

The Dean Document

2012 Legislative Session Begins

Greetings from Tallahassee!

The 2012 Legislative Session began Tuesday, January 10th, in Tallahassee. This year's calendar is different from the typical timeline used in the past because of reapportionment. As required by the Florida Constitution, every ten years the Florida Legislature must complete the process of Reapportionment.

Reapportionment, also known as redistricting, is the redrawing of district boundaries of congressional and state legislative electoral districts to adjust for various growth rates in different parts of the state. Districts determine where voters participate in elections for choosing representative in the U.S. House, State Senate and State House of Representatives.

In addition to the Reapportionment, the State of Florida must produce a balanced budget, which addresses the predicted budget shortfalls. While balancing the budget is required by the state constitution, I understand families across Florida are still struggling to regain strength in an unstable economy. Simply put, we must make sure to measure twice before we cut once.

I hope through my weekly newsletter you can maintain a line of communication with my office as we address the issues affecting Senate District Three. I look forward to hearing you comments and please let me know if I can ever be of any assistance.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles S. Dean".

GOVERNOR SCOTT DELIVERS STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS



On Tuesday, January 10th, Governor Rick Scott kicked off the Legislative Session in Tallahassee with his 2012 “State of the State” address. His speech included a wide range of topics, emphasizing the importance and his focus of gaining employment, securing quality education, and keeping the cost of living low. Governor Scott made clear his duty as governor was to “leave our children a better place than we inherited.”

The Governor does not want the people of Florida to give up. He strongly believes there will be a “rebirth of an even greater Florida.” The growth of jobs in the private sector in Florida has risen, making Florida the third most job producing state in the nation. The creation of these new private sector jobs has resulted in the second largest drop in unemployment in the United States. Governor Scott stated “this is a clear sign that the promise of Florida still shines bright.”

Governor Rick Scott also weighed heavily on the importance of education in the state of Florida, stating, “If we can continue to create a culture of excellence in our schools, Florida will merit a full chapter in that history that describes the reawakening of a mighty, prosperous nation.” Scott’s plan is to refocus on an outdated tenure system and instead, reward its best performers for excelling in education the students of Florida. “Support for education is the most significant thing we can do to ensure both short-term job growth and long-term economic prosperity for our state.” His recommendation budget is \$1 billion in new state funding for education. Governor Scott believes this is the single most important issue to be made for Florida’s future and is an issue on which he cannot budge.

The Governor also wants to monitor Florida’s current pension plan, ensuring it will not become a liability for Florida’s taxpayers or those workers who rely on it. Also on the agenda is to reform auto insurance by cutting fraud and abuse, which has cost Floridians approximately \$900 million.

Through the resilience and strength of Floridians, Florida will emerge as a great state in the nation. Governor Rick Scott ended the speech on a strong note: “None of us can do this alone, so let’s get to work...together!” Governor Scott’s “State of the State” address spotlighted his passion for education and the current economic atmosphere in Florida. “He was speaking from his heart,” said Senator Charlie Dean, of the Governor’s speech. “I think that is the mood and the effort we should have in the Legislature this year. Let’s use common sense and our heart.”

Senate Bill 820

Septic Tank Legislation Passes First Committee

Senate Bill 820 passed the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on Monday morning. SB 820 removes the “one-size-fits-all” statewide septic system inspection program. The unanimous vote moves one step closer to providing Florida with more local septic tank evaluation options. Ultimately, the legislation would repeal the onerous statewide inspection program, established through SB 550 during the 2010 Legislative Session and replace it with an optional, standard septic system inspection program for all counties and municipalities to be administered by county health departments.



In addition, SB 820 would require counties or municipalities containing a first-magnitude springs to adopt the program or opt out of the program before Jan. 1, 2013 and allow other counties or municipalities which do not contain a first-magnitude spring to opt into the program. This legislation would further allow a county or municipality to implement the program in all or part of its geographic jurisdiction and would give system owners the choice to choose the least costly remedial measure to resolve a system failure. SB 820’s next committee stop is the Health Regulation Committee.



Senate Bill 406

Military Road Designations

Senator Charlie Dean has introduced legislation which recognizes veterans who have fought for and served our country. Senate Bill 406 is a road designation bill and includes several veterans from Senator Dean’s Senate District 3, including United States Army Specialist Fourth Class Thomas Berry Corbin of Old Town and Cross City, Samuel Calhoun Chavous Jr. of Cross City, Marine Lance Corporal Brian R. Buesing of Cedar Key and Army Sergeant Karl A. Campbell of Chiefland.

This week, Senate Bill 406 was passed by a unanimous vote out of the Senate Community Affairs Committee. The bill also passed the Senate Transportation Committee by a unanimous vote making the next stop for Senate Bill 406 to be heard on the Senate floor. This is where all of the Senators will discuss the bill and vote on it. Senator Dean is very optimistic this bill will also pass the floor and await the House of Representatives. “I sponsored a very similar piece of legislation last Session,” said Dean. “It is time for my colleagues and I to properly thank and recognize the veterans who serve to protect our every freedom.”

Senate Bill 406’s companion, House Bill 11, is being sponsored by Representative Leonard Bemby. You can follow Senate Bill 406 and all Senate Bills by logging on to www.flsenate.gov.



Dear Document KIDZ KORNER

SENATE TERMS WORD SEARCH

Senate District 3 Staff

Legislative Aides:

Inverness Office

Judy Wells
Janet Oehmig

Tallahassee Office

Travis Hart
Nicholas Abrahams

Deputy Legislative Aides:

Drew Aldikacti
Steven Schwartz

Legislative Interns:

Betsy Boyce *

Haley Hickman

Kyle Champagne

Blake Johnston

Kathryn Ingler

Stephen Davis

Madeline Rosenfeldt

Brock Magruder

Allison Kraemer

Ashley Paine

Alexandra Miceli

*Intern of the Week

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AMENDMENT

REPEAL

INTRODUCER

CHAMBER

SESSION

FLOOR

COMMITTEE

SPONSOR

BUDGET

CONSTITUENT

VOTE

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RATIFICATION

REFERENDUM