

Florida Police Chiefs Association

Legislative Model

*Adopted by the FPCA Board of Directors
September 25, 2008 in Orlando, Florida*

The legislative model can be followed with the appropriate modification for a voice to elective officials on the Federal, State and Local level. The model presented in this document is applicable to the legislative activities of the elected officials who determine the governance of the State of Florida.

Philosophy: To provide the members of the Florida Police Chiefs Association with a voice to the appropriate legislative environment in matters impacting the safety and security of the citizens of Florida.

Methodology: The following steps and responsibilities take place which will result in a coordinated and effective delivery of the Florida Police Chiefs Association voice in legislative matters to Florida's Elected State Officials.

- The Officers of the Association and members through their respective District Directors will review existing statutes or emerging safety issues. The Executive Officers and District Directors determine at the fall meeting of the Executive Officers and Board of Directors the Associations Legislative priorities. The Legislative Chair is then tasked with developing action plans to meet these priorities and formulate the legislative priorities report that will be communicated with the members on the website and at the general meeting of the Winter Conference.
- The Legislative Committee will craft bills to create or modify legislation with the assistance of the Lobbyist. The Lobbyist, Legislative Chair, Executive Director and President will develop a strategy to identify Legislators to sponsor the bills during the month of October.
- As other bills are introduced the Association's Lobbyist and Legislative Chair will review them. They then communicate to the Executive Officers a position recommendation to 1) Support 2) Oppose 3) Neutral. The Associations position will then be entered by way of an on-line subscription service like "Lobby Tools". Support and Opposition positions require a justification in a format as determined by the President.
- The Association's bills and any bills that the Association takes a position will be tracked by the Lobbyist and progress reports will be made to the Legislative Chair, Executive Director and Association President.
- The Association's position on bills can be expressed using the following:
 - Entries made to the "Lobby Tools" on-line website.
 - FPCA's policy drafted in a position statement via adoption of resolution that shall be distributed to the appropriate FPCA decision makers, who may direct such resolutions to designated Elected Officials and/or media.

- Formal position or white papers supporting or opposing bills drafted at the direction of the Association's President and signed by the Executive Director. Distribution of the paper will be determined by the President.
- Relationship bridge building.
 - The President, Executive Director, Lobbyist and Legislative Committee Chair will schedule visits with the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President and/or their senior staff and key legislative committee staffs.
 - A letter of introduction will be drafted by the Executive Director for each District Director's signature. The letter will introduce the Director and express the Association's proposal (intention/desire?) to work with the Elected Official on matters of safety and security for the citizens in their district. The letter will also contain the offer to contact the FPCA District Director directly to provide assistance on matters pertaining to law enforcement on pending legislation. If a local elected official is a Committee Chair or Vice Chair, the District Director and local Chief(s) should call on that official and offer assistance. Elected officials who are bill sponsors should be visited or called by a local Chief(s) and advised of our position on the bill.
- Roles and responsibilities
 - President
 - To provide leadership in legislative matters.
 - To assign work and final approval of legislative actions.
 - Represent the Association in relationships with the Governor and Speaker of the House and President of the Senate
 - Executive Director
 - To have a recognized presence with State legislative members, their immediate staff and pertinent legislative committee staff in Tallahassee as the representative of the FPCA.
 - Publish and sign position papers that will be sent to elected officials and media.
 - Schedule and coordinate legislative days for the Executive Officers, District Directors and Legislative Committee.
 - Role of Executive Board
 - To provide counsel and feedback to the President on legislative matters.
 - Review bills that are of concern or supported by FPCA.
 - Commit to attending a specified number of days in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session.
 - Visit elected officials during the session who have bills that the Association proffers and also officials who have placed bills that the Association supports or oppose.
 - Role of District Directors
 - Contact and develop a relationship with elected state office holders within the Director's District.

- Commit to attending a specified number of days in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session.
- Visit elected officials in their district with the local Chief in person or by phone during the session who have bills that the Association proffers and also officials who have placed bills that the Association supports or oppose.
- Solicit input and feedback from members through local Chiefs Associations within their respective District concerning legislative matters.
- Role of Legislative Chair
 - Manage the legislative committee's work and meetings.
 - Work with the Association Lobbyist. Attend meetings representing the Association with the Governor and President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.
 - Commit to attending a specified number of days in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session.
 - Visit elected officials during the session who have bills that the Association proffers and also officials who have placed bills that the Association supports or oppose.
- Role of Legislative Committee Members
 - Attend legislative committee meetings.
 - Solicit input and feedback from Chief's through local Chiefs Associations within their respective District concerning legislative matters.
 - Commit to attending a specified number of days in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session.
 - Visit elected officials during the session who have bills that the Association proffers and also officials who have placed bills that the Association supports or oppose.
 - Role of Local Chiefs Associations Encourage participation and exchanges of ideas with local State Legislators by inviting them to speak at meetings.
 - Encourage membership involvement in the legislative process of the Association.
 - Establish a Legislative Chair and committee to provide communications with FPCA.
 - Look to offer the involvement of a local Chief as a member of the Legislative Committee of FPCA.
- Role of FPCA members
 - Provide input and to local Chiefs Associations within their respective District concerning legislative matters.
 - Consider attending a specified number of days in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session.

- Visit local elected officials during the session who have bills that the Association proffers and also officials who have placed bills that the Association supports or oppose.
 - Consider the Legislative Chair position in the local Chiefs Association.
- Role of the Lobbyist
 - Advise the President, Executive Board and Executive Director concerning legislative issues that the Association supports or opposes.
 - Assist in the development of training for the Executive Board and Board of Directors on lobbying techniques – do's and don'ts of the legislative processes.
 - Track bills and report their progress to the Executive Board, Directors and Legislative Chair.
 - Help craft bills and amendments.
 - Identify and initiate contact with legislators who may sponsor FPCA's legislative bills.
 - Coordinate meetings between the Legislature, legislative committee staff and Executive Agency officials and respective staff and FPCA's leadership.
 - Accompany Chiefs at the Capital for visits and committee testimony by the Chief to include briefing on issues during the session.
 - Build relationships with legislators on behalf of the Association.
- Commitment of the Association
 - To provide training to the Associations elected officers on legislative matters.
 - To provide training to existing members on legislative matters.
 - Mandate new member orientation to include the legislative process and the Associations Legislative Model.
 - Coordinate and provide housing, a portion of travel and food substance for members committed to attend during the legislative session by way of an open purchase order with a hotel and per diem and travel stipends as approved by the Executive Board and Board of Directors.
 - Coordinate attendance schedules for Chiefs during the Legislative Session.

Schedule of Activities

1. Review of existing legislation impacting law enforcement following the Legislative Session by the end of September.
2. Publish the Associations Legislative Agenda for the following Legislative Session.
3. Bill crafting.
4. Communication with FPCA members at the Winter Conference.
5. Communicate the FPCA's legislative agenda in writing and through visits to the Governor and Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.
6. Communicate with legislators prior to their attendance and during the Legislative Session.
7. Attendance of members during the Legislative Session to visit legislators concerning bills the Association supports or opposes. And to testify before committees.
8. Continual report to the Executive Board and Directors by the Association Lobbyist during the Legislative Session concerning bills supported or opposed.
9. Report submitted to the Executive Board and Directors by the Legislative Chair in concert with the Lobbyist concerning the legislative results of bills supported or opposed by the FPCA.
10. Preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session with stated goals and activities.