



## MEMORANDUM

TO: GREGORY J. ORAVEC, MAYOR  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
RUSS D. BLACKBURN, CITY MANAGER

THRU: JAMES D. STOKES, CITY ATTORNEY

FROM: ELLA M. GILBERT, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – COMMITTEE WEEK 4 SUMMARY  
(FEBRUARY 8-12)

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Enclosed herein is the 2021 Legislative Committee Week Four Summary (February 8-12). The Legislative update is provided by the Lobbyist as applicable to the Interim Committee Meeting Schedule. Additionally, please find the memo from Senator Wilton Simpson providing the 2021 Legislative Interim Committee Week dates.

Enclosure  
EG/nw

cc: Leadership Team

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City of Port St. Lucie  
**FROM:** GrayRobinson  
**DATE:** February 14, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** 2021 Legislative Session – Committee Week 4 Summary (February 8-12)

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**In Memoriam:** Before the hustle of this week begins, it's important to note that today is the third anniversary of the Parkland massacre, which claimed the lives of 14 students and 3 staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Our thoughts are with those who suffered loss that day and with all of Florida as we collectively mourn the anniversary of that unspeakable tragedy.

**Final Committee Week:** Tomorrow marks the beginning of the final committee week ahead of the 2021 Legislative Session in Tallahassee, and it promises to be the busiest one yet.

Numerous House budget subcommittees will meet to go over local budget requests, and the Joint Legislative Budget Commission will consider budget amendments from the Departments of Legal Affairs, Transportation, and Agriculture and Consumer Services.

**Look Back:** Last week, we saw a shakeup in the administration continue with Shane Strum leaving his position as chief of staff to the governor to become Broward Health's CEO. So far, Gov. Ron DeSantis has not announced who will replace Strum. According to news reports, leading candidates include Director of Legislative Affairs Stephanie Kopelousos, Deputy Chief of Staff Adrian Lukis, Budget Director (and GrayRobinson alum) Chris Spencer, and Department of Education Chief of Staff Alex Kelly.

News surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic continues with the state now reporting more than 1.8 million cases. However, daily new cases remained below the five-figure mark every day last week, and there have now been more than 2.5 million vaccine doses administered.

### **Activities on Behalf of Port St. Lucie**

#### **Appropriations Projects**

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GrayRobinson reached out to House committee staff to arrange for briefing meetings on our projects. We will keep you posted on these meetings. City staff are finalizing the Senate project forms for submission by Senator Harrell.

**Port St. Lucie Septic to Sewer Conversion Program** – HB 2123 – Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Committee.

**Port St. Lucie – St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Restoration Project (Areas 5 & 6)** – HB 2125 – Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

**Port St. Lucie – St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Restoration Project (Area 4)** – HB 2127 – Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

**Hegener Drive Extension Tradition Center for Commerce** – HB 2159 – Referred to Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

### **Bills of Interest**

**Combating Public Disorder – HB 1 (Fernandez-Barquin) and SB 484 (Burgess)**

#### Key Take Away

If passed, would increase several penalties for crimes committed in the course of a riot. Important to municipalities and counties, the legislation would provide an appeal mechanism for citizens to challenge a decrease in funding to the police department, as well waive sovereign immunity for municipalities that inhibit a local law enforcement's ability to protect citizens during a riot.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 6.

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee – Approved by vote 11-6 on January 27.

Justice Appropriations Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Judiciary Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 6.

Criminal Justice – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 – HB 7 (McClure) and SB 72 (Brandes)**

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Key Take Away

Provides requirements for civil action based on COVID-19-related claim; provides that plaintiff has burden of proof in such action; provides statute of limitations; provides retroactive applicability.

**House Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.**

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote 11-6 on January 13.  
Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Approved by vote of 11-6 on February 3.  
Judiciary Committee- **On Committee agenda for February 16.**

**Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.**

Judiciary – Approved by vote of 7-4 on January 25.  
Commerce and Tourism Committee – **On Committee agenda for February 15.**  
Rules – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** Passed first House Committee. Up in Senate during Week 2.

