

# PALM BEACH COUNTY 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT



Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department  
301 North Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 355-3451

Verdenia C. Baker, County Administrator  
Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director

# Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners



**DAVE KERNER**  
**MAYOR**  
**DISTRICT 3**  
561/355-2203

[DKERNER@pbcgov.org](mailto:DKERNER@pbcgov.org)



**ROBERT S. WEINROTH**  
**VICE MAYOR**  
**DISTRICT 4**  
561/355-2204

[RWEINROTH@pbcgov.org](mailto:RWEINROTH@pbcgov.org)



**HAL R. VALECHE**  
**DISTRICT 1**  
561/355-2201

[HVALECHE@pbcgov.org](mailto:HVALECHE@pbcgov.org)



**GREGG WEISS**  
**DISTRICT 2**  
561/355-2202

[GWEISS@pbcgov.org](mailto:GWEISS@pbcgov.org)



**MARY LOU BERGER**  
**DISTRICT 5**  
561-355-2205

[MBERGER@pbcgov.org](mailto:MBERGER@pbcgov.org)



**MELISSA MCKINLAY**  
**DISTRICT 6**  
561/355-2206

[MMCKINLAY@pbcgov.org](mailto:MMCKINLAY@pbcgov.org)



**MACK BERNARD**  
**DISTRICT 7**  
561/355-2207

[MBERNARD@pbcgov.org](mailto:MBERNARD@pbcgov.org)

# Contents

---

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TOP FOUR PRIORITIES SUMMARY .....</b> | <b>5</b>  |
| Affordable Housing / Homelessness .....                                | 5         |
| Opioid / Substance Use .....   | 6         |
| Hurricane Recovery .....   | 7         |
| Transportation and Infrastructure .....                                | 8         |
| <b>STATEWIDE BUDGET ISSUES .....</b>                                   | <b>9</b>  |
| 2020 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT .....                                  | 9         |
| HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.....   | 9         |
| CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS .....                                 | 10        |
| TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....                 | 11        |
| AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.....                                 | 12        |
| EDUCATION .....  | 13        |
| <b>PALM BEACH COUNTY BUDGET ITEMS OF INTEREST .....</b>                | <b>14</b> |
| EDUCATION .....  | 14        |
| HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.....   | 15        |
| PUBLIC SAFETY.....   | 15        |
| TRANSPORTATION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT .....                             | 16        |
| ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.....                                 | 18        |
| CULTURE, RECREATION AND FINE ARTS.....                                 | 19        |
| TAX PACKAGE .....  | 21        |
| <b>LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED .....</b>           | <b>22</b> |
| PUBLIC SAFETY.....   | 22        |
| ENVIRONMENTAL, GROWTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES .....                      | 24        |
| HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....                                 | 27        |
| TRANSPORTATION .....   | 28        |
| HEALTH CARE.....   | 29        |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION .....                                  | 32        |
| <b>LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED .....</b>             | <b>33</b> |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREEMPTION .....                                      | 33        |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNFUNDED MANDATE .....                                | 35        |
| <b>LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT DID NOT PASS.....</b>        | <b>35</b> |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREEMPTION .....                                      | 35        |

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE.....36

GROWTH MANAGEMENT .....38

FINANCE AND TAX .....38

**OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST THAT PASSED .....39**

**OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST THAT FAILED .....44**

**LOCAL BILLS AND CLAIM BILL .....46**

    Indian Trail Improvement District, Palm Beach County (HB 975) by Representative Roth.....46

    Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Palm Beach County (HB 753) by Representative Silvers .....46

    Port of Palm Beach District, Palm Beach County (HB 673) by Representative Willhite .....46

    Relief/Dontrell Stephens/Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (HB 6501) .....46

## Board of County Commissioners Top Four Priorities Summary

On July 23, 2019, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners approved their top four priority areas for the 2020 Legislative Session:

### Affordable Housing / Homelessness

For the first time since 2007, the Florida House and Senate agreed to fully fund the state's affordable housing trust funds, known as the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Funds. Full funding of the Sadowski Trust Funds was the number one priority for Palm Beach County. Both chambers agreed to dedicate the full \$370 million dollars for affordable housing projects, instead of redirecting these funds to unrelated projects.

While the Governor's recommended budget included full funding of the trust funds, amid the pandemic the Governor vetoed the \$225 million appropriated for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, which provides funds to local governments for very low, low and moderate-income families. The \$225 million will be returned to the Local Housing Trust Fund.

Despite the veto, the Governor approved spending \$115 million of the State Housing Trust Fund to fund State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program and \$30 million for the Housing Recovery Program. In addition, to offset the cut, the Governor dedicated \$250 million in CARES Act funding for rental and mortgage assistance for Florida families that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, HB 163 – Homelessness by Representative Altman (R-Indianapolis) and Senator Book (D-Plantation) was refiled this year and passed. Palm Beach County supported this bill. The bill revises the state's approach to preventing and ending homelessness by aligning state requirements with requirements of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for awarding grants to Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agencies. The bill also increases the amount of Challenge Grant funds each CoC lead agency may receive annually from \$500,000 to \$750,000 and it reduces the amount of matching funds or in-kind support required for a Challenge Grant recipient from 100 percent to 25 percent.

The following statewide and local amounts were appropriated to Affordable Housing and Homelessness:

- Affordable Housing Programs - \$145 million
  - ~~State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) – \$225 million\*~~
  - Florida Veterans – Homes for Heroes - \$1 million
  - State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program - \$115 million
  - Hurricane Housing Relief Program - \$30 million, includes:
    - \$20 million for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program
    - \$10 million for the Homebuyer Loan Program in Hurricane Michael impacted areas
- Homelessness Challenge Grants - \$3.2 million

## Opioid / Substance Use

The budget includes \$138.1 million in total funding to fight the opioid epidemic in Florida, investing \$81.8 million from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery.

Additionally, the budget provides \$21.8 million in funding to the Department of Health through the Overdose Data to Action grant to enhance drug overdose surveillance and to pilot prevention strategies to reduce overdoses.

The following statewide and local amounts were appropriated to the Opioid Epidemic:

- State Opioid Response Grant – \$81.8 million
  - Memorial Healthcare System - \$500,000
- Naltrexone extended-release injectable medication for first responders - \$1.9 million
- Opioid antagonists - \$5 million
- Naltrexone extended-release injectable medication for Department of Corrections - \$500,000
- Statewide Opioid Task Force staff support - \$100,000
- Problem-solving courts - \$9.4 million

The budget includes an additional \$8.3 million in funding to support individuals with behavioral health needs. This funding will expand the capacity of Community Action Teams (CAT) for children ages 11-21 with a mental health and / or substance abuse diagnosis and provide a family-centered approach to allow individuals to be served in their community.

### RECOVERY RESIDENCE (SB 1120)

The Legislature unanimously approved SB 1120 by Senator Harrell (R-Stuart) and Representative Caruso (R-Delray Beach) supported by the Sober Home Task Force to clarify patient brokering statutes and provide exemptions to disqualifying background information that prevents recovered addicts from working in sober homes, among other things. The bill also applies such exemptions to all payment methods used by federal health care programs and provides that patient brokering constitutes a first-degree misdemeanor.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE (SB 7012)

The Senate unanimously voted to pass SB 7012, the Senate President's Suicide Prevention Package after amending the bill to establish a suicide deterrence task force for first responders. The bill strengthens the duties and abilities of statewide offices and councils dedicated to suicide prevention. It requires continuing education for health care practitioners. It requires training for all public and charter schools. It provides civil immunity for attempting to save someone from harming himself or herself. It also requires health insurance companies to comply with Federal requirements for mental health. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Transportation to coordinate with the newly established office to prevent suicides at railways. The bill also includes provisions on the coordinated system of care for behavioral health services, specifically requiring DCF to assess the system and address gaps and expanding funding for a coordinated system of care programs.

## Hurricane Recovery

Florida has been hit hard by hurricanes in recent years, most notably Hurricanes Irma and Michael in 2017 and 2018, respectively. This budget provides significant funding for hurricane recovery efforts through multiple state agencies, including:

### Division of Emergency Management

- Open Federally Declared Disasters – \$1.3 billion in federal and state funding is provided so that communities can respond to, recover from, and mitigate against major disasters or emergencies.
- Open Federally Declared Disasters – \$116 million in federal and state assistance provides funds to leverage the work associated with the state operations relating to federally declared disasters for the Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Activity programs.

### Department of Economic Opportunity

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) - The budget includes \$737.4 million for federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds to be directed toward hurricane recovery efforts throughout the state. Any funds that remain unspent at the end of the current fiscal year are made available in the coming fiscal year for the same purpose.
- Revolving Loan Fund Program - The budget includes \$40 million in funding authority provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to assist businesses with economic challenges faced as a result of Hurricane Michael. The Revolving Loan Fund Program can be used to address capital needs and help businesses implement plans for resiliency to protect against future storms.
- Rural Infrastructure Fund - The budget includes \$5 million for the Rural Infrastructure Fund provided to rural counties impacted by Hurricane Michael for infrastructure projects such as broadband, roads, storm and wastewater projects, and telecommunications facilities.

The following local amounts was appropriated for Disaster Preparedness:

- ~~City of South Bay Emergency Shelter and Care Center – \$550,000~~

### Public Records / Disaster Recovery Assistance (SB 966)

HB 1035 (Pub. Rec./Records and Information Provided to Specified Entities for Disaster Recovery Assistance) was substituted on the House Floor for SB 966 (Public Records / Disaster Recovery Assistance). The bill was amended to narrow the exemption by making only property photographs and applicant financial documentation confidential and exempt. The bill specifies that the exemption relates only to disaster recovery assistance for a presidentially declared disaster. The bill passed unanimously, 118 - 0. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 966 was approved by the Governor on 6/18/20**

## Public Records / Public Shelter Space (SB 7048)

SB 7048 passed the Senate but did not have a House companion bill. The bill exempts from public inspection and copying the name, address, and telephone number of a person which are held by an agency providing shelter or assistance to such person during an emergency.

*See HB 7097 Taxation (p.20) for information on the State's disaster preparedness holiday.*

## Transportation and Infrastructure

The budget provides \$9.2 billion for the State Transportation Work Program. The Work Program is based on a five-year plan for the implementation and completion of transportation infrastructure projects throughout the state. The Fiscal Year 2020-21 Work Program includes:

- \$2.5 billion for highway construction to include 101 new lane miles.
- \$840.1 million in resurfacing to include 2,073 lane miles.
- \$124.9 million in seaport infrastructure improvements.
- \$400.5 million for aviation improvements of which \$85 million is for Spaceports.
- \$436.2 million in scheduled repairs for 90 bridges and replacement of 17 bridges.
- \$885.5 million investment in rail / transit projects.
- \$236.4 million for safety initiatives.

The following statewide and local amounts were appropriated to Transportation and Infrastructure:

- Small County Outreach Program - \$9 million
- Transportation Disadvantaged - \$70 million
- Palm Beach County Recreational Shooting Park - \$3,845,000
- ~~Glades Communities Street Resurfacing Reconstruction - \$500,000~~
- ~~Loxahatchee Groves North Road Equestrian/Multi-Use Trail - \$47,500~~
- ~~Town of Loxahatchee Groves Southern D Road Improvements - \$768,863~~

*See pages 15-17 for more detailed information on Transportation projects funded in PBC*



# Statewide Budget Issues

---

## 2020 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

### ***SB 2500 by Appropriations Committee and Senator Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)***

The House and Senate unanimously passed a \$93.2 billion FY 20-21 State Budget and adjourned “Sine Die” at 1:49 pm on Thursday 03/19/2020. The final budget agreement was published late Sunday night (day 62 of the 60-day Session) after a full week of budget negotiations. Lawmakers returned to Tallahassee on Thursday, following the constitutionally required 72-hour cooling off period, to debate and cast their vote on the final budget. The budget received bi-partisan praise from Legislators for addressing major issues from worker pay raises, to education, to mental health, to the environment. Much of the debate was on whether the funding is enough to handle the bleak economic outlook, and if the Legislature should plan to return to remake the budget based on lower revenue estimates.

