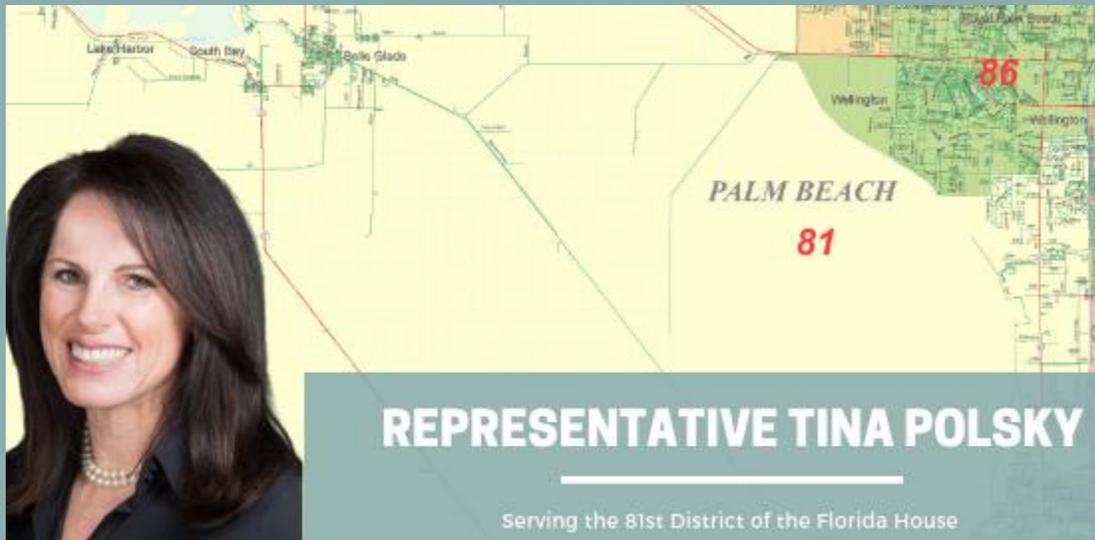


EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the Legislature. USE CAUTION when clicking links or opening attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Dear Friends,

The 2020 Legislative Session ended about a week later than originally scheduled and with fairly little controversy, although it ended rather unusually in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are taking a little break from our COVID updates to give you information about the 2020 Session as bills are being signed by the Governor and the final deadline for the 2020-2021 Budget is right around the corner.

This is a brief highlight of some of the bills that I believe you will be interested in. This year nearly 1,000 bills were brought forward for consideration, only 200 of which was passed by both the House and Senate.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns regarding any piece of legislation that was brought forth this year, and I will gladly give

you an update about the bill.

Best,

Rep. Tina Polsky

Representative Polsky's Bill Recap

HB 91, Holocaust Education in Public Schools-This bill would require the Department of Education to create curriculum standards for Holocaust Education, and requires charter schools and private schools receiving state funding to participate in mandatory Holocaust Education. While my original bill did not move through the legislature, I was glad to work with my colleagues on HB 1213 Educational Instruction of Historical Events, which did pass and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

HJR 95, Representation of Women-This bill would mandate that any abortion law brought forth by the legislature may only be approved if half of the members of each chamber are women.

HB 595, Medical Marijuana Employee Protection-This legislation would prohibit employers from taking adverse action against employees who have a medical marijuana license. Exceptions would be made for employees who are in public safety roles, such as firefighters, police officers, and others. Unfortunately, the bill did not make it through the process this year.

HB 631, Sale, Transfer, or Storage of Firearms-Similar to the bill I filed last year, HB 631, attempts to strengthen Florida's Safe Storage Laws. The bill prevents child access to a firearm by requiring any person with a minor in the household to either store the weapon in a safe or secure it with a trigger lock. It

would also require that every gun seller would have to provide a safety brochure with every gun purchase informing the buyer of the importance of safe storage.

HB 1139, Economic Development (Prime Co-sponsor)- I was glad to work with my colleague Representative Clemons on this bill. HB 1139, would make changes to the Regional Rural Development Grants program which is administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity. This program would increase grant funding for Rural Areas of Opportunity and would require matching funds to be 25% of the state contribution. This bill was passed by both chambers and is now awaiting the Governor's signature or veto.

HB 1167, School Safety Funding-This bill would allow School Districts currently not participating in the Guardian Program to use funds allocated for the Guardian Program to be used for school hardening, school police, and/or school resource officers. Unfortunately, the bill was not considered by any of the committees which it was assigned to.

