

PBA Legislation In Depth

PBA's Legislative Agenda has something for everyone. Our main objectives were to provide solutions to our issues that were either cost neutral, or revenue generators. Not all of the legislation is universal, so we will start with the broad reaching stuff and work our way down.

Law Enforcement, Correctional, and Correctional Probation Officers Bill of Rights.



SB 624 by Senator Mike Fasano (R), New Port Richey

Referred to Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Judiciary; Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations.



Representative Ritch Workman (R), Melbourne, is the House Sponsor
The bill is currently in House Bill drafting.

Synopsis: Currently, an officer who is the subject of a non-criminal investigation can review the complaint and all witness statements prior to the beginning of the investigative interview. This legislation will expand the types of evidence the subject officer can review to include new technology like audio recordings, video recordings, and GPS locator information related to the incident under investigation along with all other subject officer statements. The officer's representative or counsel will also be able to review this information. Finally, the officer will be able to seek remedies from the circuit court if an agency is found to have failed to comply with Bill of Rights procedures.

Expanding the Florida Retirement System's Deferred Retirement Option Program for Law Enforcement, Correctional, and Correctional Probation Officers.



SB 1072 by Senator Carey Baker (R), Eustis
Referred to Criminal Justice; Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means.



HB 605 by Representative Will Snyder (R), Stuart
Not yet referred.

Synopsis: This legislation will allow an officer to extend his or her DROP date by up to an additional 36 months. It also prohibits an officer who terminates following DROP participation from being reemployed by the same employer from which the officer retired. There are two exceptions to the reemployment provision: 1) a retiree can be elected, or appointed by the Governor or cabinet to an office; 2) a retiree may be retained by the same employing agency in a part-time or auxiliary position if the retiree receives no more than \$1 per calendar year for services rendered directly for the employing agency.

Firefighters' and Municipal Police Officers' Retirement Plans.



SB 538 by Senator Carey Baker (R), Eustis

Referred to Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; General Government Appropriations; Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means



HB 5 by Representative Ed Hooper (R), Clearwater

Referred to Governmental Affairs Policy Committee; Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council; Finance & Tax Council; Government Operations Appropriations Committee; Full Appropriations Council on General

Government & Healthcare

Synopsis: This legislation is a joint effort with the Florida Professional Firefighters, with assistance from the Division of Retirement. It seeks to clarify and make a number of changes to local pension plans. Here are the changes pertaining to municipal police:

- Revises definitions for purposes of determining prior service credit to include credit for past federal, state and other county service as long as the service is recognized by the Criminal Justice Standards & Training Commission.
- Authorizes terms of office for boards of trustees of pension and retirement trust funds to be revised under certain circumstances to extend from two to four year terms.
- Increases to 25 percentage of trust fund assets that board of trustees may invest in foreign securities.
- Provides that specified municipalities are eligible to receive premium taxes.
- Authorizes a municipality receiving police protection services to enact an ordinance levying premium tax.
- Authorizes retirees to change designation of joint annuitant or beneficiary up to two times without approval of board or prior joint annuitant or beneficiary.
- Revises fund distribution procedures with respect to plan termination. This section will allow retirees to receive the assets from a termination without having to sue the municipality.

Law Enforcement, Correctional, and Correctional Probation Officers Trust Fund.



Senator Dave Aronberg (D), Greenacres, is the Senate sponsor.
The bill is in drafting.



Representative Julio Robaina (R), Miami, is the House sponsor.
The bill is in drafting.

Synopsis: This legislation will create revenue by increasing certain fees relating to driver's licenses, inmates' canteens, and criminal expunctions to be used as supplemental salary increases for state law enforcement, correctional and correctional probation officers. The funds

Now You Know!

A young couple got married and went away on their honeymoon. After two weeks they came back and finally put away all of the presents they received from friends and family. Since this was a new home, the process took some time. The silver went into the closet, items were put on the walls for display and some of the more intimate apparel was put in the bedroom drawers.

A week later, they received in the mail two tickets for a popular show where tickets were impossible to get. They were very excited and warmed by the gesture of the person who sent this. Inside the envelope, however, was only a small piece of paper with a single line: "Guess who sent them."

The pair had much fun trying to identify the donor, but failed in the effort. They went to the theatre, and had a wonderful time.

On their return home late at night, still trying to guess the identity of the unknown host, they found the house stripped of every article of value.

And on the bare table in the dining-room was a piece of paper on which was written in the same hand as the enclosure with the tickets: "Now you know!"