

Capitol Report

Week Ending March 29, 2019

Overview

Week four is the midway point for the legislative session, which ends on May 3, 2019. To date 966 Senate and 2,473 bills have been filed. One of the priority bills that we support, [SJR74](#): Single-subject Limitation for Constitution Revision Commission, has been passed by the Senate.

The Senate has passed 26 bills, and the Senate and the House have passed 8 Senate bills. One bill, SB182, has been approved by the Governor. The House has passed 31 bills, and the House and the Senate have passed 3 House bills. You can find the full legislature bill report [here](#). Today, Common Cause is tracking 110 bills (House/Senate versions) with 21 priorities in the Joint Resolutions – 13, Elections – 6 and Money in Politics – 2.

This week's Best and Worst list focuses on the status of our priority bills. You can read the full list of actions on our priority bills [here](#). The House and Senate have also introduced their 2019-2020 Fiscal year budgets of \$89.9 billion and \$90.3 billion respectively.

On Tuesday, democracy advocates were blindsided by a House Judiciary Committee bill [HB7111](#) filed 36 hours, in the least amount of time permissible, before the bills first committee hearing. The bill attacks democracy by making it harder for citizens to place initiatives on the ballot. For several years, citizens advocated legislators for Raising the Minimum Wage, Fair-Districts, Medical Marijuana, Restoring Felon Voting Rights and more. Each time the legislature failed to act on the will of the people. Now, the legislators want to cripple Floridians access to have their needs met through the citizen initiative process. Compounding the issue, the legislature through, [SJR232](#) and [HB57](#) intend to raise the threshold to pass a citizen-led constitutional amendment from 60 percent to 66 2/3 percent. Also, through [CS/CS/HJR 249](#) and [HB251](#), they seek to eliminate the Constitution Revision Commission. They are afraid of the people's power to make changes to improve Florida for everyone. The impact of these bills will result in the legislature as the only remaining entity with the power to change Florida's constitution. Read more about the issue [here](#).

The pace of session shenanigans accelerates beginning next week. Legislators will continue to introduce last-minute committee bills and amend existing bills by inserting strike-all language. In 2018, a legislator filed a 115-page strike all amendment. We need your help to quickly mobilize and push back on all legislative attempts to thwart the will of the people. Moving forward you will receive many rapid, urgent calls to action to oppose bills that diminish our democracy. Sign up for CauseNet Alerts at the end this report to advocate for Floridians rights to free and fair elections, honest government, public campaign financing, voting rights, and protecting democracy.

Tip:

Strike-All Amendment

A “strike-all” amendment strikes, or removes, all of the language in a bill and replaces it with new language. Because all of the bill’s language is changed with a strike-all amendment, the intent of the bill is often altered completely. These amendments are sometimes used to allow legislators to circumvent the deadlines on the introduction of new legislation, deal with an issue that arises after the deadline or revives a previously defeated bill. Legislators typically use strike-all amendments when a bill has moved from one chamber to the other. If a strike-all amendment is adopted by the chamber in which it is proposed, the language in the strike-all becomes the language in the bill. The bill then goes back to the chamber in which it originated for concurrence or non-concurrence. If the strike-all amendment is defeated, the bill remains in its original state.

Committee bill

A bill that is the product of a legislative committee rather than an individual legislator.

Committee Substitute (CS or C1)

A Senate bill going through the committee hearing process sometimes has numerous amendments, or the amendments change the original concept of the bill. In these instances, the bill is rewritten and becomes a committee substitute. The next committee of reference may again rewrite the bill, and more than one bill may be combined. The committee substitute continues to carry the identifying number of the original bill filed. A CS/CS or C2 is a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute.

GOOD

- **[SJR74](#)**: Single-subject Limitation for Constitution Revision Commission Proposals Passed Senate. [Common Cause supports this bill.](#)
- **[SJR690](#)**: **[Single Subject Limitation for Taxation and Budget Reform](#)**. Passed Favorably from the Rules Committee and placed on the calendar for 2nd Reading. [Common Cause supports this bill.](#)
- **[SB342](#)**: **[Public Records/Voters and Voter Registration](#)**. Providing an exemption from public records requirements for information concerning preregistered voter registration applicants who are minors. Passed Favorable by the Ethics and Elections Committee, now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability. [Common Cause supports this bill.](#)
- **[CS/HB7101](#)** and **[SB7066](#)**: Elections. [Common Cause supports these bills.](#)

Bills in second of three committees

- [SB230](#) and [HB131](#) The Voter Registration Maintenance
Common Cause opposes these bills
- [SJR232](#) and [HB57](#) Percentage of Elector Votes Required to Approve an Amendment or a Revision. **Common Cause opposes these bills**
- [HB7089](#) and [SPB7086](#) Voting Rights Restoration Implementation
Common Cause opposes these bills

Bill in first committee

- Senate [SPB 7096](#) Ballot Initiatives.

Bill passed first committee

- [HB7111](#): Ballot Initiatives.

Placed on the House Calendar for 2nd Reading on the floor

- [CS/CS/HJR 249 linked HB251](#): Repeal of Constitution Revision Commission.

Looking Ahead to Week 5

Watch live on [The Florida Channel](#) or view [On-Demand Video](#) from the committee page.

Monday, April 1, 4:00 pm [Judiciary](#) Committee

- [SPB 7096](#) Ballot Initiatives: Call the Senate [Judiciary](#) members and remind them that your vote put campaign public financing in the Florida Constitution because you support free. **Common Cause opposes this bill.**

Tuesday, April 2, 1:00 pm – [Transportation and Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

- [HB131/SB230](#) Voter List Maintenance. **Common Cause opposes this bill.**

Take Action Now

- Call the Senate [Judiciary](#) members and let them know you oppose SPB 7096: Constitutional Amendments
- Call House [Transportation and Appropriations Subcommittee](#) members and let them know you oppose HB131.

LEGISLATION

Common Cause Florida tracks several bills. They include a record number of measures to improve elections and a record number to preempt local communities from self-governance. Legislators and subject matter committees have filed these bills. The Common Cause Florida Team has put them in online tracking application for you here : <https://airtable.com/shrn93mUWOqI2il2Z>

Position Code: **N** – No position; **O** – Oppose; and **S**- Support

The Capitol Report is filed weekly. We send special notices for actions that can be taken by Common Cause members in our advocacy efforts. Follow [Common Cause Florida](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Text **MATTER** to **97779** to join our list of **Common Cause Florida** members willing to take action to strengthen our democracy. If you want reminders for the upcoming legislative action and public meetings,

Text **MATTER** to **97779***

*Message & data rates may apply. Common Cause may contact you with campaign updates and other offers of engagement. Reply STOP to unsubscribe at any time.