



A View From Tallahassee

2023 Legislative Review

The Honorable Senator Bobby Powell Jr., AICP



The Florida Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

- 120 REPRESENTATIVES
- 35 DEMOCRATS
- 84 REPUBLICANS
- 1 VACANT SEAT -
DISTRICT 24
- 7 BILL SLOTS



SENATE

- 40 SENATORS
- 12 DEMOCRATS
- 28 REPUBLICANS
- UNLIMITED BILL SLOTS



POWELL'S COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- Banking and Insurance
- Criminal Justice
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Ethics and Elections
- Select Committee on Resiliency
- Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight
- Joint Legislative Budget Commission



Senator Powell's Bills Introduced

[SB 286](#) Legal Instruments

[SB 430](#) Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries

[SB 678](#) Disposal of Property

[SB 836](#) Theft from Nonprofit Organizations

[SB 848](#) People of Iran

[SB 1606](#) Florida Museum of Black History

[SB 480](#) First-time Offender Plea Deal Pilot Program

[SB 632](#) Veterans' Preference in Promotion

[SB 638](#) Juror Sanctions

[SB 808](#) Educator Certifications

[SB 878](#) Temporary Teacher Certifications

[SB 1222](#) Corporate Practice of Medicine

[SB 1462](#) Public Meetings/Commission on Public Safety in Urban and Inner-City Communities

[SB 1464](#) Commission on Public Safety in Urban and Inner-City Communities



Senator Powell's Bills Passed

[SB 430](#) Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries



- The bill requires the Historic Cemeteries Program to research, identify, and record abandoned cemeteries, with an emphasis on abandoned African-American cemeteries.
- When abandoned cemeteries are located, provide notification and guidance to relevant persons and assist with efforts to identify relatives and descendants, funeral directors, religious organizations, qualified nonprofit organizations, and property owners.
- Assist constituents, descendant communities, state and federal agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders with inquiries relating to abandoned cemeteries.

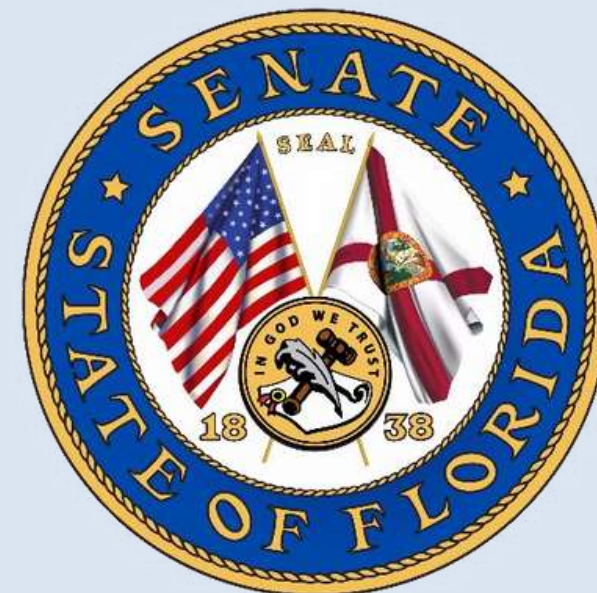


Senator Powell's Bills Passed

[SB 482\(amendment to SB1534\) Pretrial Detention/Written threats\)](#)

SB482 adds extortion and written threats to kill to the category of “dangerous crimes” for purposes of pre-trial detention.

Dangerous crimes currently includes such offenses as kidnapping, murder, carjacking, and arson.



Senator Powell's Bills Passed

[SB 286 Legal Instruments](#)

Creates a definition in the online notarizations statute to clarify that “witness” as used in the act means the individual whose electronic signature is affixed to an electronic record.

Clarifies the ability of a lender to obtain rental income from third party investors during foreclosure.

Preserves the status of a superior liens in foreclosures.

