



Florida Credit Union League
NEWS RELEASE

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CREDIT UNION REVISION BILL MOVES FORWARD WITH STRONG CREDIT UNION PRESENCE

Tallahassee—With more than 75 credit union volunteers and staff in attendance, the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance unanimously approved a bill that would update portions of Florida's Credit Union Act to conform with the Federal Credit Union Act. The bill, which is the product of months of work and examination by the committee's staff, representatives of the Florida Office of Financial Institutions and the Florida Credit Union Task Force, a subcommittee of FCUL's Government Affairs Committee, had already been approved unanimously by the House Economic Development, Trade and Banking Committee last week.

The committee heard only one speaker, Alex Sanchez, CEO of the Florida Bankers Association. Sanchez testified that the section of the bill dealing with membership requirements was too broad and would lead to "explosive" growth of credit unions. Sanchez said that credit unions were expanding "way beyond their original purposes." He suggested that the Florida Legislature make a stand, similar to what the Utah Legislature has already done, and say "enough is enough."

Senator Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach), the sponsor of the bill, reminded his fellow senators that the bill in question (SB 1330) simply conforms state law to Federal law. Otherwise, said Sen. Atwater, state credit unions would be at a disadvantage with their federal counterparts. Atwater stated that the bill was a months long effort to modernize the statutes and advances no new concepts.

The FBA's Sanchez also took the occasion to attack credit unions for business lending, even holding up a picture of a credit union billboard along Interstate 4 that advertises the credit union's willingness to make business loans. Sanchez said that if credit unions were allowed to grow in this manner that by the end of the decade total credit union assets in the United States would exceed \$1 trillion.

Committee Chairman Sen. Rudy Garcia (R-Hialeah) noted the huge turnout of credit union supporters of the bill, unusual for a bill so technical in nature.

Following the committee's unanimous vote to send the bill to the floor, the credit union contingent got up to exit the room, which because of their sheer numbers, caused a slight delay to the committee taking up the remainder of its agenda.

The large contingent of credit union staff and volunteers was possible because the Florida Credit Union League is holding its annual Legislative Summit this week. A record number of credit union attendees are attending this year, more than 100. Following the committee meeting, the attendees dispersed throughout the state capitol to meet individually with legislators and their staffs.