



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR JOE NEGRON**  
*President*

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Senators  
Ms. Dawn Roberts, Senate General Counsel

**FROM:** Joe Negron, President *JN*

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of a Special Master

**DATE:** April 19, 2017

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Senator Benacquisto, Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules, has reviewed a complaint filed by Senator Thurston alleging that Senator Artiles violated the Senate Rules regulating legislative conduct. Senator Benacquisto has found that the complaint states facts supporting a finding of probable cause.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 1.43, the complaint has been referred to Senate General Counsel, Dawn Roberts, who will serve as the Special Master. Ms. Roberts is directed to conduct an investigation and present a report and recommendation to the Committee on Rules by the close of business on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

The complaint is attached for your reference. All parties involved in this incident are entitled to a fair, impartial and unbiased examination of the facts and a recommendation consistent with the current rules and historical precedent of this body. I encourage all Senators to be respectful of this important process and to refrain from participating in any activities that would jeopardize the impartiality of the ongoing investigation.