

# **EMERGENT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.**

## **Legislative Update**

**December 3, 2008**

### **1. SPECIAL SESSION**

The feeling in Tallahassee is that a special session is not likely. Usually, before a Special Session is called, there is some agreement on the proposed outcome. While everyone agrees that there will be a significant shortfall for this year, there is not yet agreement on the possible next steps to balance the budget.

### **2. REVENUE ESTIMATING**

The Revenue Estimating Conference has met and shared bleak news with Florida leaders. Chief Legislative Economist, Amy Baker indicated that the state is \$2.1 billion short of expected and budgeted revenue for the current year. She also indicated that the economy may not turn around for 2 years. Education leaders have suggested that districts may receive less money in the Base Student Allocation than they received in the 2006-07 school year. We would expect that discussions will include both cutting the budget as well as seeking new sources of revenue.

### **3. SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES**

Committee structure and membership are currently being released. We are pleased that Senator Steve Wise will Chair the Senate K-12 Education Appropriations Committee. He will also be a member of the Senate K-12 Education Committee. (Senate Education K-12 will have their first meeting on December 10, 2008, from 9:00-11:00am in Senate Room 301.) We will send out a complete Education Committee for both the House and the Senate as soon as they are released.

#### **4. COMMITTEE WEEKS**

Proposed Senate Interim Committee Schedule

December 8-12

January 5-9

January 12-16

February 2-6

February 9-13

February 16-20

Proposed House Interim Committee Schedule

December 15-18

January 5-8

January 12-15

February 2-5

February 9-12

February 16-20

The first day of the 2009 Regular Session is March 3, 2009

#### **5. Education Bills filed as of December 1**

HB 0003	Relates to athletic coaches
HB 0011	Cigarette uses fees
HB 0013	Social Studies in the FCAT
HB 0017	Student non-traditional options for graduation
HB 0019	Deletes abstinence as part of instruction in human sexuality
HB 0012	Childhood vaccinations

#### **6. SENATE SELECT PANEL**

Today, Senate President Jeff Atwater named a select panel to analyze the Florida Budget and Economy and make recommendations for legislation and Constitutional amendments to jump start the economy. Named were; Senators Gaetz (Chair), Ring, Alexander, Haridopolis, King, Pruitt, Bennett, Gelber, Sobel, and Hill.