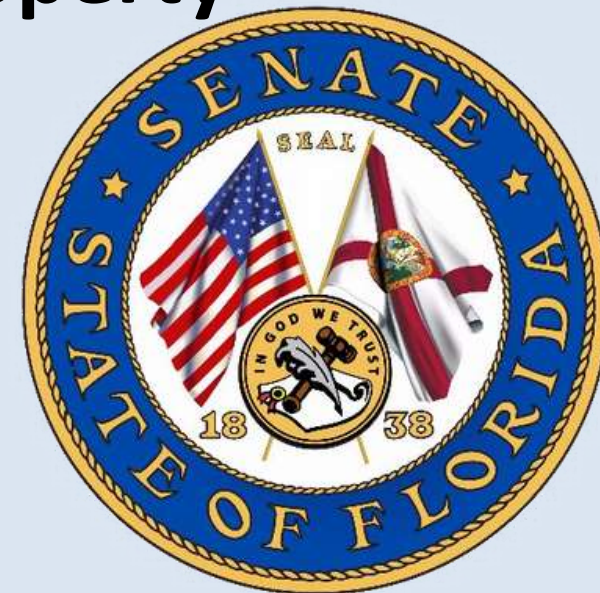


Senator Powell's Bills Passed



[SB 678 Disposal of Property](#)

- This legislation amends Florida Statute 337.25 relating to disposal of property by the Department of Transportation.
- SB678 provides that the use of public property for affordable housing qualifies as use for a public purpose in the context of the authorization of DOT to convey property without consideration to a governmental entity.



Senator Powell's Bills Passed

SB 1606 Florida Museum of Black History

- The bill creates the Florida Museum of Black History Task Force for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Department of State for the construction, operation, and administration of a Florida Museum of Black History.
- The museum will be a multipurpose facility capable of generating self-sustaining revenues, with archival research and storage facilities, meeting rooms, full service banquet facilities, and a performing arts theatre.
- The bill requires the Task Force to develop various plans of operation for the Black History Museum and to submit a report of its findings to the Governor and Legislature before July 1, 2024.



Senator Powell's Bills Passed

SB 848 People of Iran



SM848, is memorial which makes clear that the people of Florida stand with the People of Iran. And it urges Congress to take action in several ways:

The United States is encouraged to stop all discussions on the Iran nuclear agreement,

To continue to sanction members of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and,

To continue to amplify the voices and the will of the people of Iran by maintaining Internet access so that Iranians may continue to expose the injustices of their daily lives.



Senator Powell's Bills Passed

SB 838 Theft from Non-Profits



SB 836 creates a new area of law reclassifying certain theft offenses of specified amounts from organizations qualified as charitable under s. 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

If the funds, property, or item is valued at \$50,000 or more, the offense would be classified as a felony in the first degree. If the value is \$10,000 or more, but less than \$50,000 the offense becomes a second degree felony. Anything valued at \$300 or more, but less than \$10,000 would face the offense of a third degree felony.

Any individual convicted of stealing more than \$1,000 from a qualified charitable organization will be required by the court to make restitution to the victim(s), as well as perform 500 hours of community service.



DISTRICT 24 APPROPRIATIONS

- Cox Science Center and Aquarium Expansion- \$5,000,000
- Palm Beach County - Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative- \$2,861,804
- Regional Entrepreneurship Centers and Small Business Loan Fund - Broward County- \$2,000,000
- YMCA of the Palm Beaches Community Center- \$1,250,000
- 36th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project West Palm Beach - \$350,000
- **Lake Park Septic to Sewer Conversion Project- \$1,000,000**
- Balanced Community Justice Project - \$183,000
- Palm Springs EOC (Police Dept. Expansion/Hardening) - Palm Beach- \$1,000,000
- Riviera Beach School Readiness Outreach Initiative - \$218,000
- Riviera Beach Utility Special District Three Critical Lift Station Replacement- \$1,000,000
- Financial Capabilities Counseling, Homeownership, and Residential Services -\$1,000,000
- Addie Green Park Improvements – Town of Mangonia Park - \$250,000
- Florida Atlantic University Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program (MPFSFP) - \$889,101
- Peanut Island Historic Restoration - Palm Beach County - \$750,000
- Town of Mangonia Road Re-Paving Appropriations - \$750,000 ... AND MORE!

APPROPRIATIONS FOR

PALM BEACH COUNTY = \$27,391,302

Major Session Issues

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** (SB 102) aimed at making housing more affordable for workers. The bill includes providing incentives for investments in affordable housing and encouraging mixed-use developments in commercial areas.



