/08 HOUSE **On Committee agenda** - *Courts*, 01/23/08, 1: 30 pm, 216 C

1/23/08 HOUSE **Favorable with 3 Amendment** by *Courts*; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays; Now in *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 300 - Relating to Service of Process [LPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Crist (**Similar [HB 209](#)**)

Service of Process [LPCC]; Increases the fees charged by the sheriff in civil cases for service of process from \$20 to \$40. Exempts the state and its agencies from increased fees. Deletes a prohibition on additional fees for alias and pluries documents when service was not affected on the original document in the county of original request by that sheriff, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

09/24/07 SENATE Filed

11/28/07 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations*

01/15/08 SENATE **On Committee agenda**-- *Judiciary*, 01/23/08, 9:00 am, 110-S

01/23/08 **SENATE CS** by *Judiciary*; **YEAS 8 NAYS 0**

01/24/08 SENATE Committee Substitute (C1) Text Filed

02/05/08 SENATE Now in *Criminal Justice*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 295 – Senior Judges

GENERAL BILL by Planas (Similar [SB 740](#))

Senior Judges: Revises definition of terms "retired justice" & "retired judge" for purposes of assignment to temporary duty.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

11/26/07 HOUSE Filed

12/12/07 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council*

12/19/07 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts* by *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 740 – Retired Judges/Temporary Duty Assignment [LPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Dean (Similar [HB 295](#))

Retired Judges/Temporary Duty Assignment [LPCC]: Revises the definition of "retired justice" and "retired judge" for purposes of assignment to temporary duty, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2008

12/10/07 SENATE Filed

01/09/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 523 – Health Care Providers/Immunity from Civil Damages

GENERAL BILL by Homan (Similar [SB 844](#))

Health Care Providers: Provides immunity from civil damages to health care providers providing emergency care or medical consultation services; provides exception; provides for retroactive application.

Effective Date: October 1, 2008

01/14/08 HOUSE Filed

01/23/08 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council*

01/30/08 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts* by *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 844 - Relating to Health Care Providers/Immunity from Civil Damages [SPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Bennett (Identical [HB 523](#))

Health Care Providers/Immunity from Civil Damages [SPCC]: Provides immunity from civil damages to health care providers providing emergency care or medical consultation services to a patient who has an emergency medical condition. Provides immunity unless such damages result from providing, or failing to provide, medical care or treatment under circumstances demonstrating a reckless disregard for the consequences so as to affect the life or health of another, etc.

Effective Date: 10/01/2008

12/19/07 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Health Regulation; Judiciary*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 589 – Civil Remedies

General Bill by Brown (Similar [SB 882](#))

Civil Remedies: Limits actions against insurers to insureds; specifies duty to cooperate with insurers in asserting demands for settlement; provides specified activities as defense in specified actions; revises time periods relating to notices in specified actions; revises notice requirements; provides for preemption of specified civil remedies; provides for effect of judgments; provides criteria for burden of proof in actions against insurers; limits insurer liability for failure to pay policy limits; authorizes parties to request court orders relating to unnecessary

delay; provides requirements for amending witness lists; limits admissibility of evidence; provides considerations for triers of fact in specified actions; provides construction relating to assigning causes of action.

Effective Date: upon becoming a law

1/17/08 HOUSE Filed

1/24/08 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 882 – Relating to Civil Actions Against Insurers [EPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Baker (Similar [HB 589](#))

Civil Actions Against Insurers [EPCC]: Provides that only an insured of the insurer may bring a civil action against the insurer under specified circumstances. Provides that the remedies specified under these provisions preempt other civil remedies created by statute or common law, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2008.