The House and Senate agreed to set aside \$300 million in reserves to help address the economic impact caused by the pandemic. Additionally, they provided over \$50 million in state and anticipated Federal dollars to the Department of Health specifically for COVID-19.

### **SB 5001 provides:**

General Revenue: \$35.2 billion

Trust Funds: \$58 billion

Reserves: \$3.9 billion

Total Aggregate:

    \$1.3 billion - Working Capital

    \$1.7 billion - Budget Stabilization Fund

    \$858 million - Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund

The total veto amount is \$1,000,337,940.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health and Human Services received \$39.4 billion. This is the largest portion of funding in the budget.

Total Budget: \$39.4 billion [\$10,644.3 billion GR; \$28.719 billion TF]

Agency for Health Care Administration

Total: \$20.7 billion [\$7.3 billion GR; \$23,430.7 million TF]

- Medicaid Price Level and Workload – \$900.7 million
- KidCare Workload – \$31.5 million
- MediKids Combined Risk Pool Implementation – 31.1 million [\$2.6 million GR]
- Nursing Home Rate Enhancement – \$74.8 million

#### Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Total: \$1.6 billion [\$647.2 million GR; \$938.1 million TF]

- Resources for Persons with Unique Abilities – \$67.1 million
- Increase Residential Habilitation Provider Rates - \$5.5 million
- Fixed Capital for Developmental Disability Facilities – \$3.3 million
- Palm Beach Habilitation Center - \$225,000

#### Department of Children and Families

Total: \$3.4 billion [\$1.9 billion GR; \$1.5 billion TF]

- Community-Based Care Lead Agency (CBC) Funding - \$36.7 million [\$17.7 million GR]
- Accessibility of Telehealth in Public Schools in Rural Areas - \$4 million
- Child Welfare Evidence-based Practices and Services - \$18 million
- Mental Health Forensic Community Transitional Placements (Southern Region) - \$2.1 million
- Guardianship Assistance Program – \$16.8 million [\$9.2 million GR]
- Safety Management Services Restoration – \$8.1 million [\$5.2 million GR, \$2.9 million TF]
- Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program - \$10.3 million
- Alzheimer’s Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly - \$7.6 million
- HIV/AIDS Housing - \$9.1 million
- Maintenance Adoption Subsidies – \$20 million [\$9.4 million GR; \$10.6 million TF]
- State Opioid Funding – \$81.8 million
- Local Community Initiatives and Alzheimer’s Disease Community Projects - \$8.7 million
- All Inclusive Care (PACE) Expansion (50 PACE slots in Palm Beach County) - \$6.3 million

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations totaled \$5.6 billion, an increase over FY 2019-20.

The Department of Corrections will receive \$2.8 billion to include \$421 million for Inmate Health Services and \$19.7 million for Mental Health Facilities including provision for the financing of a new mental health facility at Lake Correctional Institution.



The Department of Juvenile Justice will receive \$587.1 million, which will include \$ 2.6 million for additional Incident Based Residential services and \$2.6 million for the Prevention and Early Intervention Programs and Services. It also includes \$3.4 million for Critical Repairs and Maintenance to DJJ Facilities.

The Department of Corrections will receive \$28 million for Hepatitis C Direct Acting Antivirals or Pandemic Response. The Department will also receive \$6 million for Critical Facility Renovations, Repairs and Maintenance and \$19.7 million for Mental Health Facilities.

## TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations totaled \$13.7 billion.

The Department of Economic Opportunity will receive \$1.2 billion.

### Department of Transportation - \$10.3 billion

- Transportation Work Program - \$9.3 billion TF
  - County Transportation Programs:
    - Small County Road Resurface Assistance Program (SCRAP) - \$47.6 million
    - Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) - \$96.0 million
    - Other County Transportation Programs - \$56.8 million
  - Local Transportation Initiatives (Road Fund) Projects - \$81.3 million
- Transportation Disadvantaged Program - \$70.4 million TF

### Department of Economic Opportunity - \$1.22 billion

- Affordable Housing Programs - \$145 million TF
  - ~~State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) - \$225 million TF (allocated to local governments)~~
  - State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Programs - \$115 million TF
  - Hurricane Housing Recovery Program - \$30 million TF

- ~~SHIP \$225 million~~

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| • Palm Beach County | \$11,686,231 |
| • Boca Raton        | \$ 1,010,475 |
| • Boynton Beach     | \$ 830,973   |
| • Delray Beach      | \$ 716,462   |

- West Palm Beach \$ 1,230,211

**TOTAL: \$15,474,352**

- Homeless Challenge Grants - \$3.2 million
- Florida Veterans – Homes for Heroes - \$1 million
- Enterprise Florida - \$16 million TF
- Visit Florida - \$50 million recurring TF
- Library Grants and Initiatives - \$27.2 million
- ~~Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - \$20 million~~

### Division of Emergency Management - \$1.5 billion

- Federally Declared Disaster Funding - \$1.4 billion
  - Communities - \$1.27 billion TF
  - State Operations - \$115.7 million TF
- Statewide Regional Evacuation Study - \$1.2 million GR
- Statewide Comprehensive Flood Plain Model - \$2.0 million GR
- Community Flood Resiliency - \$491,576 GR
- ~~State Emergency Operations Center Design - \$3.5 million GR~~
- Disaster Recovery and Preparedness Projects - \$5.3 million GR

## AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Funding for Agriculture and Natural Resources totaled \$6.6 billion.

The bill appropriates \$323.6 million towards Everglades Restoration.

Highlights include:

- Volkswagen Settlement - \$67.5 million TF
- Blue-Green Algae Task Force - \$10.8 million
- Innovative Technology Grants for Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10 million
- Florida Forever - \$100 million
- Beach Management Funding Assistance - \$50 million LATF
  - Palm Beach County Projects Funded:
    - Delray Beach Segment - Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project - \$3,211,945
    - Ocean Ridge Segment - Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project - \$100,000
    - Ft. Pierce Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Projection Project - \$280,000
    - Jupiter/Carlin Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Projection Project – \$130,000
    - Mid-Town Beach Nourishment – \$4,378,456
    - North Boca Raton Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Projection Project - \$144,000
    - Singer Island Dune Nourishment - \$120,000
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan Programs - \$130.7 million
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup - \$125 million



### Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - \$1.8 billion

- Wildfire Suppression Equipment/Aircraft - \$7.3 million
- Florida Forest Service Road/Bridge and Facility Maintenance - \$8.7 million
- Water Supply Planning - \$1.5 million
- USDA Hurricane Disaster Recovery - \$6.6 million
- African Snail Eradication Program - \$1.3 million
- Citrus Protection and Research - \$21.3 million
- Rural and Family Lands Conservation Easements - \$8.7 million
- Lake Okeechobee Agriculture Projects - \$4 million
- Agriculture Education and Promotion Facilities - \$3.6 million
- Office of Water Policy - \$1.0 million LATF; 8 positions
- Office of Energy Grants - \$0.9 million

### Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission - \$418.5 million

- Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery - \$9.4 million
- Hurricane Michael Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery - \$7.8 million
- Invasive Species Response - \$2.3 million
- Red Tide Research - \$2.8 million
- Center for Red Tide Research – \$2.0 million
- Boating Infrastructure and Improvement Program - \$5.9 million
- Derelict Vessel Removal - \$1.74 million

- State Reef Fish Survey - \$3 million

## EDUCATION

**Public Schools / K12 FEFP** – Total Appropriations: \$23.5 billion [\$18 billion GR; \$5.5 billion TF, excludes tuition]

Total Funding - Including Local Revenues: \$35.9 billion [\$23.5 billion state funds; \$12.4 billion local funds] NOTE: Local revenues include required and discretionary local effort for the public schools and tuition and fees for workforce, colleges, and universities.

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$776 million or 3.55%
- FEFP increase in Total Funds per Student is \$184, a 2.40% increase [from \$7,656 to \$7,840]  
Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$40
- Safe Schools Allocation - \$180 million for School Safety Officers
- FEFP Increase of \$25 million, for a total of \$100 million for mental health initiatives.
- Eliminates the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Allocation – (\$284.5 million)
- Teacher Salary Increase Allocation - \$500 million – additional funds that school districts must use to increase the minimum salaries of classroom teachers (\$400 million) to at least \$47,500, and to increase salaries for other instructional personnel (\$100 million).
- Sparsity Supplement - \$2.7 million increase to support small, rural districts
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) - \$412.2 million GR; including \$1.75 million increase for 659 additional students and \$8.1 million to raise the Base Student Allocation
- School Readiness Program - \$895.8 million [\$144.5 million GR; \$751.3 million TF]
- Early Learning Services - Total: \$1.4 billion [\$569.1 million GR; \$802.6 million TF]

### **Higher Education** – \$7.27 billion

- State operating funding for Florida’s higher education system of \$2.07 billion for Florida colleges, and more than \$5.2 billion for Florida universities
- There is no tuition increase this year in the State College or University System
- Workforce Development for career and technical education and adult education - \$372.3 million
- Provides \$20 million in performance funding for state colleges through the 2+2 Student Success Incentive Fund.
- Maintains \$560 million in performance funding for state universities.
- Bright Futures - \$651.8 million
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program - \$10 million to establish or expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students.
- Work Florida Student Success Incentive Fund at State Colleges – \$10 million in funding to support statewide efforts to align students in Florida to workforce programs, within the Florida College System, to statewide and regional workforce demands and high-wage job opportunities.



## Palm Beach County Budget Items of Interest

*\*strikethrough indicates item was vetoed.*

### EDUCATION

#### **Florida Atlantic University**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Florida Atlantic University – Education Enhancement  | \$31,914,300         |
| Florida Atlantic University – A.D. Henderson/FAU High Developmental Research School K-8 Replacement Facility | \$15,000,000         |
| Florida Atlantic University – Medical School   | \$27,286,330         |
| Florida Atlantic University—Jupiter STEM/Life Sciences Bldg.   | \$11,146,000         |
| Florida Atlantic University – Autism Program   | \$1,056,776          |
| Florida Atlantic University – Operating  | \$118,513,142        |
| <del>Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellows</del>                                       | <del>\$750,000</del> |
| Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program (Recurring)                           | \$889,101            |
| Florida Atlantic University – Financial Assistance   | \$399,658            |
| <del>Florida Atlantic University – Secondary Robotics Team Support</del>                                     | <del>\$100,000</del> |
| Florida Atlantic University – Tuition Authority  | <u>\$136,401,331</u> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$342,606,638</b> |

#### **Palm Beach State College**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Palm Beach State College – Operating                      | \$55,213,723        |
| Palm Beach State College – Education Enhancement          | \$8,401,389         |
| Palm Beach State College - Student Success Incentive Fund | <u>\$1,716,393</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$65,331,505</b> |

#### **Palm Beach County Schools K-12**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Palm Beach County Public Schools K-12 FEFP Total Funds        | \$1,699,092,574      |
| Palm Beach County Workforce Education Programs                | \$17,692,976         |
| Palm Beach School Readiness                                   | \$40,845,982         |
| Palm Beach County Voluntary Prekindergarten                   | \$30,643,855         |
| <del>Riviera Beach Early Learning to Kindergarten Pilot</del> | <del>\$150,000</del> |
| <del>Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Program</del>            | <del>\$150,000</del> |

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <del>Florence Fuller Child Development Center Apprenticeship Training Academy &amp; Employment Program</del> | <del>\$250,000</del> |
|--|----------------------|

#### **Education Fixed Capital Outlay**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <del>STEM Classroom for Marine Science</del> | <del>\$250,000</del> |
|--|----------------------|

