



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE

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: MAY 3, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – WEEK 9 SUMMARY (APRIL 26-30)

Enclosed herein is the 2021 Legislative Session Week 9 Summary (April 23-30). This is the last weekly Legislative update of the 2021 Regular Session provided by the Lobbyist and items may be discussed during the City Council Meeting as part as the Standing Agenda Item during the 2021 State Legislative Session.

Enclosure
EG/nw

cc: Leadership Team

MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Port St. Lucie
FROM: GrayRobinson
DATE: May 2, 2021
SUBJECT: 2021 Legislative Session – Week 9 Summary (April 26 - 30)

The traditional hankie drop signaling the 2021 Legislative Session has adjourned [*sine die*](#) occurred at 2:41 p.m. on Friday. This session, and the final week specifically, was anything but normal. The Legislature and those in the process dealt with new COVID procedures; the Governor approved a gaming compact for the first time since 2015 (not ultimately approved); the Senate Democrats ousted their leader Sen. Gary Farmer in the last week replacing him with [Sen. Lauren Book](#); and the House and Senate passed a [\\$101.5 billion budget](#), by a significant margin the largest in state history.

One normalcy in the final week was bills rapidly dying as the clock ticked down to sine die. Among the most noteworthy of the unresolved bills session was a rewrite of the state's data privacy laws. [House Bill 969/Senate Bill 1734](#), which would have allowed consumers to opt out of companies selling their personal data and would have required companies to disclose the data they collected and what they intended to do with it, died in the final days. Florida's business community was against the legislation, as they said it could have the unintended consequences of leading to massive class action lawsuits and carried with it a significant regulatory and implementation cost.

Now, all eyes turn to Governor Ron DeSantis to see what legislation he signs into law, and what he vetoes. Many of the bills heading to his desk priorities of his, and consistent with his agenda. From this point on (outside of the session), the Governor will have 15 days to act on bills once they are presented to him by the legislature. To date, he has [signed seven bills](#) into law, which includes the Right to Farm bill – a major priority of the Senate President - that he signed this past Thursday. On Friday, he was also presented with the Emergency Management bill, on which he has until May 15 to act.

House Speaker Chris Sprowls and Senate President Wilton Simpson have also called a [Special Session](#) for the week of May 17 to address the [2021 Gaming Compact](#). After months of

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negotiations, [Governor DeSantis](#) and the Seminole Tribe of Florida executed a historic 30-year gaming compact that will need to be ratified by the Legislature. The Special Session will give lawmakers more time to vet what is in the compact.

On the COVID front, the Governor extended the declared State of Emergency yet again by signing [Executive Order 21-94](#) on Tuesday. The extension is for another 60 days. The order stated, “The impact of COVID-19 poses a continuing threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the State of Florida and its residents.” However, the Governor hinted that this may be the last extension as his executive order noted the state should “prepare to resume non-emergency operations.”

All of [these](#), our [Federal Spotlight](#) and current [Session Statistics](#) are detailed below.

Activities on Behalf of Port St. Lucie

Appropriations Projects – Budget conference concluded on Monday with the budget hitting the desks of legislators on Tuesday at 12:06pm. That signaled the official countdown to *sine die*. The C-23 Water Quality Project (Phase 4) received full funding at \$1,024,862.

Port St. Lucie Septic to Sewer Conversion Program – HB 2123 and Senate #1952 – House Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Committee. Approved on March 11. This project did not receive funding.

Port St. Lucie – St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Restoration Project (Areas 5 & 6) – Senate #1958 and HB 2125 – Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee – Approved on March 3. This project did not receive funding.

Port St. Lucie – St. Lucie River/C-23 Water Quality Restoration Project (Area 4) – Senate #1957 and HB 2127 – Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. This funded at \$1,024,862 (Line 1607A). Congrats!

Hegener Drive Extension Tradition Center for Commerce – HB 2159 and Senate #2038 – Referred to House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. This project did not ultimately get funded.

Bills of Interest

Key Legislation Affecting Port St. Lucie

Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions – SB 2512 (PCB bill by Appropriations) and HB 5401 (Tomkow)

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Key Take Away

Revising and deleting distributions of the documentary stamp tax; providing that specified distributions may not be transferred to the General Revenue Fund; revising the purposes for which distributions may be made from the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 25.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 19-10 on March 31.
House Floor – Read Third time, substituted for SB 2512.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 26.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 12-8 on March 31.
Senate Floor – Enrolled.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate. Bill will be sent to Governor.

