

Session 2004 Report 6

Week 7

WORK ZONE SAFETY -- Defeated

SB 2414 by *Senator Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg)*, was defeated last week in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. The vote in the meeting was 3 in favor, with 4 opposed. Those voting in favor of the bill were: Senator Fasano (R-New Port Richey), Senator Hill (D-Jacksonville), Senator Smith (D-Gainesville). Those voting against us: Senator Argenziano (R-Crystal River), Senator Crist (R-Tampa), Senator Villalobos (R-Miami) and Committee Chairman Senator Haridopolos (R-Melbourne). After the vote, Senator Lynn (R-Ormond Beach) recorded a yes vote, making the official vote 4-4, which is a defeat. As a courtesy to Senator Sebesta, Senator Crist moved to “reconsider and leave pending” which technically keeps the bill alive but in reality is “death with dignity.”

We had about 85% of the legislature in support of the bill; however, we had opposition from several members in powerful positions. Our very good friend and protector of transportation funds, President Jim King (R-Jacksonville), has philosophical problems with the use of cameras. Without his support, the bill would have eventually died.

Many thanks to Senator Sebesta and Representative Dave Russell (R-Spring Hill) for sponsoring the legislation for us. They did a great job and will be there for us again next year.

We appreciate all the efforts of our members in contacting your legislators in support of this bill. It will be brought back next session and we will be working on it in the interim. We will get back to you during the summer to update you on the issue and we hope you will take the time to meet with your legislator about this very important safety issue.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING – Pending

The Appropriations Committees are now meeting in Conference to reconcile their budget differences.

WE ARE 98% SURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO \$100 MILLION RAID OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND THIS YEAR!

We still are unsure of what will happen with the gas tax suspension. We are hearing different things at this point. The next Transportation Appropriation Conference is at 6:15 today (Monday). Hopefully, we will have better direction on that issue after the meeting this evening.

For more information on the Legislature, please use the following links:

[Florida Senate](#)

[Florida House of Representatives](#)