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Health and Human Services

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| The Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service – Mental Health First Aid   | \$100,000            |
| Exchange Club – Child Abuse Prevention Services in Palm Beach and Broward Counties                                  | \$150,000            |
| Scripps Research Institute  | \$500,000            |
| Boca Raton Habilitation Center  | \$200,000            |
| Alzheimer's Community Care Association  | \$1,500,000          |
| Alzheimer's Community Care Association – Critical Support Initiative  | \$650,000            |
| Place of Hope – Child Welfare Foster Care Regionalization   | \$650,000            |
| Community Action Treatment for Mental Health/Substance Abuse – Chrysalis  | \$750,000            |
| Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center  | \$282,039            |
| Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation   | \$92,946             |
| <del>2-1-1 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast – S. FL. Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Outreach Project</del> | <del>\$250,000</del> |
| Homeless Housing Assistance Grants  | \$4,611,000          |
| Feeding South Florida Community Kitchen   | \$1,035,480          |

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Criminal and Civil Justice

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Oak Street Home II  | \$250,000          |
| Sago Palm Facility  | \$142,900          |
| South Bay Correctional Facility   | \$275,560          |
| Continuum of Care Program (Bay, Glades and Palm Beach)                            | \$2,961,680        |
| RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program   | \$500,000          |
| Home Builders Institute (HBI) Building Careers for Inmates and Returning Citizens |                    |
| Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach  | \$750,000          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$4,880,140</b> |

### Local Fire Rescue

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <del>Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Bunker Gear Contamination</del>                  | <del>\$400,000</del> |
| <del>Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Diesel Exhaust System Installation Project</del> | <del>\$400,000</del> |
| <del>Palm Beach County New Fire Station on Flavor Pict Road</del>                   | <del>\$120,000</del> |
| <del>Riviera Beach Firefighter Cancer Reduction Plan</del>                          | <del>\$250,000</del> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$1,170,000</b>   |

~~211 Palm Beach Treasure Coast – South Florida Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention~~ \$250,000

## TRANSPORTATION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

### **Transportation Economic Development**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Rides Rides—Senior Transportation        | \$159,520           |
| Transportation Disadvantaged (Statewide) | <u>\$70,400,000</u> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                            | <b>\$70,400,000</b> |

### **Arterial Highway Construction**

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Australian Avenue from 1 <sup>st</sup> Street to Blue Heron Blvd. | \$2,510,061        |
| George Bush Blvd. from NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue to SR A1A        | \$2,798,856        |
| Homewood Blvd. from Old Germantown Road to Lowson Blvd.           | <u>\$2,076,650</u> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$7,385,567</b> |

### **Aviation Development Grants**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Belle Glade State Municipal Airport Taxiway Charlie Construction   | \$1,400,000         |
| LNA Southside Redevelopment Project – Phase 3 & 4                  | \$1,800,000         |
| North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport Construct Hangars | \$1,200,000         |
| Palm Beach Glades Airport Site Dev. & Infrastructure Improvements  | \$1,600,000         |
| Palm Beach International Airport                                   | \$1,000,000         |
| Palm Beach International Airport Concourse B Expansion             | <u>\$4,531,938</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$11,531,938</b> |

### **Bridge Construction**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Brant Drive Bridge Replacement from Oregon Lane to Avocet Road | \$ 1,738,690         |
| SR 5/US 1 Federal Highway from CR A1A to Beach Road            | \$139,331,811        |
| SR 800/Spanish River Blvd. over Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW)   | \$1,090,935          |
| SR 786/PGA Blvd. over Intracoastal Water (ICWW)                | <u>\$2,266,081</u>   |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$144,427,517</b> |

### **Construction/Inspection/Consultants**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| SR 25/US 27 from the Hendry/Palm Beach County line to SR 80 | \$2,527,141         |
| SR 5/US1 Federal Highway from CR A1A to Beach Road          | <u>\$15,738,110</u> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$18,265,251</b> |

### **County Transportation Programs**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| SR 809/Military Trail at Forest Hill Blvd. | \$5,480,674 |
|--|-------------|

### **Highway Maintenance**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| I-95 Asset Maintenance Palm Beach County                       | \$3,500,000         |
| Palm Bch Co ITS Maintenance                                    | \$1,800,000         |
| Palm Beach County JPA's for Maintenance Lighting Maintenance   | \$3,383,514         |
| Palm Beach County Road Ranger Service Patrol                   | \$1,830,720         |
| SR 25/US 27 Asset Management Contract US 27 & Belle Glade Area | <u>\$1,900,000</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$12,414,234</b> |

### **Highway Safety Construction/Grants**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| SR 25/US 27 at CR 827 & Okeelanta Road Intersections             | \$3,087,322 |
| SR 25/US 27 from 5.5 Miles South of South Bay to Milepost 25.661 | \$5,838,098 |
| SR 25/US 27 from Hendry/Palm Beach County line to SR 80          | \$2,999,072 |
| SR 25/US 27 from Milepost 16.00 to Milepost 20.150               | \$5,054,179 |



|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| SR 25/US 27 from Milepost to 12.599 to South of South Bay Milepost 25.854 | \$2,633,540         |
| SR 25/US 27 from Milepost 12.900 to 16.00                                 | <u>\$6,135,233</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$25,747,444</b> |

**Intrastate Highway Construction**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Palm Beach County Push Button Contract for Signalization               | \$1,026,000         |
| Hurricane Irma: SR 700 at Hatton Hwy & Triangle Park Washout           | \$3,617,990         |
| SR 5/US1/Dixie Highway from Albemarle Road to SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd.  | \$4,886,447         |
| SR 710/Beeline Highway from Northlake Blvd. to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd. | \$2,400,000         |
| SR 9/1-95 from South Glades Road to South of Linton Blvd.              | <u>\$2,950,000</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$14,880,437</b> |

**Preliminary Engineering Consult**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| SR 5/US 1 Federal Highway from CR A1A to Beach Road                         | \$2,058,477         |
| Resurface Turnpike (SR 91) in Palm Beach County (Milepost 112.212-117.843)  | \$1,082,224         |
| SR 5/US1 from 59 <sup>th</sup> Street to SR 850/Northlake Blvd.             | \$1,500,000         |
| SR 700/Connors Hwy from North of 1 <sup>st</sup> Street to West of SR 80    | \$1,045,627         |
| SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd. to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd.          | \$1,010,000         |
| SR 9/1-95 at 10 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North                                  | \$1,769,530         |
| SR 9/1-95 at Hypoluxo Road  | \$2,100,000         |
| SR 9/1-95 at Lantana Road   | \$2,000,000         |
| SR 9/1-95 from Broward/Palm Beach County Line to North of Linton Blvd.      | \$1,000,000         |
| SR 9/1-95 from S of 45 <sup>th</sup> Street to N of 45 <sup>th</sup> Street | \$2,205,000         |
| SR 9/1-95 from South of Woolbright Road to North of Woolbright Road         | \$1,020,000         |
| Turnpike (SR 91) Aux Lanes from Sawgrass PBC to Glades Rd (Milepost 73-75)  | \$2,686,664         |
| Widen Turnpike (SR 91) Okeechobee Blvd. to SR 710 (4-8 Lanes) w/exp Lanes   | \$10,000,000        |
| Widen Turnpike from SR 710 (MP 106.1) to MP 117 (4 to 8 Lanes)              | <u>\$1,650,000</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | <b>\$31,127,522</b> |

**Public Transit Development**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Palm Beach County Block Grant Operating Assistance | \$5,826,074 |
|--|-------------|

**Rail Development**

|                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| South Central Florida Express | \$4,930,050 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|

**Right of Way Land Acquisition**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| SR 806/Atlantic Avenue from West of SR 7/US 441 to East of Lyons Road  | \$10,424,075        |
| SR 710/Beeline Highway from Northlake Blvd. to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd. | \$1,953,831         |
| SR 9/1-95 at Gateway Boulevard Interchange                             | \$6,459,182         |
| SR 9/1-95 at PGA Blvd. / Central Blvd.                                 | \$6,632,296         |
| SR 9/1-95 at SR 804 / Boynton Beach Blvd. Interchange                  | <u>\$4,819,052</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$30,288,436</b> |

**Toll Operation Contracts**

Account Management System / CCSS Operations \$51,059,169

**Transport Planning Grants**

Palm Beach UPWP FY 2020 / 2021-2021 / 2022 \$3,128,452

**Turnpike System Equipment & Development**

Widen Turnpike (SR 91) Boynton Beach Blvd.-Lake Worth Rd (4 to 8 Lanes W/EI), MP 87-94 \$1,200,000

**Traffic Engineering**

Palm Beach County Signal Maintenance & Operations on State Hwy System \$2,565,762

**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Water Projects**

Belle Glade NW/SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, SW Avenue B Extension corridor Stormwater Conveyance \$100,000  
Boca Raton 20 Inch Critical Wastewater Force Main Resiliency Project \$200,000  
Greenacres Swain Blvd. Sewer Extension \$225,000  
Hypoluxo Septic to Sewer Conversion \$200,000  
Indian Trail Improvement District M-0 Outfall Canal Gate \$200,000  
Jupiter Pennock Industrial Park Stormwater Improvements \$150,000  
Jupiter Seminole Avenue Stormwater Basin Improvements \$250,000  
Jupiter Sims Creek Preserve Hydrologic Restoration \$250,000  
Lake Clarke Shores Septic Conversion Project \$236,177  
Loxahatchee Groves Canal System Rehabilitation \$150,000  
Palm Beach County Lake Worth Lagoon Monitoring Program \$500,000  
Palm Beach County Singer Island Submerged Lands Acquisition \$150,000  
Riviera Beach Utilities Special District Intracoastal Critical Water Main Replacement \$200,000  
South Bay Stormwater Flood Control and Waterway Management Phase 2 \$150,000  
South Indian River Water Control District Section 7 Drainage Improvement Project \$150,000  
Wellington Wetlands Reuse Project \$220,000  
West Palm Beach Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Cybersecurity Tech upgrades \$250,000

**Beach Restoration**

Delray Beach Segment - Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project \$3,211,945  
Ft. Pierce Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Projection Project \$280,000  
Jupiter/Carlin Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Projection Project \$130,000  
Mid-Town Beach Nourishment \$4,378,456  
North Boca Raton Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Projection Project \$144,000  
Ocean Ridge Segment - Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project \$100,000  
Singer Island Dune Nourishment \$120,000  
**TOTAL: \$8,364,401**

**Environmental Project**

Loggerhead Marinelife Center Improving Water Quality & Coastline  
Cleanliness in Palm Beach County \$250,000

## CULTURE, RECREATION AND FINE ARTS

### **Historic Preservation Grants**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Town of Juno Beach Juno Beach Landmarks Trail Map/Brochure,<br>Interpretive Signs, Website and Mobile App | \$20,000 |
|---|----------|