**Current Call to Action:** N/A.

**Internet Sales Tax Enforcement – SB 50 (Gruters) and HB 15 (Clemons)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would revise definitions for “retail sale” and “mail order sale” to capture internet sales, and thus enforce the sales tax on internet sales.

**House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 30, 2020.**

Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting Hearing  
Commerce – N/A

**Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 18, 2020.**

Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote 11-0 on January 25.  
Finance and Tax – **On Committee agenda for February 18.**  
Appropriations – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** Placed on Week 2 agenda in Senate.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Legal Notices – HB 35 (Fine)**

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Key Take Away

If passed, would provide for website publication of legal notices; provide criteria for such publication; authorize fiscally constrained county to use publicly accessible website to publish legally required advertisements & public notices; require governmental agency to provide specified notice to residents concerning alternative methods of receiving legal notices.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 7.

Civil Justice and Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 11-6 on February 3.

Judiciary Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**County and Municipal Code Enforcement – SB 60 (Bradley) and HB 883 (Overdorf)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit code inspectors designated by boards of county commissioners from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints; require persons who report potential violations of codes and ordinances to provide specified information to the board before an investigation occurs; prohibit code inspectors designated by governing bodies of municipalities from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 10. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 5.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 6-3 on February 2.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing – SB 268 (Perry) and HB 735 (Harding)**

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Key Take Away

If passed, would preempt licensing of occupations to state; provide exceptions; prohibit local governments from imposing or modifying certain licensing requirements; specify that certain local licensing may not be enforced; specify that certain specialty contractors are not required to register with Construction Industry Licensing Board; prohibit local governments from requiring certain specialty contractors to obtain license; specify job scopes for which local government may not require license; authorize counties & municipalities to issue certain journeyman licenses.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 3. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 14.

Regulated Industries – Awaiting hearing.

Community Affairs – N/A

Rules – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Local Licensing – HB 115 (Fabricio)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize individuals who hold valid, active local licenses to work within scope of such licenses in any local government jurisdiction without needing to meet additional licensing requirements; provide local governments have disciplinary jurisdiction over licensees; require local governments to forward any disciplinary orders to licensee's original licensing jurisdiction for further action; require DBPR to create & maintain local licensing information system.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 23.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Local Administration and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.

State Administration and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**State Housing Funds – SB 510 (Hooper) and HB 13 (Killebrew)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would protect Housing Trust funds by exempting State Housing Trust Fund & Local Government Housing Trust Fund from provision authorizing Legislature, in GAA, to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to Budget Stabilization Fund & General Revenue Fund

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed November 30.  
Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing.  
Appropriations Committee – N/A

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 8.  
Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 9-0 on February 2.  
Finance & Tax – **On Committee agenda for February 18.**  
Appropriations – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Building Design – HB 55 (Overdorf) and SB 284 (Perry)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide that regulations relating to building design elements may not be applied to residential dwellings unless they are historic properties; provides affected party may submit certain local government regulations to Florida Building Commission for review; provides for enforcement of such regulation.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed on December 10.  
Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – **Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on February 10.**  
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.  
Commerce – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed on January 11.  
Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing.  
Regulated Industries – N/A  
Rules – N/A

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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Growth Management – HB 59 (McClain) and SB 496 (Perry)**

Key Take Away

Requires local governments to include property rights element in their comprehensive plans; provides statement of rights that local government may use; requires local government to adopt property rights element by specified date; prohibits local government's property rights element from conflicting with statutorily provided statement of rights; provides that certain property owners are not required to consent to development agreement changes; prohibits municipality from annexing specified areas; requires DOT to afford right of first refusal to certain individuals; provides requirements & procedures for right of first refusal; authorizes certain developments of regional impact agreements to be amended.

**House Approval Milestones** – Filed on December 10, 2020.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 4.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – **On Committee agenda for February 17.**

State Affairs – N/A

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Filed on January 7.

Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing.

Judiciary – N/A

Rules – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** N/A.

**Supermajority Vote for Legislative Preemption – SB 540 (Farmer)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would put amendments to the State Constitution on 2022 general election ballot to require a supermajority of each house to approve a general law preempting a subject of legislation to the state, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.



