

The Skidmore Scoop

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Greetings from Tallahassee

On April 1st we passed the halfway mark of the 2021 Legislative Session and several subcommittees have finished meeting for this year. Without having committee hearings to present bills, legislators will be looking to the amendatory process to creatively keep their legislative priorities alive. The end of committee meetings also signals the ramp up of the appropriations process that will produce the state budget – our only Constitutional legislative mandate. Next week we will hear from the Revenue Estimating Conference on exactly how much money the State has collected in sales tax and what we will have to allocate. Many of us are anticipating more funding opportunities coming from the White House, as well.

HB 1025/SB200

Sponsored by Senator Lori Berman (SB200) and myself (HB1025) the student retention bill passed unanimously out of the Early Learning and Elementary Education Subcommittee in the House and three committees in the Senate. This bill gives parents the authority to have their child retained in the current grade level for the 2021-22 school year only, due to what's become known as COVID Slide – falling behind academically for some students who did not advance appropriately outside of the classroom and with online lessons. Currently, parents are informed when the school administrator and teachers decide a student should be retained. With this law in place the parents, principal, and child's teachers will be required to collaborate on an academic path forward that is in the best interest of the child.

Vaccination Information

***NEW* HEALTH CARE DISTRICT OF PBC ONLINE SELF-SCHEDULING WEBSITE**

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County has streamlined its online COVID-19 vaccine appointment request process to make it more user-friendly and efficient. The new scheduling system is available at <http://vaccine.hcdpbc.org> [vaccine.hcdpbc.org]. The technology allows those who are eligible to receive the vaccine to self-schedule the time and location of their vaccination appointment. The system rollout is timely as it coincides with the Health Care District marking a milestone of providing 100,000 COVID-19 vaccines.

The new single-step scheduling form gives patients more control, reduces wait times for appointments, and makes it clear where patients stand in the process. For those with no internet access, the Health Care District's helpline at 561-804-4115 is available to assist in English, Spanish, and Creole.

Covid-19 Re-employment Assistance

This past Tuesday, Governor Ron DeSantis issued an Executive Order that extends the due date employers' first quarter reemployment assistance tax contributions for 2021 by 30 days. Because the legislature plans to use funds collected by passing the internet sales tax bill to subsidize the substantial reemployment assistance tax increase that is expected, the Executive Order delays the date the tax is due to May 31, after Session is completed.

New Boys and Girls Club Facilities in

Belle Glade

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday for the Boys and Girls Club Smith and Moore Family Teen Center in Belle Glade. This brand-new world-class facility will be a game-changer for nearly 300 Belle Glade teens by providing them career opportunities with high-tech labs that include equipment such as 3D printers. This Boys and Girls Club is Palm Beach County's first career readiness center and includes a technology center, a digital media center, and culinary kitchen. The new 13,000 square foot center is located at 341 SW 12th St. The Boys and Girls Club will have a community event on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to recruit more teens in the Belle Glade area.

Contact Your State Representative

Committee Assignments

[Health & Human Services Committee](#)

[Government Operations Subcommittee](#)

[Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

[Professions & Public Health Subcommittee](#)

[Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee](#)

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