### **Cultural and Museum Grants**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center, Inc                     | \$42,750           |
| Aequalis, Inc.   | \$12,341           |
| African American History Museum and Library                          | \$200,000          |
| Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens   | \$7,581            |
| Boca Ballet Theatre Company  | \$36,023           |
| Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.                                  | \$27,280           |
| Boca Raton Museum of Art, Inc.                                       | \$48,172           |
| Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Inc.                              | \$28,448           |
| Boynton Cultural Centre, Inc.  | \$16,828           |
| Busch Wildlife Sanctuary   | \$7,308            |
| Center for Creative Education, Inc.                                  | \$43,998           |
| City of Riviera Beach - Parks and Recreation                         | \$6,990            |
| Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach, Inc.                    | \$36,342           |
| Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.                          | \$47,737           |
| Expanding and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.                 | \$15,757           |
| Florida Atlantic University - University Galleries                   | \$18,906           |
| Friends of Mounts Botanical Gardens                                  | \$37,501           |
| Historical Society of Palm Beach County                              | \$33,879           |
| Lighthouse ArtCenter, Inc.   | \$43,355           |
| Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Inc.                                   | \$7,923            |
| Lynn University, Inc.  | \$42,214           |
| Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc.  | \$48,510           |
| Norton Museum of Art, Inc.   | \$48,679           |
| Old School Square Center for the Arts, Inc.                          | \$44,405           |
| Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.  | \$47,580           |
| Palm Beach Opera, Inc.   | \$48,172           |
| Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival                                      | \$3,945            |
| Palm Beach State College Presenting Season                           | \$47,158           |
| Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.               | \$48,932           |
| School of Arts Foundation, Inc.                                      | \$47,447           |
| South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, Inc.                      | \$45,383           |
| SunFest of Palm Beach County, Inc.                                   | \$46,144           |
| The Armory Center  | \$46,448           |
| The Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach, Inc.                        | \$7,384            |
| The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum                                    | \$47,447           |
| The Lake Worth Playhouse, Inc.                                       | \$26,765           |
| The Morikami, Inc.   | \$47,013           |
| The Palm Beach Symphony Society, Inc.                                | \$43,355           |
| The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.                     | \$47,230           |
| Village of Royal Palm Beach - Parks and Recreation - Cultural Center | \$41,363           |
| Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, Inc.                              | <u>\$28,750</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$1,573,443</b> |

**Cultural Facilities**

The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc. Hamm Everglades Conservation Center ~~—————~~ ~~\$500,000~~

**Culture Builds Florida**

Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation, Inc. — Dia De Los Muertos 2019 ~~—————~~ ~~\$15,980~~

Palm Beach Poetry Festival, Inc. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Palm Beach Poetry Festival ~~—————~~ ~~\$25,000~~

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church — Arts at St. Andrew's 20-21 season ~~—————~~ ~~\$9,500~~

The Children's Museum, Inc. — Art Attack ~~—————~~ ~~\$25,000~~

**TOTAL:** ~~—————~~ ~~**\$75,480**~~

**Library Grants**

State Library State Aid ~~—————~~ ~~\$20,509,276~~

Library Construction Grants ~~—————~~ ~~\$1,000,000~~

Library Cooperatives ~~—————~~ ~~\$2,000,000~~

**TOTAL:** ~~—————~~ ~~**\$20,509,276**~~

**Parks and Recreation**

Mangonia Park Addie L. Green Park Improvements ~~—————~~ ~~\$250,000~~

Pahokee King Memorial Park Improvements ~~—————~~ ~~\$235,000~~

Royal Palm Beach Commons All-Access Playground ~~—————~~ ~~\$250,000~~

Highland Beach Crosswalks ~~—————~~ ~~\$201,523~~

Boynton Beach Town Square Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing ~~—————~~ ~~\$75,000~~

South Florida Fairgrounds Multi-Purpose Exhibition Building ~~—————~~ ~~\$250,000~~

**Parks(Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program**

Acreage Community Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$200,000~~

Bob Marcello Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$200,000~~

Canyon District Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$200,000~~

Constitution Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$200,000~~

Dune Walkover Phase I ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Dune Walkover Phase II ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Greenbriar Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Lone Pine Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Remembrance Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Sabal Palm Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Sago Palm Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

Sycamore Park ~~—————~~ ~~\$50,000~~

*\*strikethrough indicates item was vetoed.*

## TAX PACKAGE

### Taxation (HB 7097)

HB 7097 is the “tax package” for the 2020 Legislative Session and includes several tax reductions and other tax-related modifications. Of note, the bill includes two sales tax holidays: a three-day back-to-school holiday and a seven-day disaster preparedness holiday. The bill includes a requirement that any future levy of the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Sales Surtax in any eligible county be limited to 30 years in duration.

The bill also includes a requirement that School Capital Outlay sales surtaxes approved in the future be proportionately shared with charter schools. The bill increases the population limit, under which a county is authorized to use its tourist development tax revenues for zoological parks, fishing piers and nature centers from 750,000 to 950,000.

Regarding property taxes, the bill amends the requirements for hospitals to qualify for a charitable tax exemption. Non-profit hospitals will be required to document the value of charitable services they provide, and their current charity tax exemption will be limited to the value of that charity care. The bill exempts from property tax vacant affordable housing units and units occupied by persons or families who met the qualifying income thresholds at the time they began their tenancy but whose income grew through the income thresholds.

The bill also exempts from property tax an affordable housing project owned by certain limited liability companies. The bill updates the qualifying operations for the deployed service member tax exemption. The bill amends statutory provisions that address conflict of interest for special magistrates and restricts information that may be mailed with the yearly Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice.

The bill also prohibits an owner of a public building from soliciting any payment for providing the allocation letter needed to receive a federal income tax deduction for energy-efficient construction. The bill also includes several provisions proposed by the Department of Revenue designed to enhance its administration of state taxes and oversight of property taxation such as providing flexibility in property tax noticing requirements during declared states of emergency and extends the deadline for property owners affected by Hurricane Michael to begin rebuilding and retain their prior assessment limitation. The total estimated reduction for local government revenues in fiscal year 2020-21 is \$10.8 million. Except as otherwise provided, the bill is effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 7097 was approved by the Governor on April 8, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-010**

## LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED

---

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Fire Prevention and Control (SB 1092)

SB 1092 creates the Firefighter Cancer Decontamination Grant Program. The matching grant will provide financial assistance to help fire departments procure equipment, supplies and educational training materials designed to mitigate exposure to hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals. The Division of State Fire Marshal within the Department of Financial Services will administer the program and annually award grants to fire departments on an as-needed basis. The bill authorizes the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules and procedures to administer the program, including for the approval of applications and development of need-based criteria. The bill includes a \$250,000 appropriation to implement the bill. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 1092 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-96**

#### Alert Systems in Public Schools (SB 70)

SB 70 creates “Alyssa’s Law.” The bill modifies statute to require each public school, beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, to implement an interoperable mobile panic alert system, known as “Alyssa’s Alert,” capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responders. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, subject to legislative appropriation, the bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, to develop a competitive solicitation for a statewide mobile panic alert system. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 70 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-145**

#### Towing and Immobilizing Vehicles and Vessels (HB 133)

CS/CS/HB 133 exempts certain counties, including Palm Beach County, with towing or immobilization licensing, regulatory or enforcement programs as of January 1, 2020, from the prohibition on imposing a fee or charge on an authorized wrecker operator or on a towing business. Effective October 1, 2020.

**No action has been taken on this bill.**

#### Prescription Drug Donation Repository Program (HB 177)

CS/HB 177 creates a Prescription Drug Donation Repository Program (program) in the Department of Health (DOH) to facilitate donation and distribution of prescription drugs and supplies to indigent, underinsured, and uninsured patients in the state. The program uses a system of repositories to distribute donated prescription drugs throughout the state to eligible patients. The bill establishes eligibility criteria and procedures for repositories, donors, donations, and donation recipients. The bill also authorizes the Governor to waive the patient eligibility requirements of the program during a declared state of emergency. Repositories must report on program activities each month to DOH, and DOH must publish registries on its website of participating repositories and available donations under the program. The bill requires DOH to adopt rules and forms

necessary to implement the program. The bill grants civil, criminal, and administrative immunity for participating persons and entities that exercise reasonable care in donating, accepting, transferring, distributing, or dispensing prescription drugs under the program. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 177 was approved by the Governor on June 9, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-023**

Sexual Battery Prosecution Time Limitation (HB 199)

The bill creates “Donna’s Law” to remove the Statute of Limitations and permit prosecution to be commenced at any time for any sexual battery offense involving a victim younger than 18 at the time the offense is committed. The bill applies only to a qualifying offense committed on or after July 1, 2020. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 199 was approved by the Governor on June 23, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-81**

Emergency Sheltering of Persons with Pets (HB 705)

The bill requires counties that maintain designated shelters to designate a shelter that can accommodate persons with pets and requires such shelters to meet certain requirements. The bill also requires the Department of Education to assist the Division of Emergency Management in determining strategies for the evacuation of persons with pets for the shelter component of the state comprehensive emergency management plan. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 705 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-132**

First Responders and Correctional Officers (HB 573)

CS/CS/HB 573 provides confidentiality for peer-to-peer communications between first responders, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, public safety communications officers and dispatchers. The bill defines a peer support communication as oral, electronic or written communications between a first responder and a first responder peer. The communication must be made with a mutual expectation of confidentiality and for the purpose of discussing physical or emotional issues associated with the first responder’s employment. Under the bill, a first responder peer is a first responder who is not a health care practitioner, who has experience providing physical or emotional support to first responders and who has been designated by the first responder’s employing agency to provide peer support and has received training to do so. The bill generally prohibits the disclosure of a first responder’s peer support communication with a first responder. The bill protects the confidentiality of the communications by prohibiting the first responder peer from divulging the communications or from testifying in civil, criminal, administrative and disciplinary proceedings regarding the communications, subject to the specific exceptions. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 573 was approved by the Governor on June 27, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-104**

## ENVIRONMENTAL, GROWTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### Public Financing of Construction Projects (SB 178)

CS/CS/SB 178 requires public entities to conduct a sea-level impact projection (SLIP) study on state-funded buildings within the coastal building zone before commencing construction. The study must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection and published on the agency's website before commencing construction. Buildings subject to this requirement would include construction projects of a municipality, county or any other public agency that is using state-appropriated funds for the project. The bill requires the DEP to develop rules establishing standards for conducting a SLIP study and specifies required components to be addressed in the rules. Also, DEP must also approve and publish copies of all SLIP studies for at least 10 years. The bill authorizes DEP to bring a civil action to seek injunctive relief to cease construction or seek recovery of state funds expended on a coastal structure if construction commences without complying with requirements for the SLIP study and review. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 178 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-119**

### Environmental Resource Management (SB 712)

CS/CS/CS/SB 712 changes current law relating to water quality improvements including septic systems, basin management action plans, stormwater management systems, land application of biosolids, sanitary sewer overflows and wastewater projects grants.

- **Septic Tank Program** – The bill transfers regulation of septic tanks from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection and directs DEP to develop rules for the location of septic tanks to prevent groundwater and surface water contamination and to protect public health. The bill establishes a septic tank technical advisory committee to submit recommendations for advanced nutrient removal technologies and other regulatory matters.
- **Stormwater** – The bill directs the DEP and water management districts to initiate rulemaking to update stormwater design criteria by January 2021. It directs the agencies, as part of the rulemaking, to address low-impact design best management practices and design criteria to increase nutrient removal and measures for consistent application of the net improvement performance standard to ensure significant reductions of pollutant loadings. The bill also directs DEP to evaluate performance data relating to stormwater “self-certification” and to recommend improvements to the program to the Legislature. DEP and the Department of Economic Opportunity, with local government cooperation, are charged with developing a model stormwater management program that will include model ordinances that target nutrient reduction and green infrastructure.
- **BMAPs** – The bill requires a BMAP to include a wastewater plan if DEP determines wastewater treatment facilities are contributing more than 20% of nutrient pollution or if deemed necessary to achieve the nutrient total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the BMAP. The wastewater plan is to be developed by each responsible local government, and the plan must address the facility upgrades or changes necessary to meet TMDL requirements. The wastewater plan must include a timeline for projects and estimated costs, and the plan must be adopted by July 2025. The bill prohibits DEP from requiring a higher cost project option for a wastewater plan if a lower cost option would achieve the same load reductions. The bill requires a BMAP to include a septic remediation plan if DEP determines that septic tanks are contributing more than 20% of nutrient pollution or if deemed necessary to achieve the nutrient TMDL for the BMAP. The septic remediation plan must be developed by each responsible local government and must identify projects necessary to reduce nutrient loads and include an inventory of existing septic tanks. The septic remediation plan must also identify septic



tanks that will be connected to central sewer, replaced or upgraded, and it must include estimated costs to implement projects. The septic remediation plan must be adopted as part of the BMAP by July 2025. The bill also requires DEP to submit a report to the Legislature by July 2021 evaluating the costs of all septic system and wastewater treatment projects identified in BMAPs and identifying funding plans for the projects on a five-year basis. Also, the bill requires DEP to submit a report to the Legislature by July 2021 assessing the water quality monitoring being conducted for each BMAP that is subject to nutrient load reductions.