Emergency Management – HB 7047 (Leek) and SB 2006 (Burgess)

Key Take Away

Revises & creates emergency management provisions relating to transfer & expenditure of moneys in Emergency Preparedness & Response Fund; state comprehensive emergency management plan; statewide awareness & education programs; personal protection equipment; contracts with providers for care of persons with disabilities or limitations; duration of emergency orders & rules issued by Governor; agency disaster preparedness plans; agency & political subdivision spending plans; significant emergency orders; emergency mitigation studies; DOH public health emergency plan; collection & reporting & publication of information by State Health Officer; & functions of district medical examiners.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 24.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 22-2 on March 31.
Health & Human Services – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-0 on April 19.
House Floor – **Substituted for SB 2006.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security – Approved by vote of 5-2 on March 16.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 1.
Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 12-5 on April 6.

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Senate Floor – **Enrolled.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed and has been presented to the Governor. The Governor has until May 15 to act on it.

Tourist and Convention Development Taxes – HB 1429 (Avila) and SB 2008 (Diaz)

Key Take Away

Proposing changes to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) statute that would require a county to renew its existing TDT via referendum no later than July 1, 2026. If the TDT passed at that time, it would then have to be renewed every five (5) years thereafter via referendum. Any new pennies levied would also have to be approved via referendum.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on February 26.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 17-0 on March 15.

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 17-0 on March 22.

State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 21-2 on March 29.

House Floor – Passed by vote of 114-2, Received by Senate and referred to Appropriations.

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on March 2.

Community Affairs – Temporarily postponed on March 30 in Committee.

Finance and Tax – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill did not pass this session.

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.

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Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on February 10.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 3.

Commerce – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-5 on March 9.

House Floor – **Passed by vote of 89-24 and sent to Senate.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 11.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 16.

Regulated Industries – Passed by vote of 8-1 on March 23.

Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Combating Public Disorder – HB 1 (Fernandez-Barquin) and SB 484 (Burgess) - Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2021-006

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 & Public Safety Subcommittee – Approved by vote 11-6 on January 27.

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 10-5 on March 4.

Judiciary Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-7 on March 10.

House Floor –Enrolled.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 6.

Criminal Justice Committee – Awaiting hearing.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal & Civil Justice – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Senate Floor – House version passed by vote of 23-17 on April 15.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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Chances of Passage: The bill has passed and was signed into law by the Governor on April 19.

Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 – HB 7 (McClure) and SB 72 (Brandes) - Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2021-001, on March 29

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 – Passed by vote 11-6 on February 3.
Judiciary Committee - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-7 on February 16.
House Floor – Sent to Senate and Referred to Rules.

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.

Judiciary – Approved by vote 7-4 on January 25.
Commerce and Tourism Committee – Approved by vote of 7-4 on March 3.
Rules – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on March 11.
Senate Floor – Enrolled.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed, the Senate version was signed into law by the Governor on March 29.

Internet Sales Tax Enforcement – SB 50 (Gruters) and HB 15 (Clemons), Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2021-002

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. Amended to require certain amounts to be deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund during specified periods and to offset the Business Rent Tax through a reduction from 5.5 to 2.0%.

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

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 16-2 on March 11.
Commerce – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 23-0 on March 29.
House Floor – Substituted for SB 50.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 18, 2020.
Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote 11-0 on January 25.
Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 8-0 on February 18.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-0 on March 4.
Senate Floor - Enrolled.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed, the Senate version was signed into law by the Governor on April 19.

Legal Notices – HB 35 (Fine) and SB 402 (Rodrigues)

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 – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-4 on March 10.
House Floor – **Enrolled**.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 29.
Judiciary Committee – Passed March 22 by 8-3 vote.
Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 5-3 on April 16.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on April 19.
Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 35**.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate.

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

Key Take Away

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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 – Passed by vote of 7-1 on February 18.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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 – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 17.
State Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 20-3 on March 10.
House Floor- Enrolled.

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 7.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

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Judiciary – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15.
Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote 17-0 on March 25.
Senate Floor – Substituted for HB 59.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate. Bill will be sent to Governor.

Sovereign Immunity – HB 1129 (Fernandez-Barquin) and SB 1678 (Diaz)

Key Take Away

Increases statutory limits on liability for tort claims against state & its agencies & subdivisions to \$500,000 for a single claim and up to \$1 million for multiple claims; requires that limitations on tort liability be adjusted every year by specified indicator after specified date.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations Committee – N/A.

