



April 20-24, 2009

## EIGHTH WEEK OF THE 2009 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Our legislative report is updated daily and includes descriptions, positions and activity on legislation closely followed by the Conference. To access the report, click [here](#).

### BUDGET

Last week the Senate passed a \$65.6 billion budget, with the House passing a \$65.1 billion version. The conference process during which the two chambers negotiate the differences in their budgets has yet to begin. In order to have a budget passed by the May 1 end of the regular session and comply with a 72-hour cooling off period before a final vote can be taken, lawmakers need to have the budget complete by Wednesday of next week. Senate President Jeff Atwater and House Speaker Larry Cretul both indicated that preliminary discussions on budget fundamentals have been taking place this week between leaders of the two chambers.

### ACTION ALERTS

The Florida Catholic Conference has two active action alerts related the budget. *If you have not already done so, please take action on these items now.*

#### Budget language against destructive embryo research

During its budget debate last week, the House defeated (see vote below) an amendment striking language that prohibits funding in support of human embryonic stem cell research at Florida universities. We thank our advocacy network members who contacted their representatives to urge support for this prohibition. Your senator now needs to hear from you. The Senate version of the budget does not contain this language.

House vote - 46 Yeas; 68 Nays (Nay is a pro-life vote)

Y Abruzzo	Y Domino	N Hooper	N Plakon	Y Schultz
N Adams	N Dorworth	N Horner	Y Planas	Y Schwartz
N Adkins	N Drake	N Hudson	N Poppell	Y Scioni
N Ambler	N Eisnaugle	N Hukill	Y Porth	Y Skidmore
- Anderson	N Evers	Y Jenne	N Precourt	N Snyder
N Aubuchon	Y Fetterman	Y* Jones	N Proctor	Y Soto
N Bembry	Y Fitzgerald	N Kelly	Y Rader	N Stargel
N Bogdanoff	N Flores	Y Kiar	Y Randolph	Y Steinberg
N Bovo	N Ford	N* Kreegel	N Ray	Y Taylor, D.
Y Boyd	N Fresen	Y Kriseman	N Reagan	Y Taylor, P.
Y Brandenburg	N Frishe	N Legg	Y Reed	Y Thompson, G.
Y Braynon	N Galvano	N Llorente	Y Rehwinkel	N Thompson, N.
Y Brisé	Y Garcia	Y Long	N Renuart	Y Thurston
Y Bullard	Y Gibbons	N Lopez-Cantera	N Rivera	N Tobia
N Burgin	Y Gibson	N Mayfield	N Robaina	N Troutman
N Bush	N Glorioso	N McBurney	N Roberson, K.	N Van Zant
N Cannon	N Gonzalez	N McKeel	Y Roberson, Y.	Y Waldman
N Carroll	N Grady	N Murzin	Y Rogers	N Weatherford
Y Chestnut	N Grimsley	- Nehr	Y Rouson	N Weinstein
Y Clarke-Reed	N Hasner	N Nelson	Y Sachs	Y Williams, A.
N Coley	N Hays	N O'Toole	Y Sands	N* Williams, T.
N Cretul	Y Heller	Y Pafford	- Sansom	N Wood
N Crisafulli	N Holder	N Patronis	Y Saunders	N Workman

Y Culp            Y Homan            N Patterson            N Schenck            N Zapata  
 \* Vote after roll call

Click [here](#) to send a message to your senator urging adoption of the House position prohibiting destructive human embryo research in the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget.

### Funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers

The House budget contains a \$2 million appropriation, which has been included in the state budget since 2006, to fund contracted crisis pregnancy centers throughout Florida. An attempt was made last week to redirect these funds to another program; however, passage of a substitute amendment preserved the funding (see vote below). There is no appropriation in the Senate version of the budget.

House vote - 72 Yeas; 42 Nays (Yea is a pro-life vote)

N Abruzzo	Y Domino	Y Hooper	Y Plakon	Y Schultz
Y Adams	Y Dorworth	Y Horner	Y Planas	N Schwartz
Y Adkins	Y Drake	Y Hudson	Y Poppell	N Scionti
Y Ambler	Y Eisnagle	Y Hukill	N Porth	N Skidmore
Y Anderson	Y Evers	N Jenne	Y Precourt	Y Snyder
Y Aubuchon	N Fetterman	N Jones	Y Proctor	N Soto
Y Bemby	N Fitzgerald	Y Kelly	N Rader	Y Stargel
Y Bogdanoff	Y Flores	N Kiar	N Randolph	N Steinberg
Y Bovo	Y Ford	Y Kreegel	Y Ray	N Taylor, D.
N Boyd	Y Fresen	N Kriseman	Y Reagan	N Taylor, P.
N Brandenburg	Y Frishe	Y Legg	N Reed	N Thompson, G.
N Braynon	Y Galvano	Y Llorente	N Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Y Thompson, N.
N Brisé	N Garcia	N Long	Y Renuart	N Thurston
N Bullard	N Gibbons	Y Lopez-Cantera	Y Rivera	Y Tobia
Y Burgin	N Gibson	Y Mayfield	Y Robaina	Y Troutman
N Bush	Y Glorioso	Y McBurney	Y Roberson, K.	Y Van Zant
Y Cannon	Y Gonzalez	Y* McKeel	- Roberson, Y.	N Waldman
Y Carroll	Y Grady	Y Murzin	N Rogers	Y* Weatherford
N Chestnut	Y Grimsley	- Nehr	N Rouson	Y Weinstein
N Clarke-Reed	Y Hasner	Y Nelson	N Sachs	N Williams, A.
Y Coley	Y Hays	Y O'Toole	N Sands	Y* Williams, T.
Y Cretul	N Heller	N Pafford	- Sansom	Y Wood
Y Crisafulli	Y Holder	Y Patronis	N Saunders	Y Workman
Y Culp	Y Homan	Y Patterson	Y Schenck	Y Zapata

\* Vote after roll call

Click [here](#) to send a message to your Florida senator and representative urging them to maintain \$2 million in the final budget for crisis pregnancy centers that serve women and their children.