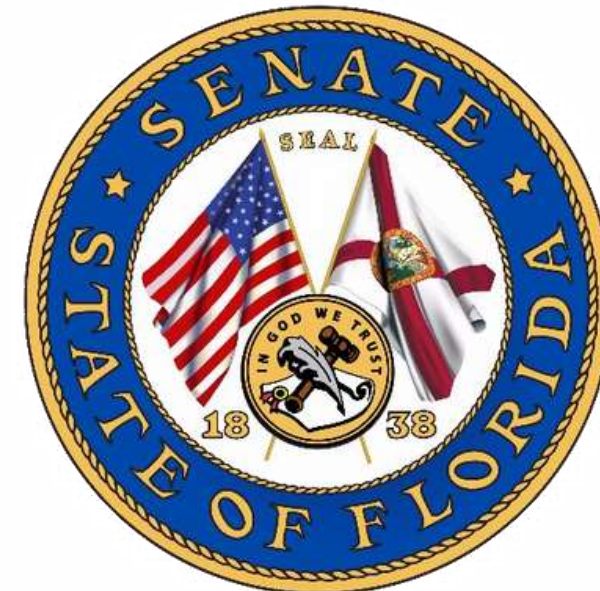
Major Session Issues

- **SCHOOL BOARDS: (HB477)**
Implements an eight year term limit on county school-board members.



Major Session Issues

ELECTIONS: (SB 7050) places additional restrictions on 3rd party voter-registration groups, eases campaign-finance reporting requirements and changes a “resign to run” law which helps clear the way for DeSantis to potentially run for president in 2024 without having to resign office.



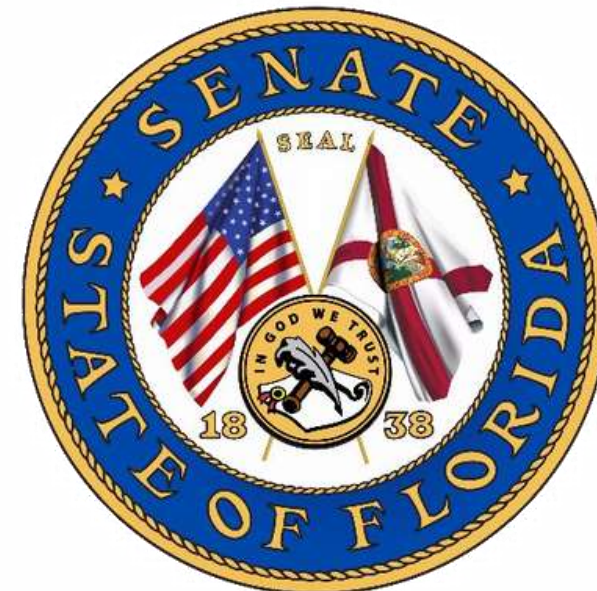
Major Session Issues

GUNS: (HB 543) does away with a decades-old licensing process and allows Floridians to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses.



Major Session Issues

IMMIGRATION: (SB 1718) steps up requirements on businesses to check the immigration status of workers, cracks down on people who bring undocumented immigrants into Florida and mandates that hospitals collect data about whether hospital patients are in the country legally.



Major Session Issues

SCHOOL VOUCHERS:

(HB 1) makes every student eligible for taxpayer-funded vouchers that can be used for private-school tuition and other expenses. The bill also ends income requirements in current voucher programs.



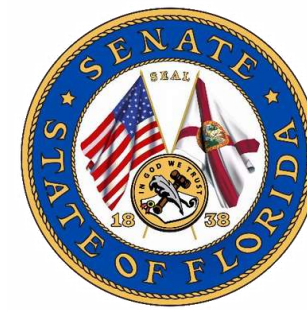
State of Florida 2023 Budget

\$117 Billion Dollars

- **\$27.9 Billion - The Education Budget**
- **\$4.9 Billion - For the Department Of Environmental Protection**
- **\$3.7 Billion - For Hurricane Relief**
- **\$711 Million - For the Live Local Act**
- **\$400.7 Million - For Local Transportation Initiatives**
- **\$107.5 Million - For the Florida State Guard**
- **\$25 Million - For New College of Florida Operational Enhancement**



Team Powell



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Questions or Comments?



Thank You!

