

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. PALM BEACH CHAPTER



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**NEXT CHAPTER
MEETING
11:30 AM
3rd Sunday
June 16**

**CHECK TWICE
FOR MOTORCYCLES**

**LET THOSE
WHO RIDE
DECIDE!**



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Put in the subject: ABATE and the officer to whom should see it and what about to so that message is directed right

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President's Message

Curtis Alva

Our next meeting, June 16, is our election meeting for our Board of Directors and Trustees. Please make a special effort to come and vote. We have terrific new candidates this year, plus many returning candidates. Last month, we had about 30 people attend our meeting, so you will see even more of your brothers and sisters there nowadays. Also, we'll have our 50/50 and a great door prize.

I just got back from Tennessee and North Carolina. Met my best friend, Robin, from high school there. We grew up riding dirt bikes together cross country in the Nevada high deserts. He and two friends rode out from Cheyenne and I came up from South Florida. We rode the Tail of the Dragon, MoonShiner 28, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Got some souvenirs at gift shop and left nothing for the Tree of Shame. Lunch at the Tapoco Inn. If you go there, you can meet the good ol' boys at Rocky Top Harley and Smokey Mountain Harley, hang out in the Shed and listen to good music.

If you've never ridden through the Great Smokies, you've missed some of the most beautiful country there is. I highly recommend the ride.

Back here, we have our state meetings on June 8 in St. Augustine. St. Augustine is a fine town for bikers. Stroll through the historic buildings, take the trolley, grab a drink at the one of the many biker hang outs, like the Bar None Saloon, and then hit the beach. I'll be riding up Friday afternoon and others Saturday morning, so let's ride together. Up north, Laconia Bike Week is June 8-16, so you can stop in St. Augustine on your way to New Hampshire.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

You are encouraged to submit letters about ABATE related to events, articles, photographs, commentaries, etc. Please do not submit slanderous nor accusing letters, profanity nor nudity. Abate of Florida, Inc., will not accept any advertising that discriminates against any type of motorcyclist



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UPCOMING Event Schedule

Saturday June 1 ABATE of FL Five Star Event / Palm Beach Harley Hog Morning

Monday June 3 - Mob of Brothers Open House

Wed June 5 - Bike Nights Island Jack's, and Gin Mill Jensen Beach

Thurs. June 6 - Abacoa Bike Night PB Harley 7-10, Black Piston's Open House

Saturday June 8 ABATE of FL Inc. State Meeting St. Augustine / Hogs & Dogs Palm Beach Harley
June 8 to 16 Laconia Bikeweek

Tuesday June 11 - Lone Legion Open House

Wednesday June 12 - Bike Night at Island Jack's
June 13 to 14 Republic of Texas Rally

Friday June 14 AOA WPB Open House

3rd Sunday June 16 — Palm Beach Chapter Meeting ABATE of FL. Inc. 11:30 am V.F.W.
Post 4143 located at 2404 Broadway, Riviera Beach 561-844-5718. From I 95 exit Blue Heron Blvd. go
east to Broadway (Federal Hwy., US- 1) turn right, go south 1 block the V.F.W. is on the east side. Look
for the flag. Breakfast will be served 9:00 AM 'til Noon **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Monday June 17 National Ride to Work Day

Wed. June 19 - Bike Night Island Jack's, States MC Lake Worth Open House 3570 Boutwell Rd.

Saturday. June 22 - ALR 271 Party 1 PM Tequesta
Saturday. June 22 - Palm Beach Harley Performance Workshop Noon

Tuesday June 25 Skulls MC Open House

Wednesday June 26 - Bike Night Island Jack's,

Thurs. June 27 — Turboz Custom Cycles Bike Night 7-10 PM Ralph's Stand Up Bar Jupiter

Friday June 28 AOA WPB Open House

REMINDER: EVERY

**Palm Beach Harley Dealership 3rd Thurs Bike Nights had stopped for the summer until Oct. They
still have 1st Thurs. Abacoa Bike Night, Wed. Bike Nights at Island Jack's, and weekend events**

Monday Night Happy Hour & Dominos with the **MOB** LLB clubhouse

Wed Nights Gorilla Motors/PBH Bike Night at Island Jack's,

Sat. night Fly n Wheels Open House

**PLEASE ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSES FOR A GOOD TIME AND SHOW OF SUPPORT WHEN
POSSIBLE**

Victor Parr: Aware drivers are the key to fewer motorcycle accidents

Sat., April 6, 2019 Victor Parr

Hello class, my name is Mr. Parr, and today we will be talking about motorcycles. Ugh, you say! Those noisy beasts out there on the highways. For some of us motorcycle riders, this is what we consider an awareness method to show we are in the area.

We can look at some of the characteristics of motorcycles besides noise. They can be of multiple sizes and designs. Most are two wheeled, but the three wheeled (or trike) are being seen more often. In comparison, the motorcycle is smaller than a car and is more difficult to determine how fast they are traveling and how far away they are. This is disastrous, especially in intersections where it is said that 40 percent of motorcycle accidents occur.

Some statistics of motorcycle accidents provided by a 1981 HURT report and from the National Highway Traffic Safety Authority show that 75 percent of motorcycle accidents involve another vehicle. The motorcyclist is partially at fault 9 percent of the time, but totally at fault 25 percent of the time. You can see, we are not perfect. But, a whopping 66 percent of the time the motorist either fails to yield the right of way or is distracted.

So, now we ask ourselves, "Who rides motorcycles?" Believe it or not, it is not just a bunch of gang members or individuals out on sport bikes popping wheelies or zipping in and out of traffic. There are many professional riders out there also. Maybe one of the riders in a group is a doctor. A big plus if a medical emergency happens. Maybe another rider is a lawyer and not a benefit if involved in an accident and you are at fault. Riders are young and old, male and female, and wish to have a safe journey.

Along with the motorcyclist's constant vigilance of the traffic around them, they are scanning the road for any type of road hazard that may be a disaster for them. These involve chuck holes, shredded tires, railroad crossings, and large or small animals. They are also watching for rocks and their smaller cousins – sand or gravel. All this is requiring a large amount of concentration. This is another reason we appreciate the driving public's awareness of us on the highways.

As I mentioned earlier, intersections are an area of great concern to the motorcyclist. Not only are we concerned about traffic that makes a turn directly in front of us, but there are drivers who make right- or left-hand turns from a stop and either pull in front of the motorcyclist or fail to accelerate to avoid a rear-end collision.

- A. Left turn across traffic
- B. Right turn at intersection
- C. Left turn at intersection

Many of these actions cause accidents. Most times the motorist states that they did not see the motorcyclist. Again, this could be due to the characteristics of the motorcycle. We, as motorcyclists, try to remedy this fact by having more lights on our motorcycles, bright colors of our attire and even helmets that are more easily seen.

Blind spots are a driver's problem that is probably of least concern. These are areas that are hidden from the driver's view even when using the vehicle's mirrors. We take the door posts of a vehicle as an example. We also check our side mirrors, but don't see the vehicle right next to us – unless we look over our shoulder. Maybe we have objects hanging from our rear-view mirror that blocks the view of a motorcyclist or even a pedestrian. Have you considered what dangers a pet may present? The big dog's head grabbing air as it hangs its head out a window or a pet resting in a sedan's rear window?

ABATE of Florida, Inc. Mission Statement

WHO WE ARE

We are a non-profit organization of motorcycle enthusiasts from all walks of life. We lobby and educate the government and the general public to promote motorcycling in a safe and positive image. We endeavor to enlist the cooperation and participation of all organizations and individuals that share a similar interest in preserving our American tradition of FREEDOM. We promote motorcycle safety, training, & political awareness. We ARE NOT A CLUB NOR A GANG. We fund our work through events, toy runs, poker runs, campouts, and other motorcycle activities. We are your neighbors & friends who work, pay taxes, and get involved with our community. We serve and support our country and believe in freedom. We use all legal means to protect our rights without infringing on the rights of others. We are Pro-choice NOT anti-helmet, it is up to you to decide.

OUR GOALS

To become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning the motorcyclist.
To promote the safe riding habits without infringing on individual freedoms.
To motivate the bikers to write letters to legislators before, during, and after the legislative session.
To furnish a newsletter to keep all bikers informed in regards to upcoming legislation.

MEMBERSHIP

When you become a member of ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC. you are helping make a difference in the ongoing mission to protect your right to ride and enjoy the motorcycle of your choice, your choice of riding apparel, and when and where you can ride a motorcycle. These are issues that are real and present in today's "protect yourself from yourself" political environment. This holds true for all levels of government. There will always be those who see our love for motorcycling as a negative and will try any means to control and if possible prohibit motorcycle use.

On the local level our members get out the vote and support candidates who are sympathetic to our issues. We also will endeavor to lobby local governments whenever there are issues that need to be addressed, affecting local motorcycle use, ownership, and any discrimination that may result from said use of ownership.

At the state level we have a paid registered lobbyist who regularly visits our state capital in Tallahassee to lobby our legislators on the issues concerning the motorcycling public in Florida. He also finds reliable House and Senate sponsors for the bills we support. On the national level we are aligned with Motorcycle Riders Foundations (MRF), and the National Coalition of Motorcyclists (NCOM), along with several other international motorcycle rights organizations (MRO's).

As one can see we have our ear to the ground and our resolve tempered like steel. As Americans we have had it demonstrated to us time and again the vigilance is armor of free men and women. We shall not let the armor rust or weaken. With your support we can re-enforce and strengthen the armor for now and generations to come.

