



Duval County Legislative Delegation

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Minutes
Delegation Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Room 221, Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, FL

Chair Adkins called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members present- Senators: Bean, Gibson; Representatives: Adkins, Fant, Fullwood, Jones, McBurney; Excused: Representative Ray

The Chair informed the members that they had a packet with a spreadsheet and explained they would go over the spreadsheet section by section with a focus on line items that were missing funding in either house.

The Chair directed staff to research history on line item 92, Learning Through Listening. Senator Bean and Representative Jones directed their staffs to provide additional input.

KIPP and FL Children's Initiative are missing allocations in the House. Representative Jones explained the FL Children's initiative benefits two additional counties and suggested working with them to secure funding.

College Prep Pilot Program for Duval County is missing allocations in the Senate and Jobs for American Graduates is missing in the House. Mario Rubio explained JAG is a national organization with a local branch based out of St. Augustine. Last year the Governor requested \$3 million and it was granted. He requested the same amount this year, but only the Senate allocated funds. Rep. Jones asked if they are working in Duval, Mario confirmed they are through the Learn2Earn program. The Chair asked if anyone has filed a request on the House side, Mario said Rep. Fresen was going to, but said he would confirm with JAG's lobbyist.

Auditory-Oral Education for Girls and North Florida School for Special Education are missing allocations in the House. An audience member explained the North Florida

School for Special Education appropriation is for a capital maintenance project. He said they were in the process of submitting paperwork to put the appropriation in an FCO posture in both the Senate & House.

Special Olympics and grants for public TV stations are both missing allocations in the House.

The UNF Culture of Completion/Career Initiative is missing funding in the Senate. Rep. Fullwood said he thought it was a project with the Jax Chamber. The Chair directed staff to find out the lobbyist and the member who submitted the appropriation request.

ARC of Florida is missing funding in the Senate. Staff explained it was a statewide allocation- not specific to The Arc Village.

Non-Violence Project USA, Inc. and Informed Families of Florida Program are each missing funding in the House or Senate.

UF Health Proton Therapy Institute has a \$7.8 million allocation in the House, but nothing in the Senate.

Mayo Clinic's Cancer Center of Jacksonville is missing funding in the Senate. Rep. Jones explained Mayo had a \$2 million appropriation last year and she is working with the Senate to match the House appropriation for this year. Furthermore, she's working with Rep. Hudson and Rep. Corcoran to see if there's a way for Mayo to become recognized as one of four cancer institutes in Florida & is requesting the members support their efforts. The problem has been that Mayo's main body is not based out of Florida like the other institutes. The Chair asked how they planned on accomplishing this. Rep. Jones said it would likely happen as an amendment or proviso. The Chair said she thinks it's something the delegation as a group can get behind and support. She asked Rep. Jones to share the language with the delegation members once it's drafted. Rep. Jones added that it also goes along with the goal to attract medical tourism to Jacksonville. Rep. McBurney said there's a common misconception that the money allocated to Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville actually goes to its main branch in Rochester. The Chair asked Rep. Jones to have Mayo provide the delegation with a few talking points about the rationale for the appropriation.

Children of Inmates is missing funding in the Senate. Rep. Jones said the program provides services in three counties and she's recently met someone who benefited from the program. Rep. McBurney said the House funded it last year. Mario said the funding was \$300,000 last year, Rep. Jones said they should try to work to match last year's funding level.

AMIKids is missing funding in the Senate. Rep. McBurney said it was an organization focused on helping at risk boys.

Florida Children's Initiative is missing Senate funding under the grants for prevention programs line item. Rep. Jones asked if this was another component of their program.

Rep. Fullwood explained this part of their funding was more of the DCF aspect of the program.

The Chair pointed out there is a large difference in funding between the appropriations in the House and Senate for the PACE Center for Girls.

The Greatest Save pilot program only has funding in the House.

New Town Success Zone in Jacksonville only has funding in the Senate. Rep. Fullwood wasn't sure why this specific allocation was singled out, since the program's funding comes from FL Children's Initiative. Yolanda Jackson explained it's a DJJ project and they're working on correcting the language.