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**Senate Approval Milestones** – Billed filed January 12.  
Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.  
Judiciary – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Reclaimed Water – SB 64 (Albritton) and HB 263 (Maggard)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would require certain domestic wastewater utilities to submit to the Department of Environmental Protection by a specified date a plan for eliminating nonbeneficial surface water discharge within a specified timeframe; require domestic wastewater utilities applying for permits for new or expanded surface water discharges to prepare a specified plan for eliminating nonbeneficial discharges as part of its permit application; provide that potable reuse is an alternative water supply and that projects relating to such reuse are eligible for alternative water supply funding; requiring counties, municipalities, and special districts to authorize graywater technologies under certain circumstances and to provide incentives for the implementation of such technologies, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 14.  
Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.  
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 14.  
Environment and Natural Resources –Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 4-0 on February 1.  
Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.  
Appropriations – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Local Government Fiscal Transparency - SB 154 (Diaz)**

Key Take Away

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If passed, would expand the scope of a Legislative Auditing Committee review to include compliance with local government fiscal transparency requirements; providing procedures for the Auditor General and local governments to comply with the local government fiscal transparency requirements; revising reporting requirements for certain local government economic development incentives; creating the “Local Government Fiscal Transparency Act”; requiring local governments to post certain voting record information on their websites, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 4.  
Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing.  
Finance and Tax – N/A  
Appropriations – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Prohibition of Public Funds for Lobbying by Local Governments– HB 215 (Sabatini)**

#### Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit local governments from using public funds to retain lobbyists; provide exceptions; provide sanctions for violations; authorizes people to file complaints with the Commission on Ethics; require commission to provide a report to specified entities; specifies procedures for disciplining violators.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 11.  
Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Awaiting Hearing.  
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee - N/A.  
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Home-based Business – SB 266 (Perry) and HB 403 (Giallombardo)**

#### Key Take Away

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If passed, would provide legislative findings and intent; specify conditions under which a business is considered a home-based business; authorize a home-based business to operate in a residential zone under certain circumstances; preempt to the state the ability to regulate or license home-based businesses; prohibit a local government from certain actions relating to the licensure and regulation of home-based businesses, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 25.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – On Committee agenda for February 18.  
Commerce Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed on December 14.

Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing  
Commerce and Tourism – N/A  
Rules – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing – HB 563 (Anthony Rodriguez) and SB 674 (Ana Maria Rodriguez)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize counties and municipalities to adopt ordinances to grant ad valorem tax exemptions to property owners whose properties are used for the governmental or public purpose of providing affordable housing to certain persons or families; specifying procedures in the event property is transferred for other purposes; specifying procedures in the event an exemption is improperly granted as a result of certain acts by the property appraiser, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 28. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 15.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.  
Finance and Tax – N/A.  
Appropriations – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

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### **Impact Fees – HB 337 (DiCeglie) and SB 750 (Gruters)**

#### Key Take Away

Specifies instances when local government or special district may collect impact fee; requires local governments & special districts to credit against collection of impact fee any contribution related to public facilities; provides annual limitations on impact fee increases; requires school districts to report specified items regarding impact fees; requires specified entities to file affidavit attesting that impact fees were appropriately collected & expended.

#### **House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 19.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

#### **Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 25.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Governmental Actions Affecting Private Property Rights – HB 421 (Tuck)**

#### Key Take Away

Revises notice of claim requirements for property owners; creates presumption that certain settlement offers protect public interest; specifies property owners retain option to have court determine awards of compensation; authorizes property owners to bring claims against governmental entities in certain circumstances; authorizes property owners to bring actions to declare prohibited exactions invalid; provides for resolution of disputes concerning comprehensive plan amendments under Florida Land Use & Environmental Dispute Resolution Act.

#### **House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 26.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.

Judiciary Committee- N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Taxation of Property Used for Agriculture Purposes – SB 516 (Rodriguez)**

#### Key Take Away

Specifying the methodology for the assessment of structures and equipment used in aquaculture; allowing a property owner to request removal of its agriculture classification if the tax assessed based on such methodology exceeds the tax assessed based on the value of the structures and equipment, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 11.

