

Update from Tallahassee

It is almost unbelievable that the Legislature was in Tallahassee for committee meetings this week. As you will recall, the 2012 Regular Session will begin about two months earlier than usual next year. This is due to the Florida Constitutional mandate to redraw (reapportion) the House, Senate, and Congressional district boundaries. This is done every 10 years due to the population shifts that are determined by the U.S. Census.

It is necessary that committee meetings start so early in order to have business ready for consideration and votes in January. A substantial amount of time in both the House and Senate this week was devoted to reapportionment. They must get the bills to the Florida Supreme Court as early as possible after Session convenes on January 10th.

Subcommittees and Committees also met in both the House and Senate to hear presentations and updates on various bills passed last Session... such as Medicaid reform and pill mill regulatory changes.

Of interest to all of us was the hearing in the House by the Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee. Some of you may have noted that DBPR was scheduled to present information about its organizational structure and its jurisdiction. Please let me assure you that the issue of repeal of the Division of Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes was NOT part of the Mix. I have already been in dialogue with the Subcommittee staff and the full Committee Chair about our concerns. At this time I am comfortable that our voices have been heard in opposition to a possible repeal. And please, please know that I will remain vigilant on your behalf as we proceed.

Committees and Subcommittees will be meeting about every other week from now through the end of the year.

I hope this update is helpful and, as always, I appreciate your support.

Thanks,

Nancy