Judiciary Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 25.

Judiciary – Awaiting Hearing.

Community Affairs – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Farming Operations – SB 88 (Brodeur) and HB 1601 (Williamson) - Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2021-007

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 – Bill filed March 2.

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Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee –Committee Substitute by vote of 14-4 on March 17.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-4 on March 30.

Judiciary Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-2 on April 15.
House Floor – Substituted for SB 88.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Judiciary – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-1 on February 1.

Environment and Natural Resources – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 4-1 on February 15.

Rules – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 14-2 on March 4.

Senate Floor – Enrolled.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The Governor signed the bill into law on April 29.

Local Government Legislation

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.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 13-4 on March 9.

Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 16-1 on April 15.

State Affairs Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on March 29.

House Floor – Substituted for SB 60.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 5.

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

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Approved by vote of 4-1 on March 3.

Rules – Approved by vote of 11-4 on March 11.

Senate Floor – **Enrolled.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill passed in both the House and Senate.

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

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.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 13-4 on March 2.

Commerce Committee – Approved by vote of 19-5 on March 16.

House Floor- **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 14.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-1 on March 16.

Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 6-3 on March 30.

Rules – Passed by vote of 11-5 on April 6.

Senate Floor - **Substituted for HB 735.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill passed in both the House and Senate.

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

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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 – Withdrawn.

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.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.

Senate Approval Milestones – Billed filed January 12.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Judiciary – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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

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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 – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on March 3.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 15-0 on April 1.

State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 22-0 on April 6.

House Floor – Substituted for SB 64.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 14.

Environment and Natural Resources – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 4-0 on February 1.

Community Affairs – Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

Appropriations – Approved by vote of 18-0.

Senate Floor – Enrolled.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This bill will be sent to the Governor.

Local Government Fiscal Transparency - SB 154 (Diaz)

Key Take Away

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

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Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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

Key Take Away

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 – Approved by vote of 10-6 on February 18.
Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 14-8 on March 9.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 14.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 10.
Commerce and Tourism – Passed by vote of 9-2 on March 22.
Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 12-2 on April 14.
Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 403.**

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Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: The bill passed in both the House and Senate.

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.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 15.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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

Key Take Away

The bill provides that if a local government, school district, or special district impact fee increases not more than 25 percent above the current rate, the increase must be implemented in two equal annual increments. If a fee is increased between 25 and 50 percent above the current rate, the phase in is four equal installments. No impact fee increase may exceed 50 percent and an impact fee may not be increased more than once every four years. The bill provides an exception to these requirements if a local government, school district, or special district establishes the need for the increased impact fee pursuant to the rational nexus test. Additionally, an impact fee may not be increased

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retroactively for a previous or current fiscal or calendar year. The impact fee limitations must operate retrospectively to January 1, 2021.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 13-5.

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 15-2 on March 31.

State Affairs Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 12-8 on April 15.

House Floor – **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote 5-3 on March 24.

Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 6-2 on March 31.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-2 on April 15.

Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 337.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed both the House and the Senate.

Governmental Actions Affecting Private Property Rights – HB 421 (Tuck) and SB 1876 (Albritton)

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 – Approved by vote of 15-3 on March 4.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 15-2 on April 1.

Judiciary - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-5 on April 15.

House Floor – **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Judiciary - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-4 on March 22.

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Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 6-3 on March 30.
Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 10-6 on April 20.
Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 421.**

Weekly Roundup: House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Committee Substitute combines this bill with HB 1101.

Chances of Passage: The bill passed in both the House and the Senate.

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.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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 – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 14-1 on March 17.

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State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – Passed by vote 12-0 of on April 1.

State Affairs Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.
House Floor – Passed by 119-0, sent to Senate and referred to Rules.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 5-0 on March 17.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 20-0 on April 15.

Rules – Passed by vote of 15-0 on April 20.

Senate Floor – **Postponed on Second Reading.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 15.

Transportation – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 8-0 on March 10.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, & Economic Development – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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

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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 – Approved by vote of 14-4 on March 3.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute by vote of 14-0 on March 17.

State Affairs Committee - Passed by vote of 19-1 on March 24.

House Floor – **Substituted for SB 694.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 21.

Environment and Natural Resources – Passed by vote of 6-0 on February 15.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 30.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-3 on April 15.

