



## MEMORANDUM

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

THRU: MELANY CRAWFORD, CHIEF ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

FROM: ELLA M. GILBERT, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

DATE: APRIL 5, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – WEEK 5 SUMMARY (MARCH 29-APRIL 2)

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Enclosed herein is the 2021 Legislative Session Week 5 Summary (March 29 – April 2). The Legislative update will be provided by the Lobbyist on a weekly basis 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:** April 4, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** 2021 Legislative Session – Week 5 Summary (March 29 – April 2)

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Tomorrow (Monday, April 5) all individuals ages 18 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (16 and up for Pfizer) thanks to recent efforts by Gov. Ron DeSantis to expand eligibility and access to the shot as quickly as possible. This is a major milestone in the fight against the virus. However, it doesn't come without its challenges.

Following reports that the Biden Administration is working on a system for people to prove they have been vaccinated against the virus, the Governor issued an executive order to ban the use of "vaccine passports" by businesses or local governments in the state of Florida. This order, on one hand, is consistent with the Governor's approach to virus and its impacts on Florida from the outset, but the decision is already drawing criticism from some businesses and schools looking to assure all of their customers and students it is safe to return. Where will this issue land? – Likely in the courts.

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Labor released its March numbers showing the addition of 916,000 jobs across the nation. This is nearly double February's reported numbers and the highest increase since August. While the economy is not out of the woods yet, this is a positive sign that as the momentum for vaccinations increase so does the pathway to a sustained recovery from the pandemic recession.

This week, Gov. DeSantis signed the first bill into law from the current legislative session. The COVID-19 liability protections measure, a top priority of legislative leaders and the Governor, takes effect immediately. These retroactive protections and proactive guidelines will protect Florida's business, health care, government and non-profit communities from frivolous claims (that do not provide clear and convincing evidence) arising from or related to COVID-19.

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Another of the Governor's priorities may also be on the way to his desk soon. Following the House's passage of HB 1 (along party lines), Senate President Wilton Simpson referred the controversial HB 1 (Combating Public Disorder) to only the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Senate version of the same bill, which would increase penalties for certain crimes committed during protests, has been held up in its first committee stop, the Criminal Justice Committee, by Chair Sen. Jason Pizzo who opposes the bill. The President's procedural maneuver makes this leadership-backed measure more likely to reach the Senate floor.

This is a big week for the state budget. Both chambers are readying to pass their respective spending plans and preparing them for conference. The Senate's Appropriations bill (SB 2500) and the House's General Appropriations Act (HB 5001) are both on their respective chamber's Special Order Calendar for Wednesday. The House proposal, which calls for \$97.1 billion including \$5 billion in reserves, according to the House press office "prepares Florida today for a better tomorrow" by focusing on long-term needs over short-term personal priorities. The Senate proposal, which calls for \$95 billion including \$5 billion in reserves, according to the Senate press office "responsibly plans for Florida's future with significant reserves" by safeguarding key government functions and addressing the decline in revenues.

Meanwhile, Gov. DeSantis plugged some of his budget priorities last week. On Tuesday, the Governor highlighted progress on one of his top priorities since taking office at a press conference, where he mentioned robust funding for Everglades restoration and water infrastructure in his budget. This was followed by the Governor on Thursday announcing a proposal to provide \$1,000 bonuses for Florida's principals and teachers.

All of [these](#), a preview of [Week 6](#), our [Federal Spotlight](#) and current [Session Statistics](#) are detailed below.

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

**Appropriations Projects** – In addition to the projects listed below, our team is working with the City's staff to ensure that the FRDAP grants are funded enough to cover the City's large project that is ranked fifth on DEP's list.

The Senate has funded two of our appropriation projects, which positions us well for budget conference.

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**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. The Senate funded this project at \$250,000 (Line 1607A).

