

Legislative Link

A legislative update provided by the United Way of Florida, Inc.

TAX & BUDGET REFORM COMMISSION IN THE NEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Bills Heard This Week.....2



United Way of Florida
United Way of Florida, Inc.
307 E. Seventh Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32303
850/488-8287

Committee weeks are winding down in the Legislature, with the final regularly scheduled House meetings taking place this week. Usually, as committee weeks have gone longer in past years, there has been a 3-5 week frenzy of activity as members and lobbyists jockey and negotiate their bills through the process.

This year the fiscal gloom that has set in at the capital has seemingly dimmed the frenzy and resulted in what appears to be far fewer bills being heard and certainly far fewer bills of major import being passed.

In fact, as the Legislature was going about its regular business this week, some of the biggest news came not from the Legislature but from the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. On Monday the Commission voted 21-4 to put on the November ballot a constitutional amendment that would constitute the largest property tax cut in state history.

The plan would provide about a 25 percent property tax cut to all Floridians by eliminating \$9.3-billion in "required local effort" levied by school districts starting in 2011 and replacing it with a one cent sales tax increase, spending cuts or some other unspecified revenue as determined by the Legislature. A penny sales tax would generate from \$3.3-\$3.9 billion, leaving more than \$5 billion that lawmakers would have to find to pay for education. The plan also decreases the 10 percent cap on annual assessment increases for non-homestead properties, which was just approved by voters in January, to 5 percent.

Proponents of the plan contend that Florida's economy, fueled by a reinvigorated housing market, will generate the dollars necessary to make up the difference by 2011. Opponents point out that the vast majority of economists project the economy will not come out of its current doldrums until at least 2010 and that the Legislature will not be able to replace the lost education spending. They also point out that the changes merely shift the costs of paying for state services from homeowners and businesses to visitors and low-income Floridians who do not own property but will pay more in sales taxes.

Speaker Marco Rubio, who is not a voting member of the Commission but who spoke passionately to the Commission about the need to pass the plan twice on Monday, is a strong supporter who feels that the plan will revitalize the slumping economy. However, powerful business interests who worry that the Legislature will be forced to fill the education spending gap by implementing new sales taxes on services, education advocates who worry the state will not levy new taxes to fill the gap, and advocates for the poor who contend the plan shifts the burden for paying for state services to the poor, are already lining up against the plan.

The plan will come before the Commission for a final vote next month. In the meantime – and afterward - constitutional experts will consider whether the Constitutional mandate that proposals for new taxes receive at least 66 percent of the vote to pass, as opposed to the 60 percent needed for all other proposals, applies to the plan. Many argue that the plan merely expands an existing (sales) tax, while others claim it imposes a new (sales) tax. The outcome of this argument could be determinative, as the property tax proposal that passed in January attained only 64 percent of the vote.

BILLS HEARD THIS WEEK

(Some information below is excerpted from legislative staff analysis)

HB 0019 Coverage for Mental, Nervous, and Substance-related Disorders (Homan and others)

House Bill 19 amends s. 627.6688, F.S., to specifically define those mental health conditions that must be covered within the mandated offering, generally including all diagnostic categories of mental health conditions listed in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and as listed in the mental and behavioral disorders section of the current International Classification of Diseases.

The bill deletes current law limiting mental health benefits by specific service areas, such as inpatient benefits, and inserts a general statement that the mental health benefits may not be more restrictive than the treatment limitations and cost-sharing requirements that are applicable to other diseases, illnesses, and medical conditions.

The bill mandates that the parity requirements be separately applied to each benefit package offered by an employer.

Last Action: 03/18/08 HOUSE Favorable with 1 Amendment by Health Innovation; 6 Yeas, 1 Nay

HB 99 Food Donation by Public Food Service Establishments (Porth and others)

The bill creates the "Florida Restaurant Lending a Helping Hand Act."

The bill amends existing provisions regarding liability for canned or perishable food distributed free of charge by expanding the definition of "perishable food" to include foods that have been prepared at a licensed public food service establishment. The bill provides protection from criminal and civil liability to public food service establishments that donate perishable foods apparently fit for human consumption to a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization for free. This immunity from criminal penalty or civil damages does not apply if an injury is caused by the gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of the donor or gleaner.

