



Advocacy Briefing April 2022

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Hello everyone!

While the regular session ended and a special session was called, our Legislative Team remains hard at work tracking and updating bills. Advocacy is year-round so please continue to watch for the updates from our awesome legislative team. If you are not a member of the Advocacy Group on Facebook please join it for quick updates, and remember to [register for VoterVoice for the legislative action alerts](#).

Please remember that ALL Florida PTA positions on bills come from all Resolutions passed at the annual Leadership Convention and all National PTA Position Statements and Resolutions. This is what makes our united PTA Voice. No local unit, county council, or PTA leader speaking on behalf of PTA may speak against a Florida PTA or National PTA Resolution or Position

Statement. You may, however, opt to remain silent.

If we do not have a Resolution or Position Statement to support something you are interested in advocating for, learn how to write a Resolution at our Leadership Convention so that in the next Call for Resolutions, you can submit your idea to the Resolutions Committee.

Wishing you all well,
Jennifer "Jen" Martinez
Florida PTA President

Regular Session Update

As of 4/18/22



PTA related BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR

- **HB 173 Care of Students with Epilepsy or Seizure Disorders, effective date 07/01/2022**
PTA supported this bill, which provides for care in the IEP plan, pursuant to our statement addressing comprehensive health services for children.

HB 235 Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools, effective date 07/01/2022

PTA supported this bill based on our position statement providing that the use of restraint and seclusion practices shall only be used as a last resort.

SB 236 Children with Developmental Delays, effective date 07/01/2022

PTA supported this bill which expanded the eligibility criteria of students qualifying for services, thereby allowing more children to reach their potential.

SB 292 Newborn Screenings, effective date 01/01/2023

PTA supported this bill based on our resolution to promote services for individuals and families to address infant and maternal mortality. The bill provided for an additional screening for congenital cytomegalovirus.

SB 1048 Student Assessments [3x Yearly Progress Monitoring], effective date 07/01/2022

PTA remained neutral and spoke for information only as this bill moved forward since our position statements favor formative testing like progress monitoring but advocate against the high states testing that this bill perpetuates and expands. We likewise advocated for native language testing for EL students based on our position statement to that effect.

SB 1054 Financial Literacy Instruction in Public Schools, effective date 07/01/2022

PTA supported this bill based on a NPTA resolution for an increased emphasis on the teaching of science, mathematics, and technology to assure that all youth acquire the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a global economy.

HB 1467 K-12 Education [Book banning], effective date 07/01/2022

PTA opposed this bill, which imposes costly and burdensome additional requirements on school districts for the selection and adoption of classroom and media center materials, based on NPTA resolutions addressing libraries & educational materials and inclusive curricula.

HB 1557 Parental Rights in Education [Don't Say Gay], effective date 07/01/2022

PTA opposed this bill based on NPTA's Resolution on Recognition of LGBTQ Individuals as a Protected Class, its Position Statement on Family Engagement, its Standard #4 = Speaking Up for Every Child and its Position Statement on Shared Responsibility in Educational Decision-Making. The bill prohibits discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity in grades K-3 and otherwise as age- or developmentally inappropriate and encourages dissatisfied parents to bring legal action against school districts rather than working cooperatively to iron out differences.

HB 1577 Homeless Youth, effective date 07/01/2022

PTA supported this bill, which provides comprehensive services necessary to guarantee equal educational opportunities for homeless students, based on the FLPTA Resolution to aid in the education of homeless children. This bill establishes liaisons to support youth experiencing homelessness in college and extends the Keys to Independence program to unaccompanied homeless youth.

BILLS SENT TO THE GOVERNOR; pending

BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS AND MAY NOW BE SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

HB 7 Individual Freedom [aka the “Stop Woke Act”]

PTA opposed this bill pursuant to National PTA’s position statements on Systemic or Institutional Racism and on Inclusive Curricula in K-12 Education. ****See article below.**

HB 105 Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities

PTA supported this bill as it goes to the overall health of a child to restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks.

HB 195 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction

PTA supported this bill because we believe every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential—even if they make a mistake. This bill provides for certain juvenile arrest records to be legally shielded upon completion of a diversion program.

HB 197 Public Records/Nonjudicial Record of the Arrest of a Minor

PTA supported this bill because we believe every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential—even if they make a mistake. This bill provides for those certain juvenile arrest records to be withheld from public scrutiny upon completion of diversion and expunction.

