

A Message from President Jennings

APRIL 20, 2000

For two consecutive legislative sessions, drug control and money laundering have been among my top legislative priorities. As a result of the Senate's efforts last year, lawmakers dedicated more than \$50 million in the 1999-2000 budget toward drug education, prevention, intervention, treatment and enforcement.

The Florida Senate has adopted recommendations from the Senate's Task Force on Money Laundering for the 2000 Legislative Session. We have learned that by hitting drug traffickers where it hurts the most -- in their wallets -- we can ensure a reduction in drug trafficking and money laundering. Our money laundering legislation, (SBs 1256, 1258, 1260 and 1262), passed out of the full Senate last week and was forwarded to the House of Representatives. The Senate's money laundering package calls for increasing seaport security, strengthening drug interdiction, enhancing criminal penalties for money launderers and giving law enforcement the tools they need to combat money laundering.

To back up our commitment to reduce money laundering, the Senate's budget allocates much needed funding. We have dedicated more than \$31 million in our budget for substance abuse services, drug courts, and a financial crimes analysis center.

Florida's hard work on these issues is paying off. Recent statistics show that Florida is making great strides in our drug control efforts. With your continued support, a drug-free Florida is possible.

Very truly yours,



Toni Jennings

Legislative Session 2000 Money Laundering & Drug Control Bills

For more than a year, the Florida Senate has taken a proactive approach to controlling drugs and reducing money laundering. We began by hosting the 1999 Statewide Drug Control Summit. Later that summer, Senate President Toni Jennings and Speaker of the House John Thrasher convened the Joint Task Force on Money Laundering to look closely at the role money laundering plays in drug trafficking. And we followed up with the 2000 Statewide Drug Control Summit.

During the 2000 Legislative Session, recommendations from the Task Force on Money Laundering are taking priority. The following bill information highlights a package of money laundering bills.

Public Records Exemptions/Seaports (SB 1256) Exempts specific seaport information from public records requirements, and provides for future review, repeal and statement of public necessity. (House Bill companion, HB 1621)

Money Laundering (SB 1258) This bill significantly increases penalties for various money laundering offenses, and also makes it easier for prosecutors to introduce confessions and admissions into evidence in these cases. It provides minimum standards for seaport security, and for the development and implementation of both a local and statewide seaport security plan. Limits the term "authorized vendor" as used in Money Transmitters' Code to businesses located in this state, and provides that each money transmitter be responsible for any act of its authorized vendors if said transmitter should have known of act. This bill further provides \$1.6 million for 15 full-time employees within the Department of Transportation, Office of Motor Carrier Compliance. These employees will be dedicated to creating a contraband interdiction program. Of the 15 employees, seven are to be certified K-9 handlers, seven are to be felony officers and one employee will serve as support staff. (House Bill companion, HB 1607)

Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund (SB 1260) Creates the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund within the Department of Transportation. Provides for sources of funds; exempts trust fund from various service charges; provides for annual carry forward of funds; provides for future review and termination or re-creation of trust fund; amends specified provision regarding duties of department and deposit of certain moneys; provides expiration date. (House Bill companion, HB 1619)

Public Records/Money Transmitters (SB 1262) Provides that information concerning investigations or examinations conducted by Banking and Finance Department are confidential and exempt from disclosure under public records law; revises certain limitations on disclosure of consumer complaints and other information concerning investigation or examination; provides for disclosure of records or information to certain parties approved by department to conduct examinations. (House Bill companion, HB 1939)

Nitrous Oxide (HB 75) Provides that any person who knowingly distributes, sells, purchases, transfers, or possesses more than 16 grams of nitrous oxide for a use other than those specified commits a third degree felony known as unlawful distribution of nitrous oxide. Creates an inference of the person's knowledge that the nitrous oxide's use was not for a specifically prescribed purpose if the person discharges or aids another in discharging nitrous oxide to inflate a balloon or any other object suitable for subsequent inhalation. (Senate Bill companion, SB 726)

Drug Trafficking (SB 2414) Defines "mixture" relevant to trafficking offenses involving combinations of controlled substance. Reschedules Marinol (synthetic THC) from Schedule II to Schedule III. Removes the Schedule III referencing for hydrocodone, but retains the Schedule II referencing, thereby allowing for aggregation of the weight of hydrocodone tablets for the purpose of prosecuting hydrocodone trafficking. Makes the highest penalties for drug offenses under s. 893.13, F.S., apply to offenses involving methamphetamine. Creates trafficking offenses for trafficking in GHB; 1, 4 Butanediol; and Ecstasy (MDMA) and other listed substances with similar effects to Ecstasy. Provides for 3, 7, or 15-year mandatory terms, and a level 7, 8, or 9 ranking for the trafficking offenses, depending on the weight of the substance trafficked. Adds to the current capital felony trafficking offense involving importation into this state of amphetamines and methamphetamine and the manufacturing of these substances. Adds to the list of specifically mentioned objects that may constitute drug paraphernalia used to facilitate inhalation of nitrous oxide. Removes the statutory authority for the court to impose a sentence of probation in lieu of imprisonment on a drug offender with repeat violations involving specified Schedule I controlled substances.

NOTE: SBs 1256, 1258, 1260, 1262 were passed out of the Florida Senate on April 4, 2000, and sent to the Florida House of Representatives. HB 75 was passed out of the Senate on April 4, 2000, and forwarded to Governor Bush for action. SB 2414 is currently in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

Drug Summit 2000 Update

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Budget Funding Initiatives Update

TOTAL SENATE FUNDING \$31.3 MILLION

(NOTE: The Senate and House budgets are currently in conference committee. Members of the conference committee will work toward developing one overall state budget.)

In The Senate:

Substance Abuse

Dedicates \$8.6 million toward substance abuse intervention treatment services for children and adults. Within the overall total, \$2.5 million is provided for parents of children under the protective services program. Further, \$6.1 million is allotted to increase residential treatment services, aftercare and follow-up services, specialized treatment services, outreach and intervention services, expansion of drug court services, and implementation of a comprehensive quality assurance program. **Note:** The Florida House of Representatives has dedicated \$3.4 million toward substance abuse treatment.

Community Substance Abuse Initiatives

Increases funding for community substance services by allocating \$5.4 million to local community organizations, which are primarily, non-profit organizations, to increase substance abuse services for individuals in the local communities. **Note:** This allocation derives from bills sponsored by Senator Jim King, Senator Locke Burt, Senator Ron Silver, Senator John Laurent, Senator Jack Latvala, and Senator Richard Mitchell.

For more information go to www.leg.state.fl.us/drugsummit

Budget Funding Initiatives Update *continued*

Substance Abuse Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

Increases funding to community substance abuse providers by allocating \$2 million for fixed capital outlay projects. Most of the local substance abuse providers are non-profit organizations and do not have the excess capital to address fixed capital outlay needs at their facilities. **Note:** This allocation derives from bills sponsored by Senator Locke Burt and Senator Buddy Dyer.

Juvenile Justice Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Increases substance abuse and mental health treatment services by \$11.7 million. This additional funding will provide at least 1,253 additional substance treatment beds and associated overlay services. **Note:** The Florida House of Representatives has dedicated \$9.8 million for juvenile justice substance abuse treatment.

Financial Crimes Analysis

The Florida Senate has allocated \$2.4 million in its budget to create the Financial Crimes Analysis Center and the Financial Transaction Data Base.

Drug Court Coordinator

Under the Senate's budget, \$1.2 million creates 27 positions to establish drug courts in every judicial circuit.