Senate Floor – **Enrolled.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill passed in both the House and the Senate.

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.

Appropriations Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

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

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Veterans Treatment Courts – SB 764 (Burgess) and HB 7023 (Byrd)

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 – Bill filed March 10.

Judiciary – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 21-0 on March 29.

House Floor – **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 7-0 on March 16.

Criminal Justice – Committee Substitute approved by vote 8-0 on March 23.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 20-0 on April 19.

Senate Floor - **Substituted for HB 7023.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill passed in both the House and the Senate.

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.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 17, 2020.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Judiciary – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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

Key Take Away

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.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – N/A.

Appropriations Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Commerce and Tourism – Passed by vote of 10-1 on February 15.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development – Subcommittee Recommendation approved by vote of 10-0 on March 10.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Building Inspections – HB 667 (Mooney) and SB 1382 (Perry)

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.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 2.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on April 1.

Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 22-0 on April 14.

House Floor – **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.

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Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10.
Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 5-0 on March 31.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.
Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 667.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed in both the House and the Senate.

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.

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.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.
Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.
Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 2.

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Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing.
Community Affairs – N/A.
Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Department of Transportation – SB 1126 (Harrell) and HB 1385 (LaMarca)

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 16-0 on April 1.
Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on April 6.
Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 18-0 on April 15.
House Floor – **Substituted for SB 1126.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.

Transportation – Approved by vote of 7-0 on March 10.
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development – Committee Substitute approved by vote 10-0 on March 24.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on April 15.
Senate Floor – **Enrolled.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Bill has passed both House and Senate.

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

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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.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 16-1 on March 11.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-4 on March 23.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 16-6 on April 14.

House Floor – **Enrolled**.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 8-1 on March 9.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 16.

Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-2 on April 20.

Senate Floor – Substituted for HB 919.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Bill has passed both House and Senate.

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. During the last week, this legislation was amended to include the provisions of HB 55 (Overdorf) with a carve out for planned used developments and master-planned communities.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

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Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on March 2.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on April 1.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 21-0 on April 14.
House Floor – **Enrolled**.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 30.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.

Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 10-6 on April 20.

Senate Floor – Substituted for HB 401.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Bill has passed in both the House and the Senate.

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.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 9.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 15-0 on April 1.

Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 17-3 on April 14.

House Floor – **Enrolled**.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 7-2 on March 9.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 6-3 on March 16.

Rules – Passed by vote of 11-5 on April 20.

Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 0839**.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The Bill has passed both the House and the Senate.

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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.

Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Passed by vote of 18-0 on March 2.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 18-0 on March 23.

State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 21-0 on March 29.

House Floor – Passed by vote of 116-0 on April 15. Received by Senate, referred to Rules.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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

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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.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 16-0 on March 16.

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on March 25.

Judiciary Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 16-0 on April 6.

House Floor – **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Criminal Justice – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 7-0 on March 9.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 7-0 on March 17.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.

Senate floor – **Substituted for HB 885.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The Bill has passed both the House and the Senate.

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

Key Take Away

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.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 18-0 on March 23.

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on March 31.

State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 20-0 on April 6.

House Floor – Passed 118-0. Received by Senate, Referred to Appropriations.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 9-0 on March 10.
Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute approved by vote 7-0 on March 25.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

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.
Government Operations Subcommittee - Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-0 on March 8.
Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 18-0 on March 18.
State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 21-0 on March 24.
House Floor – **Substituted for SB 400.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 28.
Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-0 on January 27.
Judiciary – Passed by vote of 11-0 on March 15.
Rules – Passed by vote of 17-0 on April 6.
Senate Floor – **Enrolled.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The Bill has passed both the House and the Senate.

Communicable and Infectious Diseases – HB 949 (Fetterhoff) and SB 1314 (Gruters)

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.

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Government Operations Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on March 24.
Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on April 1.
Appropriations Committee – Awaiting Hearing.
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 16.
Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Passed by vote of 5-0 on March 31.
Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Growth Management – SB 1274 (Perry) and HB 487 (Duggan)

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 – Bill filed February 12.
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 17-1 on March 3.
Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 22-1 on March 9.
State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 20-3 on March 17.
House Floor – **Enrolled**.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 12.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-2 on March 30.
Rules – Passed by vote of 17-0 on April 20.
Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 487**.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate.