What else do you get with your membership? All members receive with their paid membership, the Membership Card, Event Discounts and Updates, Voting Privileges, Free Newsletter Classified Advertisements, a Chapter Newsletter, and a free \$4,000 Accidental Death or Dismemberment Insurance Policy from the American Income Life Insurance Company.

Memberships are open to anyone 18 years of age or older, no matter what type of motorcycle you ride, if any at all! We welcome all riders—in clubs, associations, independents, and sport riders to join us.

No matter how hard we try to concentrate on driving, there are so many distractions that take over our primary goal of safe driving. Although we are told that talking and/or texting are one of the major issues while driving, we are informed that a survey shows that 62 percent of distracted drivers is due to daydreaming. Lawmakers have recognized the use of phones while driving and have passed laws against that practice in many states.

We ask ourselves what we can do to help.

- A. Keep multitasking to a minimum
- B. Think motorcycles and actively look for them
- C. Share the road – signal, check blind spots
- D. Give motorcycles more space
- E. Allow at least 4 seconds – bad conditions require more
- F. Be especially cautious at intersections and driveways

The month of April is “distracted driving awareness” month and the month of May is designated as “motorcycle awareness” month. Coincidence? I think not. Please share the road and help us survive the ride.

Victor Parr is Motorist Awareness Coordinator of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Washington District.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/apr/06/victor-parr-aware-drivers-are-the-key-to-fewer-mot/>

She Runs Marathons In Full Gear To Promote Motorcycle Safety

MAY 01, 2019 BY: SOPHIA VASSILIADIS, Contributor

Adventure rider runs marathons in All The Gear so drivers will pay attention.

Laura Buitron is running two marathons and an ultra marathon, wearing motorcycle gear, to promote motorcycle awareness. Crazy? Maybe. Effective? Absolutely.

This is a dream that @chickmotorrunner had for years—to raise awareness about motorcycle safety through her running. In her words, “I’m not crazy, I’m not tough, but I’m determined & stubborn to establish my rightful place on the road as a motorcycle rider. This one’s for you guys: Christian and “Legionnaire” (in loving memory), R.A. Stephen Janzan, Joe Malecki, and Andrew Wright.”

RideApart first featured the diminutive adventure rider because of her impressive video demonstration of how to upend a GS on your own with a ratchet strap. When this writer was doing due-diligence for the article, it was impossible not to want to follow what this impressive rider was going to do next. How about a marathon in full motorcycle get up?

Laura Buitron rides, a lot. Everywhere, and usually on her own. Her posts openly express her pain as well as her passion. Whether its riding, running or working on ships, Buitron is quite obviously 120 percent engaged in what she does. This latest project is no exception.

Evidence of her hard-core training regime surfaced in early February, when she’d already bested her half marathon PB. By early March Buitron started preparing her body for running ATGAT. On April 14, 2019 she ran the Paris Marathon and on April 27, 2019 she ran the Madrid marathon, both wearing all her gear, both in under 4 hours! Next up: the Florida Ultramarathon on May 18.

Buitron has made it her mission to get drivers to look up and take notice. If you drive a car, does it have a bumper sticker encouraging your fellow cagers to look out for motorcyclists? How about your friends and family members? It could be that easy to get drivers to

check their mirrors and learn to share the road so we can all enjoy riding safely.

#beseenbesafe get photo

<https://www.rideapart.com/index.php/articles/347486/motorcycle-safety-marathon-runner-florida-ultra/>

When You Lose Your Motorcycle Key - How To Prevent It And How To Deal With It When It Happens

Josh Max Contributor Cars & Bikes

It's hard to believe a tiny slice of cut metal could make the difference between starting your motorcycle and roaring away - or being stranded and having to spend potentially a couple hundred dollars on a flatbed tow for the bike and an Uber for your butterfingers self.

But it happens - the loss of your key. Here's how to cope, and a few handy tips to save you time, money and aggravation.

***Keep all your keys together, all the time** Nobody likes to ride with their big ball of keys hanging off their ignition, banging around. But get in the habit, whenever you're off the bike, of attaching your little motorcycle key together to the ring where your car keys, house keys and assorted plastic grocery discount cards live. It's an extra step and an inconvenience, but it's much easier to lose a little key than your whole set.

***Establish a mental place where your keys live, all the time.** For me, there are only two places my keys live – in the ignition, or on a metal hook right next to my front door. They don't go in my pocket, on a table, the kitchen counter or anywhere else but the hook. If I'm on the road in, say, a hotel, I immediately establish a place for the keys and say to myself, a couple of times if necessary and out loud, "The keys are in the safe" or "The keys are on the counter next to the television set." Losing things requires a certain level of unconsciousness, but you can train yourself to be mindful – the same way as you're mindful about closing your door once you're inside a house, or putting on your seatbelt in a car whether you want to or not - and then it'll become second nature.

***Buy an electronic key finder** A lot of riders of a certain age are suspicious of yet more gadgetry, but the Tile Mate Key finder is one of the best-selling of its type and could save your iron butt in the event of a memory lapse.

***Go keyless** "All our motorcycles are available keyless if our customers want them," said Paul James, Director of Motorcycle Product Planning at Harley-Davidson Motor Company in a phone call.

"For our tourers, though, we offer a method of getting up and rolling again if you lose your fob where you activate a mechanism in the left turn signal, enter a code, then use the right turn signal to confirm. You'll be asked for a PIN, and when you enter it, you'll be able to start and drive the bike." Inquire at your local dealer for keyless options on your preferred brand.

***Join AAA** The American Automobile Association provides extensive coverage for motorcycles including roadside service in the event of breakdowns and lockouts. To learn more about what's covered in your area, go to their website and enter your zip code.

*Acquaint yourself with both a good tow company and a locksmith – before you need them

In the event you need to have your bike flatbedded somewhere – either to your residence or to

a dealer – it’s best to research reputable, reliable businesses before you need them. Take a moment now and look on Yelp, or ask a pal to recommend, then call or visit their website to find out rates and availability as well as feeling out whether the business seems a good fit for you. This way when you ride, you’ll have a certain mental peace of mind in the event of an emergency or lockout, i.e. “I’ll call Joe’s towing, they seemed like good people when I talked to them.”

***Write down your VIN number and keep it in your wallet, or your phone, or both.**

When you call a dealer or locksmith to get a new key cut, they’ll need that information, as well as Owner should have a state issued Driver’s License or Passport, proof of ownership such as registration, title, or bill of sale, and a valid insurance card.

***Stay with your motorcycle** Locksmiths and tow companies won’t service a motorcycle unless you’re there to meet them.

Now - the above advice is for the casual rider. Motorcycle expert Mike Allen, former senior editor of Popular Mechanics, has a few words about getting up and rolling again in unorthodox ways when you lose your key.

“I’ve picked locks on bikes and cars with a paper clip, not so easy anymore,” said Allen in an email. “For most bikes, you can buy an entire lock cylinder, with keys, from the dealer. Unlike a car, it’s a 5-minute replacement with very few tools. Oh, you used that Kryptonite chain and lost the keys to that? Then it’s a flatbed to a shop and an angle grinder to remove it.”

Allen, who has been riding since the 60s, says emergency situations can call for unusual solutions. “There was the time I broke off the key to a Honda Trans-European in New Zealand. Nearest locksmith was 4 hours away. We texted him a cell photo of the key. He cut a key from the photo, and drove to us in his own car. We duct taped the security chip, still inside the broken key fob, to the ignition switch. I rode that bike for another month.”

Bottom line, says Allen? “Locks only keep out honest people.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/joshmax/2019/04/24/when-you-lose-your-motorcycle-key-how-to-prevent-it-and-how-to-deal-with-it-when-it-happens/#109cb223267e>

Rank (worst)	State	Registered Motorcycles	Fatalities	Fatalities per 10,000 Registered Motorcycles
1	Mississippi	28,124	40	14.22
2	Texas	364,690	490	13.44
3	South Carolina	118,132	145	12.27
4	Florida	586,267	590	10.06
5	Arizona	164,055	163	9.94

https://missoulain.com/news/local/montana-shines-startles-in-motorcycle-study/article_6a5a13f1-e106-5aaf-97c7-6d2cfe76e6e0.html

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OUR NEWSLETTERS are best viewed at palmbeach.abateflorida.com as most timely (by the first of month), in full color, and with active Internet links to stories, etc., of interest. And for us with older eyes, can be zoomed in without magnifying glasses. We do need our advertisers, donations and more members to be able print and distribute more copies to the county for motorcyclists to be aware of the issues facing us. So please join in and let us know of good places to put them in. Issues can be mailed to members if no Internet access. Non-members can buy a subscription for \$20 a year but the other two methods are faster as it takes more time and cost to get mailings done.

This June, Laconia Motorcycle Week returns to New Hampshire for its 96th year, leaving some wondering how this popular, time-honored event first started.

LACONIA, N.H., May 11, 2019 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ -- This June, Laconia Motorcycle Week returns to New Hampshire for its 96th year, leaving some wondering how this popular, time-honored event first started. Don't try doing the math – because there's a bit more to it than just counting back 96 years... The rally actually started in 1916, organized by local motorcycle dealers in central and southern New England, with a couple hundred motorcyclists traveling north for a get together (dubbed a "gypsy tour") at Weirs Beach. The tour was first sanctioned by the Federation of American Motorcyclists in 1917 and when the FAM disbanded in 1919, the Motorcycle and Allied Trades Association (M&ATA) took over the sanction until 1924, when the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) was formed. Back then, the weekend event centered around races and hill climbs. The number of participants grew each year as did the event's duration. Over time, the rally blossomed into a week-long event, eventually suffering in attendance and popularity after getting wrapped up in the upheavals of the 60's. The rally reverted to a 3-day weekend and would remain so until 1991, when organizers revived the week-long event after seeing the success of Sturgis' 50th Anniversary Rally in 1990. Laconia Motorcycle Week reclaimed the support of local businesses and the AMA as a week-long rally and the oldest gypsy tour in the country.