Agriculture – Awaiting Hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Transparency in Government Spending – SB 506 (Garcia) and HB 195 (Persons-Mulicka)**

#### Key Take Away

If passed, would require that a website maintained by the Department of Management Services include specified data on salary and benefits of executives, managerial personnel, and board members of certain organizations or entities receiving state funds, by a specified date; requiring such organizations and entities to provide salary and benefit data to the department on an annual basis; requiring any such organization or entity to post salary and benefit data on the organization's or entity's own website,

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 8.

Government Operations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 8.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Awaiting Hearing.

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Appropriations – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**North Lake Hospital District, Lake County – HB 257 (Sabatini)**

Key Take Away

Dissolves district; transfers assets, liabilities, & district responsibilities to board of county commissioners; provides for disposition of certain taxes.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 13.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means – N/A.

State Affairs – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Department of Transportation – SB 684 (Brandes) and HB 707 (Chaney)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would require the Department of Transportation to allow persons to purchase certain commuter passes for their motor vehicles; requiring that funds collected from the sale of the commuter passes be deposited in specified trust funds and used for the operation and maintenance of the Pinellas Bayway System; requiring the department or the enterprise, as appropriate, to use a specified portion of funds collected from the sale of commuter passes during a specified period of time for landscaping and beautification, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 2. No committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 15.

Transportation – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, & Economic Development – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Displacement of Private Waste Companies – HB 331 (McClure) and SB 694 (R. Rodrigues)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would require local governments to pay specified amount of compensation to displaced private waste companies at end of specified notice period; removes provision authorizing local governments to pay specified amount of compensation to private waste companies as alternative to delaying displacement for specified period; removes provision authorizing local governments & private waste companies to negotiate such compensation & notice.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 19.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee- N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 21.

Environment and Natural Resources – **On Committee Agenda for February 15.**

Community Affairs – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Medical Marijuana Public Employee Protection – HB 335 (Duran) and SB 692 (Polsky)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit employers from taking adverse personnel action against employees or applicants who are qualified patients using medical marijuana; requires employers to provide written notice of employee or applicant's right to explain positive test result for marijuana; provides procedures for if employee or applicant tests positive for marijuana; provides cause of action & damages.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 19.

Government Operations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – N/A.

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Appropriations Committee – N/A.  
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 21.  
Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Awaiting Hearing.  
Health Policy – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Alcoholic Beverage Licenses, Lake and Sumter Counties – HB 385 (Hage)**

#### Key Take Away

If passed, revises criteria for special alcoholic beverage licenses for certain entities operating within Lake & Sumter Counties; revises boundaries.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 22.  
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.  
Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – N/A.  
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Farming Operations – SB 88 (Brodeur)**

#### Key Take Away

If passed, prohibits farms from being held liable for certain claims for tort liability except under certain circumstances; providing a burden of proof; prohibiting nuisance actions from being filed against farm operations unless specified conditions are met; providing requirements for and limitations on damages; providing that plaintiffs who bring nuisance actions against farm operations are liable for certain costs and expenses under certain conditions, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.



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**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 25.  
Judiciary – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-1 on February 1.  
Environment and Natural Resources – **On Committee agenda for February 15.**  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Prohibited Governmental Transactions with Technology Companies and for Chinese Products – HB 439 (Fine) and SB 810 (Gruters)**

Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit agency or local governmental entity from purchasing any good made, or that contains specified percentage of parts that were produced, in China; prohibits agency or local governmental entity from purchasing any good or service made, sold, or provided by certain technology companies; provides that contract for purchase or provision of goods or services by agency or local governmental entity must include provision authorizing termination of such contract in certain circumstances.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 26.  
**Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Awaiting Hearing.**  
Government Operations Subcommittee – N/A.  
**State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.**  
**State Affairs Committee – N/A.**

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 26.  
Commerce and Tourism - Awaiting Hearing.  
Governmental Oversight and Accountability – N/A.  
Community Affairs – N/A.  
Appropriations – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Veterans Treatment Courts – SB 764 (Burgess)**

