

Wrapping Up The Session...

Post-Legislative Update

By
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How Did We Fare This Session?

Equitable pay increases for state correctional, correctional probation, and law enforcement officers represented by Florida PBA, including but not limited to, pay compression and retention issues. Extreme disappointment.

Despite beginning the session with high hopes and support from **Governor Charlie Crist** for our wage proposals, a slumping economy soaked up almost one billion dollars in the state's recurring general revenue. Faced with that set of circumstances, the Legislature decided to give every state employee a mere \$1,000 bonus.

It is our opinion that this slight will only strengthen the resolve of most state employees to seek employment elsewhere.

Many of you have contacted or wish to contact your local Legislators to discuss this issue. We encourage you to do so, but please do it in a professional manner.

Legislation strengthening penalties for violations of the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights during internal affairs investigations (Representative Nick Thompson – HB 723 and Senator Mike Haridopolos – SB 690). Second time around is a charm.

The Legislation has three basic functions: 1) the legislation will require any and all Internal Affairs Investigators to verify that all statements and summaries of an investigation are true and accurate to the best of his or knowledge and belief; 2) the investigator will sign a sworn statement prior to completion of the investigation verifying that the rights of the subject of the investigation were not deprived; 3) the subject of the investigation will make any and all statements under oath during the investigation and may be subjected to prosecution of perjury for any false statements.

This legislation has the distinction of being the first bill **Representative Nick Thompson** ever passed in the Florida Legislature. Representative Thompson stepped right up for us on this issue and we are honored to have his support. He's a rising star.

Senator Mike Haridopolos demonstrated his ability to juggle some thorny issues (like property tax reform) and still find the time to pass our key legislation. As always, he proved to be a champion for law enforcement and correctional officers.



Florida PBA's Executive Director David Murrell, Treasurer Ernie George, and President John Rivera, and FOP Jacksonville President Nelson Cuba (far right) with Senator Mike Haridopolos (center) after final passage of the Legislation.



Florida PBA's Lobbyist Gary Bradford, Deputy Executive Director Matt Puckett, and Ernie George, along with Coastal Florida PBA Executive Director Nate Ingram and FDLE Agents Association Chapter President Telly Sands with Representative Nick Thompson (3rd from left).

Sergeant Nicholas Sottile Act (Representative Bob Allen - HB 73 and Senator Mike Fasano - SB 128). Hard work pays off.

This legislation allows State Law Enforcement Officers within an agency consisting of 1,200 or more officers to create a separate bargaining unit from the current State Law Enforcement Officers bargaining unit.

It helps your cause when both of your sponsors are previous award winners for the association. **Senator Mike Fasano** and **Representative Bob Allen** have shown time and again that they truly care about Law Enforcement Officers and their families.



Representative Bob Allen (third from right) next to the Sottiles (moving left): Elizabeth and her daughter, Heather, and son, FHP Trooper Nicholas, with Senator Mike Fasano, DHS&MV Executive Director Electra Bustle, Representative Sandy Adams, FHP Colonel Chris Knight, and Florida PBA President John Rivera (far right) with FHP Troopers after the passing of the Sergeant Nicholas Sottile Act, named in honor of husband and father Sgt. Nicholas Sottile.

Legislation allowing for purchase of Special Risk credit for certain academy time (Representative Mike Davis - HB 81 and Senator Mike Fasano - SB 130). Another tough year.

Money woes plagued this legislation along with every other retirement related issue. As everyone knows, the legislation will allow officers who attended a certified training academy during July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1984 and did not receive the required special risk credit for that time, the option to purchase upgraded special risk credit to cover the training time period.

We appreciate both **Representative Mike Davis** and **Senator Mike Fasano** for pushing this issue as far as they could. Each bill reached its final committee stop before the brakes were pushed by the lack of appropriations.



Representative Mike Davis speaks at the committee hearing in support of HB 81.

Legislation changing the Special Risk upgraded credit from two percent to three percent (Representative Ed Hooper - HB 91 and Senator Jeff Atwater - SB 626). Similar fate as the Academy Bill.

This legislation has a cost of roughly \$38 million which in the end stopped its progress. Currently, when an officer purchases a special risk accrual rate credit upgrade for past service, the accrual credit is capped at 2% instead of 3%. The legislation would have changed the statute to reflect the 3% accrual rate for special risk service.



Florida PBA Lobbyist Don Teems (right) with Representative Ed Hooper discussing HB 91 with FHP Chapter President Bill Smith listening in.

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