



March 19, 2010

Session 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

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"I believe in the coming days we have a real opportunity to change the way our state government fundamentally responds to financial challenges."

-Senator Charlie Dean

Week Three of the 2010 Legislative Session

Greetings from Tallahassee!

The third week of the Legislative Session has come to a close in the state Capitol. We continue to make mindful and steady progress on the state budget. Admittedly, addressing the current budget crisis of having to cut over three billion dollars is not an easy one to overcome. However, I believe in the coming days we have a real opportunity to change the way our state government fundamentally responds to financial challenges. However, I believe we must not delay our actions— we must act quickly and decisively.

We have seen many governmental entities failed or drag their feet in dealing with these looming financial challenges. Many take the easy way out, burying their heads in the sand and hope against hope our revenues will reverse course overnight. Others believe by adding new



taxes or borrowing additional funds we might not be faced with the difficult tasks of balancing our budget. We can not solve our problems by adding new taxes or borrowing additional funds. We must make bold decisions. To help ensure, just like in any family's budget, expenses do not exceed income. While it is never easy to cut the budget, we have an opportunity to prevent much greater harm to

people who depend on the state for education, public safety, health care and other essential services.

I encourage you to contact my office or follow this very important issue as we continue to work on the budget in the coming weeks.

What is an... "Amendment"

A proposal to change a procedural motion or proposed legislation. Types and versions of amendments include: **Committee amendment:** Recommended changes to a bill, which a committee has agreed upon. Each adopted com-

mittee amendment accompanies the bill reported favorably for floor consideration. When the bill goes to the floor, the committee amendment must be considered before any other amendment may be taken up. **Floor amendment:** A

proposal offered by one or more legislators for consideration in the respective chamber. **Technical amendment:** A non-substantive amendment used to correct errors such as spelling, numbering, incorrect coding or directory language.



WEEK THREE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Florida Senate met in executive Session twice this week, on Tuesday and Thursday. Among the bills passed on the floor were a balanced budget referendum which requires a non-binding referendum be included on the 2010 ballot asking voters whether the U.S. Constitution should include a balanced budget amendment. The bill was amended to remove an \$80,000 appropriation. Also, the Senate passed a measure allowing judges to excuse licensed psychologists from jury duty. A bill which prohibits adoption agencies from preventing gun owners from adopting children passed a final floor vote and was sent to the Governor.

Senators also spent a portion of the week working in their respective appropriations committees. The Senate Health and Human Services, Transportation, General Government, Pre K-12, Civil and Criminal Justice, and Higher Education committees all met and passed their final committee bills on Friday. The Senators are attempting to cut over three billion dollars out of the state budget, which is the only bill the Legislature is required to pass, according to state law.

Senator Dean passed an important food safety bill on the floor this week on Second Reading. The bill will ensure Florida grown tomatoes are among the safest in the country. It will allow the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to have the authority to adopt food safety standards for the growing, harvesting and packing of Florida grown tomatoes. There was an exemption provided for tomatoes sold by the grower where the tomatoes are grown or at a local farmer's market, for up to two 25-pound boxes per customer per day.

Next week, the Senate will meet three times in executive Session and it is expected they will be discussing changes to the education system during the Tuesday Session. Senator Dean will have a road designation bill which honors Captain Chad Reed. Captain Reed was shot and mortally wounded in a shootout with a man wanted for murdering two elderly women and shooting two other women in Hernando County.

Finally, in addition to attending his normal committees, Senator Dean will also be Chairing his Agriculture Committee on Tuesday where an ATV bill will be debated.

Dean Files Bill to Protect Homeowners

Senator Charlie Dean has filed Senate Bill 352, entitled "Homeowners Insurance/ Termination/ Notification." This bill, if passed, would require the Office of Insurance Regulation or its designee to provide written notice to each homeowners' insurance policy holder as to the possibility his or her policy may be terminated, including the reasons for this termination. The homeowner would also be

given options available with regard to choosing a new policy or plan, including the names of any providers which may have the capacity to accept new enrollees in Florida.

The bill would also require the written notice be given sixty days before the last date on which the policy will remain in effect, even if the policyholder is cancelling, not renewing or otherwise terminates their policy.

Finally, the office shall provide written instructions to all homeowners insurance policyholders in Florida as to how to contact a broker, agent, or counselor for the purpose of selecting a new coverage plan or making changes to an existing policy.

The bill has been referred to the Banking and Insurance committee, the Commerce Committee and the General Government Appropriations committee.



"It is always a pleasure to host school groups during the Legislative Session, as I truly enjoy speaking with children about the past and future of our state."

-Senator Charlie Dean
with students from
Seven Rivers Christian
School

EPA Bows To DEP Demands On Water

Bowing to criticism of federal water pollution standards from state environmental officials, as well as, business and farming industries, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will delay implementing some of the most contentious aspects of a proposal and seek a third party review of the science behind it.