12/21/07 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Banking & Insurance; Commerce; Judiciary*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 645 – Expert Witnesses

GENERAL BILL by Ross (Identical [SB 1448](#))

Expert Witnesses: Revises requirements for admission of expert testimony; provides that facts or data that are otherwise inadmissible shall not be disclosed to jury except in specified circumstances; provides for pretrial hearing to determine whether an expert's proposed testimony satisfies specified requirements; provides standard for appellate review of such determination; provides for interlocutory appeal of ruling to admit or exclude expert testimony; requires courts to interpret specified provisions consistently with specified Federal Rules of Evidence & United States Supreme Court opinions.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008, and shall apply to all actions commenced on or after the effective date and to all pending actions in which trial has not been scheduled or in which trial commences more than 90 calendar days after that date

01/22/08 HOUSE Filed

01/28/08 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council*

02/21/08 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts* by *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 1448 – Relating to Expert Witnesses

GENERAL BILL by Wise (Identical [HB 645](#))

Expert Witnesses: Revises requirements for admission of expert testimony. Provides that facts or data that are otherwise inadmissible shall not be disclosed to a jury unless the court determines that the probative value of the facts or data in assisting the jury to evaluate the expert's opinion substantially outweighs the prejudicial effect of disclosing the facts or data, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/30/08 SENATE Filed

02/21/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal Justice*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 719 - Court Costs

GENERAL BILL by Ford (Compare [SB 608](#))

Court Costs: Provides for waiver of specified services costs for indigent persons; deletes provisions providing for enrollment in payment plans, payment of processing charges, determinations of monthly payment amounts, review of payment plan amounts, & case limitations based upon nonpayment of fees; provides exceptions for imposing state court facilities funding surcharges concurrently for specified purposes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

01/23/08 HOUSE Filed

02/06/08 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council*
02/21/08 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts* by *Safety & Security Council*
[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 608 – Relating to Indigent Persons/Court Fees and Penalties [LPCC]

GENERAL BILL by Crist (Compare [HB 719](#))

Indigent Persons/Court Fees and Penalties [LPCC]; Waives civil court costs and fees for a person whose income is equal to or below 150 percent of then-current federal poverty guidelines. Also waives civil court costs and fees for a person who receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Cash Assistance (TANF), poverty-related veteran's benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

10/30/07 SENATE Filed

12/13/07 SENATE Referred to *Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 869 – Court Costs

GENERAL BILL by Reagan

Court Costs: Increases court cost assessed against any person convicted of violating state penal or criminal statute or convicted municipal or county ordinance or whose adjudication is withheld under specified provisions; increases amount deducted from every bond estreature or forfeited bail bond related to such penal statutes; revises allocation of funds received; requires defendants to pay all outstanding criminal costs & fines prior to court entering order to seal or expunge criminal history records unless court makes specified written findings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008

02/07/08 HOUSE Filed

02/13/08 HOUSE Referred to *Safety & Security Council; Policy & Budget Council*

02/21/08 HOUSE Referred to *Committee on Courts* by *Safety & Security Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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HB 8001 – Equal Rights for Men and Women

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION by Planas; (CO-SPONSORS) Brandenburg; Cusack; Fitzgerald; A. Gibson; Jenne; Kiar; Kriseman; Long; Porth; Robaina; Schwartz; Vana; Zapata (**Identical [S 0362](#)**)

Equal Rights for Men and Women; Ratifies the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution relating to equal rights for men and women, etc.

09/24/07 HOUSE Filed

02/14/08 HOUSE Referred to *Government Efficiency & Accountability Council; Policy & Budget Council*

[Click here](#) for more information.

SB 362 - Relating to Equal Rights for Men and Women [LPCC]

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION by Margolis; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Joyner (**Identical [HB 8001](#)**)

Equal Rights for Men and Women [LPCC]; Ratifies the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution relating to equal rights for men and women, etc.

09/27/07 SENATE Filed

11/28/07 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 400 - Relating to Insurance/Unfair Competition/Deceptive Acts

GENERAL BILL by Fasano

Insurance/Unfair Competition/Deceptive Acts; Provides that an insurer's failure to offer in this state any kind or line of insurance which it offers in another jurisdiction constitutes an unfair method of competition and unfair or deceptive act, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

10/02/07 SENATE Filed

12/13/07 SENATE Referred to *Banking & Insurance; Judiciary*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 612 - Relating to Judges

GENERAL BILL by Crist

Judges; Expresses the legislative intent to revise laws relating to the number of judges in specified individual circuits and in specified district courts of appeal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law.