Last Action: 03/19/08 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Safety & Security Council; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays

HB 111 Hurricane Preparedness (Nehr and others)

This bill provides that no sales tax will be collected on certain items from June 1, 2008 through June 12, 2008. This coincides with the first day of hurricane season (June 1). Chapter 2007-25, Laws of Florida, authorized a similar sales tax exemption for hurricane preparedness items from June 1, 2007, through June 12, 2007.

The list of exempt items includes: (a) any portable self-powered light source selling for \$20 or less; (b) any portable self-powered radio, two-way radio, or weatherband radio selling for \$75 or less; (c) any tarpaulin or other flexible waterproof sheeting selling for \$50 or less; (d) any ground anchor system or tie-down kit selling for \$50 or less; (e) any gas or diesel fuel tank selling for \$25 or less; (f) any package of AAA-cell, AA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries, excluding automobile and boat batteries, selling for \$30 or less; (g) any cell phone battery selling for \$60 or less and any cell phone charger selling for \$40 or less; (h) any nonelectric food storage cooler selling for \$30 or less; (i) any portable generator used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage selling for \$1,000 or less; (j) any storm shutter device selling for \$200 or less; (k) any carbon monoxide detector selling for \$75 or less; (l) any reusable ice selling for \$10 or less; and (m) any single product consisting of two or more of the items listed in (a)-(l) selling for \$75 or less; (n) any boat anchor selling for \$100 or less; any marine battery; or any fender, anchor chain, dock line, or similar device used to protect a boat tied up at a dock and selling for \$300 or less; or (o) any missile resistant, impact-rated single garage door selling for \$500 or less or double garage door selling for \$1,000 or less.

*Last Action: 03/13/08 HOUSE Favorable with 1 Amendment by Economic Development; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays;
03/18/08 HOUSE Now in Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council*

SB 164 Insurance Coverage for Mental, Nervous, and Substance-Related Disorders (Crist)

Senate Bill 164 significantly expands the benefits that insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are required to offer to group policyholders (e.g., employers) for mental health and substance-related disorders. The bill specifies that the benefit limits for mental health and substance-related disorders (i.e., inpatient hospitalization, partial hospitalization, outpatient durational limits, dollar amounts, deductibles, and coinsurance) may not be more restrictive than the treatment limitations and cost-sharing requirements under the plan that are applicable to other diseases, illnesses, and medical conditions. The bill also specifies a broad list of mental health and substance related conditions that must be covered under this optional group coverage.

Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable with CS by Health Policy; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays

HB 0233 Elderly Persons and Disabled Adults (Anderson and others)

Chapter 825, Florida Statutes provides that aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult occurs when a person:

- Commits aggravated battery on an elderly person or disabled adult;
- Willfully tortures, maliciously punishes, or willfully and unlawfully cages, an elderly person or disabled adult; or
- Knowingly or willfully abuses an elderly person or disabled adult and in so doing causes great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to the elderly person or disabled adult.

The bill reclassifies the offense of aggravated abuse of an elderly or disabled person from a second degree felony to a first degree felony. This will have the effect of increasing the maximum sentence for the offense from fifteen years in prison to thirty years in prison. The bill also requires certified law enforcement personnel to receive training in the identification and investigation of elder abuse and neglect.

*Last Action: 03/18/08 HOUSE Favorable by Policy & Budget Council; 32 Yeas, 0 Nays;
03/19/08 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on second reading*

SB 366 Elderly Persons & Disabled Adults/ Abuse & Neglect (Margolis)

The bill increases the felony degree of the offense of aggravated abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult from a second degree felony to a first degree felony. The increase in felony degree means an increase in the maximum penalty that may be imposed for the offense. A second degree felony has a maximum penalty of 15 years in state prison, while a first degree felony generally has a maximum penalty of 30 years in state prison.

The bill also requires that certified law enforcement personnel receive training in the identification and investigation of elder abuse and neglect.

*Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays;
03/20/08 SENATE Now in Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations*

HB 619 Child-Restraint Requirements (Gelber and others)

This bill revises child restraint requirements for children passengers in motor vehicles. Motor vehicle operators will be required to use child restraint devices for children aged through seven years of age, instead of the current four years of age. Under the bill's provisions, a safety belt alone is no longer sufficient protection for any child aged four through seven years. In addition, the bill specifies that certain child safety seats are appropriate restraint devices for children aged through four years, and certain child booster seats are appropriate restraint devices for children aged four through seven years. An infraction is considered a moving violation punishable by a fine of \$60 plus court costs and add-ons, and by assessment of three points against the driver's license. The court may dismiss a first violation if the operator produces proof of purchase of a federally approved child restraint device.

Bills Heard This Week Continued

The bill provides exceptions to the child restraint law for persons transporting a child aged four through seven years and who are:

- Visiting the state
- Transporting the child gratuitously and in good faith in response to a declared emergency situation or an immediate emergency involving the child
- Transporting a child with a medically necessary exception with appropriate documentation; or
- Acting generally as a Good Samaritan.

Last Action: 03/20/08 HOUSE Favorable with 1 Amendment by Infrastructure; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays

HB 623 School Food Service Programs (Kendrick and others)

House Bill 623 requires each district school board, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, to:

- Expand its School Breakfast Program to make breakfast available to all elementary, middle, and high school students (this requirement is not contingent upon funding in the General Appropriations Act);
- Provide universal-free breakfast for all students in elementary, middle, and high schools in which 80 percent or more students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, to the extent specifically funded in the General Appropriations Act;
- In schools required to provide universal-fee breakfast, serve at least 10 percent of breakfast meals at an alternative site location (e.g., “Breakfast in the Classroom,” “Grab ‘n’ Go Breakfast,” and “Breakfast on the Bus”);
- Grant permission to all elementary, middle, and high school students to visit a breakfast point-of-sale, receive a “Grab ‘n’ Go Breakfast,” and, if a student’s school bus arrives late, allow the student to eat breakfast in the classroom for at least 15 minutes after the first bell rings (or if a student’s school bus arrives after the first bell has rung, allow the student to eat breakfast in the classroom for a “reasonable period”); and
- Annually provide all elementary, middle, and high school students with information prepared by the district’s food service administration concerning the School Breakfast Program, including school announcements and written notice sent to all parents.

The bill also authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to develop an incentive program for school districts to expand participation in their School Breakfast Programs. If funds are provided for the incentive program, the bill requires the funds to be allocated among school districts according to the percentage of students they serve.

Last Action: 03/18/08 HOUSE Favorable with 1 Amendment by K-12; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

HB 769 Education for Children in Shelter Care or Foster Care (Kelly)

The bill provides authority for the court to appoint a surrogate parent for a child in proceedings under chapter 39, Florida Statutes, who has or is suspected to have a disability for the purpose of educational decision making under certain specified circumstances, specifies the individuals the court can and cannot appoint, and requires the court to defer to the district school board’s appointment of a surrogate parent if such appointment is made prior to the court’s appointment. In addition, the bill:

- Adds a designated liaison between a local school district and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF or department) or the court to the list of entities that may be granted access to records in child abuse and neglect cases.
- Requires the court to request parental consent for the release of a child’s educational records if the child is placed in shelter following a shelter hearing and provides that the court may order the release of those records if the parents withhold consent.

Bills Heard This Week Continued

- Adds “surrogate parent” to the definition of the term “parent” under the school code and gives a surrogate parent the same rights as a parent under chapter 2003, Florida Statutes.
- Creates a definition for the term “surrogate parent”.
- Amends the current definition of “homeless child” to align with the definition under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act for purposes of school enrollment and obtaining health records and immunizations.
- Establishes provisions in the K-20 Education Code related to the appointment of surrogate parents.

Last Action: 03/18/08 HOUSE Favorable by Healthy Families; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays; Now in Healthcare Council

SB 788 Transportation Disadvantaged/Services (Fasano)

Senate Bill 788 revises ss. 427.011 – 427.016, F.S., to ensure the coordinated planning of transportation disadvantaged services by all human service agencies; strengthen the alternative provider procedure process for purchasing agencies to ensure all agencies follow the exact same process; require all agencies to identify dollars spent on non-emergency transportation services to transportation disadvantaged clients; and require all agencies to pay the approved transportation rates. This bill also updates terminology, deletes obsolete language, and makes other technical changes.