Key Take Away

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If passed, authorizes certain courts to create and administer veterans treatment courts for specified purposes; providing standards for admission into a veterans treatment court program; specifying eligibility requirements for participation in the program; revising eligibility for certain pretrial programs to include certain individuals eligible to participate in a veterans treatment court; specifying applicability of the act to participants in certain court programs in existence as of a specified date, etc.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 25.  
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security – Awaiting Hearing.  
Criminal Justice – N/A.  
Appropriations – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Retaliatory Conduct by Landlords – HB 603 (Truenow) and SB 290 (Baxley)**

#### Key Take Away

If passed, authorizes county legislative & governing bodies to create boards to investigate alleged retaliatory conduct by landlords; authorizes such boards to impose fines for retaliatory conduct by landlords.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 29. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 17, 2020.  
Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.  
Judiciary – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Tourism Marketing Entities – HB 675 (Plasencia) and SB 778 (Hooper)**

#### Key Take Away

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Authorizes Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation to carry forward unexpended state appropriations into succeeding fiscal years; abrogates repeal of provisions establishing Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, direct-support organization of Enterprise Florida, Inc., & Division of Tourism Marketing within Enterprise Florida.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 2. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 25.

Commerce and Tourism – **On Committee agenda for February 15.**

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A..

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Building Inspections – HB 667 (Mooney)**

#### Key Take Away

Requires certain counties & enforcement agencies allow requests for inspections to be submitted electronically; provides acceptable methods of electronic submission; authorizes enforcement agencies to perform virtual inspections; requires refund of fees in certain circumstances; requires surcharges be recalculated under certain conditions.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 1. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Private Docks – SB 994 (Brodeur)**

#### Key Take Away

Defining the term “private residential multi-family dock or pier”; providing that permits are not needed for the installation or construction of private residential multi-family docks or piers; authorizing general permits for the construction, alteration, and maintenance of private residential multi-family docks or piers.

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**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 2.  
Environment and Natural Resources – Awaiting hearing.  
Community Affairs – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Solar Electrical Generating Facilities – SB 1008 (Hutson) and HB 761 (Overdorf)**

#### Key Take Away

Providing that solar facilities are a permitted use in local government comprehensive plan agricultural land use categories and certain agricultural zoning districts; requiring solar facilities to comply with specified criteria; authorizing counties to adopt certain ordinances.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 3. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 2.  
Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing.  
Community Affairs – N/A.  
Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Department of Transportation – SB 1126 (Harrell)**

#### Key Take Away

Clarifies that the Department of Revenue is responsible for a certain transfer from the State Treasury to the General Revenue Fund of a portion of documentary stamp tax distributions credited to the State Transportation Trust Fund; deleting a requirement that the department provide space and video conference capability at each of the department's district offices as an alternative to physical appearance by a person requesting a hearing before the Commercial Motor Vehicle Review Board within the department; requiring the department, when proposing any project on the State Highway System which will close or modify an existing access to an abutting property owner, to provide notice to affected

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property owners, municipalities, and counties at least 180 days before the design phase of the project is completed.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 8. No Committee References yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Preemption on Restriction of Utility Services – SB 1128 (Hutson) and HB 919 (Tomkow)**

Key Take Away

Prohibiting municipalities, counties, special districts, or other political subdivisions from enacting or enforcing provisions or taking actions that restrict or prohibit property owners, tenants, or utility service customers from choosing their utility service from a utility service provider that serves the property, irrespective of the fuel source; retaining the right of municipalities to levy taxes on public services and to receive revenue from public utilities.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 10. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 8. No Committee References yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

**Florida Building Code – SB 1146 (Brodeur) and HB 401 (Fetterhoff)**

Key Take Away

Provides that assisting living facilities are exempt from certain compliance standards; authorizes substantially affected person to file petition with Florida Building Commission to review local government regulations; provides requirements for such petition; provides requirements for commission when considering petition; requires commission to issue nonbinding advisory opinion within specified timeframe; authorizes commission to issue errata to code; prohibits local government from requiring certain contracts for issuance of building permit; requires evaluation entities that meet certain criteria to comply with certain standards.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 25.