HB 1353, Private Security Services-I was proud to work with Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried on this bill that would make changes to Florida's rules and regulations on private investigative, security, and recovery services industries. This bill passed unanimously through all House committees but unfortunately, the bill did not make it to the floor for a vote.

Education

SB 70, Alert Systems in Public Schools-I am a proud co-sponsor of Alyssa's Law, which would require public schools to implement a mobile panic alarm system that is capable of connecting emergency services to the schools in

order to provide real-time information to first responders. The bill is awaiting the signature or veto of the Governor.

SB 646, Intercollegiate Athlete Compensation and Rights-This bill would allow for College Athletes to earn compensation for the use of their name, image, or likeness, as well as creating rules and responsibilities for Colleges and Universities regarding the compensation of these athletes. The bill is awaiting the signature or veto of the Governor.

HB 7067, K-12 Scholarship Programs-This year's scholarship legislation works to expand the states' private school voucher program. This bill primarily made changes to the Family Empowerment Scholarship, which will increase the number of vouchers. The bill also increases the maximum income level for qualification. The bill is awaiting the signature or veto of the Governor.



Healthcare & Insurance

SB 404, Parental Consent-Back for the second year, SB 404, would require that a physician obtain parental written and notarized parental consent prior to performing an abortion on a minor. Unfortunately, this bill passed both chambers of the Florida Legislature and is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

HB 607, Direct Care Workers-HB 607 would expand the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), by allowing APRN's to practice medicine without the supervision of a physician. This bill has been signed by the Governor and will go into effect on July 1, 2020.

HB 389, Practice of Pharmacy-This legislation will expand the scope of practice for pharmacists by allowing pharmacist, under physician supervision, to test for flu, strep, lice, skin conditions, and other minor uncomplicated infections. This bill has been signed by the Governor and will go into effect on July 1, 2020.

SB 810, Tobacco and Nicotine Products-This bill, known as T21, raises the age to purchase tobacco, including cigarettes, dip, chew, e-cigarettes, vapes, and other products, to 21. This bill has passed both chambers and awaits the Governor's signature or veto. If the bill is signed by the Governor the bill would not go into effect until January 1, 2021.

HB 1189, Genetic Information for Insurance Purpose-This bill prohibits a life insurance company from using genetic information obtained by a third-party company, such as *23 and Me* or *AncestryDNA*, to determine payment amounts or to deny coverage. The bill passed both the House and Senate and is awaiting the signature or veto of the Governor.

Transportation and Economic Development

HB 1193, Deregulation of Professions and Occupations-The bill lessens or removes educational requirements for auctioneers, barbers, geologists, electrical contractors, nutritionists, interior designers, landscape architects, accountants, and boxing announcers. It removes licensing penalties for failure to pay student loans. It also calls for reciprocal licensing from other states, a provision that will help Florida's mobile, military population. The bill was passed by both chambers and awaits the Governor's signature or veto.

HB 969, Broadband Internet Service- This bill creates the Florida Office of Broadband under the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), which will kick start a program that never got off the ground as well as encouraging the expansion of broadband internet service at universities and colleges, schools, libraries and rural, underserved areas throughout our state. It is hoped that DEO may use this legislation to apply for federal grants to help administer this program. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for students to practice distance learning this bill has become extremely important as we move towards our new normal. The bill has been signed by the Governor and goes into effect on July 1, 2020.



Environment

SB 712, Environmental Resource Management-This bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to make rules relating to septic tanks, wastewater, stormwater, agriculture, and biosolids. Changes include:

- Transferring the regulation of septic tanks from the Department of Health to DEP
- Creation of a wastewater grant program to help in the upgrading of septic systems, expansion or construction waste treatment facilities and connection of septic systems to sewer systems.
- Requires the DEP and the Water Management Districts (WMDs), by January 1, 2021, to initiate rulemaking, including updates to the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbooks, to update their stormwater rules and includes criteria that the DEP must consider as part of rule development.
- Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) to collect and provide to the DEP fertilization and nutrient records from each agriculture producer enrolled in best management practices.
- Requires the DEP to adopt rules for biosolids management.

SB 172, Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act-This bill would preempt local governments from regulating the use of over-the-counter drugs and cosmetics and was specifically targeted to curtail sunscreen bans.

