

Legislation including Institutional Security Specialist to the definition of Certified Correctional Officer. (Representative Pat Patterson – HB 427 and Senator Ted Deutch – SB 924)

Another hard fought effort, but we learned that a number of the agencies employing Institutional Security Specialists are not hiring certified correctional officers or law enforcement officers. The uncertified personnel would be required to become certified, which added a fiscal concern to our legislation. You know the rest.



Representative Pat Patterson (center) with PBA Lobbyists Gary Bradford, Ed Hoffman, Don Teems and PBA Deputy Executive Director Matt Puckett following his presentation of HB 427.

Legislation allowing for purchase of Special Risk credit for certain academy time. (Representative Anitere Flores – HB 379 and Senator Mike Fasano – SB 106)

The actuarial study from years ago indicated a financial expense to the legislation and the Legislature held back the vast majority of bills containing a cost.

Legislation changing the Special Risk upgraded credit from two percent to three percent. (Representative Ed Hooper – HB 397 and Senator Mike Fasano – SB 294)

Same scenario as the academy legislation, the study from years ago indicated a financial expense to the legislation.

Support for the Officer Malcolm Thompson Act. (Representative Frank Attkisson – HB 57 and Senator Steve Oelrich – SB 1024)

Same scenario. This legislation was proposed by Representative Attkisson for eight years and it never received full Legislative support.

Support for legislation to place security cameras in certain late night business parking lots (Representative Ari Porth HB 325/HB 327 and Senator Jeff Atwater SB 2770/SB 2774)

The legislation never really caught on, because of liability and fiscal concerns.

HOW WILL WE PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR?

Economic Forecasts Are Still Gloom and Doom

The crisis in the ranks to recruit and retain has reached critical proportions. We have tried in vain for two years to get the Legislature to invest more money into the salaries and pensions of our officers to slow down the high turnover. Our DROP extension is just a means to retain veteran officers a few more years while agencies struggle to recruit qualified candidates. So far the outcome has been piecemeal at best, because the Legislature has not taken the need to invest in public safety officers seriously.

Making matters worse is the reality in Tallahassee that our officers are forced to compete with kids and the medically needy for essential state dollars. We have to go on the public relations offensive in order to be competitive.

This summer, the Florida PBA will start a statewide public awareness campaign similar to campaigns we have conducted for our local officers to run concurrently with the Legislative election cycle. It will highlight how low salaries for the officers are a threat to the public's safety with a call to our Legislators to invest funds in next year's budget to address the crisis. 🗳️

Basic rules for driving in Florida

1. A right lane construction closure is just a game to see how many people can cut in line by passing you on the right as you sit in the left lane waiting for the same jerks to squeeze their way back in before hitting the orange construction barrels.
2. Turn signals will give away your next move. A real driver never uses them.
3. Under no circumstances should you leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you, or the space will be filled in by somebody else putting you in an even more dangerous situation.
4. Crossing two or more lanes in a single lane-change is considered "going with the flow."
5. The faster you drive through a red light, the smaller the chance you have of getting hit.
6. The new electronic traffic warning system signs are not there to provide useful information. They are only there to make Florida look high-tech and to distract you from seeing the FHP car parked in the median.
7. Speed limits are arbitrary figures, given only as suggestions and are apparently not enforceable during rush hour.
8. Throwing litter on the roads adds variety to the landscape, keeps the existing litter from getting lonely and gives Adopt-a-highway crews something to clean up.
9. Learn to swerve abruptly. Florida is the home of high-speed slalom driving thanks to our city councils, which put potholes in key locations to test drivers' reflexes and keep them on their toes.
10. Remember that the goal of every driver is to get there first, by whatever means necessary.
11. Real Florida women drivers can put on pantyhose and apply eye makeup at seventy-five miles per hour in bumper-to-bumper traffic.
12. All Florida drivers are required to use a cell phone while driving. It makes it easier to call 911 when they hit someone and FHP can respond more quickly to block off two or more lanes of traffic...especially during rush hour.
13. Heavy fog and rain are no reasons to change any of the previously listed rules. These weather conditions are God's way ensuring the economic well being of body shops, junkyards and new vehicle sales.

THE FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION PROUDLY ENDORSES ONE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S TRUE CHAMPIONS

BILL POSEY (R)

For United States House of Representatives District 15



Broward County PBA Senior Vice President Pat Hanrahan and Broward County Schools Investigator Kathleen Andersen visit with Representative Evan Jenne (center).



PBA attends a committee meeting for the Eight Year Drop legislation in the Government Operations Committee Room.



Central Florida Chapter President John Park shares a lighter moment with Representative Sandy Adams.



House Majority Leader Representative Adam Hasner meets with Florida PBA's Treasurer Ernie George.