HB 225 Charter School Charters

PTA was neutral as to this bill in that our position statement on charter schools is mute on the issue of turn-around time for consideration of requests for charter school consolidation or changes in the terms of charter school contracts.

SB 430 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

PTA supported this bill pursuant to a NPTA Resolution recommending the adoption and utilization of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children by state and local education agencies.

HB 461 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program Student Service Requirements

PTA supported this bill based on a NPTA Resolution to promote increased student access to in-state tuition levels, which this bill does by allowing students to count a designated number of paid work hours as community service hours in qualifying for state post-secondary scholarships.

SB 638 Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program

PTA supported this bill based on a NPTA statement to support the integration of the arts in school curricula.

SB 722 Education for Student Inmates

PTA supported this bill to improve student inmate education based on NPTA resolutions on High School Graduation, College Preparation and Access and on Career and Technical Education.

SB 758 Education Charter School Authorizers

PTA opposed this bill as it creates a statewide charter school authorizer which runs counter to our position statement supporting school district authority and accountability.

HB 817 Emergency Medical Care and Treatment to Minors Without Parental Consent

PTA was neutral on the bill which authorizes physicians to provide emergency medical care or treatment to a minor without parental consent. Neither FLPTA nor NPTA has a resolution or position statement that addresses this matter.

HB 899 Mental Health of Students

PTA supported this bill, which requires charter schools as well as traditional public schools to collect data regarding involuntary examinations and which requires district school boards to designate a mental health coordinator, pursuant to our statement addressing comprehensive health services for children.

HB 1421 School Safety

PTA supported this bill that bill addressed frequency of drills, family reunification, suicide screening, and training for school safety officers consistent with our mission and purpose: to advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth.

SB 1808 Immigration Enforcement

PTA opposed this bill based on our NPTA Position Statement on Rights and Services for Undocumented Children. This bill prohibits local and state governments from contracting with businesses that transport undocumented immigrants, even if those immigrants are children awaiting reunification with family members or with foster parents.

Tax Holidays, but not yet signed into law

May 28 - June 10	Disaster Preparedness Sales
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	Baby diapers
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	Energy Efficient appliances
July 1-7, 2022	Freedom Week [Entertainment]
July 25 - August 7, 2022	Back-To-School
September 3-9, 2022	Skilled Worker Tools
October	<u>Gas Tax</u>

Governor Ron DeSantis Calls Special Session of the Florida Legislature to Establish Lawful Congressional Districts

On **Tuesday, April 19th**, Florida lawmakers will reconvene for a special session in Tallahassee to decide one thing — a new congressional district map for the state. After Governor DeSantis rejected a new congressional district map drawn up by Florida GOP lawmakers, he drew up one of his own. Both Democrats and Republicans expect whatever map is decided on, that legal challenges will be filed, but legal analysts say even if those challenges are filed, they likely won't be in time to stop the new map from impacting the next two election cycles in 2022 and 2024.



Save the Date

Join us April 20, 2022 at 12pm and 7pm for Get Engaged Wednesday, The Governor & Legislative Session Update. [Visit our website to register!](#)

You Too Can Be An Effective Advocate!

By Dawn T. Steward

I don't know about you but I like ABC laundry pods to keep my family's clothes clean. The pod is easy to use (no measuring), colors stay vibrant (no fading), can be used in cold water (saving electricity), does not hurt the environment (water quality), and cost is reasonable.

This product saves money for my family so I am about to do more "fun" things with my family; as you know, quality family time is essential in the mental health and success of a child. Oh! Congratulations you are now an experienced Advocate.

See how easy that was – you know the name of the product, reasons why, saves money, and most importantly benefits the life of your child.

Legislative Advocacy is similar with one added note – you build relationships with legislators and their staff and build your creditable case. It is that simple. With experience you too can be an effective advocate!

If you have any questions about anything advocacy-related, please contact legislation@floridapta.org.

2023 Legislative Session



August 1, 2022: Deadline for filing Senate claim bills

March 7, 2023: Regular Session convenes
12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction

April 22, 2023: All bills are immediately certified
Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day

April 25, 2023: 50th day rule (Senate) - last day for
regularly scheduled committee meetings

May 5, 2023: 60th day - last day of Regular Session



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