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Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.  
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.  
Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – N/A.  
Commerce Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 8. No Committee References yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **State Preemption of Energy Infrastructure Regulation – SB 856 (Hutson) and HB 839 (Fabricio)**

#### Key Take Away

Prohibits local government from regulating energy infrastructure; preempts such regulation to state.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 9. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed January 27.

Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing.

Community Affairs – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Local Government Ethics Reform – HB 853 (Sirois)**

#### Key Take Away

Provides contractual relationships held by business entities are deemed held by public officers or employees in certain situations; provides ethics training requirements; prohibits persons from voting or participating in official capacity on specified matters; requires certain persons to file disclosure; requires annual report by DFS.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 9. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Repeal of Developer Incentive Requirements – HB 6067 (Eskamani)**

#### Key Take Away

Removes provisions requiring counties & municipalities to provide incentives to fully offset costs of certain affordable housing contributions or linkage fees.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 9. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Juvenile Justice Programs and Detention – HB 885 (Plasencia) and SB 1166 (Brandes)**

#### Key Take Away

Creates Accountability & Program Support Program within DJJ; authorizes child to be placed in secure detention if child has willfully failed to appear after proper notice; requires that, before issuing an order to take child into custody, court make determinations based on information obtained from DJJ; requires each judicial circuit to develop specified plan in consultation with parties; requires DJJ to calculate annually & provide to each county that is not fiscally constrained county & that does not provide its own detention care for juveniles its annual percentage share of detention costs.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 10. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 9. No Committee References yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions – HB 889 (Borrero) and SB 1214 (Gruters)**

#### Key Take Away

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Specifies conditions under which exempt property, upon receipt of specified types of revenues, retains its exemption from ad valorem taxation.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 10. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 10. No Committee References yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Requests for Public Records – HB 913 (McClure) and SB 400 (Rodrigues)**

#### Key Take Away

Prohibits agency that receives request to inspect or copy record from responding to such request by filing action for declaratory relief against requester.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 10. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 28.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-0 on January 27.

Judiciary – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Communicable and Infectious Diseases – HB 949 (Fetterhoff)**

#### Key Take Away

Provides presumption to specified workers that impairment of health caused by infectious disease happened in line of duty; requires certain actions in order to be entitled to presumption; requires United States Food & Drug Administration to approve certain vaccines or immunizations.

**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 11. No Committee References yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.



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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Growth Management – SB 1274 (Perry)**

#### Key Take Away

Authorizing landowners with development orders existing before the incorporation of a municipality to elect to abandon such orders and develop the vested density and intensity contained therein under specified conditions; revising the required acreage thresholds under which a small scale development amendment may be adopted.

**House Approval Milestones** – No bill filed yet.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 12. No Committee References yet.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

**Current Call to Action:** No action needed at moment.

### **Summary of Committee Week Four (Feb. 8-12) and Preview of Week Five**

#### **Week in Review**

In case you missed it, here is an update on last week's legislation to watch:

**COVID Health Care Liability Protections Legislation** (PCB HHS1 21-01/[SB 74 by Sen. Brandes](#)) —The Senate Judiciary Committee approved SB 74 on a 6-4 vote. It now heads to the Senate Health Policy Committee.

**Dues and Uniform Assessments Legislation** ([SB 78 by Sen. Rodrigues](#)) —The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a 6-4 party-line vote. The bill now heads to the Senate Rules Committee.

**Vacation Rental Preemption Legislation** ([HB 219 by Rep. Fischer/SB 522 by Sen. Diaz](#)) — The House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee voted 10-7 to advance HB 219. Its next stop is the House Ways and Means Committee.

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**Cooperative Advertising Agreements Legislation** ([HB 73 by Rep. Tomkow/SB 1062 by Sen. Brodeur](#)) — HB 73 cleared the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on a 9-8 vote. It now heads to the House Commerce Committee.

**Vaccine Fraud Prevention Legislation** ([HB 9 by Rep. Zika](#)) — The House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Subcommittee voted unanimously in favor of HB 9. It now goes before the House Judiciary Committee.