- Agriculture – The bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to collect fertilizer and nutrient records from producers enrolled in the agricultural best management practices program and provide such records to DEP. It requires DACS to conduct onsite inspections of enrollees every two years. The bill also authorizes the creation of a “cooperative agricultural regional water quality improvement element” for agricultural nonpoint sources as part of a basin management action plan under specified conditions and establishes qualifications for participating in the element.
- Wastewater Grant Program – The bill establishes a wastewater grant program in DEP to provide a 50% match for specified projects intended to reduce nutrient loads and identify projects that shall receive priority funding.
- Biosolids – The bill directs DEP to adopt rules for biosolids and requires the rules to be ratified by the Legislature. It specifies conditions for new biosolid land application permits or renewals of existing permits after July 2020, including limitations on the application on soils where certain water table conditions exist and a requirement to be enrolled in the DACS best management practices program. The bill requires all permits to meet the requirements of the biosolids rules to be adopted by DEP no later than two years after the effective date of such rules. It grandfathers certain existing local ordinances relating to biosolids adopted before November 2019.
- Sanitary Sewer Overflows – The bill requires wastewater facilities to provide a power outage contingency plan and to develop an assessment, repair and replacement plan that complies with DEP rules to be adopted on this subject. The plans shall be reported to DEP and must include expenditures taken for assessment, repair and replacement. A wastewater facility’s substantial compliance with these planning and reporting requirements may be evidence for mitigating applicable DEP environmental penalties. Also, a facility may receive a 10-year operating permit if it is meeting the goals of its action plan. The bill requires wastewater facilities to provide annual reports to DEP detailing revenues and expenditures as prescribed by DEP rule, and a facility’s substantial compliance with this requirement may be evidence for mitigating DEP penalties. The bill requires DEP to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing all facilities that experienced sanitary sewer overflows over the reporting period.
- Additional DEP and Agency Reports and Rulemaking – The bill requires DEP to report by July 2020 the status of upgrades by specified wastewater utilities that are required to meet advanced treatment standards under current law, and it also requires DEP to submit cost estimates for wastewater facility and septic system remediation projects to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research beginning July 2022. EDR is required to include these cost estimates in its annual water resources assessment.
- Monetary Penalties – The bill modifies current law requirements on administrative penalties assessed by DEP. Total administrative penalties increased from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Wastewater violation penalties are included under the defined administrative penalties. These penalties increased by 50%: from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and \$2,000 to \$4,000, respectively.
- Bottled Water – The bill requires DEP to conduct a study on the bottled water industry in Florida and specify the subjects to be addressed in the study. The results of the study must be submitted to the governor and Legislature by June 2021.
- Water Management District Annual Reports – The bill requires water management districts to submit a copy of their annual reports to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research and requires the

reports to include, in the listing of projects to implement a BMAP, any projects converting septic systems to sewer or enhanced nutrient-reducing systems.

- Legal Standing – The bill prohibits local governments from recognizing or granting certain legal rights to the natural environment (e.g., granting legal standing to waterbodies) or granting enforcement of such rights to persons or political subdivisions.
- Reuse of Reclaimed Water – The bill directs DEP to develop rules by December 2020 based on the Potable Reuse Commission’s 2020 report for advancing a potable reuse framework in Florida. The rules must address contaminants of emerging concern and meet or exceed drinking water quality standards. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 712 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-151**

### Community Affairs (HB 1339)

CS/CS/CS/HB 1339 makes varied and comprehensive changes to Florida law impacting affordable housing. The bill:

- Allows a local government to adopt an ordinance to allow accessory dwelling units in any area zoned for single-family residential use.
- Requires the reporting of impact fee charges data within the annual financial audit report submitted to the Department of Financial Services.
- Requires reporting on annual expenditures for affordable housing in reports of economic status information to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research.
- Establishes biannual regional workshops for locally elected officials serving on affordable housing advisory committees to identify and share best affordable housing practices.
- Requires a municipality to fully offset costs to a developer if a linkage is assessed for a residential or mixed-use residential development. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 1339 was Approved by Governor on June 9, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-027**

## HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Homelessness (HB 163)

HB 163 revises the state's approach to preventing and ending homelessness by aligning state requirements with requirements of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for awarding grants to Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agencies. As a result, the State Office on Homelessness (State Office) in the Department of Children and Families will be able to award grant money more expeditiously and efficiently. The bill requires each CoC lead agency to create a continuum of care plan which implements an effective and efficient housing crisis response system to prevent and end homelessness in the CoC catchment area. The bill also requires the State Office to align its catchment areas for CoC lead agencies with HUD's catchment areas. The bill adds representatives from the Florida Housing Coalition and the Department of Elder Affairs to the Council on Homelessness. HB 163 also increases the amount of Challenge Grant funds each CoC lead agency may receive annually from \$500,000 to \$750,000, and it reduces the amount of matching funds or in-kind support required for a Challenge Grant recipient from 100 percent to 25 percent. In addition, the bill increases the maximum percentage of grant funds that a CoC lead agency may spend on its administrative costs from 8 percent to 10 percent and changes the preference for funding to be for COC lead agencies that have a demonstrated ability to move households out of homelessness. The bill amends sections of law outlining two approaches to housing services, Rapid ReHousing and Housing First. It requires that individuals and families being considered for Rapid ReHousing assistance be assessed and prioritized through the continuum of care's coordinated entry system. The bill also removes the program element indicating a benefit for an individual to have a background check and complete rehabilitation for any addiction to substances when participating in Housing First services. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 163 was approved by the Governor on June 18, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-44**

### Housing Discrimination (SB 374)

SB 374 amends ss. 760.34, F.S., and 760.35, F.S., to allow a person alleging housing discrimination under the Florida Fair Housing Act (FFHA) to file a civil action regardless of whether the aggrieved person has exhausted his or her administrative remedies. Accordingly, the aggrieved person may file a civil action regardless of whether: He or she has filed a complaint with the Florida Commission on Human Relations (Commission); The Commission has resolved a complaint (if the aggrieved person chose to file one) or any particular amount of time has passed since the aggrieved person filed a complaint with the Commission. The bill prohibits an aggrieved person from filing a civil action under the FFHA in two instances: (i) if the claimant has consented to a conciliation agreement obtained by the Commission, other than to enforce the terms of the conciliation agreement; or (ii) if an administrative law judge has commenced a hearing. The bill, in making the FFHA substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act, enhances the opportunity for the Commission to continue to receive its federal funding of approximately of approximately \$597,189 (based on a six-year average of funding). Effective upon becoming law.

**No action has been taken on this bill.**

### Economic Development (SB 426)

CS/SB 426 revises how the Regional Rural Development Grants Program and the Rural Infrastructure Fund operates. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires grant recipients to serve or be located within a rural area of opportunity.
- Authorizes organizations that serve an entire rural area of opportunity to receive grants of up to \$50,000 annually.
- Reduces the percentage of grant funds that must be matched with non-state funds from 100 percent to 25 percent of the state's contribution.
- Specifies that regional economic development organizations may use grant funds to build their professional capacity and provide technical assistance.
- Adds as eligible use of funds: upgrades to or development of public tourism infrastructure and improvements to broadband internet service access in unserved or underserved rural communities.
- Requires projects that improve service and access to be through a partnership that was publicly noticed and competitively bid.
- Establishes certain contract and public notice requirements. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 426 was approved by Governor on June 18, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-30**

### Visit Florida Reauthorization (SB 362)

SB 362 extends the scheduled repeal date for the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (better known as Visit Florida) and the Division of Tourism Marketing within Enterprise Florida, Inc., from July 1, 2020, to October 1, 2023.

**SB 362 was approved by Governor on April 8, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-016**

## TRANSPORTATION

### Electric Bicycles (HB 971)

CS/CS/HB 971 creates regulation governing the operation of e-bikes and provides that an e-bike or an operator of an e-bike must be afforded all the rights and privileges of a bicycle. The bill authorizes an e-bike to operate where bicycles are allowed including, but not limited to, streets, highways, roadways, shoulders and bicycle lanes. However, local governments may regulate the operation of e-bikes on streets, highways, sidewalks, and sidewalk areas. Local governments and state agencies with jurisdiction over bicycle paths, multiuse paths, and trail networks may restrict or prohibit the operation of e-bikes on such paths and networks. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 971 was approved by the Governor on June 20, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-69**

## HEALTH CARE

### Assisted Living Facilities (HB 767)

#### The bill:

- Requires AHCA to conduct a full inspection instead of an abbreviated biennial licensure inspection to review key quality-of-care standards for a facility that has a history of class I, class II, or uncorrected class III violations resulting from complaints referred by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Codifies current rule requirements to law relating to training and education of facility staff.
- Allows ALFs to admit or retain residents that require the use of assistive devices, which are defined as any device designed or adapted to help a resident perform an action, task, an activity of daily living, a transfer, prevention of a fall, or recovery from a fall.
- Allows ALFs to admit residents that require 24-hour nursing care, or residents that are receiving hospice services, if the arrangement is agreed to by the facility and the resident, additional care is provided by a licensed hospice, and the resident is under the care of a physician who agrees that the physical needs of the resident can be met at the facility.
- Allows ALFs to admit residents who are bedridden if they are bedridden for no more than 7 days, or for an ALF licensed as extended congregate care, no more than 14 days.
- Allows the use of certain physical restraints in ALFs, including, full-bed rails and geriatric chairs.
- Amends the Resident Bill of Rights to allow the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to assist a resident who needs to be relocated due to the closure of the facility.
- Removes the requirement for ALF staff assisting with the self-administration of medication to read the label of the medication to the resident. Instead, the bill requires staff to, in the presence of the resident, confirm the medication is correct and advise the resident of the medication name and purpose.
- Authorizes rules to address technological advances in the provision of care, safety, and security, including the use of devices, equipment and other security measures for water management, emergency response, staff risk management, and for the general safety and security of residents, staff, and the facility. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 767 was approved by the Governor on June 21, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-68**

### Substance Abuse Services (SB 1120)

CS/CS/SB 1120 otherwise known as the Sober Homes package addresses individuals who have been disqualified for employment with substance abuse service providers following a failed background screening by providing them with an exemption from employment discriminations for certain offenses. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 1120 was approved by the Governor on June 18, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-38**

## Child Welfare (SB 1326)

CS/SB 1326, also referred to as the “State of Hope Act,” makes several changes to the child welfare programs administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF or department) to promote accountability and improve program performance. The bill:

- Requires local community alliances to include a representative of a faith-based organization and encourages the involvement of community-based and faith-based organizations in the community system of care. Requires the community-based care lead agencies (CBCs) to assign an employee to serve as a liaison to these organizations.
- Establishes the Office of Quality within the DCF to measure and monitor the performance of internal and contracted operations and recommend initiatives to correct deficiencies.
- Requires the DCF to implement programs to prevent and mitigate the impact of secondary traumatic stress and burnout among child protective investigators (CPIs).
- Revises the CBC funding formula for the allocation of new funding for core services.
- Requires the DCF to report the difference between the CBC’s funding levels and optimal funding levels. Additionally, it requires the DCF to take these differences into account when allocating risk pool funding to CBCs.
- Authorizes the DCF to contract for children’s legal services (CLS) and requires oversight of CLS attorneys under contract with the DCF.
- Requires the DCF to develop a statewide accountability system for child welfare.
- Requires the DCF to implement two 2-year pilot projects to improve child welfare services in the Sixth and Thirteenth judicial circuits.
- Expands the functions of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW) to inform, train, and engage social work students for a successful career in child welfare and directs the FICW to work with the FSU College of Social Work to redesign the social work curriculum to enable students to learn from real-world child welfare cases.
- Directs the DCF, in collaboration with the FICW, to develop an expanded career ladder for CPIs.
- Directs the FICW, subject to an appropriation, to design and implement a career long professional development curriculum for child welfare professionals by July 1, 2021.