Public Safety & Criminal Justice

HB 37, School Bus Safety-This bill increases the minimum penalty for failure to stop for a school bus from \$100 to \$200. It also increases the minimum penalty for passing a school bus on the side that children enter and exit from \$200 to

\$400. The bill passed both chambers and awaits the signature or veto of the Governor.

HB 1087, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence-After a recent investigation uncovered that the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) partner organization in fighting Domestic Violence, had been paying its former CEO over \$7 million in wages over a three-year period the legislature codified the split between the two organizations. DCF has the option to partner with a similar organization should it like, however, all functions previously held by FCADV are now under DCF.

HB 1259, Incarcerated Pregnant Women- The bill prohibits detention facilities from involuntarily placing a pregnant inmate in solitary confinement unless it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the pregnant prisoner or others. It also requires that the Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice adopt written policies or procedures relating to restraining or performing searches on pregnant prisoners. As a co-sponsor of this bill, I am so glad that the bill was passed, and I look forward to the Governor signing this bill and protecting incarcerated pregnant women.

SB 1794, Constitutional Amendments-This bill modifies the process for amending the State Constitution. Almost all of the changes made in this legislation apply ONLY to citizen led amendments. Specifically the bill:

- requires 8% of the population in each Congressional district to sign petitions
- provides that petition signatures are valid until the next February 1 of an even-numbered year
- authorizes the Senate President and House Speaker to direct legislative staff to analyze any other impacts of the proposal

I am extremely disappointed that this bill was passed and signed by the Governor, as it is just another way to restrict the ability of Florida's voters from participating in direct democracy.

SB 664, Verification of Employment Eligibility-This system would require employers to verify the employment eligibility of newly hired employees in an attempt to prohibit employers from hiring a person who is not authorized to work in the United States. The changes made by this bill could disenfranchise undocumented immigrants from being active members of society by further barring their ability to work and burden their employers. Unfortunately, the bill was passed by both the House and Senate, and now awaits the signature or veto by the Governor.



Budget

This year District 81 has had several great projects being funded in the 2020-2021 budget. A total of \$1.5 million in appropriations will be coming back to District 81. Palm Beach County will also be benefiting from approximately \$21 million in appropriations in the budget.

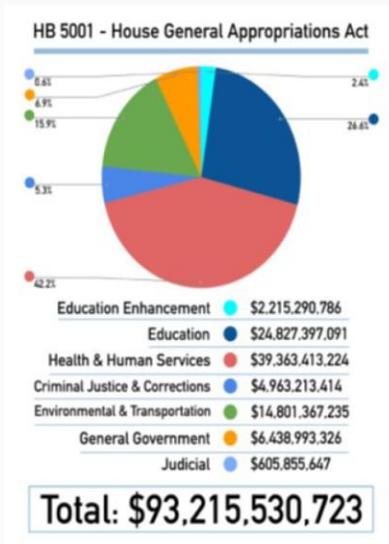
When the Governor gets the budget on his desk, he has one month to cull

through the budget and veto any projects he sees fit. This must be completed before July. We still do not know how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the budget but it certainly will require cuts to account for the massive decrease in revenues to the State.

The Florida Legislature is constitutionally mandated to pass a balanced budget and this year's \$93.2 billion includes:

- \$500 million for teacher pay raises
 - \$400 million allocated towards beginning teacher pay and \$100 million towards veteran teacher pay
- \$318.6 million for Everglades Restoration
- \$370 million for the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust fund, this is the first budget passed in approximately 16 years where the Sadowski Trust Fund has been fully funded
 - \$225 million will go directly to local governments for housing projects
- \$335 million for a 3% state employee raise
- \$300 million added to Florida's reserves to potentially deal with the outbreak of coronavirus
- Just under \$48 million for the tax package, a reduction from the initial proposal of \$193 million.
 - The tax package includes \$42 million for the three-day back-to-school sales tax holiday on August 7-9, and \$5.6 million for the seven-day disaster preparedness sales tax holiday from May 29 – June 4.

Below is a breakdown of how much has been appropriated for each section of the budget.



Contact my office:

Boca Raton Office

8177 Glades Road, Suite 209
 Boca Raton, Florida 33434
 (561) 470-2086

Belle Glade Office

110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard
 Belle Glade Florida 333430
 (561) 829-1459

Tallahassee Office

1302 The Capitol

402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 717-5081

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to Robert.Rease@myfloridahouse.gov

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81 · 8177 Glades Rd Ste 209 · Boca Raton, FL 33434-4022 · USA