10/30/07 SENATE Filed

12/13/07 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations;*

Rules

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1050 - Relating to State Judicial System

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

State Judicial System; Expresses the legislative intent to revise laws relating to the state judicial system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1052 – Relating to Individual Rights

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

Individual Rights; Expresses the legislative intent to enact laws relating to the rights of individuals.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations;*

Rules

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1054 – Relating to Justice Administrative Commission

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

Justice Administrative Commission; Expresses the legislative intent to enact laws relating to the Justice Administrative Commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations;*

Rules

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1056 – Relating to State Court System

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

State Courts System; Expresses the legislative intent to enact laws relating to the state courts system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1058 – Relating to Public Records and Meetings

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

Public Records and Meetings; Expresses the legislative intent to create an exemption from public records and public meetings requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Governmental Operations; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1060 – Relating to State Constitution Amendment

JOINT RESOLUTION by Villalobos

State Constitution Amendment; Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1072 – Relating to Judiciary

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

Judiciary; Expresses the legislative intent to enact laws relating to the judiciary.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1074 – Relating to Litigation

GENERAL BILL by Villalobos

Litigation; Expresses the legislative intent to enact laws relating to litigation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

01/10/08 SENATE Filed

01/24/08 SENATE Referred to *Judiciary; Criminal & Civil Justice Appropriations; Rules*

[Click here](#) for more information.

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SB 1636 – Relating to Joint Select Committee of the Legislature/Courts

GENERAL BILL by Ring

Joint Select Committee of the Legislature/Courts; Requires the Legislature to establish a joint select committee to review methods of collecting court-related

fees, service charges, costs, and fines used by circuit courts and county courts, etc.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2008.

02/07/08 SENATE Filed

[Click here](#) for more information.

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LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS: During the course of the legislative cycle, the Trial Lawyers Section may be asked to provide their expertise in the form of "Legislative Briefs" – a neutral statement of one or more aspects of trial law to assist the legislature in its deliberations. We will archive these briefs in this section of our reports.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST: Remember that members of the Florida Legislature receive information from a number of sources prior to and during the Legislative session. One of those sources is called the Florida Government Accountability Report (FGAR), which is published by the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA).

These reports contain basic information about every agency of state government, including the entire court system. If you would like to see the information that is provided to legislators on the court system, which was last updated on November 16, 2007, please review the following links.

The entire State Court System

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/1072/>

The Florida Supreme Court:

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/1014/>

The District Courts of Appeal:

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/1019/>

The Circuit Courts:

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/1015/>

The County Courts:

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/1018/>

CLOSING STATEMENT: Be on the lookout for a newsletter following the first week of Session.