Application for and Issuance of Building Permits – HB 1059 (Robinson) and SB 1788 (Boyd)

Key Take Away

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Application for and Issuance of Building Permits: Requires county that issues building permits & local enforcement agency to post certain information on their websites; authorizes all components to completed application be submitted electronically or in person; requires local enforcement agency, local government, or local building department to reduce permit fee by specified amount for failing to meet certain deadlines; prohibits authority that issues building permit from requiring applicant to provide specified contracts as part of application for certain construction.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 2.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 21-0 on March 24.

House Floor – **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 9-0 on March 10.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 5-0 on March 31.

Rules – Passed by vote of 16-0 on April 6.

Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 1059.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed in both the House and Senate.

Automatic License Plate Reader Systems – HB 1039 (Plakon) and SB 1230 (Rodrigues)

Key Take Away

Authorizes counties & municipalities to install automatic license plate reader systems; requires DHSMV to establish Uninsured Vehicle Enforcement Program; requires department to install & operate automatic license plate reader systems on infrastructure; authorizes department to use such systems to access & collect certain data; authorizes department to contract with entity to provide necessary technology, equipment, & maintenance; authorizes law enforcement officers to verify certain information by sworn affidavit; prohibits data collected or retained from being used for purposes other than traffic safety & traffic monitoring; prohibits law enforcement agencies & certain other agencies from selling license plate data or sharing such data; authorizes department to adopt rules.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 16.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 11.
Transportation – Awaiting Hearing.
Banking and Insurance – N/A.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Tree Pruning, Trimming, or Removal on Residential Property – HB 1167 (Snyder) and SB 1396 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

Provides definitions related to tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 19.
Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 12-4 on March 30.
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Judiciary Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.
Community Affairs Awaiting Hearing.
Judiciary – N/A.
Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Ancillary Property Rights – HB 1139 (Smith) and SB 1520 (Boyd)

Key Take Away

Provides that utility easement is interest in real property & subject to certain actions unless otherwise provided in instrument creating easement; provides that easement is not undue burden; revises rights not affected or extinguished by marketable record titles; revises what types of interests are extinguished by marketable record title; requires persons with certain interests in land which may be extinguished to file notice to preserve such interests.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 19.
Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 15-0 on March 12.

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Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Judiciary Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 22.
Judiciary – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-0 on March 9.
Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 9-0 on March 30.
Rules – Temporarily Postponed on April 20.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Highway Projects – SB 100 (Harrell)

Key Take Away

Repealing provisions relating to applications for funding for technical assistance relating to areas in and around a proposed multiuse corridor interchange; requiring that \$35 million transferred to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise be used for a specified purpose beginning in a specified fiscal year and annually for up to 30 years thereafter; requiring that certain increased revenues be used to fund specified projects beginning in a specified fiscal year and annually thereafter; requiring the department, in coordination with the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, to evaluate certain roadways for development of specific controlled access facilities and to include such projects in the work program.

House Approval Milestones – No Bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 25.
Transportation – Approved by vote of 5-3 on March 3.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-2 on March 18.
Senate Floor – **Enrolled**.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The Bill has passed.

Pub. Rec./County Attorneys and Assistant County Attorneys – HB 1355 (Arrington) and SB 1602 (Stewart)

Key Take Away

Provides exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying & location information of current & former county attorneys & assistant county attorneys & names &

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personal identifying & location information of spouses & children of such attorneys; provides statement of public necessity.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 25.
Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 17-0 on March 30.
Government Operations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Judiciary Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 24.
Judiciary – Awaiting Hearing.
Governmental Oversight and Accountability - N/A.
Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Limitations on Emergency Powers of Political Subdivisions – SB 1924 (Diaz) and HB 945 (Rommel)

Key Take Away

Requiring that certain emergency measures issued by a political subdivision be narrowly tailored to a compelling public health or safety purpose; specifying additional requirements for local emergency measures.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 11.
Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 12-6 on March 9.
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-1 on April 1.
State Affairs Committee - Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 6-3 on March 16.
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security – Passed by vote of 4-3 on March 30.
Rules – Temporarily Postponed by committee on April 6.

Weekly Roundup: This bill was added as an amendment to SB 2006.

Chances of Passage: This legislation is now a part of SB 2006, which has passed both the House and Senate.

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Renewable Energy – SB 1960 (Bean)

Key Take Away

Requiring solar facilities to be a permitted use by right in all agricultural land use categories in applicable local governmental comprehensive plans and zoning districts within certain areas; requiring solar facilities to comply with certain local requirements; requiring certain lands classified as agricultural to maintain such classification if the land is leased for certain renewable energy purposes; providing that the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act does not apply to a stand-alone or co-located alternative or renewable energy facility that meets certain requirements.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Regulated Industries– Awaiting Hearing.