**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 is now eligible for inclusion in the House budget.

**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. The Senate funded this project at \$500,000 (Line 1607A).

**Hegener Drive Extension Tradition Center for Commerce** – HB 2159 and Senate #2038 – Referred to House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

### Bills of Interest

#### Key Legislation Affecting Port St. Lucie

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

#### 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 – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 7.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed March 26.

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

Senate Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 7.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

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## **Emergency Management – HB 7047 (Leek)**

### 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 – Awaiting Hearing.

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

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

## **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 – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

### **Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on March 2.**

Community Affairs – Temporarily postponed on March 30 in Committee.

Finance and Tax – N/A.

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Appropriations – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** The Senate bill was TP'd. This is an indicator that the bill will not be passed this year.

**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 – Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 3.

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

House Floor – **The bill was TP'd on Second Reading. It is expected to come up next week.**

**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.

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

### **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.

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**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 – **Received by Senate and Referred to Appropriations.**

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

Criminal Justice Committee – Awaiting hearing.  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal & 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) -  
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.

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

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

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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 – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 7.

**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 - Placed on House Special Order Calendar for April 7.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

**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 – Sent to Senate and Referred to Appropriations.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed December 29.

Judiciary Committee – Passed March 22 by 8-3 vote.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice – Awaiting hearing.

Appropriations – N/A



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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

**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.

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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- **Passed by vote of 82-32 on March 31.**

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Filed on January 7.  
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.  
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 – **Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 7.**

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **Sovereign Immunity – HB 1129 (Fernandez-Barquin)**

#### 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** – No Bill filed.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **Farming Operations – SB 88 (Brodeur) and HB 1601 (Williamson)**

#### 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

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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.

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 – **Awaiting Hearing.**

**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 – Read for third time, Passed by vote of 37-1 on March 18.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

## **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.

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Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 16-1 on March 29.

State Affairs Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

**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 – Passed by vote of 27-11 on March 25.

**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)**

#### 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- Read Third Time, Passed by vote of 82-32 on April 1.

**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 – On Committee Agenda for April 6.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

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

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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.

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

**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.

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

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

Key Take Away

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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 – 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 – **On Committee Agenda for April 6.**

**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 – Passed by vote of 39-0 on March 18 and sent to House.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

**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.

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**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

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.  
House Floor – **On Second Reading.**

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**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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**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.  
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.

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

**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;



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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 – 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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

**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- Awaiting Hearing.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 26.

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

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

Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

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

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

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

State Affairs Committee – **Awaiting Hearing.**

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

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

Appropriations – Awaiting hearing.

Rules – N/A.

**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.

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.

**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

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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 – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

**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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**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.

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.

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**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) and HB 7023 (Byrd)**

#### Key Take Away

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.

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**House Approval Milestones** – Bill filed March 10.

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

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

**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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**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.

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.

**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.  
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.

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

### **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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 17.  
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 – Awaiting Hearing.

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**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.

#### **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.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

**Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 2.

Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing.

Community Affairs – N/A.

Rules – N/A.



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**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **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 – On Committee Agenda for April 6.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

#### **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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**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

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce Committee- N/A.

**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 – Awaiting hearing.

**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.

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 – Awaiting Hearing.

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

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

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Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.  
Rules – N/A.

**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.

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 – Awaiting Hearing.

#### **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 – Awaiting hearing.

**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.

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

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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 – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

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

**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.

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.

**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.

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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 – **On Committee Agenda for April 6.**

**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 – Awaiting hearing.

**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

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 – **On Committee Agenda for April 6.**

**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.

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

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

#### Key Take Away

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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 – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

**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 – **On Committee Agenda for April 6.**

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **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.  
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.

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**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.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-2 on March 30.

Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

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

#### Key Take Away

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 – Read Third time, passed by vote of 113-0 on April 1.

**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.

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Rules – On Committee Agenda for April 6.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **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.

#### **Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed February 11.

Transportation – Awaiting Hearing.

Banking and Insurance – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **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.



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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.

