



TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION
THE FLORIDA BAR

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

JANUARY 30, 2008

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Weekly Wrap Up

TRIAL LAWYERS SECTION OF THE FLORIDA BAR

Dear FLATLS,

House and Senate committees and councils met during the week of January 21st – 25th. Several bills were presented to the House and Senate and many more bills were filed. Again, the state's budget and economy were the talk of the capitol.

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

COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES:

On Wednesday, January 23rd, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met to hear several bills. Among the bills presented to the Committee, [SB 92](#) – *Relating to Persons Injured by Crime/Medical Treatment*, presented by **Committee Chair Senator J. Alex Villalobos**, voted favorable by committee members and passed. [SB 300](#) – *Relating to Service of Process* was presented by **Senator Victor D. Crist**, voted favorable and passed. **Judge Steven Leifman**, Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Subcommittee on Mental Health, gave a presentation on chronically mentally ill persons in Florida local jails and state prison system and recommended a legislative proposal for alternative financing and service delivery strategies.

The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice also met on Wednesday. Bills and proposed committee bills were heard. Most notably, **Mark Lunsford**, father of Jessica Lunsford, spoke in favor of [SB 496](#) – *Relating to Lewd or Lascivious Molestation (identical HB 85)*. The **Florida Department of Law Enforcement** made a presentation on juvenile and adult criminal history records, the availability of those records, the process for sealing and expunging those records and the availability of those records to potential employers.

The House Committee on Courts met and considered several bills. [HB 145](#) – *Court Actions Involving Families* was presented by **Representative J.C. Planas**, voted favorable and passed. [HB 209](#) – *Service of Process* presented by **Representative John P. Sieler** was voted favorable and passed.

The **Legislative Budget Commission** met and all requests for budget amendments were approved. The **Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association** held a press conference on the morning of January 23rd regarding funding for Florida's state attorneys tied to the 2008–2009 budget. It was stated that 95% of the **Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association** funds went to pay salaries and benefits and many people spoke on their behalf, including **Representative Dick Kravitz**, chair of the **Safety & Security Council** and **Sheriff Joey Dodson**, president of the **Florida's Sheriffs Association**.

BILL ACTIVITY: The following bills have had activity during the past few weeks. If there is a legislative position you would like us to take, please let us know. For more information on the bills and their specific activity, see "Bills of Interest".

HB 145 – Court Actions Involving Families
HB 209 – Service of Process

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 4th – 8th

Interim Council /
Committee Meetings
*Notice Deadline 1/28 –
2/1*

February 11th – 15th

Interim Council /
Committee Meetings
*Notice Deadline 2/4 –
2/8*

February 18th – 22nd

Interim Council /
Committee Meetings
*Notice Deadline 2/11 –
2/15*

March 4th

First Day of 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

SB 300 – Relating to Service of Process
 SB 656 – Relating to Judicial and Execution Sales of Property [LPCC]
 SB 740 – Retired Judges/Temporary Duty Assignment [LPCC]
 HB 365 – Change of Name
 SB 220 – Relating to Change of Name/Petition [LPCCC]
 SB 844 – Relating to Health Care Providers/Immunity from Civil Damages [SPCC]
 HB 523 – Health Care Providers
 HB 589 – Civil Remedies
 SB 882 – Relating to Civil Actions Against Insurers
 HB 619 – Child-Restraint Requirements
 SB 668 – Relating to Child-restraint Requirements
 HB 645 – Expert Witnesses
 HB 719 – Court Costs
 SB 1050 – Relating to State Judicial System
 SB 1052 – Relating to Individual Rights
 SB 1054 – Relating to Justice Administrative Commission
 SB 1056 – Relating to State Court System
 SB 1058 – Relating to Public Records and Meetings
 SB 1060 – Relating to State Constitution Amendment
 SB 1072 – Relating to Judiciary
 SB 1074 – Relating to Litigation

NEWS & NOTES:

- We are paying particular attention to several bills listed here. We are expecting both HB 645 and SB 882 to receive a lot of attention in the legislature. HB 645 appears to be an attempt to move Florida away from the *Frye* tort to the *Daubert* tort. There is no Senate companion bill to date. Let us know if you have a legislative position you'd like for us to take. In addition, please review [HB 523](#) and [SB 844](#) to determine if the section has a position.
 - **HB 645 – Expert Witnesses**
GENERAL BILL by Ross
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.
 - **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.
- Arbitration code rewrite. As you may recall, Bill Hahn brought a copy of what appeared to be legislation that would re-write Florida's arbitration code (Chapter 682). We have checked with the staff directors in the House and Senate, but neither is aware of any attempt to propose legislation. WE will continue to monitor newly filed bills to see if the legislation pops up.
- Bar rule changes, approved by the Florida Supreme Court, include Bar members found guilty of minor misconduct paying an administrative fee to the Bar, while reservists called to active duty can have their annual Bar fee waived, according to [this article](#) in *Jacksonville's Financial News &*

Daily Record.