Today, Laconia Motorcycle Week® is a much-expanded version of the early "gypsy tour" years offering attendees lots of fun, food, music, racing, spectator-friendly hill climb competitions and, of course, a forum to share in their passion (big or small) for riding. Over 250,000 riders are expected to descend on the Lakes Region for the Rally, holding the honor of the oldest of the three national rallies with Daytona and Sturgis being Laconia's sister rallies. Sure, the rev of motorcycles and sight of leather (lots of it) may be intimidating, but don't be fooled. Behind those leather jackets are just regular people; a multi-generational group of enthusiasts, from all walks of life, who all just happen to share in the exhilaration and liberation that come with riding.

"It's a rite of passage," says organizer Jennifer Anderson, "This is the one week of the year when riders get to hang out with thousands of other people, from all around the U.S. and world, who enjoy the very same thing they like – getting out and riding. The Rally offers us all a chance of camaraderie while still having fun, packing on the miles, and even raising money for much deserved local charities."

And its boundaries have expanded, too. You'll notice an uptick in motorcycle traffic throughout the state (not just limited to Laconia, Weirs Beach, or Loudon). Motorcycle enthusiasts come to the state to enjoy the scenic riding as far east as the seacoast and as far north as the picturesque Kancamagus Highway, proving half the fun is getting here.

So be a part of the continuing history. Plan a ride to New Hampshire for this year's Motorcycle Week (June 8 - June 16). Whether it's your first or 96th visit, you'll find the passion for riding, around which this event was founded, has never changed.

Laconia Motorcycle Week® gives great appreciation to all of our sponsors, especially our Presenting Sponsors: Progressive, AMSOIL, and American Iron Outfitters as well as the State of New Hampshire for their large financial support of our rally each year.

Ride Safe and Keep Away from the Centerline!

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/progressive-laconia-motorcycle-week-96-040000032.html>

Cuba a thriving hang-out for Soviet era motorcycle sidecars



Havana is a living museum for old motorcycles, with motorbikes with sidecars made in Russia, Czechoslovakia and East Germany dating from when Cuba was in the Soviet Union's orbit AFP

Cuba's love affair with 1950s-era American cars is still intact, but the communist-run island also has a lingering attachment to a stalwart of Soviet-era leftovers, the motorcycle sidecar.

Ranging from rusting relics to the pampered and the pristine, hundreds of old motorcycle sidecars rattle through the streets of Havana.

The retro appeal gets a lot of attention from tourists "but here it's common, normal," says Enrique Oropesa Valdez.

Valdez should know. The 59-year old makes a living as an instructor teaching people how to handle the sidecar in Havana's traffic, where riders seem able to squeeze the machines through the narrowest of gaps.

And they've built up an intense loyalty among the mend-and-make do Cubans. "They're very practical," according to Alejandro Prohenza Hernandez, a restaurateur who says his pampered red 30-year-old Jawa 350 is like a second child.

Cheaper and more practical than the gas-guzzling, shark-finned US behemoths, the bikes are used for anything from the family runabout to trucking goods and workers' materials.

"A lot of foreigners really like to take photos of it," says Hernandez. "I don't know, I think they see it as something from another time."

- Different world - Cuba lags several decades behind the rest of the world due to a crippling US embargo, so the makers' badges on the ubiquitous sidecars speak of a bygone world.

Names like Jawa from the former Czechoslovakia and MZ from the former East Germany, as well as antiquated Russian Urals, Dniepers and Jupiters.

Havana's military acquired them from big brother Moscow at the height of the Cold War in the 1960s and 70s, for use by state factories and farms. Over the years, they gradually filtered down to the general public.

That's how Jose Antonio Ceoane Nunez, 46, found his bright red Jupiter 3.

"When the Cuban government bought sidecars from the Russians in 1981, it was for state-owned companies," he told AFP.

Later, the companies "sold them on to the most deserving employees," he said. His father, who worked for a state body, passed the bike on to him.

"Even if the sidecar gets old. I'll never sell it because it's what I use to move around. It's my means of transport in Cuba, and there aren't many other options," said Nunez.

Valdez himself has a cherished green 1977 Ural.

"I like it a lot, firstly because it's the means of transport for my family, and secondly because it's a source of income."

And it costs less than a car, still out of reach of many Cubans.

Settled on the island with his Cuban wife, 38-year-old Frenchman Philippe Ruiz didn't realize at first how ubiquitous the motorcycle sidecar was.

"When I began to be interested, I suddenly realized that I was seeing 50 to 100 a day!"

Renovating a house at the time, he saw that many sidecars were being used to transport building equipment.

Through an advert on the internet, he bought a blue 1979 Ural a few months ago for 6,500 euros.

"It's a year older than me and in worse shape," he said. "Soon he had to strip the bike down and "start repairing everything."

With few spare parts available in Cuba, "people have to bring them in from abroad," which slows down repairs.

But he has no regrets. An experienced motorcyclist, he's discovered a whole new side to his passion by riding the Russian machine.

"It's very funny, it's a big change from the bike because we cannot turn the same way, we can't lean, so you have to relearn everything but it's nice."

"It's especially nice with the family because you can put a child in the sidecar, my wife behind, and suitcases," he said.

In future he hopes to take advantage of the interest in the old bikes to rent it out.

"I think it will be a bit of a change from all the convertibles here."

<https://www.france24.com/en/20190321-cuba-thriving-hang-out-soviet-era-motorcycle-sidecars>

Secret Service welcomes first female into elite motorcycle unit Congrats Officer Gunawan!

Author: Tegna Published: 9:59 AM CDT May 10, 2019

U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division Officer Alta Gunawan made history recently by becoming the first woman to graduate into the agency's elite Motorcycle Support Unit.

Gunawan has been riding motorcycles since she was about 18-years-old growing up in a small town of about 400 people, according to a release from the Secret Service.

She was determined to make it into the elite group of Secret Service motorcycle riders, despite not passing the rigorous training course the first time around. Only about 50% of students graduate from the intense two-week course that trains officers on all sorts of motorcycle skills and tactics, the Secret Service said.

When asked about the personal significance of her accomplishment, Gunawan said she hopes others are inspired.

"I hope that I've inspired others, both women and men, to go after what they want and not to give up until they get it," said Gunawan.

Now she'll be traveling the world in her agency issued Harley Davison motorcycle to protect America's top officials.

<https://www.kiiitv.com/article/news/nation-world/secret-service-welcomes-first-female-into-elite-motorcycle-unit/503-6d9651c0-6b21-4cd4-a097-64187a864f55>



WASHINGTON — Meet the first woman to join the U.S. Secret Service's elite team of motorcyclists: Alta Gunawan.

Gunawan, a Secret Service uniformed division officer, got her start when she was 18 years old, riding around on a 1981 Kawasaki KZ440.

"I grew up in a small town of 400 people, so I would take my motorcycle everywhere because I wanted to see everything," Gunawan said in a news release. "My favorite ride was to Iowa. I would ride up and down the Mississippi river valley every chance I had."

Now, she's riding around the world on a S.S.-issued Harley Davidson FLHTP Electra Glide with the Secret Service Motorcycle Support Unit.

In April, Gunawan made history by successfully finishing the rigorous training to join the elite team, a first for women.

"I hope that I've inspired others, both women and men, to go after what they want and not to give up until they get it," Gunawan said.

The Secret Service says completing the two-week course is no easy feat and only about 50% graduate.

Trainees become intimately familiar with the 900-pound bike and learn high-level motorcycle tactics.

"I have so much more knowledge now about my motorcycle than I thought possible," Gunawan said. "It's all so necessary to the mission of the motorcade support unit."

<https://wgno.com/2019/05/10/us-secret-service-welcomes-first-woman-into-elite-team-of-motorcyclists/>

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It's hurricane season and I have about 8 of the long metal shutters I don't need FREE if you can use

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Risk Manager

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Delray Beach
601 N. Congress Ave., #410 Delray Beach, FL 33444

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon Mob of Brothers MC Happy Hour & Dominos @ Lone legion
Mon Dinner 6:30 States MC Pompano Clubhouse

Once a Month Tues Lone Legion MC Brotherhood Open House
2nd Tues Jupiter Moose Bike Night

1st Wed, Bike Night @ the Beach Gill Mill Jensen Beach
3rd Wed States MC Lake Worth Open House 8pm
Wed Island Jack's Bike Night with Gorilla Motors & PB Harley
Wed Chit Chat's bike night 7pm Free BBQ, music
Last Wed Gatti's Garage Bike Night 130 South H St Lake Worth

Thurs Once a month Black Pistons MC WPB Open House
1st Thurs PBH Abacoa Bike Night
2nd Thurs TBS Bike Night Tequesta
3rd Thurs Treasure Coast Harley Bike Night
Last Thurs Turboz/Ralph's Bike Night Jupiter

1st Fri Enforcers MC Party
Fri Twice a Month AOA MC WPB Open Houses

SAT HOG Morning Palm Beach Harley and often other events and bikini bike washes Grill Days
SAT night Fly n Wheels Open House

States MC Lake Worth
Open House
Wed
7pm-12am
Food is Always Complimentary
Independent Bikers and Friends are Welcomed
3570 Boutwell Rd. Lake Worth



BLACK PISTONS MC
WEST PALM BEACH
Come join us for our open house
Thursday March 7
7:30pm-?

