

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

House Bill 1149 and Senate Bill 1612: Mandatory Regulation of the Paralegal Profession

By now, each of you should have received a copy of PAF's News Release regarding the House and Senate Bills that were filed this Session by the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations. Since the date of the News Release, PAF has sent a letter to the sponsors of each Bill outlining its position regarding the proposed regulation. A copy of the letters are attached to this Notice.

As of the time of writing this Update, there are now 5,137 Florida Registered Paralegals. This is truly a monumental achievement demonstrating the commitment to the FRP program. As monumental as it is, we have not reached the end of our journey!

For the reasons set forth in the News Release, PAF once again asks each of you to take a few moments to *pick up the "proverbial pen"* and write a letter or send an email to the sponsors of the Bills expressing your concerns over the pending legislation. The Session moves very quickly and time is of the essence....the House Bill has already been referred to three Sub-Committees.

In order to assist in making this task easier, attached is a contact list containing the names and email addresses for each Bill sponsor, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Sub-Committees, and for The Bar's FRP Committee. You do not need to send a separate email to each person - one email to EVERYONE on the list is sufficient. **Please be sure to include the House and Senate bill numbers and a "yes" or "no" in the subject line of your email in order to assist the legislative staff (ie., "Say NO to HB 1149 and SB 1612 - Paralegal Regulation).**

While PAF's position on the need for mandatory regulation has NOT changed, we do not believe the proposed legislation, as written, provides for a comprehensive regulatory plan and may even jeopardize the first Bar-conferred credential, the FRP.

Thank you to each and every member of PAF.

The Standard for the Paralegal Profession