



Friday, February 17, 2012

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## IN THIS ISSUE OF THE INFORMER:

## OPI VIDEO UPDATE

- Tax Exemptions and Incentives Approved by the House
- OPI Resources
- Did You Know?

The House Office of Public Information (OPI) has updated its video library to include:

- [Chair Precourt's opening remarks on House Bill 7087](#)

To view the latest OPI videos, please visit the [Public Guide](#) page of the [House website](#).

## NOTEWORTHY

### House Passes Back to School Sales Tax Holiday

This week, Members passed [House Bill 737](#), which establishes a three day Back to School Sales Tax Holiday from August 3, 2012, to August 5, 2012. During the sales tax holiday, clothing, footwear, wallets and bags that cost \$75 or less, and school supplies that cost \$15 or less are exempt from the state sales tax and county discretionary sales surtaxes (commonly called local option sales taxes).

[OPI Pulse: Back to School Sales Tax Holiday](#)

[Full list of items included in the School Sales Tax Holiday](#)

### House Passes Legislation to Provide Tax Exemptions and Improve Incentive Programs

Also this week, Members of the Florida House of Representatives passed several bills that provide tax exemptions to Floridians and businesses, and enhance existing incentive programs to increase economic development in the state. Members approved [House Bill 7087](#), which modifies a number of economic development incentives in the state. The bill includes provisions that provide new or expanded sales tax exemptions for manufacturing and other industries; expand tax credits for community development entities; expand distributions of cigarette tax proceeds to further the development of biomedical and cancer research in the state; add two enterprise zones; increase the current corporate income tax exemption of net income from \$25,000 to \$50,000; and make changes to current entertainment industry tax incentives to increase film shooting days in Florida.

[OPI Pulse: Economic Development](#)

Representatives passed unanimously [House Joint Resolution 93](#) and [House Bill 95](#), both sponsored by Representative Harrison. House Joint Resolution 93 proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution authorizing the Legislature to provide homestead tax exemptions to the surviving spouse of a military veteran or first responder who died in the line of duty. House Bill 95 implements House Joint Resolution 93 by creating a new statutory provision and sets the requirements for the Fallen Heroes Family Tax Relief Act. House Joint Resolution 93, and House Bills 95, 737 and 7087 will be sent to the Florida Senate for its consideration.



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## NOTEWORTHY (cont'd)

### House Floor Action February 14-16, 2012

Members of the Florida House took up 62 bills this week. Of the 62 bills, Members passed 61 and temporarily postponed one. In addition, 48 bills were passed unanimously. There are many ways to stay up-to-date on the progress of bills you care about during Legislative Session. The House's Session Calendar, which is produced daily by the Florida House's Office of the Clerk, includes a full listing of which bills will be discussed during the coming session. For a full listing of the bills taken up this week during session, visit the House Calendars page.

[View the Florida House Calendar page](#)

In addition, you can find details on all bill actions on each individual bill page featured on the Florida House of Representatives website. Each bill page includes helpful resources like staff analysis of the bill, a listing of related bills, committee referrals and votes on the bill and a chamber vote history on the bill. The page also features a "Last Event" for each bill which notes the most recent action taken on the bill.

[Look up a bill with the Florida House's Bill Search](#)

## RESOURCES



### OPI Subscriber List

To stay up-to-date on actions of the House during the 2012 Legislative Session and throughout the year, be sure to sign up for the House Office of Public Information's subscriber list. You will receive documents like [OPI Pulse](#), [Session Guide](#) and other correspondence from the House. To receive OPI updates, visit the [Public Guide page](#) of the House website.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Planning to Visit the Capitol? Check Out the House Website First

The Additional Resources section on the homepage of the [House website](#) features helpful links for anyone planning to visit Florida's Capitol during session. The "Visiting the House" section includes information on navigating the Capitol, appearing before committee meetings and other helpful resources to guide you through the Legislative process.

To view the section, click the expand link at the bottom of the [homepage](#).



### Florida Redistricting Blog and Resource Site

As the Redistricting process continues, all materials, maps and information remain accessible on [www.floridaredistriicting.org](http://www.floridaredistriicting.org). With more than 10,000 hits this month, the Florida Redistricting site provides everything you need to stay current on the process. Visit today!