

# PBC Legislative Update



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## Fourth Week of Session Update

### State Issues

#### Budget

*By: County Staff, Anfield Consulting, Moya Group, and Corcoran and Johnston*

This week the House and Senate full appropriations committees voted their respective budgets out of full committee. Total funds expended in the House budget are \$75.3 billion and the Senate budget total \$74.87 billion. The bills are scheduled to be up on their respective floors next week (week five). Key initiatives to Palm Beach County are allocated in the House and Senate budgets as follows:

<b>Program</b>	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Palm Beach State College – Lox Campus	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 6,000,000
WestTech Adult Education Glades Workforce	\$ 426,628	\$ 426,628
ChildNet – Palm Beach County	\$ 0	\$ 25,000
Place of Hope – Haven Campus	\$ 0	\$ 25,000
<b>Health and Human Resources</b>		
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program	\$ 250,000	\$ 200,000
Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services – Meal Service	\$ 250,000	\$ 0
200 additional Palm Beach County PACE slots	\$ 1,573,161	\$ 3,014,837
<b>Criminal Justice</b>		
PILT - South Bay Correctional	\$ 275,560	\$ 275,560
PILT - Sago Palms South Bay	\$ 142,900	\$ 142,900
<b>Natural Resources</b>		
Florida Forever	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 40,000,000
Everglades EFA – Restoration Strategies Impl.	\$ 32,000,000	\$ 32,000,000
Everglades Restoration (Incl. IRL)	\$ 53,000,000	\$ 82,075,000
Northern Everglades	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000
Springs Protection	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 30,000,000
Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program	\$ 78,495,609	\$ 77,194,809
Wastewater Revolving Loan Program	\$ 163,044,933	\$ 161,558,053
Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants	\$ 21,000,000	\$ 21,000,000
Total Maximum Daily Loads	\$ 9,385,000	\$ 9,385,000
DACS “Water Farming” Lake O. Basin	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 0
DACS BMP’s Implementation	\$ 5,400,000	\$ 5,400,000
DACS Hybrid Wetland Treatment Program	\$ 10,569,956	\$ 0
Non-point Source Management	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 17,000,000
Beach Restoration	\$ 25,538,732	\$ 47,075,469
Petroleum Tank Clean-up	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 125,000,000
Local Water Projects	<u>\$100,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 41,997,714</u>

**Key Local Water Projects in *Senate* Budget**

Palm Beach Co. – Lake Region Infrastructure Imprv.		\$ 1,000,000
Palm Beach Co. - Living Shores Projects		\$ 650,000
Palm Beach Co. – Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative *		\$ 2,075,000
Palm Beach Co. – Riviera Beach Avenue “O” Stomwater		\$ 425,000
Palm Beach Co. – Riviera Beach West 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Imprv.		\$ 650,000

\* Funded in the Senate IRL / Everglades Package

C-51 Sediment Management	\$ 0	\$ 500,000
Beach Funding (total)	\$ 25,538,732	\$ 47,075,469
Jupiter Carlin	\$ 1,625,000	
North Boca Raton	\$ 0	
Ocean Ridge	\$ 751,300	
Delray Beach	\$ 1,006,016	
Lake Worth Inlet	\$ 54,000	
South Lake Worth Inlet	\$ 536,250	
Boca Inlet	\$ 395,700	
Jupiter Island Beach Renourishment	\$ 41,109	
Palm Beach County Public Shooting Park	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 3,200,000

**Transportation and Economic Development**

Glades Area Street Resurfacing	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Cultural and Museum Grants	\$ 10,125,000 (all projects)	\$ 6,814,505
Cultural Facilities Grants **	\$ 9,394,337 (1-17)	\$ 6,831,584
Library Grants	\$ 24,699,440	\$ 24,899,440
Library Cooperatives	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
FRDAP***	\$ 12,941,820	\$ 2,479,820
Transportation Disadvantaged	\$ 50,898,510	\$ 50,898,510
Transportation Disadvantaged – Medicaid	\$ 12,825,000	\$ 12,825,000
Affordable Housing Programs	\$ 44,650,000	\$ 67,660,000
State Housing Initiatives Partnership	\$ 44,650,000	\$ 158,470,000

\*\* House – items listed 1-17 under Dept. of State will be funded: (#2) South Florida Science Museum \$500,000; (#16) Palm Beach Dramaworks \$500,000; (#17) Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency \$150,000. Senate – Only Palm Beach Project currently funded is SF Science Museum.

