
CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from
*Representative Trudi
Williams*



Florida, District 75
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OFF AND RUNNING!!

The 2006 legislative session came racing in on Tuesday, March 7th. Below are the bills that I am sponsoring this session:

- **HB (House Bill) 189 – Building Designations** – The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was formed during Governor Bob Martinez’s administration, therefore I am sponsoring legislation to name the DEP building in Tallahassee after Governor Martinez. It has been voted unanimously out of all committee stops and is in its final committee of reference.
- **HB 245 – Firefighters Retirement** – Redefines the term “compensation” to include salary supplements paid to firefighters, EMT’s and paramedics. This bill is in the Governmental Operations Committee.
- **HJR 875 – Open Primaries** – Closes the loophole that prevents thousands of voters from voting every year forcing them to change parties to vote. This bill is in the Ethics & Elections Committee.
- **HB 1241 – Caloosahatchee/St. Lucie Rivers Advisory Council** – Creates a commission to study the rivers and estuaries and how the Lake Okeechobee water releases are effecting them. This commission is to report its findings to the 2007 legislature, with both scientific and budgetary recommendations. It is a one time, eight month commission. This bill is in the Water & Natural Resources committee.
- **HB 1347 – Babcock Ranch** – Creates the Babcock Trustees which will oversee the management of the Babcock Ranch. This bill determines who appoints those that serve on the board, the organization of it and the duties the members are tasked with. This bill has yet to be referred to its committees.
- **HB 1343 – Environmental Protection** – This bill will accelerate the Florida Forever program by shortening its length from 2 to 4 years, while doubling the funding. This will allow us to get more bang for our buck. This bill also allows for the creation of a Regional General Permit, (RGP) to be administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, (DEP) using the strictest of standards.

TRUDI’S THOUGHTS....

The Opening day of Session is always spectacular, I remain awed by the sense that I am truly walking into the Florida House Chambers and through the corridors of history. The Chamber is filled with thousands of floral arrangements filling the room with their fragrance; the color guard carries the Flags followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America. Even the most stoic of people experience chills and tears. This is a very humbling experience which I will always remember.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book.” – Ronald Reagan

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.