Last Action: 03/13/08 HOUSE Favorable with 1 Amendment by Economic Development; 10 Yeas, Nays; 03/20/08 On Committee agenda - Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations, 03/25/08, 3:00 pm, 309 C

SB 790 School Safety/Bullying and Harassment (Baker)

Current research studies indicate that bullying includes a wide variety of behavior. All bullying behavior, however, involves a person or a group repeatedly trying to harm someone who is perceived to be weaker or more vulnerable. Bullying behavior can involve direct attacks, such as hitting, threatening or intimidating, maliciously teasing or taunting, name-calling, making sexual remarks, and stealing or damaging belongings, or more subtle, indirect attacks such as spreading rumors or encouraging others to reject or exclude someone.

An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association states that almost 30 percent of teens in the United States (over 5.7 million) are estimated to be involved in bullying as either a bully, a target of bullying, or both. In a recent national survey of students in grades 6 to 10, 13 percent reported bullying others, 11 percent reported being the target of bullies, and another 6 percent said they bullied others and were bullied themselves. Limited available data suggest that bullying is much more common among younger teens than older teens. As teens grow older, they are less likely to bully others and to be the targets of bullies.

Teens (particularly boys) who bully are four times more likely than non-bullies to be convicted of crimes by age 24, with 60 percent of bullies having at least one criminal conviction.

This bill prohibits acts of bullying and harassment of any public K-12 student or employee, and requires school districts to adopt policies to protect students and school employees from the physical and psychological harm of bullying and harassment. The adopted policy must afford all students the same protection regardless of their status. However, a school district may establish separate antidiscrimination policies that address categories of students.

Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable by Education Pre-K - 12; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays; 03/20/08 SENATE Now in Criminal Justice

Bills Heard This Week Continued

HB 879 Early Learning (Kelly)

HB 879 transfers the requirement to establish a statewide child care resource and referral network from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI). It also transfers the duties of the Child Care Executive Partnership Program from DCF to AWI and early learning coalitions and permits early learning coalition boards to engage in board business by telecommunication methods.

With regard to the voluntary prekindergarten program, the bill provides that: (1) private prekindergarten instructors will no longer be subject to refingerprinting procedures when they are rescreened every 5 years so long as there has not been a break in employment for longer than 90 days; (2) substitute instructors will no longer be required to possess the same accreditation as normal instructors, so long as they are of good moral character and screened in accordance with level 2 background screenings; and (3) accreditation standards will require written standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing standards and at least one site visit to the provider being accredited.

In addition, the bill gives the Agency for Workforce Innovation the ability to adopt rules relating to the establishment of a statewide child care resource and referral network and the use of substitute instructors.

Last Action: 03/13/08 HOUSE Favorable by Economic Development; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays;

03/14/08 HOUSE Now in Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council

HB 1021 Prekindergarten Education Pilot Program (Ausley)

House Bill 1021 establishes a pilot program for enhancing the quality of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education (VPK) Program in Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties. The design for the pilot program is as follows:

- The program is established as a 3-year coordinated pilot;
- Participation by prekindergarten education providers is voluntary;
- The program must provide opportunities for individuals with baccalaureate or higher degrees to teach in the VPK program;
- The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region must develop a curriculum for the pilot program in consultation with a community college, and the curriculum must provide each participant with early education training designed to enhance the quality of the VPK program and with health and safety training; and
- Individuals participating in the pilot program must complete the curriculum.

The bill specifies that the pilot program is to be administered by the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region. The coalition is directed to recruit participants for the program, determine the required training, and provide assistance for the placement of participants (individuals and prekindergarten education providers).

The bill does not provide funding for the pilot program but authorizes the coalition to apply for grants and funding for implementation of the pilot program. The bill also specifies that implementation of the pilot program is not required until the coalition secures the necessary funding.

