



Today at the Capitol for Tuesday, Oct. 23

October 23rd, 2012

CABINET:

The Department of Environmental Protection is scheduled to give the governor and Cabinet a rundown on the state's land holdings. The presentation comes as a growing number of lawmakers and state agencies including the Department of Agriculture, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and DEP say the state should consider selling off some parcels to private interests - which would presumably in many cases develop the sites - in order to purchase more strategic tracts. The panel will also review a proposal by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, which is seeking approval for a redesigned license plate. The Cabinet will also hear from Enterprise Florida on job growth and approve some rule changes regarding the administration of the Florida Retirement System. (9 a.m., Cabinet Room, The Capitol.)

PSC DIALS UP TELECOM FIGHT:

The Florida Public Service Commission will start hearing arguments in a dispute between Qwest Communications Co. and other telecommunications firms about what are known as "intrastate switched access services," which are an important part of being able to complete long-distance calls. (9:30 a.m., Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.)

DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS WORKGROUP:

A workgroup created by HB 5101 aimed at moving the state to digital textbooks holds a webinar and conference call today.

MEDICALLY NEEDY CHANGES DISCUSSED:

The state Agency for Health Care Administration and the Medical Care Advisory Committee will host a meeting about planned changes to the Medically Needy program, which provides coverage to people who have debilitating medical conditions but do not qualify for Medicaid. The changes are part of an overhaul of the Medicaid system that lawmakers approved in 2011. (1 p.m., Agency for Health Care Administration, 2727 Mahan Dr., Tallahassee.)

ELSEWHERE

GOOD BOY! THE 4TH AMENDMENT AND DRUG SNIFFING CANINES: As the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear two Florida cases on the Fourth Amendment and drug sniffing dogs, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers hosts a panel of privacy and search and seizure experts who ask whether the Fourth Amendment is going to the dogs. The Washington, D.C., panel discussion includes Tribune Company Supreme Court reporter David Savage, the Cato Institute's Jim Harper, the Electronic Privacy Information Center's Marc Rotenberg, lawyer Danielle Spinelli and lawyer Jeffrey Weiner of Miami, who is billed as a "dog sniff expert." (9 a.m., The National Press Club, 529 14 St., NW, 13th Floor, Washington.)

CAMPAIGNS

OBAMA CAMPAIGNS IN DELRAY: Waking up in Florida following Monday night's debate at Lynn University, President Obama starts his morning with a campaign event at the Delray Beach Tennis Center. The president is expected to give remarks at the event. (Doors open at 7 a.m., 200 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach.)

NELSON TOURS PANHANDLE: U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson makes campaign stops today in the Panhandle.

-11 a.m., Lunch with supporters, The Oaks, 4727 Hwy 90, Marianna.

-3 p.m., FSU Magnet Lab, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee.

-5:30 p.m., Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, 420 W. Washington St., Monticello.

MACK CAMPAIGNS WITH JOHN MCCAIN: U.S. Rep. Connie Mack, who is challenging Nelson, campaigns around Florida today with U.S. Sen. John McCain. Locations, however, haven't been announced.

WEBSTER TOURS BUSINESSES: Republican congressional candidate U.S. Rep. Dan Webster tours central Florida businesses.

-12:30 p.m., State Farm Operation Center, 7401 Cypress Gardens Blvd., Winter Haven.
-3 p.m., Manufacturing Summit with Custom Metal Designs, 921 W Oakland Ave.,
Oakland.