Another allocation for the FL Children's Initiative was found under grants for an Ounce of Prevention. Rep. Fullwood said this particular component is focused on agricultural projects. Rep. Jones asked if it was for community gardens. Rep. Fullwood said it was for gardens and other health related programs. Rep. Jones added that the organization usually helps in food deserts.

The St. Johns River Water Management District and multiple beach projects are missing funding in the Senate. Senator Bean said Senator Hays is holding off on allocating funds for water projects until certain questions are answered regarding Amendment 1. Rep. Jones asked who submitted these requests on the House side. The Chair suggested it may be that they're recurring allocations.

Rep. Jones asked why Small County Wastewater was on the spreadsheet. The allocation could be for Baldwin.

The St. Johns River Ferry has been allocated \$1 million in the Senate and \$60,000 in the House. The Chair submitted a request for \$2 million. She explained if the money is invested now the Ferry should not require additional funding for years. Furthermore, she said the main reason the Ferry has required additional funding recently was due to lack of capital improvements. JTA is now taking over the Ferry and with this investment the Ferry should be sustainable.

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters is missing funding in the Senate. Rep. McBurney submitted the request on the House side. Rep. Jones asked if it was statewide. Rep. McBurney confirmed that was correct.

Homebuilders Institute is missing funding in the House. Rep. Fullwood didn't know who submitted the request, but he thinks the institute is an apprenticeship program.

USS Adams has \$500,000 in the Senate and \$1 million in the House. Members agreed the numbers should be matched up. Rep. McBurney provided handouts with additional information about the ship.

Funds are also mismatched for the Northeast Florida Soccer Academy. Senator Bean said he submitted the request. Members agreed efforts should be made to match up the funds.

Sulzbacher Center is missing allocations in the House. The request was submitted by Senator Latvala.

The Chair opened the table to discussion.

Senator Bean is working on the Beaver Street Enterprise Center. He confirmed the organization is requesting \$900,000 of recurring funds. Senator Gibson explained Beaver Street is being moved from HHS appropriations to TED appropriations.

Senator Gibson said the name change issue for state colleges is a serious problem due to costs that would be incurred for FSCJ. The members agreed they need to work on the issue.

Rep. McBurney is working on getting funds for the Veterans Center.

Senator Bean reiterated the funding problem for UF Health is not settled and that it will likely draw out the session due to it being such a large issue.

Rep. Jones is working on the 5000 Role Models of Excellence program. John Sullivan said there is \$100,000 in the House budget, but not in the Senate. He said they are working with Senator Bean to get it added.

Rep. Jones is also working on funding for storm water septic tank phase out. She's also working on the Call Me MISTER program at EWC. UF Health asked for a onetime non-recurring allocation of \$10 million for emergency room renovations. The SOARS coordinator also requires funding. Rep. Jones and the Chair agreed to work together on that appropriation.

Rep. McBurney is working on post release JREC funding of \$600,000. It was confirmed JREC is not the same as other JSO programs.

The Chair is working on \$2 million for Communities in School Initiative and \$3 million for City Year.

Stephen Wise said he's working on getting funding of \$325,000 for the Middle School High Tech program for the disabled.

Yolanda Jackson is requesting \$1 million funding for Black Male Explorers. She said current allocations are too low given that it's shared among schools. Rep. Fullwood explained there is an up and coming joint forensic program being developed in collaboration with FSCJ and EWC.

Mark Pinto is working with Senator Bean on funding for a manatee rehabilitation center at Jacksonville Zoo & Garden.

Dr. Lee said Beaver Street Enterprise Center funding is at risk due to being allocated under the wrong department. It has created thousands of jobs in Jacksonville and many businesses. Without funding this year the center would have to close their doors.

Marty Fiorentino distributed a handout from the Jacksonville Civic Council emphasizing how important UF Health is to the economy of Jacksonville.

Paul Wharton explained why UF Health needs funds of \$10 million to renovate their emergency room.

John Sullivan said the Lowest 300 is a problem for the Duval County; it cost the district \$9 million last year. Duval County has 39 schools on the list and proper funding is required to meet the Lowest 300 requirements.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

This is not a verbatim transcript but a summary of the proceedings. A recording is on file in the delegation office and posted online on the delegation website.