



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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Appropriations - Subcommittee on Transportation
and Economic Development
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and Spaceports
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Automobile Insurance/PIP Reform

SENATOR GARY SIPLIN

19th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2003

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STATE SENATOR GARY SIPLIN AND THE MAJICITY FOUNDATION HOSTS THE THIRD ANNUAL RESTORATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Orlando – Senator Gary Siplin, D-Orlando, and The Majicity Foundation are hosting **The Third Annual Restoration of Rights Workshop and Job Fair for ex-felons on April 19, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dr. J.R. Smith Center located at 1723 Bruton Boulevard.**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau there are 647,000 total felons in the state of Florida.

Over 4 million Americans are barred from voting and cannot get a good job or higher education because of a felony conviction, according to The Center for Policy Alternative.

“Many of these ex-felons have served their sentence, paid their price and completed probation,” Sen. Siplin said. “Since the criminal system is about rehabilitation and not punishment, these ex-felons should be allowed to: get their civil rights restored, vote, get a good job and a good education.”

The workshop and job fair will also offer ex-felons job opportunities from WorkForce and several other local businesses. Participants will be able to apply for restoration of their rights and for employment as well.

“This workshop is most needed now that the unemployment rate has begun to soar,” Sen. Siplin said.

The scheduled speakers are: The Parole Commission; Judge Arnold, Orange County Court; and Lydia Gardner, the Orange County Clerk of Court.

REPLY TO:

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Senate's Homepage: <http://www.flsenate.gov>

JAMES E. "JIM" KING, JR.
President

ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA
President Pro Tempore

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Under Florida law, the Department of Corrections (DOC) is required to help ex-felons navigate the clemency application process by obtaining, for each offender, the “necessary application and other forms required for the restoration of civil rights...”

The DOC has not been meeting this obligation. For this reason, Sen. Siplin has decided to help take control of the restoration process.

“The democratic process is apart of the American dream,” Sen. Siplin said. “The right to vote is what separates this country from so many others. It is what makes us free.”

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