BIKE NIGHT & Craft Beers
Last Wednesday of Each Month
6pm-10pm
BEER SPECIALS • FOOD TRUCK
130 South H St Lake Worth

LOST WEEKENDS VINTAGE MOTORCYCLE NIGHTS
TUNE UP THESE 25 YEAR OR OLDER MOTOS & RIDE THEM OUT EACH 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH TO LOST WEEKENDS WPB 6-10PM
FREE PARKING
FREE TIPS
BILLY'S VINTAGE TIRE CARE
COCKTAILS
SPONSORED BY:
ACES HIGH TATTOO
TREASURE COAST HARLEY MOTORCYCLE
WEST PALM BEACH
HATED BY

DOMINOES
GRAB A PARTNER!
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
MONDAYS
2950 COMMERCE PARK DRIVE, BOYNTON BEACH, FL

DRINKS BY DONATION!!!
DID SOMEONE SAY...
HAPPY HOUR?
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BIKE NIGHT
HARLEY-DAVIDSON COMPANY
GORILLA MOTORS
WED. 6-9PM
\$0.75 WINGS 6PM - 10PM
\$2 DRAFTS 10PM - CLOSE
\$5 JACK DANIELS
\$2.75 BOTTLES
6PM TO 10PM

LONE LEGION MA BROTHERHOOD
OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY
COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT EVENING!
HOURS: 7:30PM TILL MIDNIGHT
MUSIC, FOOD, BEVERAGES, POOL, DARTS
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Happy Birthday
FRIDAY MAY 31 7 PM UNTIL
COME CELEBRATE CHINO MOB BIRTHDAY
AT THE CLUBHOUSE
QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

THUNDER IN THE VALLEY
MOTORCYCLE RALLY
JOHNSTOWN, PA
SINCE 1988

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019

ABATE of FL Inc. PALM BEACH CHAPTER MEETINGS

11:30 AM V.F.W.
Post 4143 at 2404
Broadway, Riviera
Beach 561-844-5718.
From I 95 exit Blue
Heron Blvd. go east to
Broadway (Federal
Hwy., US- 1) turn
right, go south 1 block
the V.F.W. is on the
east side. Look for the
flag. Come for break-
fast and the meeting

3rd Sunday June 16

3rd Sunday July 21

3rd Sunday Aug 18

3rd Sunday Sept 15

3rd Sunday Oct 20

3rd Sunday Nov 17

3rd Sunday Dec. 15

The Gin Mill
BIKE NIGHT @ THE BEACH
1ST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH
7PM - 11PM
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ABACOA
BIKE NIGHT
PALM BEACH
• 1ST THURSDAY EVERY MONTH, 7-10PM
• LIVE BAND AT AMPITHEATER
• DRINK SPECIALS @ ALL BARS
• RAFFLES BY PALM BEACH HARLEY
• FUN GAMES AT THE EVENT

TURBOZ BIKE NIGHT
AT
RALPH'S STAND-UP BAR
CENTER STREET, JUPITER FULL-BAR
LAST THURSDAY 7-10PM LIVE MUSIC

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June 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						<p>1 Fly n Wheels Open House</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>3 Mob of Brothers Open House- Happy Hour & Dominoes</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>6 Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Abacoa Black Pistons Open House</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Fly n Wheels Open House ABATE FL State Meeting Laconia Bikeweek</p>
<p>9 Laconia Bikeweek</p>	<p>10 Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>11 Lone Legion Open House Laconia Bikeweek</p>	<p>12 Laconia Bikeweek</p>	<p>13 Laconia Bikeweek</p>	<p>14 Laconia Bikeweek AOA WPB Open House</p>	<p>15 Fly n Wheels Open House Laconia Bikeweek</p>
<p>16 ABATE PB Chapter Meeting Laconia Bikeweek</p>	<p>17 Ride to Work Day Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 States LW Open House Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>20 Thunder in the Valley</p>	<p>21 Thunder in the Valley AOA North Open House subject to change</p>	<p>22 Fly n Wheels Open House Thunder in the Valley ALR 271 Party Tequesta</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24 Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>25 Skulls MC Open House</p>	<p>26 Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>27 Turboz/ Ralph's Bike Night</p>	<p>28 AOA WPB Open House</p>	<p>29 Fly n Wheels Open House Palm Beach Harley Hogs & Dogs</p>
<p>30</p>						

July 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<p>1 Mob of Brothers Open House- Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>4 Independence Day Palm Beach Harley Bike Night Abacoa Black Pistons Open House</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Fly n Wheels Open House</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>9 Lone Legion Open House</p>	<p>10 Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Fly n Wheels Open House ABATE FL Leadership Seminars</p>
<p>14 ABATE FL Presidents & VP Meeting</p>	<p>15 Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 States LW Open House Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Fly n Wheels Open House</p>
<p>21 ABATE PB Chapter Meeting</p>	<p>22 Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Island Jack's Bike Night</p>	<p>25 Turboz/ Ralph's Bike Night</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Fly n Wheels Open House</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29 Mob of Brothers Happy Hour & Dominoes LL</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Island Jack's Bike Night</p>			

DELEGATE REPORT

. This month we meet in St. Augustine. So far there is nothing about the July Leadership Seminars but I'm sure we will learn about it there. It is open to all members to learn and prepare for office. I should be the second Saturday of July and new officers need to go. I believe in will be in Ocala The August meeting will be in Ft. Lauderdale so a good chance for all to attend.

ABATE OF FLORIDA, INC.



STATE MEETING
 Hosted by: VINTAGE CHAPTER
 SATURDAY, JUNE 08, 2019
 BOARD MEETING AT 12:00 NOON
 DELEGATE'S MEETING AT 2:00 PM



State Meeting will be held at:

Willie Galimore Community Center

399 Riberia St.

St. Augustine, FL. 32084

(904)209-4325

Directions: US-1 to King St., turn East to Riberia St., then turn South and Community Center will be on the left approx. 1 mile.



Hotel Reservations can be made at:

The Ponce Hotel

1111 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd

32084

(904)-824-5554

Prices \$119 if made by May 7th, after that, cost goes up to \$219

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STATE MEETINGS

Host Chapter & Location

June 8 Vintage chapter

St. Augustine

July Leadership seminars

TBA

Aug 10 Southeast

Fort Lauderdale

Oct, 12 Gulf Coast

Dec. 14 State Ocala

ABATE of FL Inc. Palm Beach Chapter GBNF

Ed "Gunner" Bassett

Frank "Pipes" Cook

Robert "Torch" Lyle

Niurka Crespo

Phil Moore

Michael Steffy

Tom "Ramblin' Man"

Botticelli

Karen Watkins

"Bones" Maurice Clark

ABATE Palm Beach Chapter Meeting Minutes May 19,
Meeting Called to Order at 11:37 A.M. 21 Members Present 2 Guests Present.
Meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

President: Took a trip to ride The Tail of the Dragon Trail. And, lead the annual officer election nominations.

Vice President: Excused

Secretary: Asked if anyone has any additions, corrections or objections to last month's meeting minutes as published in chapter newsletter. There were none.

Treasurer: We are hanging in there.

Membership: 2 New Members.

Sergeant At Arms: Nothing to report.

Safety: No dealership 3rd Thursday PB Harley bike nights for summer, Back Oct.

Delegate Report: June State Meeting in St. Augustine

Legislative: Texting bill signed. Open Primaries to be on Ballot

Public Relations: no report

Products: We will have brand new shirts for the ladies at the next meeting! Be sure to come!

Newsletter: no report

Old Business: Our summertime party has been put on hold.

New Business: Please go see Tony "wrench" at Palm Beach Harley's Service Department for special ABATE member benefits.

Good of the Order: 50/50 –The Darkside won the 50/50. Hamish won the door prize and donated it back to the chapter. Rock N Roll Sunday is today in Greenacres. Some of our members are attending.

Motions: To Adjourn.

.....
 : [Precinct Finder \(https://www.pbcelections.org/PrecinctFinder.aspx\)](https://www.pbcelections.org/PrecinctFinder.aspx) Palm
 : Beach Elections Site - put in your address and get ALL your Election
 : Information and look under My Districts for your representatives.
 : In these sidebars Underlined District # , names link in the online version.
 :

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

DAN "SLOW-MOTION" HENDERSON



PALM BEACH Co. FL House of Representatives

D81 Tina Scott Polsky (D)
850-717-5081 Tallahassee
561-470-2086 Boca/Belle Glade

D82 Mary Lynn Magar (R)
850-717-5082 Tallahassee
772-545-3481 Hove Sound

D85 Rich Roth (R)
850-717-5085 Tallahassee
561-625-5176 Palm Bch Garden

D86 Matt Willhite (D)
850-717-5086 Tallahassee
561-791-4071(2) WPB

D87 David Silvers (D)
850-717-5085 Tallahassee
561-352-4824 West Palm Beach

D88 Al Jacquet (D)
850-717-5088 Tallahassee
561-650-6846 West Palm Bch

D89 Mike Caruso (R)
850-717-5089 Tallahassee
561-750-2396 Boca Raton

D90 Joseph A. Casello (D)
850-717-5090 Tallahassee
561-374-7850 Boynton Bch

D91 Emily Slosberg (D)
850-717-5087 Tallahassee
561-496-5940 Delray Beach

Glad the Texting bill is law so now can work on Driver's Education. This is a move for OPEN PRIMARIES which I believe is our right! Just saw will be on the ballot. Just a brief update about the Safety Money, from what we can tell it was taken out of the budget during the reconciliation process between the House budget and the Senate budget. There is no clear evidence of who took the money out or why it was taken out. My opinion is that it was just low hanging fruit that was an easy removal to make the budget reconcile.