\*\*\* From the House funds in Specific Appropriation 1714A, \$2,479,820 is provided for all of the Small Development projects, \$9,835,000 is provided for the first 52 Large Development projects, \$200,000 is provided for the Land Acquisition project, and \$400,000 is provided for all Trail projects in the Department of Environmental Protection’s 2014-2015 Florida Development Assistance Program Priority List, dated December 11, 2013. Funds in the Senate Specific Appropriation 1714A, are provided for the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Priority List for Small Projects Fund - Development list.

**General Government**

Scripps Florida	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 0
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**Judicial Funding**

4 <sup>th</sup> DCA Courthouse Construction	\$ 3,000,000 (Maint.)	\$ 7,001,861
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Two priority projects the county continues to advocate for are Quiet Zones in the FEC corridor at \$7.4 million and Street Lighting in High Crime Areas. Both issues are currently unfunded in both the House and Senate budgets.

It is expected that conference committees may begin to meet during week six of session to reconcile differences between the respective budgets.

### **Uber Preemption**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

In an 8-6 vote, the House Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee approved a controversial bill that would create a new transit category in statute entitled "chauffeured limousine services" that would be regulated only by the state and not local government. HB 1389 is intended to allow a particular business model where passengers can find drivers using a mobile application and mobile payment process such as Uber, to get out of local regulations and determine their own regulations through state statutes. The bill would set minimum standards for drivers and vehicles and provide oversight from DHSMV. Currently, taxis and other limo services are regulated at the local level as the industry conditions vary depending on the amount of tourists and type of businesses and other transportation services within local areas. Companies, such as Uber, claim that regulations in South Florida counties relating to time-intervals, minimum fees, and limited licenses are keeping their model of business out of areas where consumers are demanding their product. The Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties opposed the bill for its preemptive action as did numerous taxi and limousine services throughout the State that currently abide by local regulations. The sponsor committed to working with committee members on improving provisions relating to insurance, oversight and price-gouging during peak times. Meanwhile, the Senate Committee on Transportation considered an amendment of the same substance on a transportation bill, which also led to significant public testimony and debate. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn; however, the Senate companion to the House bill will be heard in the same committee next week.

### **Spring Training Baseball**

*By: County Staff and Corcoran & Johnston*

Legislation that would create a more favorable opportunity for the expansion of Spring Training Baseball passed through the Senate Commerce Committee this week. SB 1216 by Sen. Jack Latvala would change the current distribution allocations for the State's Spring Training retention program that was approved last year. Under the bill, construction of a single team stadium would be eligible for \$20 million over 20 years and a two team stadium would be eligible for \$50 million over 25 years. Additionally, a new provision was added to allow an existing stadium to utilize the dollars to expand to a two stadium. The Senate bill moves now to the Appropriations Committee. The House companion bill is now in Appropriations but does not yet include the Spring Training language changes. Staff met with key members and staff of House leadership this week to discuss the county's position and received favorable feedback during those meetings. The House bill will be up in Appropriations on Tuesday, April 1.

### **Film and TV Incentives**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability approved SB 1640, a committee bill submitted by Senate Commerce & Tourism that would move the Division of Film & Entertainment from DEO to Enterprise Florida and make several changes to the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program. It provides for \$50 million per year in incentives and extends the current program for six years. The bill has two more committees of reference before going before the full Senate. The House bill has yet to be heard in its first committee of reference.

### **Juvenile Detention Costs**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The House Appropriations Committee approved HB 5303 that would revise the share of juvenile detention costs between the counties and State to a 50/50 proportion of actual cost. The revision is in response to a court case that ruled the State's billing methodology incorrect. The State also acknowledges back pay owed

to certain counties from prior fiscal years of overbilling based upon the methodology. It would appropriate \$329,318 to be paid annually until 2036 to Palm Beach County for back pay. The Florida Association of Counties and several of its members waived in support of the bill. The legislation is now ready to go before the full House. Its Senate companion has been stalled in its first of two committees of reference, where it has been temporarily postponed twice. The Senate version includes the 50/50 cost share but does not contain an appropriation for back pay.

