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# **Local & Federal Affairs Committee**

## **Action Packet**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Webster Hall (212 Knott)**

**Steve Crisafulli  
Speaker**

**Dennis K. Baxley  
Chair**

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

**Location:** Webster Hall (212 Knott)

### Summary:

#### Local & Federal Affairs Committee

*Wednesday February 17, 2016 09:00 am*

CS/CS/HB 785	Favorable	Yeas: 10	Nays: 2
CS/HB 1073	Favorable With Committee Substitute	Yeas: 13	Nays: 0
Amendment 358335	Adopted Without Objection		
HM 1191	Favorable	Yeas: 10	Nays: 2
HB 1265	Favorable	Yeas: 12	Nays: 0
CS/HB 1267	Favorable	Yeas: 14	Nays: 0
HB 1433	Favorable	Yeas: 10	Nays: 1

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:07:40PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

**Location:** Webster Hall (212 Knott)

**Attendance:**

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X		
Larry Ahern	X		
Doug Broxson	X		
Daniel Burgess, Jr.	X		
Daphne Campbell			X
Neil Combee	X		
Bobby DuBose	X		
Eric Eisnaugle	X		
Walter Hill	X		
Kristin Jacobs	X		
Debbie Mayfield	X		
Kionne McGhee			X
Sharon Pritchett	X		
Kevin Rader	X		
Lake Ray	X		
David Santiago	X		
Jimmie Smith	X		
Charles Van Zant	X		
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

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# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

CS/CS/HB 785 : St. Lucie County Fire District, St. Lucie County

Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Larry Ahern	X				
Doug Broxson	X				
Daniel Burgess, Jr.	X				
Daphne Campbell			X		
Neil Combee			X		
Bobby DuBose			X		
Eric Eisnaugle		X			
Walter Hill	X				
Kristin Jacobs	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Kionne McGhee			X		
Sharon Pritchett	X				
Kevin Rader	X				
Lake Ray			X		
David Santiago			X		
Jimmie Smith	X				
Charles Van Zant		X			
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 10</b>		<b>Total Nays: 2</b>			

### Appearances:

St. Lucie County Fire District, St. Lucie County

Buddy Emerson - Proponent

St. Lucie County Fire District

Fire Chief, St. Lucie County Fire District

5160 NW Milner Drive

Port St. Lucie Florida

Phone: (772) 621-3400

St. Lucie County Fire District, St. Lucie County

Kurt Vroman - Proponent

Florida Professional Fire Fighters & St. Lucie Professional Fire Fighters

9th District Vice President

345 W. Madison

Tallahassee Florida

Phone: (386) 235-6765

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# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

CS/HB 1073 : Military Support

Favorable With Committee Substitute

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Larry Ahern	X				
Doug Broxson	X				
Daniel Burgess, Jr.	X				
Daphne Campbell			X		
Neil Combee	X				
Bobby DuBose			X		
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Walter Hill	X				
Kristin Jacobs	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Kionne McGhee			X		
Sharon Pritchett	X				
Kevin Rader	X				
Lake Ray			X		
David Santiago			X		
Jimmie Smith	X				
Charles Van Zant	X				
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 13</b>		<b>Total Nays: 0</b>			

### CS/HB 1073 Amendments

#### Amendment 358335

Adopted Without Objection

#### Appearances:

##### Military Support

Courtney Barnard (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support

Florida Apartment Assn.  
Government Affairs Director  
105 E. Robinson Ste. 301  
Orlando Florida 32804  
Phone: (407) 284-8538

##### Military Support

Marty Bowen (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support

Military Families  
108 E. Jefferson  
Tallahassee Florida  
Phone: (850) 228-3904

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:07:40PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

HM 1191 : Regulation Freedom Amendment

Favorable

	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>No Vote</i>	<i>Absentee Yea</i>	<i>Absentee Nay</i>
Larry Ahern	X				
Doug Broxson	X				
Daniel Burgess, Jr.	X				
Daphne Campbell			X		
Neil Combee			X		
Bobby DuBose			X		
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Walter Hill	X				
Kristin Jacobs	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Kionne McGhee			X		
Sharon Pritchett		X			
Kevin Rader		X			
Lake Ray			X		
David Santiago			X		
Jimmie Smith	X				
Charles Van Zant	X				
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 10</b>		<b>Total Nays: 2</b>			

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:07:40PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

HB 1265 : Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Collier County

Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Larry Ahern	X				
Doug Broxson			X		
Daniel Burgess, Jr.			X		
Daphne Campbell			X		
Neil Combee	X				
Bobby DuBose	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Walter Hill	X				
Kristin Jacobs	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Kionne McGhee			X		
Sharon Pritchett	X				
Kevin Rader			X		
Lake Ray	X				
David Santiago			X		
Jimmie Smith	X				
Charles Van Zant	X				
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 12</b>		<b>Total Nays: 0</b>			

### Appearances:

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Collier County

Kingman Schuldt - Proponent

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

Fire Chief

14575 Collier Blvd.

Naples Florida 34119

Phone: (239) 348-7540

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 2:07:40PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

CS/HB 1267 : Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Collier County

Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Larry Ahern	X				
Doug Broxson			X		
Daniel Burgess, Jr.	X				
Daphne Campbell			X		
Neil Combee	X				
Bobby DuBose	X				
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Walter Hill	X				
Kristin Jacobs	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Kionne McGhee			X		
Sharon Pritchett	X				
Kevin Rader	X				
Lake Ray	X				
David Santiago			X		
Jimmie Smith	X				
Charles Van Zant	X				
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 14</b>		<b>Total Nays: 0</b>			

