



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: MARCH 15, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – WEEK 2 SUMMARY (MARCH 8-12)

Enclosed herein is the 2021 Legislative Session Week 2 Summary (March 8-12). 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: March 14, 2021
SUBJECT: 2021 Legislative Session – Week 2 Summary (March 8-12)

The second week of the 2021 Legislative Session provided a few hints on the state of the state budget.

Notably, Senate President Wilton Simpson delivered some good news for lawmakers and lobbyists with appropriation requests in the hopper — the Trilby Republican wants to use money heading to Florida through the recently passed federal stimulus package to fund one-time projects rather than use it to fill budget gaps in recurring programs.

Florida is expected to receive about \$8 billion from the plan.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested using some of the funding to pay for a proposed bonding program, Resilient Florida, which would provide grants to local governments to help them complete projects that address sea-level rise or nuisance flooding.

This week also brought progress on COVID-19 liability protections, which the Senate is merging into one bill after previously splitting health care and business shields into separate bills. “It’s easier to defend one fortress than to guard two. I think it’s important that we have both the business community and the health care community rowing with us together in the same ship,” said Sen. Jeff Brandes, who is carrying the liability bills in the upper chamber.

Gov. DeSantis also announced this week that Adrian Lukis would take over as Chief of Staff, replacing Shane Strum, who announced last month that he would leave the position to take a job as CEO of Broward Health. Lukis, previously one of Strum’s top deputies, starts Monday.

On the COVID-19 front, the vaccine rollout continued outpacing the virus’ spread, and the total number of Floridians who are fully inoculated has now eclipsed the number who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. At the end of the week, Florida had recorded just under 2 million

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cases over the past year, while more than 2.1 million received either both doses of a two-dose vaccine or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

All of [these](#), a preview of [Week 3](#), our [Federal Spotlight](#) and current [Session Statistics](#) are detailed below.

Activities on Behalf of Port St. Lucie

Appropriations Projects

The Senate project forms are submitted. As well, we are scheduled to meet with House Infrastructure & Tourism Staff this coming Tuesday to discuss Hegener Drive.

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

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

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

Bills of Interest

Key Legislation Affecting Port St. Lucie

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 – Placed on Calendar for 2nd Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 11.

Community Affairs – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Regulated Industries – N/A

Rules – N/A

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.

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.

Placed on Calendar for 2nd reading.

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.

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

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 – Passed on March 5 (Vote Count: 83-31).

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.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: N/A.

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

Key Take Away

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

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

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 16-2 on March 11.

Commerce – Awaiting Hearing.

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 Special Order Calendar.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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Legal Notices – HB 35 (Fine)

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 – Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 18.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

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.

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Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Filed on December 10, 2020.

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

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 17.

State Affairs – **Committee Substitute passed by vote of 20-3 on March 10.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 7.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

Judiciary – **On Committee Agenda for March 15.**

Rules – N/A

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.

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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.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 13.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means – N/A.

State Affairs – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill required. Local Bill.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 22.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 3.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill. Local Bill.

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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 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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – N/A.

Judiciary Committee – N/A.

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 – Engrossed and Placed on Third Reading for 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

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

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.

Senate Floor – Placed on Calendar for second reading.

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 – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 14.

Regulated Industries – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Community Affairs – N/A

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Local Licensing – HB 115 (Fabricio)

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 23.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Local Administration and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.

State Administration and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 14.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on March 3.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 14.

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

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

Appropriations – Approved by vote of 18-0.

Senate Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

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.

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House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 4.

Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 11.

Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee - N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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.

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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 – Placed on Calendar for second reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 14.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 10.
Commerce and Tourism – Awaiting Hearing.
Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.
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

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Ways & Means Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Governmental Actions Affecting Private Property Rights – HB 421 (Tuck) 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 – Awaiting hearing.

Judiciary Committee- N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Judiciary – N/A.

Community Affairs – N/A.

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Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 11.

Agriculture – Awaiting Hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.

Government Operations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.

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Governmental Oversight and Accountability – On Committee Agenda for March 17.
Appropriations – N/A.
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 authorizing local governments to pay specified amount of compensation to private waste companies as alternative to delaying displacement for specified period; removes provision

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

State Affairs Committee- N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 21.

