

SRPE March 3, 2016 Legislative Update

As this legislative session winds down, many changes are taking place. It is readily apparent the Legislators are intent upon providing a variety of Educational Choices for Florida's school children. Voucher schools, pilot programs, virtual instruction, alternative testing, and parent/student rights are common themes among the proposed bills from both the House and Senate. There is such a flurry of activity, your PAC wanted to shine some light on this seemingly overlooked and unreported legislation on your behalf.

Your Florida Retirement!

For a comprehensive look at proposed changes to your Florida retirement you'll need to access the link below.

Florida Department of Management Services

http://www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/legislation/2016_legislation

You'll be very interested in HB5005 and SB7042. These similar bills include revisions to increase employer contributions to your retirement plan. This is good news in light of the past reduction of contributions. By clicking on these bills you'll be able to review the bills' text to see where you fall within the contribution increase.

House Bill HB5005 has been placed in the Appropriations Conference Committee as of February 26th.

Senate Bill SB7042 has been 'Laid on the Table'. So what does this mean? This is a temporary postponement of a matter before the house, which **may** later be brought up for consideration by a motion to "take from the table."

The votes have been overwhelmingly favorable for the proposed increase in employer contributions. However, nothing is certain until the gavel falls ending this session. In the mean- time, we've included the list of committee members that can move this FRS improvement forward.

- Conference Committee appointed: Representatives Corcoran (Chair), Boyd (Vice Chair), Albritton (Chair), **Broxson**, Combee, Cortes, J., Gonzalez, Goodson, Jacobs, Jones, S., Mayfield, Pilon, Powell, Raburn, Renner, Smith, Fresen (Chair), Adkins, Clarke-Reed, Co:rtes, B., Costello, Fitzenhagen, Fullwood, Jones, M., Lee, O'Toole, Perry, Rodrigues, R., Slosberg, Stone, Taylor, Nunez (Chair), Antone, Caldwell, Campbell, Diaz, J., Gonzalez, Grant, Raulerson, Taylor, Torres, Hudson (Chair), Brodeur, Cruz, Cummings, Harrell, Magar, Murphy, Pigman, Richardson, Stevenson, Adkins (At Large), Albritton (At Large), Baxley (At Large), Cruz (At Large), Diaz, J. (At Large), **Gaetz** (At Large), Jones, M. (At Large), Moraitis (At Large), Oliva (At Large), O'Toole (At Large), Pafford (At Large), Raschein (At Large), Richardson (At Large), Stafford (At Large), Trujillo (At Large), Williams (At Large), Wood (At Large), Workman (At Large), Young (At Large)

Another aspect of Educational Choice (**HB 669**) that we must keep abreast of is the Parent and Student Rights; requiring each school district board to establish a classroom teacher transfer process for parents, to approve or deny a transfer request within a certain timeframe, to notify a parent of a denial, and to post an explanation of the transfer process in the student handbook or a similar publication, etc. This

bill is important as it relates to our Class Size Amendment. The **HB669** can be construed to be a chipping away at the amendment. This is definitely something to watch in the future.

Listed below are two important links that will keep you up to date on local, state, and national offices and proposed state legislation.

Supervisor of Elections SRC <http://www.votesantarosa.com/>

Florida's legislation session ends mid-March, and many bills have been proposed and still making their way through committees. Your SRPE –PAC committee continues to track these bills and are making contact with our State local representatives, Senator Greg Evers, House Representatives Doug Broxson and Mike Hill. SRPE-PAC encourages our membership to take an active and effective part in government affairs.

Legislative tracking is encouraged. <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx>

You can customize your tracking to fit your interests and schedules.