### **Homelessness Challenge Grants**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

Committees in both the House and Senate approved bills that would apply the first 4% of revenue for the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for DCF to offer varying levels of "Challenge Grants" to Continuums of Care and local governments of up to \$500,000. Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and the House Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee each approved the bills unanimously. The Senate bill has one more committee of reference before going to the full Senate. Its House companion has two more committees of reference. Another priority to address homelessness, a local government surtax authorized by voter approval, was removed from a discretionary sales surtax bill in the House (see summary below on HB 723) but remains on its Senate companion.

### **Local Discretionary Surtax For Homelessness**

*By: Ericks Consultants and Corcoran & Johnston*

The House Finance & Tax Subcommittee approved HB 723 that would allow a county to use proceeds and interest collected from a local government infrastructure surtax to fund transportation infrastructure projects. The committee adopted an amendment that removed an additional authorization that would allow the majority of voters within a county to authorize a sales surtax of up to one half of one percent to be used for homelessness services and facilities. The bill has two more committee stops before going before the full House. Its Senate companion, SB 786 which has two committees of reference remaining before going to the full Senate and still contains the homelessness surtax provision.

During public testimony, Palm Beach County, the Florida Association of Counties, and the Florida League of Cities all waived in support of the bill. The bill was then voted on and passed by a vote of 18-0.

### **Transportation Bill Rural City Legislation**

*By: County Staff*

SB 218 by Denise Grimsley passed through the Transportation Committee this week. That was its final Senate committee of reference. The bill would allow the cities of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee to compete for state funds to help meet some of the needs of their road infrastructure. The House companion is on Second reading on the floor and could be considered in the next couple weeks.

### **Medical Examiners**

*By: Corcoran and Johnston and County Staff*

Representative Spano's HB 301 remained temporarily postponed in the House Local & Federal Affairs Committee. The bill would preempt local medical examiners from charging a fee for state mandated autopsies and cremations. The Senate companion by Sen. Lee was back on the Health Policy agenda Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>; however, time expired in the committee and the bill was not heard.

**Tax Cut Package**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The House Finance & Tax subcommittee approved HB 560, its tax cut package, 16-2. Relating to local governments, the bill would reduce sales tax paid on electrical purchases from 7% to 4% and increase the Gross Receipts Tax paid on electric utilities by the same amount with the intent to increase funding to PECO. The Florida League of Cities and Association of Counties both expressed concern with the revenue reduction to local governments and the new responsibility of funding PECO. Also, the bill would modernize the definition of prepaid wireless plans and subject them to state and local sales tax rather than state and local CST. The package contains four sales tax holidays on: back to school materials, energy efficient appliances, hurricane preparedness materials, and physical fitness memberships. It also exempts from sales taxes: child booster seats, child bicycle helmets, and cement mixers. The bill would increase the corporate income tax exemption, create a loan fund to incentivize production of TV shows, increase the amount of tax credits for the New Markets Development Program for investments in businesses in low-income areas, extend the expiration date for the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, and redirect \$100 mil from General Revenue to the State Transportation Trust Fund to fund projects that will connect major markets within the State or between States or regionally-significant projects in rural areas. Some members expressed disappointment that film incentives were not included in the package. The bill was voted as a committee bill and is fast-tracked to go before the full House. Assurances were given by the Chairman that local government concerns could still be worked out.

**Florida Retirement System**

*By: Corcoran & Johnston and Ericks Consultants*

The Senate and House Appropriations Committees voted to increase employer contributions to the Florida Retirement System and the Florida Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund by .10 beginning July 1, 2014. The bills are ready to go before the full Senate and House as part of the appropriations packages.

**Public Records**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

Perhaps one of the most controversial bills of the Session was fast-tracked in a unanimous vote out of the Senate despite opposition from both public entities and business organizations. SB 1648 would make several changes to public records law such as allowing for verbal public records requests and cost-containment for requests. The bill would require any contractor with a public entity to retain public records and be subject to public records inquiries. One of the most controversial elements of the bill would be opening up records in membership organizations that have public entities as members- this could effect community collaboration as organizations such as a Chamber of Commerce removing government airports and seaports from their membership in order to protect their other members. Another example is that organizations may not partner with universities. The bill is one of the top priorities of the Senate President. Its House companion is scheduled to be heard in its first committee of reference next week.