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

### **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.  
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 – Awaiting Hearing.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **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

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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 – Passed by vote of 39-1 on March 25.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

**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 & 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.

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

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### **Limitations on Emergency Powers of Political Subdivisions – SB 1924 (Diaz)**

#### 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** – No bill filed yet.

**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 – On Committee Agenda for April 6.

**Weekly Roundup:** N/A.

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

### **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.

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

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## **Summary of Session Week 5 (March 29 – April 2)**

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

**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 bills would also require the Department of Education to create a media library “including first-person accounts of victims of other nations’ governing philosophies.” The House proposal, endorsed by House Speaker Sprowls, unanimously passed the full House on Thursday. An identical bill in the Senate awaits its last committee stop, the Appropriations Committee.

**Motor Vehicle Rentals Legislation** ([HB 365 by Rep. Caruso/SB 566 by Sen. Perry](#)) — The bills would regulate the emerging peer-to-peer car rental industry by requiring rentals to levy a \$1-a-day surcharge and charge sales tax. While the current language of the bill reflects an agreement in principal between peer-to-peer platforms and traditional rental car companies, the bill still lacks a requirement that the platforms have a formal agreement with airports before operating on their property. Such a requirement has been included by nearly every state that has passed similar legislation and already exists in Florida statute for other disruptive technologies such as transportation network companies (TNCs) and autonomous vehicles. The Senate Transportation Committee unanimously voted in favor of the bill on Wednesday, but with several Senators expressing a desire that the airport piece be addressed. The Senate bill is now ready for its final stop in the Appropriations Committee. The legislation was also discussed during the Office of Economic and Demographics Research's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference on Friday.

**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. The provision targets a Key West ordinance aimed at keeping cruise ships away from the island. The House bill favorably passed the Local Administration and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Thursday by a vote of 11 - 6, and now heads to its final committee stop. The Senate bill awaits its last hearing in the Rules Committee.

**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 Sprowls. The Senate bill was unanimously passed by the Education Committee on Tuesday and now heads to

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the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education. House Bill 7017 awaits its last committee hearing in the State Affairs Committee.

**Constitutional Amendment Threshold Legislation** ([HJR 61 by Rep. Roth/SJR 1238 by Sen. Rodriguez](#)) — The resolutions seek to raise the vote threshold to pass constitutional amendments from 60% to two-thirds. The House version favorably passed the Public Integrity and Elections Committee on Monday by a vote of 11 - 6. The bills are ready for their last committee stops in both the House and Senate.

**Reemployment Assistance Legislation** ([SB 1906 by Sen. Brodeur](#)) — The bill would increase the maximum weekly unemployment benefit from \$32 to \$100 and the minimum from \$275 to \$375. The current levels are among the lowest in the nation. The bill sponsor called his proposal a good starting point for talks. The bill favorably passed the Commerce and Tourism Committee on Monday by a vote of 9 - 1, and was subsequently advanced to its final stop, the Appropriations Committee.

**Alimony Legislation** ([HB 1559 by Rep. Rodriguez/SB 1922 by Sen. Gruters](#)) — The bills aim to end permanent alimony. They also include provisions that would default child custody time to a 50-50 split between parents. Similar legislation has made it to the Governor's desk in recent years, though it has been vetoed. The Senate bill passed the Judiciary Committee on Monday on a party line vote of 6 - 4. The House bill is awaiting its final stop, the Judiciary Committee.

**Chief Science Officer Appointment** – Gov. DeSantis announced the [appointment](#) of Dr. Mark Rains as Florida's next Chief Science Officer, who will be responsible for leading the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency.