The bill appropriates to the DCF \$8,235,052 of recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund for the judicial circuit pilot projects, and \$5,350,000 of recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and associated salary rate for up to 125 currently authorized positions for the establishment of the Office of Quality. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 1326 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-153**

## Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SB 7012)

CS/SB 7012 makes several changes to laws relating to substance abuse and mental health services. Specifically, the bill:

- Redefines “mental illness” related to the Baker Act and post-adjudication commitment to exclude dementia and traumatic brain injury.
- Defines “coordinated specialty care programs” as an essential element of a coordinated system of care and requires the DCF to report annually on any gaps in availability or access in the state. Makes coordinated specialty care programs eligible for Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment grants.

- Allows licensed health care professional and facilities to contract with the DCF and managing entities to provide mental health services without obtaining a separate license from the DCF.
- Broadens the scope and duties of the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention (Statewide Office) in the Department of Children and Families (DCF) by requiring the Statewide Office to coordinate education and training curricula on suicide prevention efforts for veterans and services members.
- Creates the First Responders Suicide Deterrence Task Force within the Statewide Office to assist in the reduction of suicide rates of first responders.
- Broadens the scope and duties of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council by requiring the Council to make recommendations on the implementation of evidence-based mental health programs and suicide risk identification training and adds five new members to the Council.
- Adds new training and staffing requirements for instructional personnel at public and charter schools.
- Adds new continuing education requirements related to suicide prevention for various health care practitioners.
- Requires Baker Act receiving facilities to provide suicide prevention information resources to minors being released from a facility.
- Provides civil immunity to persons who help or attempt to help others at imminent risk of suicide.
- Requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to review other states' suicide prevention programs and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.
- Requires county jails to administer the psychotropic medications prescribed by the DCF when a forensic client is discharged and returned to the county jail, unless the jail physician documents the need to change or discontinue such medication.
- Requires the DCF treating physician to consult with the jail physician and consider prescribing medication included in the jail's drug formulary.
- Requires county jails to send to the DCF all medical information on individuals in their custody who will be admitted to a state mental health treatment facility. Requires the DCF to request this information immediately upon receipt of a completed commitment packet and requires the county jail to provide such information within three business days of the request.
- Removes the requirement for prevention coalitions to be certified by the DCF.

For Fiscal Year 2020-2021, the bill provides the DCF with two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and appropriates \$418,036 in recurring funds and \$8,896 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Funds for the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention to meet the workload and information sharing requirements. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 7012 was approved by the Governor on June 18, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-39**

### Non-Opioid Alternatives (HB 743)

The Department of Health (DOH) publishes a pamphlet regarding the use of non-opioid alternatives to treat pain on its website. Current law requires health care practitioners, except pharmacists, to discuss non-opioid alternatives with patients prior to prescribing, ordering, dispensing, or administering opioids, provide a copy of the DOH pamphlet, and document the discussion in the patient's medical record. The requirements do not apply to emergency care and services.

HB 743 revises these requirements by:

- Requiring that the pamphlet provided to the patient be printed; Authorizing a health care practitioner to discuss non-opioid alternatives with, and provide the pamphlet to, the patient's representative rather than the patient;
- Removing the requirement to address non-opioid alternatives when a drug is dispensed or administered; and
- Exempting hospice services and care provided in a hospital critical care unit or emergency department from the requirement to discuss non-opioid alternatives with a patient. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 743 was approved by Governor on June 9, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-024**

### Children's Mental Health (HB 945)

SB 1440 was substituted on the Senate Floor for HB 945 (Children's Mental Health). The bill:

- Requires mobile response teams to triage and prioritize requests, then respond within 60 minutes of prioritization;
- Requires managing entities to lead the development of a coordinated system of care for children, with assistance from state agencies if requested by the managing entity;
- Gives managing entities an additional six months to plan and implement a coordinated system of care;
- Removes the bill's requirement for schools to sign agreements or MOUs with managing entities for community-based services referrals and coordination; and
- Requires a principal to verify that de-escalation strategies have been used and outreach to a MRT has been initiated prior to a student's removal, unless the principal determines that a delay in the student's removal will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 945 was approved by the Governor on June 27, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-107**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

### Public Procurement of Services (HB 441)

CS/CS/HB 441 increases the maximum limit for continuing contracts covered by the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act from an estimated per project construction cost of \$2 million to \$4 million. The bill also increases the maximum limit for procuring a study using a continuing contract from \$200,000 per study to \$500,000 per study. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 441 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020: Chapter No. 2020-127**

### Public Records/Disaster Recovery Assistance (SB 966)

HB 1035 (Pub. Rec. / Records and Information Provided to Specified Entities for Disaster Recovery Assistance) was substituted on the House Floor for SB 966 (Public Records/Disaster Recovery Assistance). The bill was amended to narrow the exemption by making only property photographs and applicant financial documentation confidential and exempt. The bill specifies that the exemption relates only to disaster recovery assistance for a presidentially declared disaster. The bill passed unanimously, 118 - 0. Effective July 1, 2020.



**SB 966 was approved by the Governor on June 18, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-34**

Broadband Internet Service (HB 969)

CS/HB 969 designates the Department of Economic Opportunity as lead state agency to facilitate expansion of broadband internet service in the state. The bill requires DEO to work collaboratively with certain entities including local governments. The bill creates the Florida Office of Broadband within DEO for the purpose of developing, marketing and promoting broadband internet services in this state. The bill allocates \$5 million of the funds transferred to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise for the Multiuse Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (MCORES) program to be used for projects that assist in the development of broadband infrastructure within or adjacent to a multiuse corridor. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 969 was approved by the Governor on June 9, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-026**

OGSR / Taxpayer E-mail Addresses Held by a Tax Collector (SB 7004)

SB 7004 maintains the current public record exemption for taxpayer email addresses held by tax collectors for certain tax notice purposes. Effective October 1, 2020.

**No action has been taken on this bill.**

Pub. Rec. and Meetings / 911, E911, or Public Safety Radio Communication System (SB 1060)

The bill creates an exemption for documents and schematics relevant to the infrastructure, facilities, resources and physical structures needed to maintain the public 911 communication system. Effective upon becoming law.

**SB 1060 was approved by Governor on April 8, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-013**

## **LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED**

---

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREEMPTION**

Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act (SB 172)

The federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act regulate drugs and cosmetics in the U.S., including sunscreen, which is an over-the-counter (OTC) drug not requiring a prescription. The Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act, implemented by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), regulates drugs and cosmetics in Florida, including sunscreen. Florida law did not preempt the regulation of OTC drugs or cosmetics to the state and local governments were able to pass ordinances regulating OTC drugs and cosmetics if they did not conflict with state or federal law. As a result, SB 172 expressly preempts the regulation of OTC drugs and cosmetics to the state, including sunscreen. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 172 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-118**

## Environmental Resource Management (SB 712)

The concepts within HB 1199 / SB 1382 (Environmental Protection Act) were amended into SB 712 (Environment Resource Management), the water package legislation. The language preempts local governments from recognizing or granting legal rights to a plant, body of water or any other part of the natural environment that is not a person or political subdivision. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 712 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-151**

## Impact Fees (SB 1066)

CS/CS/CS/SB 1066 prohibits the application of a new or increased impact fee to any pending permit applications. The bill provides that impact fee credits are assignable and transferable at any time after their establishment within the same impact fee zone or impact fee district, or an adjoining zone or district within the same local jurisdiction. Provisions that would have limited expenditures of impact fee revenue or required the creation of an impact fee review committee were all removed from the final bill. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 1066 was approved by the Governor on June 20, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-58**

## Public Construction (HB 101)

CS/HB 101 reduces the amount of retainage to 5% that municipalities can retain across an entire construction project. Currently, municipalities can withhold up to 10% of retainage for the first half of a construction project and up to 5% on the last half. Effective October 1, 2020.

**No action has been taken on this bill.**

## Local Government Public Construction Works (HB 279)

CS/CS/HB 279 requires a local government, in deciding whether it is in the public's best interest for the local government to perform a public building construction project using its own services, to fully account for all costs associated with performing and completing the work, including the cost of direct materials to be used in the construction. The bill clarifies that a local government shall list all other governmental entities that may have additional permits or fees generated by the project when issuing a bidding document. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 279 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-155**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNFUNDED MANDATE

### Growth Management (SB 410)

CS/CS/SB 410 is a comprehensive growth management bill and has several provisions that impact local governments. The bill requires all cities and counties to adopt by July 1, 2023, a new mandatory element in their comprehensive plans that addresses the protection of private property rights. Additionally, the bill:

- Extends the 5G “shot clock” provided for in the Advanced Wireless Deployment Act to permit applications for ALL utilities in city and county right of way.
- Prohibits a charter county with a population of less than 750,000 from having a charter provision or comprehensive plan goal, objective or policy adopted after January 1, 2020, to impose a limitation on lands within a municipality unless the municipality, by referendum or local ordinance, adopts and imposes the provision, goal, objective or policy.
- Specifies that a party, or its successor in interest, may amend or cancel a development agreement without securing the consent of other parcel owners whose property was originally subject to the development agreement, as long as the amendment or cancellation does not directly modify the allowable uses or entitlements of such owner’s property.
- Allows agreements pertaining to existing developments of regional impact that are classified as essentially built out, which agreements were valid on or before April 6, 2018, to be amended including amendments exchanging land uses under certain circumstances.
- Prohibits a municipality from annexing an area within another municipal jurisdiction without the other municipality’s consent.
- Provides that any newly incorporated cities that had a comprehensive plan effective after January 1, 2019, must incorporate development orders existing before the plan’s effective date. Effective July 1, 2020.

**This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 30, 2020.**

## LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT DID NOT PASS

---

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREEMPTION

#### Vacation Rentals (HB 1011 and SB 1128)

CS/CS/HB 1011 and CS/SB 1128 would have preempted to the state the regulation of vacation rentals and repealed any local vacation rental ordinances or regulations adopted since 2011. The bills would have defined “advertising platforms” and preempted the regulation of advertising platforms to the state as well while putting in place statewide standards for the regulation of advertising platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO and HomeAway. The bills died after several lawmakers and the governor expressed concerns over taking away local authority. We expect similar bills to be filed next year.

### Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing (HB 3 and SB 1336)

CS/HB 3 and CS/SB 1336 would have expressly preempted the licensing of occupations to the state. The bill defined occupation to include a paid job, work, trade, employment or profession and defines licensing to include any training, education, test, certification, registration, procedure or license that are required for a person to perform an occupation. The bills provided limited exceptions for specified local licenses and any local government licensing of occupations that was expressly authorized by general law.

### Pet Stores (HB 1237 and SB 1698)

HB 1237 and SB 1698 would have preempted the regulation of pet stores to the state and prohibited cities from banning these businesses. The bills died in committee.

### Preemption of Conditions of Employment (HB 305 and SB 1126)

HB 305 and SB 1126 would have prohibited a political subdivision, including a municipality, from establishing, mandating or otherwise requiring an employer to offer conditions of employment not otherwise required by state or federal law. The bills would have expressly preempted the regulation of minimum wage and other conditions of employment to the state.