The Legislature on Tuesday formally sent 11 bills to Gov. Ron DeSantis

May 21, 2019 NSF Staff The Legislature on Tuesday formally sent 11 bills to Gov. Ron DeSantis, including a measure that would make it a crime to sell, distribute or show child-like sex dolls. The House and Senate early this month unanimously passed the bill (SB 160) about sex dolls. Supporters of the measure, such as Senate sponsor Lauren Book, D-Plantation, said it is designed to combat pedophilia. Among the other bills sent Tuesday to DeSantis was a measure (SB 186), sponsored by Sen. Tom Lee, R-Thonotosassa, that would create a public-records exemption for photos, videos or audio recordings that depict the killing of victims of mass violence. Such incidents of mass violence are defined in the bill as involving the killing of three or more people, not including the perpetrators. The House voted 108-6 to approve the bill, while the Senate approved it unanimously. The bill points to

Palm Beach County FL Senators

D25 Gayle Harrell (R)
850-487-5025 Tallahassee
772-221-4019 Stuart

D29 Kevin Rader (D)
850-487-5029 Tallahassee
561-443-8170 Boca Raton

D30 Bobby Powell (D)
850-487-500 Tallahassee
561-650-6880 WP Bch

D31 Lori Berman (D)
850-487-5031 Tallahassee
561-292-6014 Boynton

FEDERAL U.S. Senators

[Marco Rubio](#)

[Rick Scott](#)

U.S. HOUSE

District 18

[Brian Mast \(R\)](#)

District 20

[Alcee Hastings](#)

District 21

[Lois Frankel](#)

District 22

[Ted Deutch](#)

the potential impact on victims' family members if such photos or recordings are made public and cited mass shootings in recent years at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. DeSantis will have until June 5 to sign, veto or allow the bills to become law without his signature.

SEVEN BALLOT INITIATIVES TO WATCH May 20, 2019 Jim Saunders

TALLAHASSEE --- Florida lawmakers this month approved a controversial bill that is expected to make it harder to put citizens' initiatives on the ballot.

The bill (HB 5) would place additional restrictions on gathering the hundreds of thousands of petition signatures needed to reach the ballot. For 2020 ballot proposals, supporters need to submit 76,632 valid signatures to trigger a review by the Florida Supreme Court. If justices sign off on the proposed ballot wording, supporters then would need to submit 766,200 signatures for the measures to go before voters.

Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to sign the bill, which, among other things, would prevent petition-gatherers from being paid based on the number of signatures they collect --- a change that is expected to drive up costs.

But amid the likely changes, petition signatures have continued pouring into the state Division of Elections in recent weeks, with two initiatives ready for Supreme Court review and others nearing that initial threshold.

Here are seven initiatives to watch in the coming months as petition gathering, Supreme Court reviews and the effects of the new legislation play out:

--- **UTILITY DEREGULATION:** The political committee Citizens for Energy Choices is pursuing a proposal that would overhaul the state's electric utility industry. In part, the proposal calls for wholesale and retail electricity markets to "be fully competitive so that electricity customers are afforded meaningful choices among a wide variety of competing electricity providers." The proposal, which faces fierce opposition from state leaders, business groups and utilities, is scheduled for an Aug. 28 Supreme Court hearing. Signature submitted: 250,010.

--- **MINIMUM WAGE:** Led by prominent Orlando attorney John Morgan, the political committee Florida For A Fair Wage is proposing to gradually increase the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Under the proposal, the minimum wage would go to \$10 an hour on Sept. 30, 2021 and increase by \$1 each year until it hits \$15 an hour on Sept. 30, 2026. The state's minimum wage this year is \$8.46 an hour. Morgan also led a 2016 drive that broadly legalized medical marijuana. The Supreme Court has not set a hearing date. Signatures submitted: 178,548.

--- **CITIZENSHIP OF VOTERS:** The political committee Florida Citizen Voters is backing a proposal that would change part of the state Constitution that now says, "Every citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered." The proposal would change that wording to: "Only a citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age and who is a permanent resident of the state, if registered as provided by law, shall be an elector of the county where registered." Signatures submitted: 75,413.

--- **MEDICAID EXPANSION:** The political committee Florida Decides Healthcare is pursuing a proposed that would expand Medicaid coverage to many low-income adults who are not currently eligible. Such an expansion is optional for states under the federal Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, and would apply to people whose incomes are up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Numerous other states have expanded coverage in recent years, but Florida lawmakers have rejected the idea. Signatures submitted: 70,539.

--- **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION:** Though it has received relatively little statewide coverage, a pro-

posal to legalize marijuana for personal use is getting close to the threshold for Supreme Court review. The proposal by the committee Sensible Florida says, in part, "In the interest of the efficient use of law enforcement resources, enhancing revenue for public purposes, and individual freedom, the people of the State of Florida find and declare that the use of cannabis should be legal for persons twenty-one years of age or older." Signatures submitted: 64,560.

--- ASSAULT WEAPONS: Florida lawmakers last year rejected calls to ban assault-style weapons after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. The political committee Ban Assault Weapons Now is trying to put the issue on the 2020 ballot. The proposal defines the weapons as "semiautomatic rifles and shotguns capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition at once, either in fixed or detachable magazine, or any other ammunition-feeding device." Signatures submitted: 51,546.

--- PRIMARY ELECTIONS: The political committee All Voters Vote, which is seeking to revamp Florida's primary-election system, has submitted relatively few signatures. But it is backed by prominent Miami-Dade County health-care executive Mike Fernandez, who contributed \$2.25 million last month. Under the proposal, all registered voters would be able to cast ballots in primaries, regardless of political affiliation. The two candidates getting the most votes in each primary would advance to the general election. Signatures submitted: 4,710.

BY THE NUMBERS: FLORIDA'S DEATH PENALTY May 21, 2019 NSF Staff

TALLAHASSEE --- Serial killer Bobby Joe Long is scheduled to be executed at 6 p.m. Thursday at Florida State Prison in the 1984 murder of Michelle Simms in Hillsborough County.

Long would be the first Death Row inmate executed since Gov. Ron DeSantis took office in January. But Florida has a long history of executions after the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, following a four-year hiatus stemming from a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Here is a by-the-numbers look at the death penalty in Florida, according to information from the state Department of Corrections:

--- 1924: The year Frank Johnson became the first inmate executed in the state's electric chair. A 2000 law allowed the use of lethal injection.

--- 2: The number of prisons where men on Death Row are housed. They are Florida State Prison and Union Correctional Institution.

--- 1: The number of prisons where women on Death Row are housed. They are held at Lowell Annex.

--- 97: Number of executions since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. The first execution after reinstatement was of John Spenkelink in 1979.

--- 28: Number of inmates executed under former Gov. Rick Scott, the most of any governor since the death penalty was reinstated.

--- 8: Largest number of executions in a year since the death penalty was reinstated. That occurred in 1984 and 2014.

--- 0: The number of executions that occurred in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 2007.

--- 44.9: Average age of inmates executed.

--- 341: Number of Death Row inmates as of Monday.

--- 202: Number of white males on Death Row.

--- 127: Number of black males on Death Row.

--- 9: Number of male Death Row inmates classified as "other."

--- 1: Number of white females on Death Row.

--- 2: Number of black females on Death Row.

--- 80: Age of oldest Death Row inmate, Nelson Serrano, who was convicted of murdering four people in 1997 in Polk County. Next oldest is William Kelley, 76, who was convicted in a Highlands County

case.

--- 27: Age of youngest Death Row inmate, Michael Bargo, who was convicted in a 2011 murder in Marion County. Next youngest is David Sparre, 27, who was convicted in a Duval County case.

--- 7: The number of life sentences Bobby Joe Long is serving for murders, along with the death sentence in the murder of Michelle Simms.

--- 150: The amount in dollars paid to the executioner, who is allowed to remain anonymous under state law.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP: WASHINGTON (COUNTY) AND THE RUSSIANS

May 17, 2019 Ana Ceballos Recap and analysis of the week in state government

TALLAHASSEE --- When Gov. Ron DeSantis held a quickly called news conference Tuesday, he dropped a bombshell: Two Florida counties were hacked by Russians before the 2016 elections.

DeSantis said he received the information during a briefing with the FBI, confirming longstanding speculation and reports about Russians trying to get into Florida voting systems.

But the governor emphasized that the hacking did not involve “manipulation” of voting results.

“There was no manipulation, or anything, but there was voter data that was able to be got,” DeSantis said. “Now, that voter data I think was public anyway. Nevertheless, those were intrusions. It did not affect any voting, or anything like that.”

The news conference, however, left major questions unanswered --- including which counties were subject to the “intrusions.”

Part of the answer came Thursday when The Washington Post and Politico reported that rural Washington County was one of the targets of the hackers. Washington County, like most of the rest of Northwest Florida, overwhelmingly backed President Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

“The Russian military agency, the GRU, was responsible for the penetration of Washington County’s database,” the Post reported.

