

GRay Matters



It's not always black and white.

2020 Session: Week 2

1/27/20

The second week of the Legislative Session was shortened by Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but it was no less busy than the first.

While many priority bills are preparing for votes by the full House and Senate, the week also brought an update on the timeline for the Legislature's core duty: passing a state budget.

Senate Budget Chief **Rob Bradley** said Wednesday that the Senate's draft of the 2020-21 budget will be made public by the end of the month. If the chamber meets the deadline, budget meetings are expected to start in the third week of Session.

When it drops, the Senate budget will provide the first glimpse of how lawmakers plan to handle some of the Governor **Ron DeSantis'** ambitious spending priorities.

The Florida House of Representatives



— The House Commerce Committee released a proposal in the ongoing debate over whether student athletes should be paid. The plan would allow athletes to profit off their names and likenesses but would not allow them to be compensated for on-field performances. The committee also outlined a "bill of rights" that would guarantee athletes attending state schools receive health coverage and financial aid.

— House Speaker-designate **Chris Sprowls'** bill to block life insurance companies from considering genetic testing results was approved by the House Commerce Committee. House Bill 1189 is now ready for a floor vote just one week after Sprowls announced the bill as one of his priorities for 2020.

Florida Senate

A priority bill of Senate President-designate **Wilton Simpson** aimed at bringing more accountability to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) cleared the Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee with a unanimous vote. The bill, SB1326, would create the Office of Quality Assurance and Improvement within DCF, shoring up foster care and adoption services. The bill also creates a new position — Chief Quality Officer — to monitor the Department's performance.



Bill of the Week

The Legislature has taken many actions to bolster school security following the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Most notably, in the 2018 Legislative Session, lawmakers passed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. This legislation raised the minimum age for all gun purchases to 21 and established the "Guardian Program," allowing non-instructional school personnel to carry firearms on school grounds. During the 2019 Legislation Session, the Legislature expanded the Guardian Program to instructional personnel.

In the 2020 Legislative Session, several more school safety measures are on the table, including bills sponsored by Representative **Dan Daley** (HB 23) and Senator **Lauren Book** (SB 70) that would require public schools to incorporate panic alarms.

The proposal is known as "Alyssa's Law," in honor of **Alyssa Alhadeff**, one of the 17 murdered at Stoneman Douglas.

According to the bill, the panic alarms must be incorporated in all public schools and school personnel must be able to access the alarms from any building on campus.

There are a couple of differences between the House and Senate versions. Daley's bill would mandate the alarms must be installed before the 2021-22 school year begins and also specifies that charter schools would be included. Book's bill does not contain either clause.

Both bills are moving through committees. The House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee advanced HB 23 this week with a unanimous vote. Last week, SB 70 was approved by the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee, also with a unanimous vote.

Client Spotlight



Canaveral Port Authority Capt. John Murray, Director and CEO

My role at the Canaveral Port Authority entails: As Port Director and CEO, I manage one of Florida's fastest-growing seaports, the world's second-busiest cruise port and a world-class gateway for cruises and cargo, including commercial space operations. We're business

leaders and a highly valued economic resource for the Space Coast, Central Florida, as well as the State of Florida. We are responsible for thousands of jobs – both directly and indirectly, and what we do and how well we do it impacts friends, family, neighbors and acquaintances. It's a big responsibility and one the entire Port team takes it seriously.

How the Canaveral Port Authority can help you: We remain committed to measured and financially responsible business development, striving for strong organic growth through sound budgeting and strategic planning that meets the needs of our business lines while strengthening our valued partnerships with stakeholders, tenants and the surrounding community.

Something you wish people knew about your job or the Canaveral Port Authority that might not be obvious: Port Canaveral's year after year success would not be possible without the strong partnerships and working relationships that we have with our business partners and stakeholders. And, our success has a tremendous ripple effect throughout Florida. A recently released economic impact study shows the Port's business activities in 2018 generated \$3.9 billion in economic output; 32,650 jobs statewide; \$1.3 billion in wages, and an estimated \$107.2 million in state and local tax revenues.

What excites you about going to work each day: We have great momentum moving into 2020 with more new and exciting projects yet to come. I'm proud of the employees of Port Canaveral, who are the foundation of our success. They are the driving force working behind the scenes and on the front lines of the Port's businesses. Every day, we're out there earning and maintaining the respect and trust of our customers, partners, our tenants, stakeholders, and our community. And, the hard work pays dividends. Last year, Global Traveler named Port Canaveral "World's Best Cruise Port" and this year, we earned the "Best Cruise Homeport in the U.S." in Cruise Hive's Cruise Ship Awards annual readers' survey. Most of all, our partners – cruise and cargo customers alike – rely on us to continuously improve our capabilities and expand our infrastructure to ensure we can deliver an exceptional customer experience at our Port, while providing increased prospects for job growth and business opportunities in our community.

Looking Ahead

Next week begins with a full slate of committee meetings in the House and Senate. The first of the bunch is the House Gaming Control Subcommittee, which will consider a bill requiring warning labels on lottery tickets. Similar measures were vetoed by Governor **Rick Scott** in 2017 and by Governor **Ron DeSantis** last year over concerns they would negatively impact state revenues.

The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will also meet Monday, where it will schedule bills ready for a vote by the full chamber. Finally, the first draft of the Senate's budget is expected by the end of the week.

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