**Building Design Legislation** ([HB 55 by Rep. Overdorf/SB 284 by Sen. Perry](#)) — The House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee approved HB 55 on a 12-5 vote. It now heads to the Local Administration and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

#### **Week Four Preview**

**COVID Business Liability Protections Legislation** ([HB 7 by Rep. McClure/SB 72 by Sen. Brandes](#)) This previously reported-on liability protection measure continues moving forward on the fast track of the Legislature.—The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee will hear SB 72 on Monday at 3:30 p.m. The House Judiciary Committee will hear HB 7 on Tuesday at 4 p.m. At this pace, both bills could be ready for final passage the first week of legislative session.

**Craft Distilleries Legislation** ([SB 46 by Sen. Hutson](#)) – The bill would raise the cap for the craft distillery designation from 75,000 to 250,000 gallons a year and allow distilleries to sell their products by the drink for on-site consumption in addition to selling sealed containers for off-site consumption. It would also allow craft distilleries to conduct tastings and sales at farmers' markets, festivals, or other similar events. The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee will hear SB 46 on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

**Resiliency Legislation** ([HB 315 by Rep. LaMarca/SB 514 by Sen. Rodrigues](#)) — The bills would establish the Office of Resiliency under the executive branch and set up a Sea Level Rise Task Force to study and make projections on sea-level rise. The chief resiliency officer, a gubernatorial appointee, would chair the nine-person task force while the chief science officer of the Department of Environmental Protection would serve as vice chair. The Senate President and House Speaker would each name one member. Representatives from the Department of Transportation, Division of Emergency Management, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Department of Economic Opportunity would make up the remainder of the commission. The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will hear SB 514 on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

**Right to Farm Legislation** ([SB 88 by Sen. Brodeur](#)) — The bill would expand Florida's Right to Farm Act by restricting the types of civil lawsuits that can be filed against farms and requiring that plaintiffs prove noncompliance with state or federal requirements to prevail. It would also apply

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those protections to farms in the “agritourism” industry. The bill does not yet have a House companion, but it is a priority of Senate President Simpson, who is also an egg farmer. The Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee will hear SB 88 on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

**Vacation Rental Preemption Legislation** ([HB 219 by Rep. Fischer](#)/[SB 522 by Sen. Diaz](#)) — The bills, similar but not identical, generally would preempt local ordinances regulating vacation rentals and set up a statewide regulatory framework for the industry, requiring platforms like Airbnb to collect and remit tourism taxes. In addition, property owners would have to display their vacation rental license, sales tax registration, and tourist development tax account numbers on site. Platforms would verify the license quarterly and delist any noncompliant property within 15 days. The bills would not supersede local ordinances enacted before June 1, 2011, or those less restrictive than state regulations. The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will hear SB 522 on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

**Beverage Law Legislation** ([SB 148 by Sen. Bradley](#)) — The bill would allow restaurants to continue selling alcoholic beverages to-go after the pandemic ends. Currently, the pandemic state of emergency declaration provides restaurants with the ability to sell to-go cocktails. The bill would require customers to purchase food alongside to-go and delivery drinks. The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will hear SB 148 on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

**Educational Scholarship Programs Legislation** ([SB 48 by Sen. Diaz](#)) — The bill would streamline the state’s K-12 scholarships by folding the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and Hope Scholarship into the Family Empowerment Scholarship and merging the McKay Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities and the Gardiner Scholarship Program into a new program called the McKay-Gardiner Scholarship Program. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will hear SB 48 on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

**Technology Transparency Legislation** — The House Commerce Committee will hold a workshop on draft legislation to create the Technology Transparency Act. The proposal, a priority of the governor, would impose a series of requirements on social media companies, such as Facebook and Twitter. The requirements include informing users of any change of terms of services; allowing people to opt-out of content algorithms; levying \$100,000 daily fines for “deplatforming” candidates for office; and creating a “cause of action” pathway for legal action from the attorney general or private citizens under the guise of deceptive and unfair practices. The committee will hold the workshop on Wednesday at 4 p.m.