The hackers accessed voter-information files, not the systems that do vote tallying, FBI officials told DeSantis.

Daniel A. Smith, a University of Florida professor who researches state voting data and trends, shared graphs on Twitter that he said show “little evidence of any Russian success hacking Washington County.”

“(But) they likely mobilized low propensity voters on Election Day in Florida, perhaps as a result of GOTV efforts on Facebook. Trump crushed Clinton on Election Day in Florida, and other states,” Smith tweeted, referring to get-out-the-vote efforts and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

The name of the second targeted county has not been made public.

DESANTIS ON A SIGNING SPREE

DeSantis signed a number of bills this week, including a toll-road plan that environmentalists hate, a \$121 million tax-cut package and a crackdown on texting while driving.

On Wednesday, DeSantis signed the tax package, which features disaster-preparedness and back-to-school tax holidays, as well as relief for business owners who rent commercial space and farmers who sustained damage in Hurricane Michael.

Two days later, the governor signed two closely watched measures: One will make texting while driving a primary traffic offense, and another will help pave the way for building or expanding three toll roads, a priority of Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton.

The texting-while-driving bill is designed to reduce distracted driving. In the past, police have only been able to cite motorists for texting while driving if they are pulled over for other reasons. By making it a primary offense, the state is allowing police to pull over motorists for texting behind the

wheel.

“We cannot prevent all accidents on our roadways, but it is our hope that by taking action to address distractions today, we might be able to prevent a tragedy tomorrow,” DeSantis said at a news conference in Sarasota, where he also announced he was signing the toll-road bill.

That bill will take initial steps to expand the Suncoast Parkway from the Tampa Bay area to the Georgia border; extend the Florida Turnpike west to connect with the Suncoast Parkway; and add a new multi-use corridor, including a toll road, from Polk County to Collier County.

MIGRANT PLAN BLINDSIDES DESANTIS

Local officials said Thursday that the federal government plans to start releasing hundreds of migrants into Broward and Palm Beach counties, an announcement that blindsided DeSantis, who has been an outspoken supporter of President Donald Trump’s efforts to crack down on illegal immigration.

“We have been very cooperative, and then to have this put into certain communities, I think it’s just something that we don’t want,” DeSantis said Friday.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection could start sending about 135 migrants twice a week to Palm Beach and Broward counties, according to Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, who said he talked to officials at the federal immigration enforcement agency. The plan could start as soon as the next two weeks.

Bradshaw made the news public Thursday before DeSantis and other officials, including Attorney General Ashley Moody, who works with law-enforcement agencies across the state, were informed. That left state leaders scrambling for information.

“First of all, nothing is concrete. There’s been no migrants brought and released in Florida from this whole problem,” DeSantis said Friday. “Not one migrant has come in, according to the White House, which we talked to yesterday. I just want to let people know that.”

The news came after DeSantis pushed state lawmakers to pass legislation to ban so-called sanctuary cities statewide and after he directed the head of Florida’s prison system to look into launching a pilot program that would allow state correctional officers to double as federal immigration agents.

VISIT FLORIDA MAKES CUTS

Faced with what one board member called a “prove-it” year to state lawmakers, the Visit Florida Board of Directors on Wednesday approved a 30 percent payroll cut.

Reluctant leaders of the tourism-marketing agency agreed to slash payroll by \$3.65 million, and strategic marketing by \$17.8 million, with an acknowledgement the agency must do a better job of selling itself to lawmakers, particularly in the House, which sought to eliminate the public-private agency during this year’s legislative session.

Visit Florida survived in the session --- but took a 34 percent funding cut.

As the session wound down, House Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, said he accepted a request from DeSantis’ office to keep Visit Florida in business for another year “so that he would have the opportunity to make an assessment of his own of how unnecessary it is.”

That put pressure on Visit Florida to prove it should be allowed to keep its doors open.

“We have to market ourselves, and the campaign, I’m making it up as I’m sitting here, should look something like, ‘This is how necessary we are,’” Visit Florida board member Carol Dover said.

STORY OF THE WEEK: Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the FBI confirmed to him that Russian hackers breached two counties in Florida.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “In my opinion, the people that we can’t find shelter for and will become homeless, I would suggest that we bring them to the Trump hotels and ask the president to open his heart and homes as well.” ---- Broward County Mayor Mark Bogen, referring to a plan by the federal government to transport hundreds of migrants to Broward and Palm Beach counties. President Donald

Trump's Mar-a-Lago is in Palm Beach County.

DESANTIS GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO TOLL ROADS May 17, 2019 Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- Gov. Ron DeSantis on Friday signed a controversial measure aimed at expanding and building three toll roads on the western side of the state, with supporters saying the plan will help prepare for future growth and aid in disaster evacuations.

Environmentalists, who were joined by former governors Charlie Crist and Bob Graham in opposing the plan, said they will continue to wage "war" against the toll roads, which they maintain will devastate large rural and natural tracts of land.

DeSantis held a news conference Friday in Sarasota to sign a separate bill (HB 107) that will toughen the state's texting-while-driving ban by allowing law-enforcement officers to pull over motorists they see typing on wireless devices.

During that event, DeSantis announced he would sign the toll-road bill (SB 7068), a top priority of Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton. The measure, which DeSantis signed about an hour later, will take initial steps to expand the Suncoast Parkway from the Tampa Bay area to the Georgia border; extend the Florida Turnpike west to connect with the Suncoast Parkway; and add a new multi-use corridor, including a toll road, from Polk County to Collier County.

DeSantis, who previously expressed reservations about the economic impact of toll roads on working Floridians, said more roads may be needed.

"We're probably going to need more than that, just given how our state is growing and just given that traffic can be a big problem," said DeSantis. "I'm supportive of infrastructure."

In a statement Friday, Galvano called the plan "an innovative approach to infrastructure that will enable Florida to strategically plan for future population growth, while at the same time revitalizing rural communities, protecting our unique natural resources and enhancing public safety."

DeSantis was a guest at a charity golf tournament Galvano hosted Friday in Bradenton. The toll-road measure, which received final legislative approval May 1, spurred a battle that pitted environmentalists and left-leaning groups against organizations such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce, Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Ports Council and the Florida Trucking Association. Sierra Club Florida Director Frank Jackalone said Friday opponents were "extremely disappointed" in DeSantis signing the toll-road bill and in other decisions by the Legislature, such as setting aside \$33 million for the Florida Forever land-preservation program next year, down from \$100 million in the current year.

"This is the end of all claims that Gov. DeSantis can make that he is a true environmentalist and a Teddy Roosevelt conservationist," Jackalone said. "The Sierra Club sees the signing of this bill into law as the very beginning of a war against these toll roads. We're going to do everything in our power to stop the toll roads from being built."

Besides legal challenges against construction permits, Jackalone said his group will work with local residents to oppose the roads, put a spotlight on people who would financially benefit from the projects, push the Legislature to repeal the plan and fight against lawmakers who supported it.

During the legislative session, Democratic opponents of the bill echoed warnings from environmental groups that the plan will destroy wetlands and that the state should focus on fixing already-existing roads. They also said lawmakers should get the results of task-force studies before putting up funding for the toll roads..

Lawmakers approved spending \$45 million next fiscal year on the projects, which aren't expected to be completed for at least a decade.

Annual funding is expected to reach about \$140 million in coming years. The plan will set up separate task forces to study the environmental and economic impacts of the three roads.

DeSantis defended the need for the roads, saying the long-discussed proposal to link Polk County with Collier County would provide a more direct route between Central and Southwest Florida.

“Right now, you have to go all the way around (Interstate) 75, it’s not a good route,” DeSantis said.

He also said completing the Suncoast Parkway would provide an alternative route for motorists traveling to Tallahassee and Northwest Florida.

Friday’s news conference at Sarasota High School was held primarily as an event for DeSantis to sign the bill about texting while driving.

Under that measure, law-enforcement officials will be able to stop motorists they see texting while driving starting July 1. Currently, police can only cite motorists for texting behind the wheel if they are pulled over for other reasons.

However, the change would be phased in, with warnings issued starting Oct. 1, according to the bill.

Tickets starting at \$30 will begin being issued Jan. 1.

“One of the best things about getting elected governor, was right afterward I got rid of text messaging and email entirely,” DeSantis said. “Let me tell you, your life is much easier when you’re not always on that thing.”

The measure, spearheaded by Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, Rep. Jackie Toledo, R-Tampa, and Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, blends a tougher ban on texting and driving with a requirement that motorists use hands-free wireless devices in school zones and work zones.

“This law is about saving lives and making our roads safe,” Toledo said.

Slosberg, whose twin sister was killed in a car accident and whose family has pushed for traffic safety legislation for years, wasn’t mentioned at the event. Helen Ferre, a DeSantis spokeswoman, said that only officials from Hillsborough, Pinellas and Sarasota counties were invited to the signing ceremony. Simpson was at the event but is from Pasco County.

Allowing police to pull over motorists for texting while driving is known as making it a “primary” offense.

In addition to that change, the bill will prohibit law-enforcement officers from accessing or confiscating wireless communications devices without warrants. To address concerns about racial profiling, the bill requires officers to record the race and ethnicity of violators, with annual reports about the issue submitted to the governor, Senate president and House speaker starting Feb. 1.

DESANTIS SIGNS PLAN FOR TAX ‘HOLIDAYS’ May 15, 2019 Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- Hurricane-tested Floridians and back-to-school shoppers will be able to once again take advantage of sales-tax “holidays” as they prepare for the upcoming storm season and the new school year.

Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a tax package (HB 7123) that features the disaster-preparedness and school tax holidays, as well as relief for business owners who rent commercial space and storm-impacted farmers.

With hurricane season starting June 1, DeSantis signed the bill while attending the annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference in West Palm Beach.

Noting the Floridians have become hurricane “battled-tested” after hurricanes Matthew in 2016, Irma in 2017 and Michael last year, DeSantis said, “Hopefully, we won’t have to use that experience this year.”

DeSantis also used the event to announce he is making \$25 million available through the state’s Small Business Emergency Loan Program to assist Panhandle farmers who sustained damage in Hurricane Michael as they enter the growing season. Also, he said he has used emergency powers to help local officials quickly access a federal program that provides cash advances that can be used to rebuild schools, government buildings and certain non-profit facilities.

The tax package was approved early this month as the 2019 legislative session ended. While it was promoted as providing \$121 million in tax breaks, it is projected to cut state and local revenue by \$87 million in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

While the amount of tax savings is less than in prior years, the business community backed the package. "Anytime you can give Floridians some needed tax relief is great," said James Miller of the Florida Retail Federation.

"Both the back-to-school and disaster preparedness tax holidays remain one of the top priorities for our members year in and year out," Miller added. "Not only do they provide tax relief for consumers, but they bring increased sales for our retailers. It's something they really enjoy and something they look forward to each year."

DeSantis formally received the tax package Tuesday and wasted little time in announcing plans to sign the bill, which provides a seven-day "holiday" for disaster preparation starting May 31, a day before the six-month hurricane season begins.

During the holiday period, sales taxes will not be collected on items such as battery packages and non-electric food storage coolers that sell for \$30 or less; self-powered light sources that cost \$20 or less; tarpaulins, self-powered radios, ground anchor systems, and weather-band radios that cost \$50 or less; and portable generators that cost \$750 or less.

The disaster-preparation holiday is projected to save shoppers \$5.5 million in state and local taxes.

The back-to-school tax holiday, running from Aug. 2 to Aug. 6, will temporarily eliminate sales taxes on clothes that cost \$60 or less, school supplies that cost \$15 or less and personal computers that cost less than \$1,000. The school holiday is projected to save shoppers \$41.7 million.

Another key part of the package is a reduction in the sales tax on commercial leases from 5.7 percent to 5.5 percent, which accounts for \$27.3 million of the savings next fiscal year. The lower rate will go into effect Jan. 1, which is halfway through the 2019-2020 fiscal year. It is expected to provide \$57.1 million in savings the following fiscal year, when it will be in place for 12 months.

The package also provides refunds on taxes paid for fuel used between Oct. 10, 2018, and June 30, 2019, for agricultural shipments and to haul hurricane debris in Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon and Wakulla counties.

Hurricane Michael made landfall Oct. 10 in Mexico Beach and caused major damage in many of those counties.

Farmers could also get refunds on taxes for repairs made to farm buildings and fencing damaged by the storm.

The state's agricultural industry suffered an estimated \$1.5 billion in losses from Michael, with the timber industry accounting for most of the damages.

The state has already spent about \$1.6 billion in helping Northwest Florida recover from Michael, and the Legislature has budgeted just over \$220 million for additional storm relief during the fiscal year that starts July 1.

"We've done a lot. We're going to do a lot more," DeSantis said.

--- News Service Assignment Manager Tom Urban contributed to this report.

BUMP STOCK BAN LAWSUIT TOSSED OUT May 15, 2019 Jim Saunders

TALLAHASSEE --- More than a year after the Florida Legislature passed gun restrictions, a Leon County circuit judge has dismissed a lawsuit that alleged a ban on "bump stocks" was an unconstitutional taking of property.

Judge Ronald Flury last week issued a 12-page ruling that sided with the state in the dispute stemming from a law passed after the February 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High

School in Parkland.

The law included a ban on bump stocks, which are devices that make semi-automatic weapons mimic fully automatic firearms. Lawmakers also raised the minimum age from 18 to 21 to buy rifles and other long guns and imposed a three-day waiting period for purchasing such guns. About a week after then-Gov. Rick Scott signed the law, gun owners filed the bump-stock lawsuit as a potential class action. The case did not argue that the bump-stock ban itself was unconstitutional but contended that it was a taking of property that should lead to compensation for bump-stock owners.

But Flury wrote, in part, that the decision to ban bump stocks “was a valid exercise of the state’s police power” and said the ban did not take effect until October 2018, giving owners a window of time to sell or transfer the devices out of Florida.

“The state did not come onto plaintiffs’ property to destroy their ‘bump-fire stocks,’ there was no requirement in the statute that bump-fire stocks be destroyed,” Flury wrote in the ruling filed Friday. “The plaintiffs were given several months to sell or otherwise dispossess themselves of the prohibited items. The fact that plaintiffs decided to destroy their bump-fire stocks rather than move them out of state or sell them does not mean the government destroyed their property. The court finds (the law) is a valid use of the state’s police powers to protect the general health, safety and welfare of its citizens.”

In a court document filed last month, the plaintiffs’ attorneys argued against dismissal of the case, writing the law “takes an axe to the bundle of property rights associated with ‘bump-fire stocks.’”

“Defendants’ (the state’s) position is that it can force someone to sell, give away, trade, distribute or transfer an item within a certain time period without physically invading the rights of said person,” the document said. “Such reasoning is absurd and contradictory to plaintiffs’ rights in their own property.”

The gunman in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School did not use a bump stock, but the devices drew heavy attention in October 2017 when a man using guns with bump stocks killed dozens of people attending a music festival in Las Vegas.

Along with efforts by Florida and other states to ban bump stocks, the U.S. Department of Justice in December issued a rule that said the devices are machine guns, which are prohibited. “As a result, persons in possession of bump-stock-type devices must divest themselves of the devices before the effective date of the final rule,” the department said in a news release at the time.

The law passed last year by Florida lawmakers also faces a separate legal challenge from the National Rifle Association, which contends that raising the minimum age to purchase long guns from 18 to 21 is unconstitutional. That case is pending in federal court.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES TO START IN MID-SEPTEMBER May 14, 2019 NSF Staff
With the 2020 legislative session starting in January, lawmakers will return to Tallahassee in mid-September to start committee meetings. Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, released a schedule Tuesday that outlines six committee weeks leading up to the session. They are Sept. 16 to Sept. 20; Oct. 14 to Oct. 18; Oct. 21 to Oct. 25; Nov. 4 to Nov. 8; Nov. 12 to Nov. 15; and Dec. 9 to Dec. 13. Voters last year approved a constitutional amendment that will lead to legislative sessions starting in January in even-numbered years. Traditionally, sessions have started in March. The 2020 session will start Jan. 14.

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION DATES SET May 7, 2019 NSF Staff
Circle Jan. 14 on the 2020 calendar. That is when next year’s regular legislative session will begin, with the session slated to end March 13, according to a schedule posted on the Senate website. While most sessions traditionally have started in March, voters last year passed a constitutional amendment that requires sessions to start in January in even-numbered years. The 2019 session ended Saturday.

FERNANDEZ POURS MONEY INTO BID TO REVAMP PRIMARIES

May 7, 2019 NSF Staff

Prominent South Florida health-care executive Mike Fernandez contributed \$2.25 million last

month to a political committee leading a drive aimed at overhauling Florida's primary-election system. Fernandez contributed the money April 15 to the committee All Voters Vote, Inc., according to the state Division of Elections website. The committee also spent \$1.32 million in April, with almost all of that money going to expenses associated with gathering and processing petitions. The committee is seeking to put two proposed constitutional amendments on the November 2020 ballot, one dealing with U.S. Senate and U.S. House elections and the other dealing with state elections. Under the proposals, **all registered voters would be able to cast ballots in primaries, regardless of political affiliation.** The two candidates getting the most votes in each primary would advance to the general election. To get the measures on the ballot, the committee would need to submit 766,200 valid petition signatures for each proposal. As of Tuesday, the state Division of Elections website did not show the committee submitting any valid petitions. But campaign-finance information indicates that the petition-gathering process was moving forward in March and April.

DESANTIS TO SIGN FELONS' VOTING MEASURE

May 7, 2019 Jim Turner

TALLAHASSEE --- Gov. Ron DeSantis said Tuesday he will sign a controversial measure that would require repayment of financial obligations before felons' voting rights are restored.

"I'll sign it," DeSantis said while at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science to discuss environmental issues from the legislative session that ended Saturday.

TEN DEAD ISSUES FROM THE 2019 SESSION May 6, 2019 Jim Saunders

TALLAHASSEE --- Maybe next year. ---

--- ABORTION: The House approved a measure that would have required parental consent before minors could have abortions, but the issue stalled in the Senate. Lawmakers also did not pass a proposal that would have barred doctors from performing abortions after fetal heartbeats are detected.

--- CAMPUS SURVEYS: With some Republicans raising concerns about indoctrination on college campuses, the House supported a proposal that would have required surveying faculty members and students about their ideological viewpoints. But the Senate balked at the idea and refused to include it in a higher-education package.

--- CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION: Though many lawmakers were unhappy with proposals placed on the November ballot by the state Constitution Revision Commission, they did not agree on plans to rein in --- or even eliminate --- the powerful panel. The Senate passed two measure targeting the commission, but the House didn't follow suit.

--- FRACKING: With support from Gov. Ron DeSantis, environmentalists hoped lawmakers would ban the oil- and gas-drilling technique known as "fracking." But the issue died in the House and the Senate, after a controversy emerged about allowing another drilling technique that uses many of the same chemicals as fracking.

