

STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS CHAPTER HOT SHEET

An Official Publication of the State Correctional Officers Chapter of the Florida PBA

State Budget Cuts Pay by 2.0% for all with Base Pay of \$45,000 or more.

The long awaited compromise on state employees' salaries was finally reached on Sunday, May 3rd by the House and Senate Budget Chairmen. The result is a *slap in the face* for long-term and middle income employees – a *2% salary reduction for those earning more than \$45,000 a year base salary*. This proposal is designed to reduce salaries for right around a quarter of the state workforce (the original proposal cut salaries by 4% for anyone making over \$26,000, which is of no consolation if you are in this \$45,000 and above category). Budget negotiators did agree to avoid a health insurance premium increase on state workers for the coming fiscal year. **The official Bill reads:**

Effective July 1, 2009, the annual base rate of pay for each employee with an annual base rate in EXCESS of \$45,000 shall be reduced by 2 percent; however, in no instance shall the employee's annual base rate of pay be reduced below \$45,000 solely by implementation of the paragraph.

Note: CAD, overtime, uniform allowance, special teams pay, or training incentive pay is not part of your base pay.

The next step is for the full Legislature to receive the budget deal by Tuesday, May 5th for what is referred to as the 72 hour cooling off period. Then a final vote by the Legislature is scheduled for Friday, May 8th. Barring a major blowup between the two chambers, this budget will be the one sent to the Governor for final approval. Once it is in the Governor's hands, it is by no means a done deal. He has up to 14 days to make any deletions he sees fit through the line item vetoes.

Therefore starting today, every officer must start calling Governor Charlie Crist and request a line item veto.

The Florida PBA has already been in contact with the Governor's Office to voice our objections to this horrible budget and we will continue to keep the pressure on him to act, *but we need your help*.

Now, more than ever, we need you, your family and friends to contact Governor Charlie Crist. To reach him by phone, you may use our PBA Legislative Connection. Dial 1-800-733-3722, and during the message, dial ext. 8001. You will then be transferred to the Governor's Office. Or, you may e-mail the Governor at Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com. Tell him to veto the salary cuts! If the cut does not affect you, please show support for your fellow State Officers by contacting Governor Crist!