



I.U.P.A. LOCAL 6020

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

BROWARD DEPUTY SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

April 2023 Legislative Progress Report

Published April 25, 2023

The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 April 2023 Legislative Report contains an update on the meetings the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 has held with elected officials in the Florida legislature to advocate for the members of the I.U.P.A. Local 6020, and legislative updates on bills supported by the I.U.P.A. Local 6020 **to include a status update on Senate Bill 7024, a bill seeking to restore Florida Retirement System benefits for Special Risk Class members.**



I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart, Florida House of Representatives Speaker Paul Renner, and I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Vice President Don Prichard following a meeting in April 2023 at the Florida Capitol discussing the restoration of FRS benefits by the Florida legislature.

Legislative Advocation:

Meetings Report

I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart and I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Vice President Don Prichard continued to meet with legislators and their aides at the Florida Capitol this month to include Florida Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Renner and former Republican Senate Majority Leader in the Florida State Senate, Debbie Mayfield, just to name a couple.



Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Vice President Don Prichard.



Senator Debbie Mayfield (former Republican Majority Leader) and I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart.



I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart, Senator Nick DiCeglie, and I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Vice President Don Prichard following a meeting in April 2023 at the Florida Capitol to discuss the restoration of FRS benefits by the Florida legislature.

Advocacy at the Florida Capitol

I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart has traveled to the Florida Capitol multiple times this legislative session along with I.U.P.A. Local 6020 Vice President Don Prichard and Secretary-Treasurer Greg LaCerra to advocate for the restoration of FRS benefits. The I.U.P.A. Local 6020 has traveled to the Capitol every time bills relating to restoring Florida Retirement System benefits are presented to their respective committees to advocate to the legislators on those committees to pass the bills and restore the FRS benefits that effect the members of this union and Special Risk Class members statewide.



I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart speaking to the Community Affairs Committee this month in the Florida State Senate urging them to restore Florida Retirement System benefits for Special Risk Class members.

House and Senate Bill Updates:

Senate Bill 7024: Restoration of Florida Retirement System (FRS) Benefits

- Senate Bill 7024 seeks to restore numerous benefits to the Florida Retirement System for Special Risk Class members. The bill which includes returning the retirement eligibility age to 55, returning the years of creditable service to be eligible to retire to 25 years, restoration of the 3% cost of living adjustment, increasing the employer contribution rate to 18% for investment plan members, and increasing the DROP interest rate to 4% passed the House Floor in a vote 113-0. Senate Bill 7024 is scheduled to go before the Conference Committee on

Appropriations. A conference committee is created for the purpose of resolving the differences between the Chambers on a piece of legislation.

House Bill 6003 and Senate Bill 20: Claim Bill for former Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Deputy Maury Hernandez

- House Bill 6003 and Senate Bill 20 is a Claim Bill for former BSO Deputy Maury Hernandez who sustained a career ending gunshot wound to the head in 2007 while in the line of duty. Deputy Hernandez survived; however, he sustained physical, mental, emotional, and financial damages.

This bill will not pass the legislative process at this point.

House Bill 169 and Senate Bill 314: Additional Mental Health Counseling for First Responders

- House Bill 169 and Senate Bill 314 which seek to expand upon existing mental health counseling resources for first responders. House Bill 169 and Senate Bill 314 seek to require employers to cover the cost of requested mental health counseling for first responders and to prohibit the employing agency from requiring the first responder to use their own leave accruals to attend the counseling sessions.

This bill will not pass the legislative process at this point.

House Bill 95 and Senate Bill 618: Additional Rights for Law Enforcement Officers Faced with Brady List Placement

- House Bill 95 and Senate Bill 618 would require prosecuting agencies to establish written policies which establish the criteria used to place a law enforcement officer on the Brady Giglio list, to provide a law enforcement officer written notice prior to being placed on the Brady Giglio list, and to allow the law enforcement officer to review and provide input prior to being placed on the Brady Giglio list.
- House Bill 95 committee and subcommittee referrals:
 - Criminal Justice Subcommittee (**REPORTED FAVORABLE**)
 - Judiciary Committee (**REPORTED FAVORABLE**)
- Senate Bill 618 committee and subcommittee referrals:

- Criminal Justice Committee (**REPORTED FAVORABLE**)
- Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice (**REPORTED FAVORABLE**)
- Fiscal Policy Committee (**REPORTED FAVORABLE**)

Latest House Event: **Passed Floor Vote 93 to 17**

Latest Senate Event: **Placed on Special Order Calendar for 4/27/23**

House Bill 7063 and Senate Bill 7062: Expansion of Homestead Exemption to Spouses of Federal First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty

- House Bill 7063 and Senate Bill 7062 seek to expand the homestead exemption to spouses of federal first responders who are killed in the line of duty. The current verbiage in the Florida state statute excludes federal first responders.

Latest House Event: **Added to Special Order Calendar for 4/27/23**

Latest Senate Event: **Reported Favorably by Senate Appropriations**

House Bill 355 and Senate Bill 354: Increased Penalty for Trafficking in Fentanyl

- House Bill 355 and Senate Bill 354 seek to increase the minimum term of imprisonment for an offender trafficking in 4 grams of more but less than 14 grams from 7 years to 15 years. House Bill 355 also seeks to increase the fine for trafficking in 4 grams of more but less than 14 grams from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

This bill will not pass the legislative process at this point.

House Bill 269 and Senate Bill 994: Increased Penalty for Religious Hate Crimes

- House Bill 269 and Senate Bill 994 seek to make it a third-degree felony if an individual projects hateful images onto private property, stalks or harasses someone based on their religious attire, or blocks access to places of worship, such as churches and synagogues.
- Latest House Event: **Passed Floor Vote 114 to 0**

- Latest Senate Event: **Added to Special Order Calendar for 4/26/23**

House Bill 67 and Senate Bill 174: Increased Penalty for Obscene or Harassing Telephone Calls

- House Bill 67 and Senate Bill 174 seek to have the penalty for obscene or harassing phone calls increased from a 2nd degree misdemeanor to a 3rd degree felony.
- Latest House Event: **Added to Special Order Calendar for 4/27/23**
- Latest Senate Event: **On Fiscal Policy Committee Agenda for 4/25/23**

Questions, Feedback, or Suggestions:

Anyone who has any questions, feedback, or suggestions regarding the I.U.P.A. Local 6020's legislative priorities or this *Legislative Progress Report* can email I.U.P.A. Local 6020 President Matt Cowart at matt@6020.iupa.org .