### Home-Based Businesses (HB 537 and SB 778)

CS/HB 537 and SB 778 would have created a sweeping preemption that prohibited local governments from enacting or enforcing any ordinance, regulation or policy or take any action to license or otherwise regulate a home-based business in a manner that is different from other businesses in a local government's jurisdiction. The bills would have created a cause of action to allow any adversely affected current or prospective home-based business owner to challenge any local government action regulating home-based businesses. CS/HB 537 died awaiting final action by the House, and SB 778 died in committee.

### Local Government Accountability (HB 611 and SB 766)

SB 766 and HB 611 would have imposed mandatory lobbyist registration requirements on all local government entities as defined in the bills. The bills would have also amended statutory meeting notice requirements for cities and counties. The bills died in committee.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE

### Communication Services Tax (HB 701 and SB 1174)

HB 701 and SB 1174 would have reformed the communications services tax (CST) to clarify that certain streaming services are subject to the tax and create uniform rates. The bills would have reduced the local CST rate to 5% or less by January 1, 2021, and 4% or less by January 1, 2022. The bills also would have reduced the state CST rate from 4.92% to 4.9% and the non-charter county CST rate to 2% by January 1, 2022. The bills would have repealed the local option sales surtax conversion that is levied on communications services. The Revenue Estimating Conference estimated the bills would have negatively impacted local government revenues by \$190 million each year. The bills died in committee.

### Building Designs (HB 459 and SB 954)

HB 459 would have prohibited local governments from applying land development design provisions to single and two family dwellings unless the home is a historic property, the code helps implement the National Flood Insurance Program, is within a community redevelopment area, or regulations are adopted in accordance with the procedures for adopting local amendments to the Florida Building Code. The legislation would also allow substantially affected persons to petition the Florida Building Commission for a non-binding advisory opinion on whether a local regulation is an amendment to the Code. A companion legislation, SB 954 (Building Design) was not heard this session.

### Local Government Reporting (HB 7069 and SB 1512)

CS/HB 7069 and SB 1512 would have repealed an existing reporting requirement that municipalities report certain budget and economic data to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research and replaced it with a new reporting requirement. The bills required municipalities and counties to electronically submit to the Department of Financial Services all necessary information needed to facilitate the department preparing a local government report and interactive website that could be used to compare and rank local governments. Some of the information that was to be required to be submitted included government spending per capita, government debt per capita, crime rates, school grades, median income and unemployment. CS/HB 7069 would have also required that the local government grade cities and counties, using an "A" through "F" grading scale, on factors such as government spending, debt, public safety and education. CS/HB 7069 died awaiting action by the full House. SB 1512 died in committee.

### Local Government Fiscal Transparency (HB 1149 and SB 1702)

HB 1149 and SB 1702 would have amended multiple provisions related to local government financial transparency. The bills expanded public notice and public hearing requirements for local option tax increases, other than property taxes and taxes adopted by referendum, and new long-term tax-supported debt issuances. Each local government was required to prominently post on its website the voting records on any action taken by its governing board related to tax increases and new tax-supported debt issuances. The bills imposed requirements on county property appraisers and local governments relating to Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices, millage rate history and the amount of tax levied by each taxing authority on each parcel. Additionally, local governments would have been required to conduct a debt affordability analysis before approving the issuance of new long-term tax-supported debt. The bills also would have revised the local government reporting requirements for economic development incentives. SB 1702 died in committee. HB 1149 died awaiting action by the full Senate.

### Traffic and Pedestrian Safety (HB 1371 and SB 1000)

CS/SB 1000 and CS/CS/CS/HB 1371 would have required that crosswalks located at any place other than an intersection of a public street, highway or road be controlled by pedestrian and traffic signals that meet requirements of the Florida Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. CS/SB 1000 died in committee, and CS/CS/CS/HB 1371 died waiting on action by the full Senate.

### Tax on Aviation Fuel (HB 6061 and SB 1192)

SB 1192 and HB 6061 would have repealed the excise tax imposed on aviation fuel, aviation gasoline and kerosene sold or brought into the state. Repealing the excise tax on aviation fuel would have reduced the amount of money going to the State Transportation Trust Fund. The bills died in committee.

### Recycled / Reclaimed Water (HB 715 and SB 1656)

CS/CS/HB 715 and CS/CS/SB 1656 would have authorized the Department of Environmental Protection to develop rules for the implementation of potable water reuse. The bills required local governments to authorize the use of residential graywater technologies and to provide incentives to developers to provide such technologies. CS/CS/SB 1656 would have prohibited domestic wastewater utilities from disposing of effluent, reclaimed water or reuse water by surface water discharge beginning January 2026, with specified exceptions. CS/CS/HB 715 would have required wastewater utilities to submit to DEP a plan for eliminating non-beneficial surface water discharges within five years, with specified exceptions and caveats. CS/CS/HB 715 died in the Senate. CS/CS/SB 1656 died in committee.

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT

### Private Property Rights (HB 519 and SB 1766)

CS/HB 519 and CS/SB 1766 would have opened the door for an explosion of potential lawsuits against cities by making one-sided changes to the Bert J. Harris Act and leaving taxpayers to pay the price. The Harris Act gives landowners a way to seek compensation when a local government takes action that impacts the value of their property. The Harris Act allows local governments to negotiate with property owners who are filing a claim and calls on courts to consider the unique conditions of each claim. The bills would have required any settlement reached on a Bert Harris claim to be automatically applied by the government entity to all "similarly situated" residential properties that are subject to the same rules or regulations. In essence, this provision would have undone legislative action a government entity undertakes by requiring a settlement on one case be applied across the board, turning Harris Act settlements into quasi class-action lawsuits. The bills did not define the term "similarly situated property," which would have opened the door for more litigation. The bills would have significantly amended the attorney fee provisions of the Harris Act, allowing only property owners to recover costs if they prevail. Additionally, the legislation would have included business losses as part of a Bert Harris claim. The Florida League of Cities opposed making one-sided changes to the Harris Act that only benefit attorneys and leaves taxpayers footing the bill. The bills died in the Senate.

## FINANCE AND TAX

### Sovereign Immunity (SB 1302)

CS/SB 1302 would have increased the per-occurrence limit on the collectability of judgments against government entities from \$300,000 to \$500,000 and eliminated the \$200,000- per-claimant limit. The bill would have tied the new \$500,000 sovereign immunity limit to a consumer price index to allow the cap to automatically increase with inflation. The purpose of sovereign immunity is to allow government entities to carry out police powers to protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents without the constant threat

of lawsuits putting taxpayer dollars at risk. The bill had the potential to result in increased damage awards against governments and will incentivize lawsuits against governments. The bill died in committee.

#### Attorney Contingency Fees (HB 7043 and SB 1574)

SB 1574 and HB 7043 would have prohibited local or regional governmental entities from entering into contingency fee contracts with a private attorney or law firm to receive an aggregate contingency fee more than a specified amount when handling a lawsuit on behalf of the government entity. The bills died in committee.

## OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST THAT PASSED

#### Environmental Enforcement (HB 1091)

CS/CS/HB 1091 increases penalties by 50% for violations of state environmental laws, including laws relating to pollution of groundwater and surface water, litter, coral reefs, aquatic preserves and solid waste. The bill provides that each day a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense. The bill also encourages counties and municipalities to establish an evaluation and rehabilitation program for “sanitary sewer laterals” on residential and commercial properties to identify and reduce extraneous flow from leaking laterals. The bill specifies contents of the program, including the establishment of a publicly accessible database to store information concerning properties where a defective lateral has been identified. In addition, the bill requires sellers to real property to disclose to prospective purchasers any known defects in the properties’ sanitary sewer lateral. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 1091 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-159**

#### Verification of Employment Eligibility (SB 664)

CS/CS/CS/SB 664 requires all public employers and their contractors and subcontractors to register and use the E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all newly hired employees beginning January 1, 2021. A public employer, contractor or subcontractor may not enter into a contract unless each party registers with and uses the E-Verify system. The bill directs public employers who believe that a contractor has knowingly violated the E-Verify requirement to terminate the contract. The bill also specifies that this termination would not be a breach of contract. A public employer is required to “order” a contractor to terminate its contract with a subcontractor if the public employer has a good faith belief that the subcontractor knowingly employs an unauthorized alien or is not using the E-Verify system. Contractors who have their public contract terminated in this manner would not be eligible for another contract for at least one year. A contractor is liable for any additional costs incurred by a public employer because of the termination of a contract. Any entity receiving economic development incentives awarded by the Department of Economic Opportunity after July 1, 2020, must also prove they are using the E-Verify. Finally, the bill requires private employers to use the E-Verify system for new employees or contract employees hired after January 1, 2021. The bill gives private employers the option to verify the eligibility of a person using the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9). Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 664 was approved by the Governor on June 30, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-150**

### Recreational Vehicle Industries (HB 343)

CS/CS/HB 343 is a comprehensive bill dealing with recreational vehicle parks. Of interest to local governments, a provision allows an RV park owner the ability to rebuild an RV park if destroyed by a natural disaster using the original density standards, which may preempt current local regulations on density, lot size or lot setback. Effective July 1, 2020

**HB 343 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-126**

### Transportation Network Companies

CS/ CS/HB 1039 establishes a regulatory framework for digital advertising on transportation network company vehicles and luxury ground transportation network company vehicles, preempting such regulation to the state. The bill preempts local governments that are currently collecting revenue from the regulation of digital advertising on vehicles. Effective upon becoming law.

**HB 1039 was approved by the Governor on June 23, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-87**

### Recycling/Environmental Regulation (HB 73)

CS/HB 73 requires that contracts between local governments and vendors, as well as requests for proposals or other solicitations, for the collection, transport and processing of residential recycling materials must include provisions to define and reduce levels of contamination in the materials collected. Specifically, the contracts or solicitations must identify strategies and obligations of the local government to reduce contamination, procedures for identifying, procedures for managing and rejecting contaminated materials, strategies for education and enforcement, and a definition of the term “contaminated recyclable material” that is appropriate for the local community. The bill specifies that a collector, transporter or processor is not required to collect, transport or process contaminated recyclable material, except pursuant to the terms of an executed contract. The bill’s requirements apply only to contracts executed or renewed after October 1, 2020. In addition, the bill clarifies an exemption in current law from state environmental permitting requirements for various projects by specifying that local governments may not require a person to provide additional verification from the Department of Environmental Protection of entitlement to such an exemption. The bill also modifies an existing state permit exemption for the replacement and repair of existing docks and piers by specifying the replacement or repair must be “within 5 feet of the same location and no larger in size” and that no additional aquatic resources may be adversely and permanently impacted by such replacement or repair. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 73 was approved by Governor on June 18, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-41**

### Constitutional Amendment: Homestead Property Tax Increased Portability Period (HJR 369)

HJR 369 proposes an amendment to the state constitution to increase the portability period, from two to three years, when accrued Save-Our-Homes benefits may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead. The amendment proposed in the joint resolution will take effect on January 1, 2021, if approved by at least 60 percent of voters during the 2020 general election.

**Signed by Officers and filed with Secretary of State**



### Implementing Bill: Homestead Property Tax Increased Portability Period (HB 371)

HB 371 increases the timeframe, from two to three years, during which the accrued benefit from specified limitations on homestead property tax assessments may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead. If approved by the voters, these provisions take effect January 1, 2021.

**No action has been taken on this bill.**

### Constitutional Amendment: Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (HJR 877)

HJR 877 proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to allow the same ad valorem tax discount on homestead property for combat-disabled veterans age 65 or older to carry over to the surviving spouse of a veteran receiving the discount if the surviving spouse holds legal title to the homestead and permanently resides there. If approved by the voters, these provisions take effect January 1, 2021.

**Signed by Officers and filed with Secretary of State.**

### Law Enforcement Vehicles (SB 476)

CS/SB 476 provides that community associations may not prohibit a law enforcement officer who is a unit owner from parking his or her law enforcement vehicle in an area where the unit owner or his or her guest otherwise has a right to park. Effective upon becoming law.