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

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Government Operations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – N/A.

Appropriations Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 21.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Awaiting Hearing.

Health Policy – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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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.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 10.

Judiciary – Awaiting Hearing.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Criminal Justice – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 29.

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

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.

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.
Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10.
Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Awaiting Hearing.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Private Docks – SB 994 (Brodeur)

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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.

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

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

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 –

Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.

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

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means Committee – N/A.

Commerce Committee- N/A.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.

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

Community Affairs – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Rules – N/A.

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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations – N/A.

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)

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

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

Community Affairs – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Local Government Ethics Reform – HB 853 (Sirois)

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

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

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

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.

Repeal of Developer Incentive Requirements – HB 6067 (Eskamani)

Key Take Away

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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.
Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee – On Committee Agenda for March 16.
Justice Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.
Judiciary Committee – N/A.

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 – On Committee Agenda for March 17.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.

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

Finance and Tax – Awaiting Hearing

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.

Government Operations Subcommittee - Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-0 on March 8.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 28.

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

Judiciary – On Committee Agenda for March 15.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – N/A.

Appropriations Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 16.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Awaiting Hearing.

Community Affairs – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Growth Management – SB 1274 (Perry)

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 12.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce and Tourism – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

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

Governmental Oversight and Accountability - Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

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.

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – N/A.
Judiciary Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18. No Committee References yet.
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.

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A.

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 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 – Awaiting Hearing. No Committee References yet.

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

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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 – Awaiting Hearing.

Government Operations Subcommittee – N/A.

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.

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 – On Committee Agenda for March 16.

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Renewable Energy – SB 1960 (Bean)

Key Take Away

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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.

Summary of Session Week 2 (March 8-12)

Tallahassee Week in Review

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

Revamped Clemency Rules — Gov. DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet adopted an “automatic process” to speed up the restoration of rights for felons who have completed all terms of their sentence, including paying fines and fees. The process also eliminates the five-year waiting period before felons can apply for restoration.

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, including restrictions on the size or type of ships that can dock at port. The provision targets a Key West ordinance aimed at keeping cruise ships away from the island. The House version cleared its first committee earlier this month. The Senate version was approved by the Senate Transportation Committee last week with a 6-2 vote.

Construction Defects Legislation ([HB 21 by Rep. Andrade/SB 270 by Sen. Perry](#)) The bills would change the procedure for property owners taking action against contractors for construction defects. It would require the owner to first seek a claim under warranty and notify the contractor of the alleged defect. The House version passed the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee this week on a party-line vote.

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Resilient Florida Legislation ([HB 7019 by Rep. Busatta Cabrera](#)) — The House Environment, Agriculture and Flooding Subcommittee voted unanimously to introduce proposed committee bills that would create the Resilient Florida Grant Program to help local governments address the impact of sea-level rise and nuisance flooding. The first bill (previously [PCB EAF 21-01](#)) creates the program. A second bill ([HB 7021](#), previously [PCB EAF 21-02](#)) creates the Resilient Florida Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection.

Grandparent Tuition Waiver Legislation ([HB 1273 by Rep. Maney/SB 1728 by Sen. Baxley](#)) — The bills allow students from out of state to pay in-state college tuition rates if their grandparents are Florida residents. The student must also score in the 89th percentile or higher on the ACT or SAT. The House bill cleared its second of three committees last week.

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 Department of Education would also create a media library “including first-person accounts of victims of other nations’ governing philosophies.” Last week, the House version passed its second committee, and the Senate version passed its first.

Beverage Law Legislation ([SB 148 by Sen. Bradley](#)) — The bill would allow restaurants to continue selling alcoholic beverages to-go after the pandemic ends, as long as they are purchased alongside food. The bill is headed to its final committee stop after clearing the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee with a unanimous vote.

Online Sales Tax Legislation ([HB 15 by Rep. Clemons/SB 50 by Sen. Gruters](#)) — The bills would harness the 2017 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *South Dakota v. Wayfair* to require most out-of-state retailers to collect and remit sales tax. The legislation is expected to boost sales tax revenues by more than \$1 billion a year. The House version passed its first committee this week, while the Senate bill is now ready for a floor vote. Also this week, House Speaker Sprowls and Senate President Simpson announced plans to use the additional revenues to refill the state’s unemployment trust fund.