## **Preview of Week 6 (April 5 - 9)**

**Barber Services Legislation** ([HB 855 by Rep. Nixon/SB 1176 by Sen. Stewart](#)) — The bills would change barber regulations to allow for house calls. Current law only allows house calls for customers with debilitating health issues. The full House unanimously passed the measure on the floor Thursday. The Senate bill will go before the Senate Rules Committee, its final committee stop, at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

**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

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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 is moving quickly in both the House and Senate. The Senate bill will go before the Senate Rules Committee, its last committee stop, at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

**Online Sales Tax Packages** ([HB 15 by Rep. Clemons/SB 50 by Sen. Gruters](#)) – The House Special Order Calendar for Wednesday contains both the House and Senate versions of the tax proposals. House Speaker Chris Sprowls and Senate President Simpson are presenting a united front on what they hope to accomplish with the online sales tax package. In a [joint press release](#), their plan “prevents an unexpected tax hike on Florida businesses, creates a fair playing field with out-of-state businesses, and ensures necessary compensation for Florida workers seeking re-employment.” On Wednesday, an amendment to HB 15 was jointly announced in a [press release](#), highlighting “a major update to the plan that will result in a substantial cut – by more than half – to Florida’s business rent tax.”

**Student Financial Aid Legislation** ([SB 86 by Sen. Baxley](#)) — The bill originally would have limited Bright Futures scholarship funding for degree programs that are not seen as leading directly to a job, but it has been substantially reworked following outcry from students and parents. The bill would now put a hold on course registrations for college freshmen until they confirm they are aware of their chosen degree’s job prospect potential. The bill is on Wednesday’s Special Order Calendar in the Senate.

**Resilient Florida Legislation** ([HB 7019 by Rep. Busatta Cabrera/HB 5401 by Rep. Tomkow/HB 7021 by Rep. Busatta Cabrera/SB 1954 by Sen. Rodrigues/SB 2512 by Senate Appropriations/SB 2514 by Senate Appropriations](#)) — The legislation would create the Resilient Florida Grant Program within the Department of Environmental Protection to help local governments address the impact of sea-level rise and nuisance flooding. All three House bills and all three Senate bills are on the Special Order Calendars in their respective chambers for Wednesday.

## **Federal Spotlight**

**Yellen, Powell are optimistic about recovery** - In virtual appearances before the [House Financial Services Committee](#) and the [Senate Banking Committee](#) this week, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen and Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell said this was a hopeful time, but a daunting one. “We should be clear-eyed about the hole we are digging out of,” Secretary Yellen said. Despite rapid recovery in many sectors, the economy is still down about 10 million jobs from pre-pandemic levels. Chairman Powell downplayed concerns about inflation; although some price

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pressures are already emerging, the Fed doesn't expect them to be large or persistent. Republican and Democratic lawmakers on both sides of the Hill urged Secretary Yellen to address the backlog in IRS processing and enforcement, and suggested that the filing date postponement to May 17 should apply to first-quarter estimated payments as well.

**Momentum builds for action on infrastructure** - Between the expiration of the FAST Act in September and the Biden administration's vow to "build back better," it seems almost certain that some form of infrastructure legislation will pass this year. Secretary of Transportation [Pete Buttigieg told the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure](#) yesterday that this is "the best chance in any of our lifetimes to make a generational investment in infrastructure." Full economic recovery will require a national commitment to "fix and transform" our infrastructure, Buttigieg said, because the status quo poses rising threats to our competitiveness and national security. The Administration's infrastructure priorities include clearing the backlog of repairs needed to existing infrastructure and improve public transit and mobility options, improving transportation reliability and safety, addressing major inequities, improving air quality, and tackling the climate crisis.

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

## **Current Bill Statistics**

Total Bills Filed: 3,039 (2,001 House; 1,038 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,060

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1.174 billion

## **Session Weekly Schedules**

### **House Week 6:**

<https://www.myflorida.house.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%206%20April%205%20-%209,%202021.pdf>

### **House Week 7:**

<https://www.myflorida.house.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=>

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[Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%207%20A pril%2012%20-%2016,%202021.pdf](#)

**Senate Week 6:**

[https://www.flSenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-03-25%20170411.PDF](#)

**Senate Week 7:**

[https://www.flSenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-04-02%20155311.PDF](#)