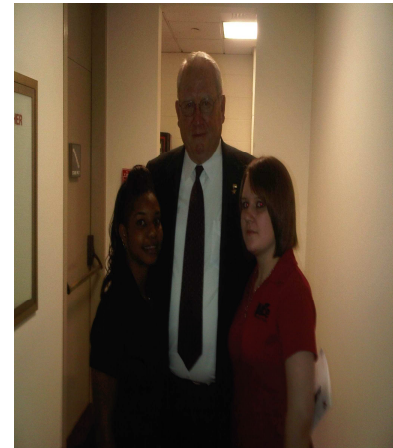
In a letter to Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Mike Sole, the EPA said the agency had decided to delay until 2011 the portions of the numeric limits on the amount of pollution in state bodies of water containing the chemicals phosphorous and nitrogen, related

to streams. The agency also pledged to bring in a third party arbiter to navigate the differences between their scientific analysis and Florida's.

Senate Agriculture Chairman Charlie Dean was among lawmakers who believed the cost of complying with the increased requirements were unfair to farmers and businesses.

EPA Assistant Administrator Peter Silva promised the EPA would work more closely with the state going forward, saying "we commit to consult with FDEP on the scope of third party review and will announce in early April the specific plans for that review." Un-

der the EPA plan, which is the result of a lengthy legal fight between the state and environmentalists, Florida waters would be grouped with different nutrient allotments depending on the characteristic of the water. The state has argued the standards would be unfair because they would only be applied to Florida, but environmentalists sued state regulators for failing to enforce the federal Clean Water Act. FDEP has argued in some cases, particularly those involving Florida's streams, the "narrative" standards, which are enforced on a case-by-case basis, would be more appropriate to apply.



Senator Dean meets with two students from the Marion PACE School for Girls

Senator Asks For Your Input on Education Bills

With the Florida Senate slated to debate an education bill next week, Senator Dean sent an email to education leaders throughout the district requesting their thoughts on the reforms. The e-mail read, in part: "Good afternoon. Currently there are two bills with direct impact on our schools and our school teachers making their way through the Florida Senate. As Superintendents, principals, teach-

ers and leaders, I would like to gauge your interests and input on these bills." The email continued, "As a former classroom teacher, I know firsthand the impact these types of bills could possibly have on our schools and our students. I invite you to reply to me immediately with your thoughts and your concerns. These bills are SB 4, and SB 6."

The bills have a significant

impact on teacher tenure, teacher salary and revamping the FCAT and high school graduation requirements and can be found on the Senate website, www.flsenate.gov and Senator Dean invites your input on these bills. You can email him at the following email address: Dean.Charles.Web@flsenate.gov. The bills are expected to be discussed on the Senate floor on Tuesday.

Visitors to the Capitol

Another busy week for Senator Dean's Capitol office in Tallahassee. This week saw "Marion County Days," and as such, a large contingent of leaders from Marion county visited with the Senator about issues facing the county. Also this week, students from the Seven Rivers Chris-

tian School, the Leadership Ocala/Marion organization, the Heart of Florida Regional Management team, Marion PACE Center for Girls, various members of Agri-business teaching associations organization, the Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce and other

large groups visited the Capitol.

If you or your organization will be visiting the Capitol and are interested in a tour or meeting the Senator, please do not hesitate to contact us at (850) 487-5017 or just stop by our office, located at 311 Senate Office Building.



Senator Charlie Dean and the members of the 2010 Leadership Ocala/Marion Youth organization.

The Florida Historical Marker Program

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In this section of the newsletter we will spotlight the Florida Historical Marker Program. This program recognizes historic resources, persons and events that are significant in the areas of architecture, archaeology, Florida history and traditional culture by promoting the placing of historic markers and plaques at sites of historical and visual interest to visitors. The purpose of the program is to increase public awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the state and to enhance the enjoyment of historic sites in Florida by its citizens and tourists.



The marker text reads as follows: "These sulphur springs were thought to have medicinal properties and were considered sacred by the Indians. Warriors wounded in battle reputedly were not attacked when they came here to recuperate. Settlers moved into the vicinity in 1826 and the springs became an antebellum resort noted for natural beauty and good cuisine. The village was a refuge during the War Between the States and many planters brought their families and slaves here for safety."

White Springs is a town in Hamilton County, Florida, on the Suwannee River. The population was 745 at the 2004 census. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 estimates, the town had a population of 776.

The White Sulphur Springs near the town were used before Europeans arrived, and in the 19th century it became Florida's first tourist destination. The first purchases of land date from 1835, when Bryant and Elizabeth Sheffield bought land for a cotton plantation. The town was incorporated in 1885, and many of the original buildings still stand.

The songwriter Stephen Foster is remembered here at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park.