

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2020**

The Public Policy Committee met on May 6, 2020, and we approved minutes from the January Council meeting and several other minutes of our legislative calls during the last session. We were updated on legislative outcomes including the following budget items and bills the Council was supporting and tracking. Our primary legislative priority **Save the iBudget** was discussed yesterday by the Full Council.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) closed out most of their budget items with generous funding from the House and the Senate as follows (*all dollar amounts include federal matching funds*).

- **Adult Day Training Provider Rate Increase - \$7,486,373**
- **Personal Supports Provider Rate Increase - \$27,670,492** (a good increase that was emphasized from Valerie and Margaret yesterday)
- **Residential Habilitation Provider Rate Increase- \$5,450,246**
- **Resources for Persons with Unique Abilities -\$58,034,834**
- **Serve Additional Clients on the Home and Community Based Services Waiver Waitlist- \$30,223,451**

The legislature funded APD deficits from the past two years. The final amount, that includes federal matching funds, was close to \$241 million dollars.

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**Bills that died**

**1) [HB 39 - Independent Living Task Force by Gottlieb](#) -Died on the Calendar**

This bill would have established an Independent Living Task Force within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and provides for duties, membership, and meetings of the task force. The Council would sit on the Task Force. The Task Force must develop and evaluate policy proposals that incentivize developers or contractors to create units within mixed-use developments that may be used as low-cost, supportive, and affordable housing for individuals with a disability, while giving special consideration to the needs of individuals who have a developmental disability or a mental illness.

**SB 0364 Independent Living Task Force by Rader**-Died in Messages

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**2) HB 551 - Transportation Disadvantaged by Jenne** -Died in the first committee stop

This bill would have required community transportation coordinators to increase and support programs that enhance cross-county mobility for transportation disadvantaged. The bill also requires coordinating boards to evaluate multicounty or regional transportation opportunities to increase and support such programs. Sensitivity training requirements were amended off the bill.

**SB 0076 Transportation Disadvantaged by Book** - Died in the last committee stop

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**3) (N)HB 79 - Student Elopement by Jenne** - Died in the first committee stop

This bill would have required public schools to create School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and school elopement plan. The bill provided requirements for the team and the plan.

**SB 0650 Student Elopement by Book -Died in the first committee stop**

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**4)HB 361 - Developmental Disabilities by Hattersley- Died in the first committee stop**

This bill would have revised the definition of the term "developmental disability." This definition would move Florida closer to using the federal definition for a developmental disability.

**SB 0532 Developmental Disabilities by Cruz -Died in the first committee stop**

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**5)HB 601 - Public School Transportation by Pritchett - Died in the first committee stop**

This bill would have required district school boards to provide transportation for each public elementary school student through sixth grade if student's single parent or guardian has a developmental disability.

**SB 0472 Public School Transportation by Bracy- Died in the first committee stop**

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**6)SB 1106 - Universal Changing Places by Baxley- Died in the first committee stop**

The bill would have required new, large public buildings to install and maintain at least one universal changing place that can accommodate an adult. This legislation was created by Sabrina Kimball, a former Partners in Policymaking graduate. Ms. Kimball has worked on this proposed legislation in the past. New Hampshire used her bill language and passed it and now she wants to try again to get this legislation passed in Florida. The bill would require that large, high use public offices and venues offer changing tables for adults who need them. The bill specifies requirements for a universal changing place.

**HB 0669 Universal Changing Places by Newton- Died in the first committee stop**

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**7)SB 1198 - Purple Alert by Berman- Died in the last committee stop**

This bill would have redefined the term "missing endangered person". The bill required the Department of Law Enforcement, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of the Lottery, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish and implement the Purple Alert. APPROPRIATION: \$322,836

**HB 0899 Purple Alert by Casello -Died in the first committee stop**

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**8)HB 1349 - Social Services Estimating Conference by Ausley- Died in the first committee stop**

This bill would have specified that the Social Services Estimating Conference must develop information related to the Medicaid waiver services program, the iBudget, for the home-based and community-based Medicaid waiver services program and must include iBudget enrollment, the number of current waiver recipients, the size of the waitlist, the rate of utilization of program services, and expenditure information that the conference determines is needed to plan for and project future budgets and the drawdown of federal matching funds.

**SB 1780 Social Services Estimating Conference by Berman -Died in the first committee stop**

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**9)SB 1644 - Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Book Co-Sponsors: Flores-Died in last committee**

This bill would have required school districts to prohibit the use of seclusion on students with disabilities in public schools; prohibited specified restraint techniques; required a video camera to be placed in specified classrooms

upon the request of a parent; requiring continuing education and in-service training for instructional personnel teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, etc.

**HB 1231-Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by DuBose-Died in messages**

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**Bills that Passed**

**1)SB 828 - Florida ABLE Program by Benacquisto-Passed**

This bill extends the support and review of the Florida ABLE program until 2025

**HB 0887-Florida ABLE Program by Rodrigues (R)**

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**2)HB 787 - Driver Licenses by Tomkow- passed**

This bill authorizes person with specified disabilities to have capital letter "D" placed on his or her driver license and provides requirements for placement of such letter on person's driver license. This bill would provide fees (see linked bills) for placement of specified letter on driver license of person who has a developmental disability. The license would be voluntary for adults with no guardians and is intended to alert law enforcement to unusual behaviors and responses. Effective Date: July 1, 2020.

**Identical Bills**

**SB 1692 Driver Licenses by Flores**

**Linked Bills**

**HB 0789 Driver License Fees by Tomkow- passed**

**SB 1694 Driver License Fees by Flores**

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**HB 0901-Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Ponder-Passed**

This bill revises information that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation must include in its annual performance report to the Governor and the Legislature and requires the division to provide preemployment transition services to certain eligible persons with disabilities. The bill also provides eligibility requirements for the provision of preemployment transition services and revises the composition of the Florida Rehabilitation Council. Effective Date: 7/1/2020.

**SB 1784 - Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Gainer**