**Ethics Package**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The Senate passed SB 864, an Ethics package that would ban local government officials from being registered to lobby the Legislature on behalf of any entity other than his or her political subdivision. All constitutional officers, including property appraisers, supervisors of elections, county commissioners, and municipal officers- with the exception of small cities- are included in the ban. The bill would also require special districts to create registries of individuals who lobby them and require local officers to undergo ethics training for municipalities that do not already have ethics training requirements.

### **Residency of Candidates**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The Senate Judiciary committee approved HB 602 that would require a candidate or public officer, who is required to reside in a specific geographic area, to have only one domicile at a time. The bill provides factors that may be considered when determining a residency and also provides exemptions for active duty military members and for the Legislators themselves. The bill has one committee left before going in front of the full Senate and its House companion bill has two committees left before going in front of the full House.

### **County and Municipal Parks**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The House Military and Veteran Affairs Subcommittee approved HB 677 that would require county and municipal parks to offer discounted admission to military service members, veterans and spouses and parents of deceased law enforcement, military service members, and firefighters. The bill has two more committee stops before going before the full House. Its Senate companion is in its final of three committees.

### **Red Light Cameras**

*By: Corcoran & Johnston and Ericks Consultants*

The House Transportation and Economic Development Committee approved the House Department of Transportation package, HB 7005, after amendments to red light camera provisions were adopted. The bill would now provide that red light cameras could only issue notice of violations rather than uniform traffic citations, that seventy percent of the revenue collected must go to traffic safety capital improvements, that engineering countermeasures for intersection safety must be considered prior to installing new cameras, and provides that violations do not occur while making right or left hand turns while there is no pedestrian or vehicles in the way. The bill would also require cities and municipalities to collect and report data on red light camera intersections to better statewide policy analyses. An amendment was also adopted to direct \$51 million from General Revenue to fund various effected trust funds such as the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund and Emergency Medical Trust Fund. Public testimony offered by the Sheriffs Association supported the changes from the original bill to the amendment but expressed concern that streaming images would be prohibited from evidence in criminal trials.

Meanwhile, the Senate Transportation Committee temporarily postponed a proposed committee substitute with similar language. SB 144 contains provisions relating to signal intervals and a uniform speed limit for making legal right on red turns. After lengthy public testimony against the PCS and multiple failed amendments, the committee voted 6-3 to Temporarily Postpone the bill.

### **Coastal Management**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The Senate Community Affairs committee unanimously passed SB 956 that promotes ecotourism by streamlining the area wide permits process for various coastal construction projects. After working with environmental groups, two amendments were adopted to ensure that concession agreements are made public prior to going into effect and require DEP to consult with the Wildlife Commission in regards to area wide permits. The bill also authorizes the department to grant privileges or concessions for the accommodation of visitors in and use of aquatic preserves and their associated uplands, provided certain conditions are met. Both the Senate bill and its House companion bill have two committees left before going in front of the full Senate and full House.

### **Sober Homes**

*By: County Staff*

Legislation that would provide some type of oversight for "sober homes" through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be up in HHS Appropriations committee on Monday, March 31st. HB 479 by Rep. Bill Hager would provide for voluntary certification through an outside entity under contract with the DCF. The bill would require level 2 background screening for administrators, staff and volunteers and directs that the information be placed on a registry. The certification program would also require the homes to have a code of ethics, a good neighbor policy and an eviction policy. Licensed substance abuse care providers must refer patients to only those sober homes that obtain certification.

The Senate bill, SB582 by Sen. Jeff Clemens, would make registration with DCF mandatory and charge unlicensed operators with first-degree misdemeanors. The level 2 background screening would only apply to managers, directors, owners, operators and chief financial officers of sober homes.

Both bills include legislative intent to provide clean and safe environments to those recovering from addiction.

### **Local Bills - West Palm Beach Pension**

*By: Corcoran & Johnston*

In the House State Affairs Committee, two local bills concerning West Palm Beach were addressed for their final committee hearings in the House.

