

Florida Solar Energy Industries Association

2018 Session Report

Week 6

February 16, 2018

The 2018 Legislative Session completed six weeks of hearing bills and passing different House and Senate versions of a proposed state budget. Bills not heard by at least one committee by this time, and missing a companion bill, are likely dead. Unfortunately, this includes all the renewable energy and solar bills.

That said, there is still opportunity for bartering in the weeks to come, especially considering the Legislature recently learned of a \$461 Million windfall in the budget. The extra monies should help with budget negotiations even though the House and Senate remain at odds over the internal categories of healthcare, affordable housing, higher education, and K-12 education. It is anticipated that budget conferencing will begin towards the middle or end of Week 7.

In other Capitol happenings, Speaker Richard Corcoran, Republican candidate for Governor, took part in a debate with Democratic opponent Andrew Gillum of Tallahassee. The topic of the debate was sanctuary cities. Further, negotiations have continued between chambers on expanded gambling measures, including fantasy sports and the compact with the Seminole Tribe.

Sadly, in large part, Week 6 was overshadowed by the mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. As a result, cries for gun control and mental health awareness have been renewed. Several of the open carry bills set to be heard this week were consequently tabled.

While all the renewable energy and solar-related measures have officially passed away, we continue to keep a vigilant eye open for amendment opportunities and will continue to keep you apprised over the remaining weeks.

In the meantime, Tesla is making news with their utility scale solar battery advances. Here are a few of the news links:

<https://phys.org/news/2018-02-tesla-australia-homes-power.html>

<https://techxplore.com/news/2017-12-tesla-enormous-battery-amazes-quick.html>

<https://electrek.co/2018/02/15/tesla-deploy-powerpack-battery-ny-largest-electric-utility/>

<http://theweek.com/speedreads/740735/elon-musk-just-built-battery-size-football-field-less-than-100-days>

<https://www.independent.ie/business/world/musks-tesla-sets-new-battery-record-but-its-about-to-be-broken-36372057.html>