



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Dwight M. Bullard

District 118

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 9, 2009**

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REPRESENTATIVE DWIGHT BULLARD INTRODUCES HB 731, PENNY TAX BILL

TALLAHASSEE --- State Representative Dwight Bullard (D-Miami) issued the following statement regarding HB 731, the Penny-Tax Bill.

Legislative leaders cut more than \$650 million from public schools, community colleges and universities during last month's special session on the budget. Most economic indicators predict further declines in the housing market and Florida's economy through 2012. Meanwhile, President Barack Obama has warned the nation that the economy may get worse before it gets better.

Article IX Section 1. (a) of Florida's Constitutions states, "The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida.' 'It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders.'" With these concerns in mind -- and to avoid additional cuts to Florida's public schools -- Representative Dwight M. Bullard has filed House Bill 731.

The measure imposes a one-cent increase in the state's sales tax for only the next three years to raise an estimated \$10.5 billion. Representative Bullard believes that this proposal is not a permanent solution to Florida's broken tax structure. Rather, he insists that it's a necessary first step toward beginning a debate in the Florida Legislature about long-term solutions to the economy. Representative Bullard says that it's essential that in this time of economic recovery, Florida must put crucial financial resources into public schools to help educators, and to give hope to students and families. Education and other vital state programs need our attention today.

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