HB 931, by Representative Kerner, addresses the West Palm Beach Firefighters Pension Fund, which was created by the Florida Legislature in 1947. The City of West Palm Beach and the International Association of Firefighters Local 727 have agreed in collective bargaining to these benefit and funding changes. According to the Economic Impact Statement, it is estimated that the City of West Palm Beach's costs for the fund will be reduced by \$1,647,968 in Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Representative Kerner stated the pension fund is well funded (\$134 million) and that this bill increases the contribution level of individual members.

HB 1145, also by Representative Kerner, addresses the West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund, which was created by the Florida Legislature in 1947. The bill provides for the use of ch. 185, F.S., tax funds to lower the actual employee contribution rate in Fiscal Year 2013-2014 from 20 percent to 11 percent, and requires the city to provide funding if the tax funds are not enough to lower the actual rate to 11 percent. The bill clarifies that contributions from ch. 185, F.S., tax funds are not employee contributions for contribution refund purposes. These changes are necessary to reflect a collective bargaining agreement between the City of West Palm Beach and the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association.

### **Palm Beach Local Bill: Wellington Medical Arts District**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

A Palm Beach County Local bill, HB 1143 would correct glitches in a past local bill related to the dependent special medical arts district in Wellington passed its final committee of reference and is ready for a vote on the House floor.

### **Wage Theft**

*By: Ericks Consultants and Corcoran & Johnston*

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved SB 926 that would have applied the Palm Beach County model of resolving wage theft claims to all counties in the State after being controversially amended to provide a Miami-Dade County model alternative. The alternative would allow counties to adopt an ordinance to use a legal services organization rather than the court system to resolve claims,

reducing the costs for claimants. Business organizations opposed the amendment while union representatives supported the amendment. After adoption of the amendment, the Florida Retail Federation, AIF, and Associated Builders & Contractors rescinded support of the bill but agreed to continue to work on resolving differences with the labor community. The bill has one committee of reference left before going before the full Senate. Its House companion has two more committees left and does not contain language to allow for the Miami-Dade alternative.

### **Fuel Terminals**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

SB 1070 that would prohibit local governments from regulating fuel terminal placement and the expansion of existing fuel terminals in their land use plans was temporarily postponed in the Senate Transportation Committee to enable local government parties and fuel companies to work out their differences. Its House companion, HB 947 has four committees of reference left.

### **E-Cigarettes**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The House Regulatory Affairs Committee voted 8-5 to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors by making it a 2<sup>nd</sup> degree misdemeanor. The bill requires signs prohibiting sales to minors to be posted at the point of sale, and making a noncriminal violation for minors if they possess or purchase e-cigarettes or other tobacco products. Included in HB 169 is a new preemption of any local ordinances regarding the sale of nicotine dispensing devices.

### **Billboards**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

Bills in the House and Senate that relate to sign permitting and revenue of commercial leases of communications property continued to move through committees this week. The House Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee unanimously approved HB 1161, while the Senate Transportation Committee approved SB 1048 for the second time due to amendments that triggered a re-referral. The sign permitting relates to local governments only when a local government approves a sign in violation of federal laws, causing FDOT to lose money, or when a noise attenuation barrier is constructed in a way that blocks a sign. While the bills were amended to remove a provision that would have given back local control for PSAs on billboards, the bills were also amended to authorize-but not mandate- DOT to pay the costs of maintaining county or municipal roads that provide access to state parks. The House bill will be heard in its second of three committees of reference next week. The Senate bill will be heard in its final committee of reference next week.

### **Hazardous Walking Conditions**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The House K-12 Subcommittee amended and approved HB1121 that revises the criteria for determining a hazardous walking condition for public school students and the procedure for inspection & identification of hazardous conditions. The adopted amendment retracted the timeframe for fixing the hazardous walking conditions thereby removing the fiscal impact to local governments. The Florida PTA, Florida School Board, Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities were proponents of the bill after amended. There are two more committee stops before going to the full House and the Senate companion bill has two committees left before going to the full Senate.

The Senate Education Committee approved SB 1382 during week three of session



would still require a local government to correct a hazardous walking condition within three years. If the local government cannot correct the issue within the designated period of time, it must provide notice and the reason for the failure in writing to the DOE and the superintendent of schools. It also must then reimburse the school board for transportation costs should State funds not be available. The bill would also prevent a hazardous walking condition from being used as evidence in a negligence lawsuit against a local government.