- The *Tallahassee Democrat* ran an article entitled "[Opposition to Amendment 1 grows](#)" and says that the Florida League of Mayors and Florida TaxWatch are both in opposition to Amendment One.
- In light of the state's primary election, an [article](#) appeared in Tuesday's *Miami Herald* stating that Florida's election will be a barometer for the rest of the country.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, 2/5

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

Wednesday, 2/6

House Safety & Security
Council
1:00 – 5:00
Reed Hall

House Committee on
Courts
1:00 – 5:00
216(C)

Senate Judiciary
Committee
3:30 – 6:00
110 (S)

Senate Committee on
Criminal Justice
3:30 – 6:00
401(S)

Thursday, 2/7

Senate Criminal & Civil
Justice Appropriations
1:30 – 6:00
37(S)

DATES & DEADLINES:



The House and Senate will hold committee and council meetings three weeks in a row, beginning February 4th – 8th, followed by the week of February 11th – 15th and the week of February 18th – 22nd.

[Click here](#) for the HOUSE interim calendar for February 4th – 8th.
[Click here](#) for the SENATE interim calendar for February 4th – 8th.
**These are tentative calendars and 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 HOUSE 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**
[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*

[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

[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*

[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

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*

[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

[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 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

[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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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 the next newsletter following committee meetings and workshops the week of **February 4th – 8th**.

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Weekly Schedule of the House of Representatives

Weekly Interim Schedule

February 4, 2008 - February 8, 2008

Monday, February 4, 2008	Tuesday, February 5, 2008	Wednesday, February 6, 2008	Thursday, February 7, 2008	Friday, February 8, 2008
<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm January 28, 2008</p> <p>8:00 – 10:00 Joint Legislative Sunset Committee</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm January 29, 2008</p> <p>8:00 – 12:00 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>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm January 30, 2008</p> <p>8:00 – 12:00 Environment & Natural Resources Council 404H Agribusiness Reed Hall Conservation & State Lands 216C Energy Morris Hall Env. Protection 404H</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm January 31, 2008</p> <p>8:30 – 4:00 James Madison Institute Health Care Summit University Club</p>	<p>Notice deadline, 4:30 pm February 1, 2008</p> <p>8:00 – 12:00 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>
12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH	12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH	12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH		12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH
<p>1:00 – 3:00 Select Committee to Protect Personal Information Morris Hall</p>	<p>1:00 – 5:00 Policy & Budget Council 212K</p>	<p>1:00 – 5:00 Government Efficiency & Accountability Council Morris Hall Audit & Perform. 404H Military & Veterans Affairs 12H State Affairs Morris Hall Urban & Local Affairs 306H</p> <p>Safety & Security Council Reed Hall Constitution & Civil Law 28H Courts 216C Homeland Security & Public Safety Reed Hall Juvenile Justice 24H</p>		

February 4 - 8, 2008

1st AMENDED

1/29/08 2:05 pm

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.

Senate Interim Calendar

Ken Pruitt
President of the Senate



Lisa Carlton
President Pro Tempore

SENATE SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 - 8, 2008

[XXXX] = Policy and Calendar Committee Initials. See page 3 for Committee Groupings
(NM)* = Not Meeting and (MC)* = Meeting Cancelled

MONDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2008	TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2008	WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2008	THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2008	FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2008
<p>8:00-10:00 a.m. Joint Legislative Sunset Committee Rm. 37(SB)</p> <p>10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Select Committee on Property Insurance Accountability Rm. 412(KB)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Select Committee on Property Insurance Accountability Rm. 412(KB)</p>	<p>8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon [SPCC] Education Pre-K - 12 Rm. 110(SB)</p> <p>9:00-10:30 a.m. [SPCC] Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Rm. 412(KB)</p> <p>9:00-11:30 a.m. [SPCC] Health Policy Rm. 301(SB) Health Regulation Rm. 401(SB) Higher Education Rm. 37(SB)</p> <p>12:45-3:15 p.m. [EPCC] Banking and Insurance Rm. 412(KB) Commerce Rm. 401(SB) Regulated Industries Rm. 110(SB) Transportation Rm. 37(SB)</p> <p>3:30-6:00 p.m. [LPCC] Criminal Justice Rm. 401(SB) Ethics and Elections (NM)* Judiciary Rm. 110(SB) Military Affairs and Domestic Security Rm. 301(SB)</p>	<p>9:00-11:30 a.m. [RPCC] Agriculture Rm. 37(SB) Communications and Public Utilities (NM)* Community Affairs (NM)* Environmental Preservation and Conservation Rm. 401(SB) Governmental Operations Rm. 110(SB)</p> <p>12:45-1:15 p.m. Joint Meeting Transportation & Transportation and Economic Development Rm. 309(CB)</p> <p>1:30-6:00 p.m. [FPCC] Appropriations Committees: Criminal and Civil Justice Rm. 37(SB) Education Pre-K - 12 Rm. 412(KB) Finance and Tax (NM)* General Government Rm. 401(SB) Health and Human Services Rm. 110(SB) Higher Education Rm. 117(KB) Transportation and Economic Development Rm. 309(CB)</p>	<p>9:00-3:00 p.m. [FPCC] Appropriations Committees: Criminal and Civil Justice (NM)* Education Pre-K - 12 (NM)* General (NM)* Government (NM)* Health and Human Services Rm. 110(SB) Higher Education (NM)* Transportation and Economic Development Rm. 309(CB)</p>
Lunch and District Office	Lunch and District Office	Lunch and District Office	Lunch and District Office	Lunch and District Office

NOTE: Copies of Senate documents may be obtained in the Senate Document Center, Room 304 Capitol, and may be accessed @ www.flsenate.gov