**Online Retailers Sales Tax Legislation** ([HB 15 by Reprs. Clemons](#)/[SB 50 by Sen. Gruters](#)) – The bills, although not identical, would require online retailers that make more than \$100,000 in sales to collect and remit sales tax, whether or not they have a physical presence in the state. Currently, only retailers with a physical presence in Florida must collect sales tax, and buyers must send the Department of Revenue a check for the tax the retailer would have collected. However, few buyers

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send those payments. Past analyses estimate the change would increase state revenues by \$480 million. The Senate Finance and Tax Committee will hear SB 50 on Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Dues and Uniform Assessments Legislation** ([HB 947 by Rep. Plakon/SB 78 by Sen. Rodrigues](#)) – This controversial union-busting bill has a House companion (filed last week) and appears on path for a full Senate vote the first week of session. As the final stop before a floor vote, the Senate Rules Committee will take up SB 78 on Thursday at 9 a.m.

### **Federal Spotlight**

U.S. House committees speed through budget work

With a deadline of February 16, 12 House committees marked up legislation this week to apportion the \$1.9 trillion in COVID relief approved by the U.S. House and Senate. The individual bills would implement President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, delivering direct payments, grants, and access to credit to individuals, families, small businesses, and state and local government entities. Some highlights:

The **House Education and Labor Committee** approved \$130 billion to help K-12 schools reopen safely. (Separately, the Centers for Disease Control issued [new guidance for reopening schools safely](#) today.)

The **House Energy and Commerce Committee** approved \$7.6 billion for the Federal Communications Commission to support broadband Internet access for schools and libraries.

The **House Financial Services Committee** approved \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance and \$10 billion in homeownership assistance, most of which states, counties, and cities will distribute. They also voted to reestablish the State Small Business Credit Initiative originally created in 2008, allocating \$10 billion to the states to support up to \$100 billion in small business financing.

The **House Oversight and Reform Committee** approved \$195.3 billion in payments to states and the District of Columbia and \$130.2 billion in payments to cities, towns, and counties.

The **House Ways and Means Committee** approved \$593 billion in direct payments and tax credits to individuals and households. Individuals with income under \$75,000/year and couples with income under \$150,000 will receive payment of \$1,400 apiece; this amount will decrease as income increases, up to \$100,000 per individual or \$200,000 per couple; no one earning more than that will be eligible for payments.

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The House Education and Labor Committee also approved a new federal minimum wage of \$15/hour as part of its spending bill. This provision was not part of [S.Con.Res.5](#), the budget reconciliation agreement, and some have argued that the reconciliation process cannot include the provision since it is not explicitly a spending measure.

All of these bills go next to the U.S. House Budget Committee, which will consolidate them for action on the House floor. House and Senate Democratic leadership want to get a final bill to the president before many unemployment benefits expire on March 14.

To read more updates from our federal lobbying team, read last week's "On the Record with the Golden Apple" [here](#).

## **Current Bill Statistics**

Total Bills Filed: 2,115 (1,500 House; 625 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 971

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1,085,954,613

## **Schedule for Committee Weeks 4 and 5**

The Senate's schedule can be viewed at the following link:

Week 5:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-02-01%20161813.PDF>

The House's schedule can be viewed at the following link:

Week 5:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Interim&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Interim%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Interim%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20February%2015%20-%2019,%202021.pdf>

## **Preview of 2021 Legislative Session**

### **Key Dates**

The 2021 Legislative Session gavel-in on March 2, 2021.

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**Committee Week Schedule**

Week 5 – February 15-19



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON**  
*Republican President Designate*

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** Wilton Simpson  
**SUBJECT:** 2021 Interim Committee Meeting Schedule  
**DATE:** November 4, 2020

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In preparation for the 2021 Legislative Session, please be advised of the schedule for interim committee meetings:

- Monday, January 11 – Friday, January 15, 2021
- Monday, January 25 – Friday, January 29, 2021
- Monday, February 1 – Friday, February 5, 2021
- Monday, February 8 – Friday, February 12, 2021
- Monday, February 15 – Friday, February 19, 2021

The 2021 Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.