Community Affairs – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This legislation did not pass this session.

Taxation – HB 7061 (Payne) (House Tax Package) and SB 7068 (Finance & Tax) (Senate Tax Package)

Key Take Away

Revises provisions addressing tourist development taxes; ad valorem taxes; documentary stamp taxes; convention development taxes; severance taxes; sales & use taxes; & corporate income taxes; provides criminal penalties for certain violations; provides sales tax exemption for items that assist in independent living; deletes provisions relating to state funding for sports facility development under certain circumstances; provides sales tax holidays such as the “back-to-school” tax holiday, “disaster preparedness” tax holiday, and “recreation” or “Freedom Week” tax holiday. It also creates the Strong Families Tax Credit Program, it increases a property tax discount to 100% for certain multifamily projects to provide affordable housing. After a Senate amendment, it DOES NOT require that all new or increased tourist development and convention development taxes must be approved by voters at a referendum, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Filed April 15.

Ways & Means – Passed by vote of 15-1 on April 16.

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House Floor – **Concurred with Senate, Passed by vote of 117-1.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed March 22.

Finance & Tax - Passed by vote of 7-0 on March 25.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on April 19.

Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 7061.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: This House Tax Package was passed.

Summary of Session Week 9 (April 26-30)

Emergency Management Legislation ([HB 7047 by House Pandemics and Public Emergencies Committee and Rep. Leek/SB 2006 by Sen. Burgess](#)) — The legislation would update the State Emergency Management Act to better address and minimize threats that arise due to pandemics or other public health emergencies. It would address planning and preparations; require greater transparency for emergency orders, delegated emergency powers, and emergency spending; and pull back the authority of local government emergency orders that restrict individual liberties, among other things. This priority legislation ultimately passed both chambers after ping-ponging between chambers. On Tuesday, the House took up the Senate version, amended it, and then on Wednesday passed it by a vote of 76-40, sending it back to the Senate. On Thursday, the Senate accepted the House's amendment, further amended the bill, and sent the bill back to the House by a vote of 23-15. That same day, the House approved of the bill by a vote of 78-36. On Friday, the bill was sent to the Governor, where he must act on it by May 15, 2021.

Impact Fees Legislation ([HB 337 by Rep. DiCeglie/SB 750 by Sen. Gruters](#)) — The bills include several provisions to restrict impact fees imposed by local governments or special districts, including a requirement that credits against the collection of impact fees any contribution related to public facilities. The legislation also specifies conditions under which local government, school districts, or special districts may increase impact fees. The House version passed last week with the support of Republicans and several Democrats, which is notable given the proposal's staunch opposition from local governments. The Senate took up the House bill on Monday and passed it by a vote of 28-12. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

Preemption Over Restriction of Utility Services Legislation ([HB 919 by Rep. Tomkow/SB 1128 by Sen. Hutson](#)) — The bills would block local ordinances restricting the types of fuel a utility may use, such as a ban on natural gas. The full House passed the bill with an 81-34 vote last week, sending the measure to the Senate. The Senate took up the House version and passed it on Monday by a 27-13 vote. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

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Technology Transparency Legislation ([HB 7013 by Rep. Ingoglia/SB 7072 by Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee](#)) — The proposal, a Gov. DeSantis priority, would impose a series of requirements on social media companies aimed at ending the practice of “de-platforming” or “shadow banning” users. The bills would also require companies to spell out prohibited content that could lead to a ban and inform users of any changes to their terms of service. On Monday, the Senate passed its version of the bill by a vote of 22-17. On Tuesday, the House took up the Senate version, amended it, and voted it off the floor by a vote of 78-41 sending it back to the Senate. On Thursday, the Senate concurred with the House amendment, amended the bill even further, and passed the bill by a vote of 23-17, sending it back to the House. The House concurred with the Senate amendment and passed the Senate version of the bill by a vote of 77-38. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

Foreign Influence Legislation ([HB 7017 by Rep. Grall/SB 2010 by Sen. Diaz](#)) — The bills would require organizations seeking state funding to disclose any financial ties to adversarial countries or “foreign country of concern.” The list includes China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela. The legislation is a priority of Gov. DeSantis and House Speaker Chris Sprowls. On Monday, the Senate took up the House version and unanimously voted in favor of passing the bill. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