Last Action: 03/18/08 HOUSE Favorable by Schools & Learning Council; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays;

03/19/08 HOUSE Now in Policy & Budget Council

"Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life."

from Immanuel Kant

German philosopher (1724 - 1804)

SB: 1048 Child Protection (Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Lynn)

This bill amends and creates several sections of law involving children and families to enhance child protection by:

- Giving the Department of Children and Families (the department) authority to adopt administrative rules relating to children who become missing while they are involved with the department;
- Clarifying that it is the responsibility of the department and its contracted providers to make reasonable efforts to locate a child whose whereabouts become unknown and to report the child as missing;
- Requiring law enforcement agencies to accept reports of missing children from the department or its contracted providers, as well as from the parent or guardian of the child;
- Making it unlawful to knowingly and willfully remove a minor from the state or conceal the location of a minor, after receiving constructive or actual notice of a pending dependency proceeding or abuse investigation involving the minor;
- Providing that if a court finds that termination of parental rights is in the best interest of a child, it is also the least restrictive means of protecting the child;
- Providing exceptions to the requirement that all child protective investigations be closed within 60 days;
- Providing that a court may enter only one order adjudicating a child dependent in a dependency case;
- Allowing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to give the department access to information contained in its database for purposes of identifying persons who are the subject of child protective investigations;

Last Action: 03/18/08 SENATE Favorable with CS by Judiciary; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays;

03/20/08 SENATE Committee Substitute (C2) Filed; Now in Health and Human Services Appropriations

HB 1291 Autism Spectrum Disorder (Porth and others)

House Bill 1291 shall be cited as the “Window of Opportunity Act.” The bill amends s. 402.305, F.S., relating to child care personnel in child care facilities, by requiring that the 40-hour introductory course required for all child care personnel include information regarding autism spectrum disorder, including recognition and care of infants and toddlers who have autism spectrum disorder. The bill creates s. 627.6686, F.S., which mandates coverage for autism spectrum disorder by certain specified health insurance plans, and provides definitions applicable to the new section of law, eligibility requirements for coverage, and an annual maximum benefit for behavioral analysis that may be adjusted annually. The bill requires health insurance plans to provide specified coverage for well-baby and well-child screening for diagnosing the presence of autism spectrum disorder and for the intervention and treatment of autism spectrum. The bill limits coverage to treatment prescribed by the insured’s treating physician in accordance with a treatment plan. Additionally, the bill specifies elements that must be included in treatment plans in order for health insurance plans to appropriately pay claims, and provides limitations to health insurance plan requests for updated treatment plans from physicians. Finally, the bill requires the DOH, DOE, DCF, AHCA and APD to establish a statewide system of early intervention services for eligible infants and toddlers two and under who have physical, cognitive, communication, social or emotional, and adaptive developmental delays or disabilities. The bill requires the program to address the specific needs of children with autism spectrum and designates specific activities that must be addressed, including evaluation guidelines for health care professionals, referrals of children with autism spectrum disorder to schools or agencies best able to handle their needs, collecting data, disseminating information on screening, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and medical care.

Last Action: 03/18/08 HOUSE Favorable with 1 Amendment by Health Innovation; 4 Yeas, 3 Nays

Bills Heard This Week Continued

SB 1496 Service Animals for Individuals with Disabilities (Bennett)

The bill revises the definition of “service animal” to include an animal in the process of being trained or being raised for the purpose of being trained at a future date to perform tasks for an individual with a disability. It also provides trainers accompanied by an animal being raised for future training with the same public access that a person who is actively engaged in training a service animal would have and applies the same liability for damage. This bill provides public access for a volunteer accompanied by a puppy that is being raised for future training, provided: the animal is on a leash or otherwise restrained; the animal is wearing a collar, leash, or other appropriate apparel identifying the accredited school for which it is being raised; and the volunteer has, available for inspection, credentials from the school for which the animal is being raised.