### LIFE AND DEATH

#### Plastinated Bodies

The Senate approved **CS/SB 414 (Crist)** with an amendment that will require documentation of the decedent's or next-of-kin's permission to plastinate the body. The Florida Catholic Conference sought such an amendment to ensure some modicum of consent. Previously exhibited bodies in accredited museums can be shown without such documentation until January 2012, after which documentation will be required.

**CS/CS/CS/HB 125 (Nehr)** is expected to be taken up by the House and amended to incorporate the principles in its Senate companion.

### SOCIAL CONCERNS

As our nation marked Earth Day on April 22, we highlight some of the environment bills that moved this past week:

## Renewable Energy

**CS/CS/CS/SB 1154 (King, Jr.)** calls on power companies to boost the amount of renewable energy in their power grid by 2020. The definition of renewable energy was changed to "clean energy" and now includes nuclear power plants. On Tuesday, the Senate Policy Committee on Ways and Means approved the bill as a Committee Substitute (15-4), and it is now on the Senate calendar on second reading. The measure has yet to be heard in the House.

## Energy Efficiency

**HB 1533 (Gibbons)** requires the Florida Energy and Climate Commission to prepare a report on energy efficiency with respect to low-income households and rental housing properties and was amended to ensure that public housing was not excluded. On Wednesday, the bill passed the House (119-0) and is now in Senate Messages. Similar bill, **SB 2300 (Joyner)**, has not been heard by its committees of reference.

See the Florida Catholic Conference position paper on [Policy Approach to Environmental Concerns and Global Climate Change](#).

## HEALTH

### KidCare Bills – Good in Senate; Stuck in House – Contacts Needed

**SB 918 (Rich)** is now on second reading in the Senate, having been withdrawn from its last committee of reference. **HB 1329 (Patronis)** however, despite assurances from a prominent House leader, has not been heard and may be dead for the session.

Please contact Rep. Adam Hasner and Speaker Cretul to urge them to make the KidCare streamlining bill – **HB 1329** – a priority. Florida needs the bill to remove administrative barriers and make it easier for families to enroll eligible uninsured children and prevent currently enrolled kids from losing coverage.

Speaker Larry Cretul, [larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov), (850) 488-1450  
Representative Adam Hasner, Majority Leader, [adam.hasner@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:adam.hasner@myfloridahouse.gov), (850) 488-2234

## EDUCATION

### Corporate Tax Credit Scholarship Program

**CS/CS/HB 453 (Weatherford)**, which expands the program to allow credits on taxes paid on insurance premiums, was taken up Thursday by the House and passed (see vote below). During debate, opponents of the bill said that expanding options for students to attend private schools diverts money from and diminishes public schools. Supporters of the program countered that parents should have the right to send their child to the school where he or she can best be served. The bill now goes to the Senate.

House vote - 94 Yeas; 23 Nays (Yea is a pro-school choice vote)

Y Abruzzo	Y Domino	Y Hooper	Y Plakon	Y Schultz
Y Adams	Y Dorworth	Y Horner	Y Planas	N Schwartz
Y Adkins	Y Drake	Y Hudson	Y Poppell	Y Scioni
Y Ambler	Y Eisnaugle	Y Hukill	N Porth	N Skidmore
Y Anderson	Y Evers	N Jenne	Y Precourt	Y Snyder
Y Aubuchon	N Fetterman	N Jones	Y Proctor	Y Soto
Y Bemby	N Fitzgerald	Y Kelly	N Rader	Y Stargel
Y Bogdanoff	Y Flores	N Kiar	N Randolph	N Steinberg
Y Bovo	Y Ford	Y Kreegel	Y Ray	Y Taylor, D.

Y Boyd	Y Fresen	N Kriseman	Y Reagan	N Taylor, P.
N Brandenburg	Y Frishe	Y Legg	Y Reed	N Thompson,G
Y Braynon	Y Galvano	Y Llorente	N Rehwinkel Vasilinda	Y Thompson, N.
Y Brisé	Y Garcia	Y Long	Y Renuart	N Thurston
N Bullard	N Gibbons	Y Lopez-Cantera	Y Rivera	Y Tobia
Y Burgin	Y Gibson	Y Mayfield	Y Robaina	Y Troutman
Y Bush	Y Glorioso	Y McBurney	Y Roberson, K.	- Van Zant
Y Cannon	Y Gonzalez	Y McKeel	N Roberson, Y.	Y Waldman
Y Carroll	Y Grady	Y Murzin	Y Rogers	Y Weatherford
Y* Chestnut	Y Grimsley	Y Nehr	Y Rouson	Y Weinstein
Y Clarke-Reed	Y Hasner	Y Nelson	Y Sachs	N Williams, A.
Y Coley	Y Hays	Y O'Toole	N Sands	Y Williams, T.
Y Cretul	Y Heller	N Pafford	- Sansom	Y Wood
Y Crisafulli	Y Holder	Y Patronis	Y Saunders	Y Workman
Y Culp	Y Homan	Y Patterson	Y Schenck	Y Zapata

\* Vote after roll call

Also this week, **CS/CS/SB 1310 (Gardiner)** passed the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means (15-5) and was placed on the Senate calendar on second reading.

For further information, see the past weeks' [Legislative Session Summaries](#).