--- GAMBLING: Powerful Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida negotiated for weeks on a possible gambling deal that could have included sports betting in the state. But time ran out on the issue without a bill being introduced. DeSantis said Saturday he will work on reaching a deal with the tribe.

--- GENETIC INFORMATION: The Senate in the closing days of the session did not take up a House proposal that would have prevented life insurance companies from using genetic-testing information in making decisions about customers' policies. Supporters of the proposal pointed to privacy concerns, while the insurance industry argued it was over-regulation.

--- MARIJUANA POTENCY: Though lawmakers in March approved allowing patients to smoke medical marijuana, they split on a House plan that would have limited the level of euphoria-inducing THC

in smokable pot. The House backed the limit, saying high levels of THC can lead to psychosis. But the Senate refused to go along with the limit.

--- NURSE PRACTITIONER POWERS: While House Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, pushed through major health-care legislation, he was unable to get the Senate to agree to a proposal that would have allowed advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to work independently from doctors.

--- SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS: Republicans in recent years have frequently floated the idea of imposing eight-year term limits on members of county school boards. But proposals aimed at placing the issue on the 2020 ballot stalled in the House and the Senate this year amid opposition from many school districts.

--- SMOKING AGE: In an issue that became known as “T21,” the Senate passed a bill that would have raised the minimum age to buy tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21. The proposal also would have banned local governments from passing ordinances dealing with the minimum age. But the House did not take up the issue in the session’s closing days

FELONS’ RIGHTS CAUSE DIVIDES IN CLOSING DAYS April 29, 2019 Dara Kam

TALLAHASSEE --- With days left before the legislative session ends Friday, the Senate sponsor of a proposal aimed at carrying out a constitutional amendment on felons’ voting rights said he worked all weekend to reach what he called a compromise with his House counterpart.

But Senate Democrats are still opposed to the measure, which they believe creates onerous financial barriers to restoring voting rights for people who’ve already got the odds stacked against them. For some Democrats, the Republican-dominated Legislature’s effort to implement the constitutional amendment hearkens back to racially motivated, Reconstruction-era policies aimed at keeping blacks from casting ballots.

“Florida does not want certain people to vote,” Sen. Perry Thurston, a Fort Lauderdale Democrat who is black, said Monday.

Lawmakers find themselves in the position of having to implement a constitutional change initiated by citizens because “we’re an ass-backward state,” Thurston said, adding that Florida is one of only three states that does not automatically restore voting rights to felons who are no longer incarcerated or have completed probation.

Republicans don’t want to make it easier for felons to get their voting rights back, Thurston said, adding, “This is the last thing they want to do.”

Thurston’s comments came as Senate Democrats spent more than an hour learning about the bill (HB 7089) and developing a strategy for when the legislation comes up on the Senate floor Tuesday. The constitutional amendment, approved by voters in November, granted restoration of voting rights to felons “who have completed all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation.” The proposal, which appeared on the ballot as Amendment 4, excluded people “convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense.”

For weeks, what constitutes “murder,” “felony sexual offense,” and completion of “all terms of their sentence” has caused consternation as Democrats and supporters of the amendment lashed out at the House’s version of the bill, which would require repayment of all fines, fees and restitution for felons to be eligible for the automatic restoration.

The House passed the bill last week after heavy debate and sent it to the Senate.

Over the past few weeks, Sen. Jeff Brandes, a St. Petersburg Republican who’s leading the issue in the Senate, has made a series of concessions in his version of the proposal, finally winning the support of one of the main groups behind the amendment late last week.

That version of the proposal would require full repayment of restitution, including restitution that’s been

converted to civil liens, but not other financial obligations --- such as fees, fines or court costs --- converted to civil judgments.

But hours after the Democrats' huddle Monday, Brandes released proposed changes to the financial obligation requirements to more closely align with what the House has sought. Under the proposed changes, felons would have to repay all restitution, and would also have to pay all fees and fines ordered by the court, not including "any fines, fees, or costs that accrue after the date the obligation is ordered as part of the sentence."

The financial obligations would be considered completed if they are paid in full, if a victim "forgives" the restitution, or if felons participate in a yet-to-be-created program that would allow them to perform community service in lieu of payment.

"I spent the weekend talking to judges, talking to defense attorneys, talking to prosecutors across the political spectrum, trying to understand the meaning and the actual practice of how they implement this in their courtrooms and with their clients," Brandes, who has long advocated for criminal-justice reforms, told The News Service of Florida.

He said his proposed revamp of the measure "clearly complies with Amendment 4," and includes clear definitions of the three contentious issues. His proposal also "provides a pathway" to clear up financial obligations, as well as guidance on how to move forward.

"The state needs a piece of legislation. It needs a bill, and it needs something on the books. The last thing we want is nothing on the books and courts deciding how this plays out, because it could be much more arduous than what the Legislature's come up with," Brandes said.

Prosecutors, clerks of court and state and local elections officials have asked lawmakers to provide guidance on how to interpret the amendment.

But Senate Democrats are split on whether the constitutional amendment needs the Legislature to act, with many of them believing the ballot measure was self-executing.

Sen. Jason Pizzo, a North Miami Beach Democrat who is a former prosecutor, intends to try to amend the bill, which will almost certainly be challenged in court if the Legislature approves it.

"The word 'sentence' is going to have three different interpretations --- that interpretation from the Legislature, that interpretation from the Florida Supreme Court, or that interpretation from the secretary of state, who is a proxy for the attorney general," Pizzo said in an interview Monday. Attorney General Ashley Moody, a Republican, opposed the constitutional amendment, Pizzo pointed out.

Pizzo met Monday with Desmond Meade and Neil Volz, "returning citizens" who work for one of the political committees that backed Amendment 4, to explain Brandes' proposed changes.

"The reason why it's very prudent to participate in this process is I think we have a decent chance that the Florida Supreme Court would honor the work of the Legislature to a large extent," Pizzo said.

The Supreme Court could "honor" a "good deal," or could "bless" a "really draconian" measure Democrats didn't participate in creating, he said.

"I want them to bless the best possible deal that we can get," he said.

But like Thurston, Sen. Oscar Braynon, a Miami Gardens Democrat who is black, grew heated Monday as he gave fellow Democrats a history lesson.

Florida's law requiring felons to get clemency in order to vote "was put in place to make sure that a judicial system that already disproportionately affected black and brown people would hurt them on the back end, that they wouldn't be able to vote," Braynon said, his voice rising.

"It was created to make sure that black men couldn't vote. (I'm) keeping it real.... My narrative starts from Reconstruction, which was when this law was created," he went on. "To me, I don't think this law should be around, just like I don't think slavery should be around."

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We all realize the \$4,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy if one of the best benefits of being an ABATE member. That is one reason to keep your membership up to date. You MUST name someone to get the money in case of death to prevent taxes and being in probate court. So when you receive the yellow card mailed from our state office, you can complete it and mail to insurance company. Most likely an agent will contact you even if you said not to. If they do be, SURE to get their name and number upfront. They do NOT need to visit you even to deliver the certificate. If they insist or get push, contact ABATE of FL. main office and report it but you MUST have the agents' name and number for action to be taken. Otherwise you may just return the completed yellow card to ABATE to have on file. Then be sure your survivors know to contact ABATE for the benefits.

STATE OFFICE: ABATE OF Florida, Inc. PO Box 2520, Deland, FL 32721-2520

Phone: (386) 943-9610 Fax: same Email: flabate@bellsouth.net



ABATE OF FLORIDA INC. PALM BEACH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Membership Dues: \$20 for 1 year or \$600 for Life Membership per person

Fill out form, print, sign, and attach your check or money order and mail to:

ABATE — Palm Beach Chapter

PO Box 530944 Lake Park FL 33403

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Will Palm Beach Chapter be your HOME voting Chapter
NEW Member: Year or Life Renew: Transfer: Address Change:

First : Last : Road :

Address:

City: State: Zip (full): -

Phone: Cell: Text notification Yes No

Email for News Alerts

Registered Voter? Yes No State House: State Senate: US Dist:

How can you best help ABATE? Time, Labor, Money, Other

State newsletter the *MasterLink* every other month online and our Chapter newsletter
The Chrome Chronicles is online at start of month in color with active Links.

MEMBERSHIPS FEE \$

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

SIGNATURE Date:

MEMBERSHIP CARD / PATCHES CAN BE GOTTEN AT CHAPTER MEETING (on the third Sunday of Month usually) OR MAILED WITHIN 30 DAYS. LIFE CARD MAY TAKE LONGER AS PICKED UP AT STATE MEETINGS EVERY OTHER MONTH

palmbeach.abateflorida.com



Next Palm Beach Chapter Meeting VFW POST 4143
3rd Sunday June 16, 2019 11:30 am

Directions: 2404 Broadway (US1), Riviera Beach - Exit I-95 at Blue Heron Blvd, go east to Broadway (US1) turn south and is 1 block on east side. **Bike Parking is on south side of building.**

GOALS & PURPOSES OF ABATE

To print a newsletter to keep all bikers informed with regard to legislative actions and events around the state and throughout the country.

To become a powerful and viable political force in legislative matters concerning all motorcyclists rights.

To provide a lobbyist to represent ABATE of Florida, Inc. on the state and national level.

To promote voter registration and motivate members to write their legislators.

To promote safe riding habits without infringing on individual rights.

To educate the public about motorcycle awareness.