Election Administration Legislation ([SB 90 by Sen. Baxley](#)) — The bill would change several election laws, including shortening the length of time a vote-by-mail ballot request is valid from two election cycles to one. The bill cleared the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee over protest from Democratic lawmakers and public speakers, including former Sen. Alan Hays, who called the legislation a “travesty.”

Senate Transportation Package ([SB 1126 by Sen. Harrell/SB 1500 by Sen. Harrell](#)) — The Senate began work on this year’s transportation package. The bills are packed with changes to state transportation laws, including provisions to raise the bonding cap for right-of-way acquisition

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and provide the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles subpoena powers in odometer fraud, title fraud, or driver's license fraud investigations.

Preview of Week 3 (March 15-19)

Agency Presentations — The Senate Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness will hear presentations from the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Children and Families when it meets at 1 p.m. on Monday.

Member Projects — The House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee will consider two-dozen appropriations projects bills when it meets on Monday at 3 p.m. A full listing is available on the committee [meeting notice](#).

Unemployment System Legislation ([HB 1463 by Rep. LaMarca/SB 1948 by Sen. Bean](#)) — The legislation would make numerous changes intended to improve Florida's unemployment benefits system, including implementing a disaster preparedness plan and "continuous modernization initiatives." The legislation comes after an inspector general investigation revealed the system, which crashed at the start of the pandemic, underwent little stress testing before it was rolled out to the public. The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee will hear SB 1948 when it meets on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Technology Transparency Legislation ([HB 7013 by Rep. Ingoglia](#)) — The House Appropriations Committee will take up Gov. DeSantis' priority legislation to penalize social media companies for "deplatforming" users or changing terms of service without advance notice. The House Commerce Committee introduced the bill, formerly PCB COM 21-01, last week. It goes before the House Appropriations Committee at 3:45 p.m. on Monday.

Vaccine Fraud Prevention Legislation ([HB 9 by Rep. Zika/SB 1608 by Sen. Bean](#)) — The legislation would increase penalties for vaccine-related schemes, such as fraudulently advertising access to COVID-19 vaccines in exchange for money. Last week, HB 9 became the first measure to pass the House this session. The Senate companion will go before the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, its first stop, at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Home Book Delivery for Elementary Students ([HB 3 by Rep. Trabulsy/SB 1372 by Sen. Burgess](#)) — The legislation would create the "New Worlds Reading Initiative," which would provide free books to elementary school students who are reading below grade level. It is a priority of House Speaker Chris Sprowls. The House version has cleared two committees. The Senate version will go before the Senate Education Committee at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Appointments Considered — The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee will decide whether to advance [a dozen gubernatorial appointees](#) to state boards when it meets on Tuesday at 3 p.m.

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Federal Spotlight

American Rescue Plan Signed into Law

On Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved [HR 1319](#), the American Rescue Plan Act, by a vote of 220-211. U.S. Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) was the only Democrat to vote against it; no Republicans voted for it. President Joe Biden signed the bill yesterday, saying the law was “about rebuilding the backbone of this country and giving people in this nation — working people and middle-class folks, the people who built the country — a fighting chance.” Direct payments to eligible households will start going out before the end of the month.

GR Resources

If you have specific questions about the American Rescue Plan Act or would like more information about the \$1.9 trillion relief package, we invite you to join our DC lobbyists this Thursday, March 18, at 10 a.m. ET for a virtual briefing on the plan’s major elements. The invitation will be arriving in your inbox soon.

In addition, the GrayRobinson team has compiled a [summary of the state and local aid](#) coming to Florida through the American Rescue Plan Act.

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

Current Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 2,975 (1,963 House; 1,012 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,060

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1.174 billion

Session Weekly Schedules

House Week 3:

<https://www.myflorida.house.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%203%20March%2015%20-%2019,%202021.pdf>

House Week 4:

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<https://www.myflorida.house.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%204%20March%2022%20-%2026,%202021.pdf>

Senate Week 3:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-03-05%20153716.PDF>

Senate Week 4:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-03-11%20162007.PDF>