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Session
Week 1 Calendars



Weekly Schedule of the House of Representatives

Week 1

March 3, 2008 - March 7, 2008

Monday, March 3, 2008	Tuesday, Day 1 March 4, 2008	Wednesday, Day 2 March 5, 2008	Thursday, Day 3 March 6, 2008	Friday, Day 4 March 7, 2008
<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm February 25, 2008</p> <p>9:00 – 11:00 Joint Legislative Sunset Committee</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm February 29, 2008</p> <p>11:00 -12:00</p> <p>OPENING DAY 2008 Regular SESSION</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm March 3, 2008</p> <p>8:00 – 11:00 Government Efficiency & Accountability Council Morris Hall Audit & Perform. 116K Military & Veterans Affairs 12H State Affairs Morris Hall Urban & Local Affairs 306H</p> <p>Environment & Natural Resources Council 404H</p> <p>Safety & Security Council Reed Hall Constitution & Civil Law 24H Courts 216C Homeland Security & Public Safety Reed Hall Juvenile Justice 28H</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm March 4, 2008</p> <p>8:00 – 11:00 SESSION</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm March 5, 2008</p> <p>9:30 – 12:00 Schools & Learning Council 212K</p>
12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH	12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH		12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH	12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH
<p>1:00 – 5:00 Policy & Budget Council 212K</p> <p><u>Upon adjournment of the Policy & Budget Council</u></p> <p>Rules & Calendar Council 212K</p> <p>4:00 – 5:30 Joint Administrative Procedures Committee</p> <p>Joint Legislative Auditing Committee</p> <p>Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations</p>	<p>1:00 – 4:00 Healthcare Council Morris Hall Healthy Families 12H Health Innov. Morris Hall Health Quality 306H Healthy Seniors 24H</p> <p>Schools & Learning Council 212K 21st Century Competitiveness 404H Education Innovation Career Prep. 116K K-12 212K Postsecondary Education Reed Hall</p> <p>5:30 – 7:00</p> <p>JOINT SESSION</p>	<p>11:00 – 12:45 <u>Committees under the Environment & Natural Resources Council</u> Agribusiness Reed Hall Conservation & State Lands 216C Energy Morris Hall Env. Protection 404H</p> <p>1:00 – 6:00 SESSION</p>	<p>1:00 – 4:00 Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council 404H Economic Dev. Reed Hall Ethics & Elections 12H Infrastructure 404H Tourism & Trade 28H</p> <p>Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council Morris Hall Business Reg. 306H Financial Inst. 24H Insurance Morris Hall Utilities & Telecom. 216C</p>	

Week 1 March 3 - 7, 2008

2nd AMENDED

2/26/08 10:30 am

Tentative calendar subject to change. Check meeting notices for accurate meeting time. Up to the minute information may be found at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/HouseCalendar/housecalendar.aspx> or select "House Daily Schedule" at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>. When using the web page, select the appropriate date to view meeting schedules. Meetings must be scheduled by notice deadlines above but may be subject to change.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SENATE MEETING TIME ALLOCATIONS

Week 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
March 3, 2008	March 4, 2008	March 5, 2008	March 6, 2008	March 7, 2008
9:00-11:00am Joint Legis/Sunset Committee	11:00am - until completion Session	9:00-11:30am - (LPCC) Criminal Justice 401S Ethics and Elections 412K Judiciary 110S MilitaryAf/Domestic S. 301S	9:30-2:30pm – Session Special Order Calendars from: FPCC OPCC	10:00am–until completion Session
LUNCH & DISTRICT OFFICE	LUNCH & DISTRICT OFFICE 12:00n – Bill Filing Deadline	LUNCH & DISTRICT OFFICE	LUNCH & DISTRICT OFFICE	LUNCH & DISTRICT OFFICE
11:30-3:45pm - (FPCC) Crim.& Civil Justice AP 37S Education Pre-K-12 AP 412K Gen. Govt. AP 401S Health/Human Svcs.AP 110S Higher Education AP 117K Trans.Econ.Dev. AP 309C 4:00-5:30pm Joint Committees: -Admin. Procedures -Auditing -Everglades Oversight -Intergovernmental Relations	1:15-2:00pm - Fiscal Policy & Calendar Committee 110S 2:15-4:30pm - (EPCC) Banking and Insurance 412K Commerce 401S Regulated Industries 110S Transportation 37S 5:30pm – Joint Session	2:00-4:30pm - (SPCC) Child/Fam/ElderAff. 412K Education Pre-K-12 110S Health Policy 301S Health Regulation 401S Higher Education 37S	3:15-5:15pm - (RPCC) Agriculture 37S Comm/Public Utilities 301S Community Affairs 412K Environ/Pres/Conserv. 401S Govt. Operations 110S	Conference TBA
	1 st Day – Regular Session			

REMEMBER: THE OFFICIAL CALENDAR IS PRINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE.
THIS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

February 21, 2008