



State Representative
Chip LaMarca

Serving District 93



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The LaMarca Letter !

Legislative Committee Weeks Update

I am happy to announce that the Legislature had a very productive committee week process before this year's legislative session, which will begin on January 11th. This year's legislative committee weeks began in August and ended at the beginning of December. During these six committee weeks, the Florida House discussed gaming, education, held special session, and more.

After last year's historic budget due to the pandemic, economists have estimated that we will have more in general revenue than previously expected for this fiscal year, along with following 2022-2023 fiscal year. This additional revenue does not include the \$6 billion in Coronavirus stimulus money, which has not been tapped into and remains in the State's reserves.

2022 Filed Bills:

The first bill, **HB 6031 - Individual Wine Containers**, that I have filed this session is seeking to repeal the current limit on the size of wine bottles that retailers can sell. HB 6031 relates to economic freedom and criminal justice reform. There is currently a criminal penalty for selling large format bottles of wine that is classified as a second-degree misdemeanor, with a second penalty becoming a third-degree felony. HB 6031 would make it legal to sell more than one gallon of wine (3.785 liters) in a single container. I am happy to say that this bill passed unanimously out of its first committee stop. The time is ripe to free the grapes! It is important to also note that bills that repeal an existing law do not count against our six bill limit.

I am honored to file my priority legislation that will increase access to healthcare for Florida's children. **HB 419 - Florida KidCare Program Income Eligibility**. Florida leads the nation in job creation and economic opportunity, and Florida should also be a leader by protecting access to affordable healthcare for our children. We have a tremendous opportunity to protect some of our most vulnerable families from being punished for advancing their career and doing their part to lift themselves out of poverty. With one in thirteen kids in Florida uninsured, now is the time to take action to protect them. I look forward to tackling this important issue this year.

I have also filed, **HB 423 - Building Inspection Services**, which broadens the field of potential Building Inspectors and Plans Examiners to help reduce the permitting and inspection delays. This will allow qualified staff of private entities, such as Private Providers, to obtain provisional certificates when under the direct supervision of a person licensed as a Building Code Administrator. The bill also, creates an opportunity for individuals to become Certified Plans Examiners or Building Inspectors by allowing private entities to offer internal internship programs. This bill has also passed unanimously out of its first committee.

The late Pio Ieraci served our community as the President of the Galt Mile Community Association for three decades, representing the 30 buildings on the Galt Mile. Pio was extremely active in our community where he championed important issues, such as beach renourishment and condo safety. To honor Pio's lasting legacy to the community, I have filed **HB 89 – Transportation Facility Designs**. The bill would designate "Pio Ieraci Memorial Drive" in Broward County on State Road A1A along the Galt Mile. I hope this road designation helps us remember and give thanks for everything that Pio did for the Galt Mile community.

It is my pleasure to co-sponsor **HB 105 - Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities**. This bill would allow cities and counties throughout Florida to restrict smoking in public beaches and parks as deemed necessary. Municipalities are currently not allowed to regulate smoking, and state parks would now be considered a public space where smoking could be prohibited. As environmental protection issues continue to be one of my top priorities, I will continue to fight to protect our beautiful beaches.

Special Session:

Governor DeSantis, along with Speaker Sprowls and President Simpson called a special session to "Keep Florida Free". The Legislature's goal was to prohibit any vaccination mandate from an employer without providing several exemptions for the employee. This legislation also protects parents as the sole decision maker for their children, strengthening the parental bill of rights bill that passed last session.

I look forward to continuing to represent you during the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session. I will provide more updates on my legislative package and important issues as they come before me this year. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

As always, it is an honor to represent you as your State Representative in Tallahassee.

Best Wishes ,

Representative Chip LaMarca
Florida House District 93



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