### **Preferences in Award of State Contracts**

*By: County Staff*

Bills in both the House and Senate that would preempt local preferences in award of government contracts when using state dollars moved through committees this week. The intent of the bills is to save the State money by protecting against local government bids with local preferences that can sometimes artificially inflate prices. The bills were each amended to establish a threshold of 20% of state funds used in the project in order for the preemption to kick in. The League of Cities expressed support for a 51% threshold instead. The House bill has three more committees of reference before going before the full House, while the Senate bill, SB 612 has two more committees before going before the full Senate.

### **Communications Services Tax**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The Senate proposal, SB 266, to reduce the state portion of the CST passed its second of three committees after being amended to decrease the reduction from 2% to .58%. The bill has a \$9.1 million recurring impact on local governments collectively statewide. The bill is in its final Senate committee next week.

### **E-911**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

The House passed HB 177 that would provide for the implementation of collecting taxes on pre-paid wireless plans as funding for the E-911 system, a moratorium on collecting the tax was lifted last year. The bill would reduce the tax rate 40 cents, which is revenue neutral for local governments. The bill also moves the implementation date to 2015. Its Senate companion, SB 177 is still in its final of three committees of reference and has not yet been amended to reflect the extra reduction.

### **Agricultural Gleaning**

*By: Ericks Consultants*

SB 1138 would protect farmers from civil liability if they allow people to come onto to their land gratuitously to gather crops for food in order to enable farmers to share what would otherwise be wasted produce without fear of lawsuits. The House bill by Rep. Kevin Rader was passed out of its second committee this week after adopting an amendment that exempted farmers from notifying invitees of all known dangers before qualifying for the exemption. The House and Senate bills have one more committee stop before going before their respective chambers. The Senate bill is up next week in the Judiciary Committee.



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County  
Commissioners**

Priscilla A. Taylor, Mayor  
Paulette Burdick, Vice Mayor  
Hal R. Valeche  
Shelley Vana  
Steven L. Abrams  
Mary Lou Berger  
Jess R. Santamaria

**County Administrator**

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**Freight Logistics Zones (CS/SB 136 & HB 3)**

*By: Anfield Consulting*

On Monday, the Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee adopted a **strike-all** amendment for **HB 3**. The bill currently authorizes a county or a group of contiguous counties to designate certain areas within their jurisdiction as Freight Logistics Zones. This would allow projects within the zone that are consistent with the DOT's Freight Mobility & Trade Plan to receive priority funding from the various applicable economic development programs. The amendment adds a new section of the bill directing DOT to review the need for and development of a statewide all-hazards economics recovery and resumption trade plan for Florida's seaports, with the goal of insuring speedy recovery and continuity of seaport operations in the event of a major incident at one of these ports. The review must include an examination of current procedures and planning in order to identify ways to integrate these measures into statewide emergency plans.

The DOT also would be directed to examine the need for, and possible benefits of, developing asset management plans for each of these seaports. The amendment also made a change to the existing funding language in statute; instead of funds allocated to the program being capped at \$5 million, beginning fiscal year 2014-2015, "at least" \$5 million would need to be allocated. There was also the addition of a provision that requires designated signage for certain port access roads.

**CS/HB 3** will next be heard in (H) Economic Affairs. The Senate companion, **CS/SB 136**, is currently in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

**Up During Week Five:**

Sober Homes: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0479/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Public Records: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/1151/BillText/Filed/PDF>  
Energy Policies: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/1044/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Gas Stations: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/1184/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Env. Permitting: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0703/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Online Voter Reg.: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0784/BillText/Filed/PDF>  
Assessments on Nonresidential farm buildings:  
<http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/1342/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Tax Cut Package: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/5601/BillText/Filed/PDF>  
PDMP: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0862/BillText/Filed/PDF>  
Wage Theft: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0926/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Taxes on Prepaid: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0712/BillText/Filed/PDF>  
Brownfields: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/0586/BillText/c1/PDF>  
Budget in both the House and Senate Chambers

**Upcoming 2014 Legislative Session Dates**

April 14 – 18	Senate Passover/Easter Recess
May 2, 2014	Legislative Session Scheduled to Conclude