*Last Action: 03/13/08 SENATE Favorable with CS by Community Affairs; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays;
03/14/08 SENATE Committee Substitute (C1) Filed; Now in Governmental Operations*

SB 1570 Medicaid Managed Care Pilot Program (Lynn)

The bill substantially modifies the Medicaid reform managed care pilot program. The bill excludes persons with developmental disabilities, children found to be dependent pursuant to s. 39.01(14), F. S., persons with severe and persistent mental illness, and recipients who meet the institutional or “ICP” level of care required for Medicaid nursing home care or enrollment in a Medicaid home-based or community-based waiver from mandatory enrollment in the pilot program until the service delivery systems required in this bill have been developed and evaluated for a period of at least 1 year, and until the Legislature expressly authorizes their mandatory enrollment. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) must develop policies and procedures for identifying and notifying these individuals of the ability to not participate in the Medicaid reform pilot. The bill requires the AHCA to adopt rules to establish policies for case-by-case exclusion of individuals from mandatory enrollment if they are not included in the identified populations described above.

*Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable with 4 Amendments by Health Policy; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays;
03/20/08 SENATE Now in Health Regulation*

SB 1670 Early Learning (Gaetz)

This bill transfers the requirement to establish a statewide child care resource and referral network from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) and transfers the duties of the Child Care Executive Partnership Program from DCF to AWI and early learning coalitions. It also permits early learning coalition boards to engage in board business by telecommunication methods.

With regard to the voluntary prekindergarten program, the bill provides that private providers participating in the program must: 1) complete ethics training that has been developed jointly by the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Education, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation; 2) disqualify from employment any prekindergarten instructor or administrator who has been convicted of a disqualifying offense identified under s. 435.04; and 3) may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding a terminated or dismissed employee or an employee who resigns in lieu of termination based in whole or in part on unethical conduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student and may not provide the employee with a favorable recommendation for employment in another educational setting.

Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable with CS by Education Pre-K - 12; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays

Bills Heard This Week Continued

SB 1704 Abandoned Newborns (Storms)

Senate Bill 1704 amends Florida's newborn safe abandonment laws to clarify that a parent who safely abandons a newborn is presumed to have consented to termination of his or her parental rights. The bill expressly prohibits the search for and notification of the abandoning parent, unless there is actual or suspected child abuse or neglect.

The bill extends the period of time during which a newborn infant may be safely abandoned from three days to seven days, and requires hospitals to complete a safely abandoned infant's birth certificate without naming the mother.

Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable with CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays; 03/20/08 SENATE Committee Substitute (C1) Filed; On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 03/26/08, 1:00 pm, 301 S

CS/SB 2216 Adult Protection and Care (Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Storms)

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2216 amends current law to add protections for the elderly by, among others,

- Providing the Department of Children and Families (DCF) with access to records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to be used to conduct protective investigations;
- Expanding who must have a criminal background screening, and expanding the types of crimes that are classified as disqualifying offenses for employment purposes in long-term care facilities;
- Requiring specified adult abuse reports to be immediately transferred to the county sheriff.

Last Action: 03/19/08 SENATE Favorable with CS by Health Regulation; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays



College football wisdom....so to speak.....

"Motivation is simple. You eliminate those who are not motivated." Lou Holtz / Arkansas

"You can learn more character on the two-yard line than anywhere else in life." Paul Dietzel / LSU

"It's kind of hard to rally around a math class." Bear Bryant / Alabama

"There's nothing that cleanses your soul like getting the hell kicked out of you."
Woody Hayes / Ohio State

From the US Geological Survey, <http://www.usgs.gov>



What's All That Shaking Going On?

The US Geological Survey hosts the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), whose mission is to determine rapidly the location and size of all destructive earthquakes worldwide and to immediately disseminate this information to concerned national and international agencies, scientists, and the general public. To check out today's worldwide seismic activity, visit the [National Earthquake Information Center](#).



United Way of Florida

UNITED WAY OF FLORIDA, INC.
307 East Seventh Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone - (850) 488-8287
Fax - (850) 681-9137

Theodore G. Granger
President & Editor

Beth Meredith
Chief Operating Officer

Kay Racine
Office Manager

Legislative Link is published by the United Way of Florida, Inc. for our member who may reproduce this newsletter for staff, volunteers, and agencies. All others must call 850/488-8287 for reprint permission.