



Florida House of Representatives

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2019 Legislative Session Update

HB 7123 – Taxation – Rep. Avila – The House pushed to require providing portions of the money to Charter Schools. In a compromise, the final version of the bill made such a requirement apply to future referendums, rather than money that has already been approved by voters.

12 key things Florida lawmakers got done this year Orlando Sentinel - 5/4/19

\$91.1 Billion Budget - \$242 per student increase in public school funding.

Smokable medical marijuana - Governor DeSantis essentially gave lawmakers an ultimatum as he sought to eliminate a ban on smokable medical marijuana. If lawmakers did not act, Desantis threatened to drop an appeal of a court ruling that said the smoking ban, included in the 2017 law, was unconstitutional. Lawmakers quickly went along with the Desantis' request and eliminated the ban in the early days of the session.

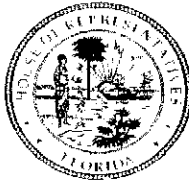
Arming Teachers - State lawmakers passed a bill that allows teachers to carry guns on campus. Local school boards would have to authorize arming educators. Desantis is supportive.

Texting while driving ban. Becomes a primary offense **beginning July 1, 2019.** Hands-free mode in school and construction zones.

School Choice: New voucher program known as the **Family Empowerment Scholarship Program.** Goal to send as many as 18,000 students on wait list to private schools next year.

Criminal Justice Reform -increases the threshold for felony theft from \$300 to \$750, and reduces the penalty for the third offense driving on suspended license from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee *Vice Chair*
State Affairs Committee
Workforce Development & Tourism Subcommittee
Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee
Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee



Constitutional amendments - Restore voting rights of certain felons.

Passed bill to make it harder to get citizens' initiatives on the ballot.

The environment - \$682.6 million for water quality and protection. Desantis wanted \$100 million for Florida Forever, a conservation land-buying program. Passed \$33 million.

Health Care - Speaker Oliva pushed through the elimination of the CON regulatory process for new hospitals and services.

Import lower-cost prescription drugs.

Insurance overhaul of the controversial insurance practice known as "assignment of benefits".

Toll Roads - Expand or build three toll roads.

Hurricane relief - \$220 million in budget for Hurricane Michael recovery efforts.

Tax package includes measures to help farmers hammered by the October storm