



BTU LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP 2021

ANNA FUSCO
PRESIDENT

JENNIFER GOTTLIEB
POLITICAL DIRECTOR
JGOTTLIEB@BTUONLINE.COM

WHAT WILL IMPACT US?

- **SB 886 Accountability and Testing-** (Thurston/Bartleman) that would pause punitive consequences associated with standardized tests, prohibited use in teacher evaluations, 3rd grade retention, and high school graduation. Technically this bill failed but the Governor made an executive order to not require the testing for students. Teachers will have some form of an evaluation, but that method has not been determined yet by the district.
- **SB 78 Dues and Uniform Assessment aka” Anti Freedom” Union busting bill,** this bill died in rules committee thanks to the hard work of our members calling and emailing the senators on Rules Committee

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- **SB 48 Educational Scholarship Programs** that morphed into **HB 7045 School Choice** passed and is the largest expansion of the voucher program in FL history, at the expense of our public schools.
- **SB 84 Retirement** this was the bill eliminating the Florida Retirement System (FRS) and switching to an outsourced investment plan. Thankfully, this bill died in committee due to some great arguments in debate from one of our own Broward senators.
- **SB 264 Higher Education** which merged with **HB 233** this bill attacks academic freedom by instituting “intellectual diversity” including hate speech. Allows recording in classrooms without consent of professor/classmates. This bill passed and Governor will sign into law

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- **SB 220 Public Records & Public Meetings** this bill would have removed current public records requirements from searches for university presidents. (Sunshine Law exemption) Thankfully this bill died on the Senate Floor since it needed 2/3 vote from the senate. We believe if this had passed it would lead to superintendent searches, city, and county managers having same exemption.
- **SB 1014 Employee Organizations** this was the that got most of our attention this session since it took away the freedom for members to have dues deduction and required 50% membership of all employees for union not to be decertified by Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC). This bill died in Rules committee thanks to a challenge from Senator Farmer

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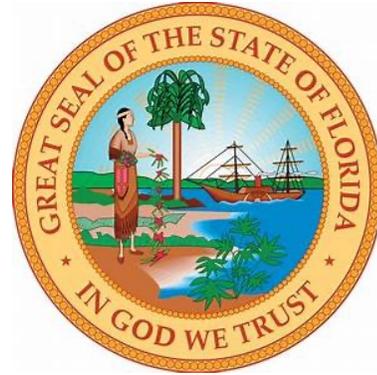
- **SB 192/HB 149 Students With Disabilities** It applies only to self-contained ESE classrooms. It is a 3 year Broward County pilot program where district will provide the cameras upon written request of parent of a student in the classroom. Camera captures audio and video including any room attached to the self-contained classroom, except restroom and ESE gifted classrooms. This bill passed and will be law July 1, 2021
- **HB 489 Student ID Cards** this was the bill that required certain safety info on back of Student ID Cards, this bill failed in committee
- **SB 90 Elections** this bill makes huge changes to current law and will undoubtedly make it harder for Floridians to cast their ballot, with a disproportionate impact on elderly voters, voters with disabilities, students and communities of color.

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- **HB 99 Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors on Public K-20 Campuses** This bill provided the use of Epi Pens in schools and requiring one on each campus. This bill died in committee
- **HB 167 Requiring Safe Storage of Fire Arms** this was the bill that required certain safety requirements in storing firearms in the home, this bill died in committee
- **SB 1610 Administrator and Instructional Personnel Salaries** this bill revised the teacher salary increase allocation to include additional instructional personnel and provided the district school boards to provide salary adjustments related to performance for certain personnel. This bill died in committee

The sole focus of this special session will be addressing a gaming compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. This compact is expected to generate billions of dollars in new revenue. Historically, revenue from the Florida Lottery and gambling been used to provide funds for class size reduction in Florida's K-12 schools, Bright Futures Scholarships for college and university students, and other investments in education. It's important your legislators hear from you before they return to Tallahassee about the importance of using these funds for public education. We must raise our collective voices to fight for that revenue to be dedicated to Florida's students, educators, and public education.

SPECIAL
LEGISLATIVE
SESSION
WEEK OF
MAY 17th
2021



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