Election Administration Legislation ([HB 7041 by Rep. Ingoglia/SB 90 by Sen. Baxley](#)) — The legislation would change several election laws, most notably requiring oversight of mail ballot drop boxes, either by camera or elections supervisor staff. A provision that would have changed ballot signature verification rules was removed from the bill. On Monday, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 23-17, sending it to the House where it was amended on Tuesday and passed by a vote of 77-40 on Wednesday. On Thursday, the Senate concurred with the House amendment, added their own amendment, sent it back to the House by a favorable vote of 23-17. The House passed it by a vote of 77-40. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

Volunteer Ambulance Services Legislation ([HB 805 by Rep. Caruso/SB 1084 by Sen. Pizzo](#)) — The bills aim to assist faith-based, not-for-profit volunteer ambulance services by prohibiting local governments from charging them licensing fees or banning their operation. Though few such providers exist in the state, lawmakers say populations with religious sensitivities rely on their services. On Monday, the Senate took up the House version and unanimously passed it. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

COVID-19 Impacts on Educational Institutions ([HB 1261 by Rep. Toledo/SB 7070 by Senate Education Committee](#)) — The bills would shield colleges and universities from lawsuits over decisions to close campuses because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Senate bill would have provided the same protections to higher education institutions but would also have shielded K-12 schools from accountability measures based on standardized test scores this year. On Monday,

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the Senate took up the House version and amended the bill. On Tuesday, the Senate unanimously passed the bill, sending it back to the House where the amendments were accepted and the House passed the bill by a vote of 102-11. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

State Preemption of Seaport Regulations Legislation ([HB 267 by Rep. Roach](#)/[SB 426 by Sen. Boyd](#)) — The bills would preempt local government ordinances that “restrict or regulate commerce” at Florida seaports. Originally, the Senate bill would have impacted multiple ports; however, it was narrowed to the point that it would only apply to Key West — which was the primary goal from the start. The bill would undo referenda approved by Key West voters last year, limiting the size and type of ships, as well as the volume of tourists who disembark at the port. The Senate version cleared the chamber floor with a 25-14 vote. On Monday, the House took up the Senate version and temporarily postponed the bill on second reading. The bill was never rescheduled for a vote; therefore, it died when the gavel came down on sine die. However, as the saying goes, nothing is ever dead in the Florida Legislature. On Wednesday, the bill was sent back to the House where they concurred with the amendment and approved the bill by a vote of 75-40. The Senate amended a revised version of the language onto the annual transportation bill (SB 1194). This bill was

Building Design Legislation ([HB 55 by Rep. Overdorf](#)/[SB 284 by Sen. Perry](#)) — The bills would preempt local ordinances restricting home design elements, such as exterior colors, window placement, or the location of a garage. On Monday, the House passed its version of the bill by a vote of 89-24 and sent it to the Senate where it died in the Senate Rules Committee. Sticking with the theme of nothing ever really dies, this bill was amended onto a building code bill (HB 401) by the Senate on Monday after some ping-pong between the Chambers ultimately passed the House on Wednesday (102-12) and Senate on Thursday (38-1).

Civic Education Curriculum Legislation ([HB 5 by Rep. Zika](#)/[SB 1450 by Sen. Rodriguez](#)) — The bills would require high school government classes to include a comparative discussion of political ideologies, including communism. The proposal, a priority of House Speaker Sprowls, cleared the Senate on Monday with a unanimous vote. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

School Choice Legislation ([HB 7045 by Rep. Fine](#)) — Billed by its backers as the largest school choice expansion in Florida history, the sweeping education bill would shutter the Gardiner Scholarship Program and McKay Scholarship Program and transition students currently receiving those scholarships into the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program. It also increases voucher amounts from 95% to 100% for students in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Family Empowerment Scholarship, and Hope Scholarship Program. On Monday, the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 25-14. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

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Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students ([HB 3 by Rep. Trabulsy/SB 1372 by Sen. Burgess](#)) — The bills would create the “New Worlds Reading Initiative,” providing free books to elementary school students reading below grade level. One of House Speaker Sprowls’ priorities, the Senate took up the House version of the bill and unanimously passed it. The bill is now ready to be sent to the Governor.