**SB 476 was approved by Governor on February 21, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-005**

### Fireworks (SB 140)

CS/CS/CS/SB 140 creates an exemption allowing for the use of fireworks on three days: New Year's Day (January 1), Independence Day (July 4) and New Year's Eve (December 31). Effective upon becoming law.

**SB 140 was approved by the Governor on April 8, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-11**

### Emergency Reporting (SB 538)

CS/CS/SB 538 requires a municipality or county to report certain emergency incidents to the State Monitored Office within the Division of Emergency Management as soon as practicable following the initial response of the local government. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 538 was approved by the Governor on June 20, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-53**

### Essential State Infrastructure (SB 7018)

CS/SB 7018 requires the Public Service Commission, in coordination with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to develop and recommend a plan for the development of electric vehicle charging station infrastructure along the State Highway System. The bill expands the "shot clock" and "deemed approved" requirements to permit applications for all utilities in the right of way in a municipality or county. The bill also allows agricultural property owners who have granted a

conservation easement over their property to unilaterally encumber the conservation easement by allowing the use of the land for a linear facility and related appurtenances. The bill directs DOT to plan, design and construct staging areas for emergencies as part of the turnpike system. These sites are intended to be designated staging areas for emergency supplies to facilitate the prompt provision of emergency assistance to the public in response to a declared state of emergency. Effective July 1, 2020.

**SB 7018 was approved by the Governor on June 9, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-21**

#### Penalties for Violations of the Constitutional Prohibition Against Abuse of Public Position (HB 7009)

HB 7009 reenacts s. 112.317, F.S., providing penalties for violations of the Code of Ethics and any violation of s. 8, Art. II, Fl. Const., entitled “Ethics in government”. Amendment 12, approved in 2018, amended the Constitution to, among other things, create s. 8(h) (2), Art. II, providing a constitutional prohibition on public officers and public employees abusing their positions in order to obtain a ‘disproportionate benefit’ for themselves or other specified persons or entities. The amendment provided an implementation schedule at s. 38, Art. XII, Fl. Const. The abuse of position provision becomes effective December 31, 2020.

As required by s. 38(a), Art. XII, Fl. Const., the Florida Commission on Ethics adopted Rule 34-18.001, F.A.C., defining the term, ‘disproportionate benefit’ and prescribing the requisite intent for finding a violation of the provision. Section 8(h) (2), Art. II, Fl. Const. also mandates that “appropriate penalties shall be provided by law”, and s. 38(b), Art. XII, Fl. Const. requires the Legislature to enact penalty legislation “following the adoption of rules” by the Commission. Under the bill, the penalties applicable to the new constitutional provision will be the same penalties applicable to other violations of s. 8, Art. II, Fl. Const.

**No action has been taken on this bill.**

#### Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety (HB 1095)

CS/CS/HB 1095 amends the Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act. The purpose of the Act is to identify and locate underground facilities before an excavation or demolition. The Act authorizes a free-access notification system, Sunshine 811. The bill amends the Act by expanding the list of entities that may issue citations for violations of the Act to include the state fire marshal and municipal and county fire chiefs. It increases the maximum civil penalty for certain violations of the Act that involve an underground pipe or facility transporting hazardous materials regulated by the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration and provides for 80 percent of the civil penalty to be distributed to the entity that issued the citation. The bill establishes a civil penalty for knowingly removing or damaging a permanent marker placed to identify the location of an underground facility. It requires excavators and underground facility operators to transmit reports of incidents that involve high priority subsurface installations for investigation by the state fire marshal and issuance of a civil penalty for a violation found to the proximate cause of the incident. Portions of this civil penalty must be distributed between Sunshine 811 and the state fire marshal (to fund programs that assist fire departments with equipment, supplies, and training designed to mitigate firefighter exposure to hazardous, cancer-causing chemicals). The bill requires Sunshine 811 to review reports made to the state fire marshal and other complaints of alleged violations of the Act, identify issues and make recommendations to the governor and Legislature. Lastly, the bill imposes term limits on the State Office of Public Counsel, providing a person appointed to this position may not serve more than 12 consecutive years. Effective July 1, 2020.

**HB 1095 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-137**

### Local Government Efficiency Task Force (HB 5003)

HB 5003 (Appropriations Committee) is the implementing bill for the 2020-21 General Appropriations Act. It contains language establishing the Local Government Efficiency Task Force within the Legislature to review the governance structure and function of local governments and make recommendations on any changes that may be necessary to make such governments more efficient. The Task Force shall consist of six members with the governor, the Senate president, and speaker of the House of Representatives each appointing two members. The Task Force is directed to convene its first meeting by November 15, 2020, and is authorized to conduct meetings in person or by electronic means. The Task Force shall submit a report to the governor and Legislature by June 1, 2021.

**HB 5003 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-114**

### Constitutional Amendments Proposed by Initiative (SB 1794)

CS/CS/CS/SB 1794 strengthens the requirements and processes for amending the Florida Constitution by citizen initiative. The legislation increases the geographic diversity and number of petition signatures that must be verified. The bill creates a cause of action for citizens to challenge a petition circulator's registration. Additionally, the bill requires the ballot for a citizen initiative include an estimate on the financial impact. Effective upon becoming law.

**SB 1794 was approved by the Governor on April 8, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-15**

### Courts (SB 344)

The bill clarifies that public guardians are exempt from assessments of fees and charges by the clerks of court. The bill also provides that, under certain circumstances, a physician may delegate to a qualified physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse the duty to conduct the medical examination of an adult ward, and prepare and sign the required report evaluating the ward's condition and stating the ward's current capacity.

**SB 344 was approved by the Governor on June 23, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-73**

### Drones (HB 659)

Florida law defines a drone as a powered, aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely, can be expendable or recoverable, and can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload. Studies have shown that drones can efficiently and inexpensively cover a large geographic range, reach places that are physically difficult for humans to access, cover substantially more territory and topography, carry a variety of cameras and sensors, collect biological specimens, and target and eliminate individual organisms through ballistic application of herbicides. Florida law currently restricts the use of drones by individuals and government entities to conduct surveillance. Law enforcement may not use a drone to gather evidence or other information, with certain exceptions. The bill allows the use of a drone by a non-law enforcement employee of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Florida Forest Service for the purposes of managing and eradicating invasive exotic plants or animals on public lands and suppressing and mitigating wildfire threats.

**HB 659 was approved by the Governor on June 29, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-131**

### Jury Service (SB 738)

The bill allows students between the ages of 18 to 21, inclusive, to be excused from jury service, upon request, if they are a full-time student attending a high school, state university, private postsecondary educational institution, Florida College System institution, or career center. A student's request to be excused only applies to that specific summons for jury service and does not permanently excuse a student between the ages of 18 to 21 from receiving a jury summons.

**SB 738 was approved by the Governor on June 20, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-57**

### Contraband in Specified Facilities (SB 1286)

The bill prohibits introducing the following into a Department of Children and Families (DCF) forensic facility, state prison, county jail, or juvenile detention facility:

- Medical marijuana, hemp, and industrial hemp, punishable as a second or third degree felony; and
- Any vapor-generating electronic device, if introduced inside a secure perimeter, punishable as a first-degree misdemeanor.

The bill adds cellular phones and other portable communication devices to the list of contraband items in DCF forensic facilities and juvenile detention facilities, if introduced inside the secure perimeter of a facility, punishable as a first-degree misdemeanor. The bill provides that a cellular phone or other portable communication device be considered contraband in a county detention facility only if the phone or device is introduced inside the secure perimeter of a facility. It clarifies that introducing an intoxicating beverage or an item designated as contraband by DCF into a DCF facility is a first-degree misdemeanor. The criminal penalty for these offenses is not currently specified.

The bill ranks the previously unranked third degree felony offenses of introducing a firearm or deadly weapon or a controlled substance under Ch. 893, F.S., into a DCF facility as a level four offense on the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code.

**SB 1286 was approved by the Governor on June 20, 2020; Chapter No. 2020-59**

## OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST THAT FAILED

### Statewide Emergency Shelter Task Force (SB 1272)

SB 1272 passed the Senate but did not have a House companion legislation. The bill establishes a 7-member task force within DMS tasked with making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the establishment and operation of state designated emergency shelters. The recommendations must include, but are not limited to, a review of the local, state, and federal activities organized, planned, and executed at emergency shelters during the past 10 years with a focus on a review of all resources (including financial) and a quantification of expenditures.

### Public Records/Public Shelter Space (SB 7048)

SB 7048 passed the Senate but did not have a House companion legislation. The bill exempts from public inspection and copying the name, address, and telephone number of a person which are held by an agency providing shelter or assistance to such person during an emergency.

### State Funds (SB 306)

SB 306 would have prohibited further sweeping of funds from the State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds, colloquially known as the Sadowski Affordable Housing Funds. FAC supports the legislation. A companion legislation, HB 381 (State Funds) was not heard this session. The budget included full funding for the affordable housing trust funds.

### Environmental Protection (SB 1878)

SB 1878 (Environmental Protection) failed this legislative session. The bill codifies specific environmental spending priorities for annual appropriations to include \$625 million for the purposes of Everglades restoration and the protection of water resources in the state. The appropriation would be repealed on June 30, 2023, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. There was no House companion legislation filed this session.

HB 1073/SB 7016 (Statewide Office of Resiliency) by Representative Stevenson and Senator Lee failed this session. While the bills were heard in all committee stops including the Senate Floor, the bills did not pass the House Floor. The bills codify the Governor's Executive Order that established the Statewide Office of Resiliency (SOR) within the Executive Office of the Governor, headed by a Chief Resilience Officer appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The proposed bills create the Statewide Sea-Level Rise Task Force adjunct to the SOR for the purpose of recommending consensus projections of the anticipated sea-level rise and flooding impacts along the state's coastline. The bills authorize technical advisory groups to inform its decision making and directs DEP to assist in developing baseline projections. Recommended projections will be submitted to the Environmental Regulatory Commission for adoption or rejection by 1/1/2021.

### Sales and Use Tax (SB 126)

SB 126 failed this session. The bill applies Florida's sales and use tax laws to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers regardless of whether the entity has a physical presence within that state. Currently, 43 of the 45 states that collect sales tax have authorized sales tax on out-of-state vendors since the 2018 SCOTUS decision, *Wayfair v. South Dakota*, authorizing the practice. FAC adopted a policy supporting legislation applying Florida's sale and use tax laws to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers to ensure competitiveness for Florida's in-state retailers. A companion legislation, HB 159 (Sales and Use Tax) was not heard this session.

## LOCAL BILLS and CLAIM BILL

---

### Indian Trail Improvement District, Palm Beach County (HB 975) by Representative Roth

This bill would have revised boundaries of district; required execution of interlocal agreements; authorized district to study feasibility of elector-initiated conversion of district to municipality; provided procedure for such study; provides for referendum.

**This bill died in the Local Administration Subcommittee.**

### Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Palm Beach County (HB 753) by Representative Silvers

This bill would have extended corporate limits of town to include portions of Edgewater Park and adjoining canals.

**This bill died in the Local Administration Subcommittee.**

### Port of Palm Beach District, Palm Beach County (HB 673) by Representative Willhite

This bill would have revised salary of Board of Commissioners and provided for annual adjustment of such salary.

**This bill died in the Local Administration Subcommittee.**

### Relief/Dontrell Stephens/Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (HB 6501)

This is a claim for \$4,500,000 based on a federal jury verdict for the unreasonable use of force by Palm Beach County Deputy Sheriff Adam Lin against Dontrell Stephens. Respondent has paid \$200,000 pursuant to the sovereign immunity cap. Additional lien responsibilities up to \$1,500,000 may be incurred by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office under the legislation.

**HB 6501 was approved by the Governor on June 9, 2020.**