### Appearances:

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Collier County

Kingman Schuldt - Proponent

Greater Naples Fire Rescue District

Fire Chief

14575 Collier Blvd.

Naples Florida 34119

Phone: (239) 348-7540

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# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Local & Federal Affairs Committee

2/17/2016 9:00:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

HB 1433 : Martin County

Favorable

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Larry Ahern	X				
Doug Broxson	X				
Daniel Burgess, Jr.	X				
Daphne Campbell			X		
Neil Combee			X		
Bobby DuBose			X		
Eric Eisnaugle	X				
Walter Hill	X				
Kristin Jacobs	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Kionne McGhee			X		
Sharon Pritchett	X				
Kevin Rader	X				
Lake Ray			X		
David Santiago			X		
Jimmie Smith			X		
Charles Van Zant		X			
Dennis Baxley (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 10</b>		<b>Total Nays: 1</b>			

### Appearances:

Martin County

Carol Bracy (Lobbyist) - Proponent

Martin County Board of County Commissioners

2401 SE Monterey Rd

Stuart Florida 34996

Phone: (850) 577-0444

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Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Local & Federal Affairs  
 2 Committee  
 3 Representative Van Zant offered the following:

**Amendment**

6 Remove line 19 and insert:  
 7 defined in s. 250.01, within 7 days after submission and must,  
 8 within those 7 days, notify the servicemember in writing of an  
 9 application approval or denial and the reason for any denial.

10 Absent a

11 Remove line 31 and insert:  
 12 defined in s. 250.01, within 7 days after submission and must,  
 13 within those 7 days, notify the servicemember in writing of an  
 14 application approval or denial and the reason for any denial.

15 Absent a

As you are aware, the St. Lucie County Fire District is pursuing a change to its Charter (HB 785) and has garnered the support of our Local Legislative delegation and each Committee of the Legislature that has heard it. The merits of the proposal are both reasonable and sound, but I have provided a summary of actions that address the concerns raised in our conference call.

- The District's borrowing power has not been addressed in 20 years. An adjustment is long overdue to proportional recognize the cost of equipment and capital items as compared to the current budget. The \$1.5 million value established in 1996 was approximately 10 percent of the District's \$17 million budget. The proposed Charter change keeps the same ratio – 10 percent of the District's operating budget (or \$6.5 million of our \$65 million budget). **As a measure of control, the 10 percent ratio is established in the proposed language as a maximum cap. Additional control measures include requiring a supermajority vote of the Fire Board of Commissioners to use that borrowing power and a restriction that prohibits borrowing for operational expenses (salaries, benefits, staffing, etc.).**
- The costs for fire engines have nearly doubled in the past 20 years. **The District is currently working to re-implement a viable Vehicle Replacement Plan and Capital Improvement Plan that the increased borrowing authority would facilitate.** This bill is specifically about planning for the needs of our community to provide for:
  - The replacement of 42 pieces of frontline apparatus including fire engines and rescue trucks over the next 5 years. **Those replacement costs total \$13 million.**
  - The replacement of 2 existing fire stations built in the 1970's that have exceeded their useful service life. **Those replacement costs total \$5 million. One of those stations is situated on the busiest 6 lane roadway in Port St. Lucie and stopping east and west bound traffic to back into the station is unsafe for our firefighters and residents.**
  - **Because the District is at its current millage cap, any debt service from the use of the increased borrowing authority would be allocated from current Ad Valorem revenues.**

**The attached vehicle replacement plan provides the year of manufacture of the vehicles needing replacement.** Some are nearly 20 years old and must be replaced for the safety of our residents and visitors. Yet under the current Charter we have insufficient borrowing authority to replace more than 2 fire engines. **In addition to being detrimental to the community in terms of emergency response, the inability to provide for equipment replacement could substantial effect the fire insurance premium rates of St. Lucie County taxpayers.**

- The District's current Insurance Services Office (ISO)/ Public Protection Classification rating is a 3 on a 10 scale (1 being the best and 10 being the worst). The District was last graded in 2010 and received a score of 70.99 – a score below 70 would drop the PPC rating. **The inability to replace one or more of our frontline engines or quints could cost the average taxpayer between \$200 and \$2000 annually depending on the value of their home – a reversal of what we achieved in 2010.**
- **The District will be re-evaluated by ISO in late August of 2016.**
- The need to address our borrowing authority has been created by increased demand for Fire and Emergency Services over the last 20 years. **Our calls for service (48,022 in 2015) have been increasing at an annual average of 4.8 percent per year for the last 24 years.** During that same span, our population has gone from roughly 180,000 residents to 290,000.

In short, the proposed changes represent a reasonable approach to address the Fire District's need for realistic and proportionate borrowing authority, in order to maintain quality fire and emergency medical services to our residents and visitors. Sufficient controls have been included to protect the taxpayers interests and fulfill our local government's fiduciary obligations. We are not asking for an open checkbook or rampant spending increases. We are asking for prudent assistance in our planning efforts to meet our community's needs. Based on the above, the Fire District would genuinely appreciate your support and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Buddy Emerson, Fire Chief

cc: Chairman and Honorable Members of SLCFD Fire Board  
Ken Crooks, District Attorney  
Karen Russell, Clerk/Treasurer