
CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from
**Representative Trudi
Williams**



Florida, District 75
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BILL TRACKER

HB 479: The House this week passed HB 479, which would close the “double dipping” loop hole in the Florida Retirement System. Under the current system, a state employee can retire and return to work in 30 days while collecting retirement benefits and a state salary at the same time. HB 479 extends the period of time state employees must stay in retirement to six months or they will be required to forfeit their pension. It also prohibits renewed enrollment, meaning state employees cannot accrue a new pension in addition to the original pension they already earned.

HB 1171: Florida’s homeowners face a difficult challenge in choosing their homeowners’ insurance policy in an increasingly less-competitive Florida insurance market. Too often, Floridians are left with few choices to insure the largest investment they will make in their lives. The House this week overwhelmingly approved HB 1171 which puts the power to make insurance choices back into the hands of the consumer. While providing for necessary consumer protections, HB 1171 allows the consumer to make insurance choices and encourages a sustainable and competitive private insurance market.

HB 1495: Florida homeowners are arguably hit the hardest when it comes to the rising cost of insurance. This is particularly true for those insured by Citizens Property Insurance, the state insurer. To help alleviate this situation, the House passed HB 1495 which will prevent drastic rate increases for Citizens customers. Without this bill, on January 1, 2010, Citizens’ customers will likely face *dramatic* overall average statewide rate increases - in excess of *40%* for personal residential multi-peril policies, *55%* for personal residential wind-only policies, *60%* for commercial residential wind-only policies and *140%* for commercial nonresidential properties. This bill lowers rates of increase for Citizens policyholders in anticipation of the mandated expiration of the rate freeze.

TRUDI’S THOUGHTS

The House has tackled some big issues this week: the elimination of “double-dipping”, the growth management process and property insurance. Please continue e-mailing or writing to me with your feedback, questions, and suggestions. I have enjoyed hearing your thoughts throughout the legislative session. As always, your thoughts are a vital part of the decision-making process.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself." Eleanor Roosevelt

Please send correspondence to Trudi.Williams@myfloridahouse.gov. All comments are reviewed by Representative Williams. To receive a response, please include your name, address and telephone number. To unsubscribe from this e-mail, send a blank e-mail to Trudi.Williams@myfloridahouse.gov with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.