Federal Spotlight

Biden’s American Families Plan targets education, child care, paid leave - Reports about the contents of President Joe Biden’s American Families Plan (AFP) have been circulating for weeks, but the President provided details in his [address to a joint session of Congress](#) on Wednesday night. Among other provisions, the AFP would make a “generation-defining investment in rural America.” It would provide free universal preschool for all three- and four-year-olds and two years of free community college. It calls for additional funding for teacher education and training and more funding to train and recruit special education teachers. It would make child care more affordable and more accessible, especially in rural communities. It would create a comprehensive national paid family leave program and expand summer food access and school meal programs. It would extend the child tax credit, permanently increase tax credits for child care, and make the Earned Income Tax Credit permanent.

How to pay for it - The question, of course, is how the federal government can pay for the initiatives the President is proposing. President Biden outlined his recommendations for tax reform in Wednesday’s speech. They include:

- Increasing the top marginal income tax rate to 39.6% for the top 1% of earners
- Increasing the capital gains tax rate to 39.6% for those earning more than \$1 million
- Applying the 3.8% Medicare tax “consistently” for those making more than \$400,000 a year
- Repealing the “step-up in basis” rule above the first \$1 million passed to an heir
- Ending “like-kind” or 1031 exchanges that allow real estate investors to defer tax payments by rolling proceeds of real estate sales into future purchases
- Treating compensation from carried interest like wage income instead of like capital gains for tax purposes
- Permanently extending current limits on excess business losses

Biden promised not to raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000, but to improve IRS collection of past due taxes and enforcement against tax cheats.

Senator Warren has a plan - At a [hearing of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth](#) on Tuesday, Subcommittee Chair Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) promoted three tax reform proposals of her own: a wealth tax of two cents on fortunes over \$50

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million, a Real Corporate Profits Tax of 7% on companies that report profits of more than \$100 million to the shareholders and the public; and increasing tax enforcement against wealthy individuals and giant corporations. Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), the subcommittee's ranking member, said that Democratic tax proposals would pit Americans against each other and vilify success in business.

Treasury calls for broader IRS data collection, enforcement powers - Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen endorsed President Biden's proposed changes to the tax code, saying it would make the system more fair and help capture uncollected revenue. Treasury also [endorsed proposed reforms to the IRS](#) that it said would generate an additional \$700 billion in revenue without any increase in taxation rates. These reforms would provide the IRS with a sustained, multi-year stream of funding that would deliver about \$80 billion over a ten-year period. They would grant the IRS access to information financial institutions collect about the aggregate outflows and inflows of their customers' accounts. They would provide funding for the IRS to update its technology infrastructure, improve taxpayer service, and deliver tax credits. They would also give the IRS additional authority to regulate tax preparers.

Brown warns against partnerships between banks and predatory lenders - Senate Banking Committee Chairman Sherrod Brown (D-OH) said at a [hearing on Wednesday](#) that the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's "true lender" rule had opened the door to predatory lenders to form partnerships with banks in order to evade state usury limits and victimize borrowers. Former Acting Comptroller of the Currency Brian Brooks said that the rule merely clarifies the language of existing law, and that bank-nonbank lending partnerships offer borrowers more protections than they would have if banks were not involved. Brown and other committee Democrats said they would seek to use the Congressional Review Act to overturn the rule. Brooks said that this would amount to imposing price controls on these loans, and that price controls would lead to shortages of credit available to small-dollar borrowers.

Water/wastewater infrastructure bill gets overwhelming Senate support Yesterday the Senate voted [89-2](#) to approve S. 914, the [Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021](#). The legislation would reauthorize grants to state Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving funds and to programs funded under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. It would authorize the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants for improvements to drinking water and wastewater systems, including projects to replace lead drinking water pipes. It would also make more funding available for water infrastructure projects in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. The \$35 billion the legislation would provide is considerably below the \$56 billion included in President Biden's American Jobs Plan. On the House side, Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) has introduced his own bill, [HR 1915](#), which would provide \$40 billion to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$10 billion for other projects.

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

Final Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 3,096 (2,034 House; 1,062 Senate)

Passed Both Chambers: 275 (248 General; 24 Local)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,060

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1.174 billion

Upcoming Expected Schedules

Gaming Compact Special Session: May 17 – May 21, 2021

Start of 2022 Committee Weeks: The Committee Week schedule is expected to begin the weeks of September 13 or September 20, 2021. There will likely be six (6) committee weeks before the start of the 2022 Legislative Session.

Start of 2022 Legislative Session: Tuesday, January 11, 2022