



PBC 2022 Legislative Update

Department of Legislative Affairs

Week 4: January 31 - February 4

Lawmakers on Friday unveiled their budget plans for the coming fiscal year, with the Senate's \$108.6 billion plan, followed soon by the House's \$105.3 billion plan. The House and Senate appropriations committees will meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday to move the proposed budgets toward their initial floor votes. Both budgets clock in above DeSantis' \$99.7 billion proposal.

House Bill linked [here](#).
Senate Bill linked [here](#).

Education Funding

Palm Beach State College
Dental Facility:
\$8,644,845 in House

Florida Atlantic University
Max Planck Scientific Fellowship:
\$1,389,101 in House & Senate

University of Florida
WPB Global Center for Tech and Innovation:
\$100,000,000 in Senate

Beach Funding

\$58.65 million statewide in Senate
\$50 million statewide in House;
plus \$45 million for State Park beaches.

	Senate	House
Total Budget	\$ 108.6B	\$105.3B
Library Grants and Aid	\$ 17.3 M	\$ 17.3M
Library Cooperative Grants	\$ 2 M	\$ 2 M
Historic Preservation Grants	\$ 23.75 M	\$ 1.6M
Cultural & Museum Grants	\$ 386,436	\$ 35.5M
Transportation Disadvantaged	\$ 60.35 M	\$ 54.35 M
Job Growth Grant Fund	\$ 0	\$ 25 M
Enterprise Florida	\$ 12M	\$ 12 M
Visit Florida	\$ 50 M	\$ 50 M
FRDAP	\$10.7M	\$ 0
SCOP Transp. Projects	\$ 9M	\$ 9M

Environmental Budget

<u>Environmental Program</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>House</u>
DEP Everglades Restoration	\$706.6 million	\$520.6 million
North Everglades Estuaries	\$43.4 million	
Lake O Watershed Restoration	\$50 million	\$50 million
Water Quality Improvements		
• Wastewater Grant Program	\$125 million	\$116 million
• Total Maximum Daily Loads	\$25 million	\$50 million
• Water Projects	\$91.5 million	\$111.3 million
• Septic Upgrade Incentives	\$10 million	\$ 0
Blue Green Algae Task Force	\$10.8 million	\$10.8 million
Resilient Florida Program Infra.	\$110 million	\$270.9 million
Resilient Florida Planning	\$20 million	\$20 million
Innovative Tech Grants/ Algal Bl.	\$10 million	\$15 million
Alternative Water Supply	\$40 million	\$50 million
Florida Forever/ Div. State Lands	\$90 million	\$100 million
Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program	\$125 million	\$180 million
Wastewater Revolving Loan	\$206.4 million	\$206.4 million
Reef Protection Tire Abatement	\$3 million	\$3 million
Derelict Vessel Removal	\$2.0 million	\$8.2 million

Local Projects Currently Funded

C-51 Project	\$ 65,000,000 S
RESTORE: Reentry	\$ 250,000 H
Lake Worth Lagoon	\$ 179,688 H
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	\$ 708,500 H
Everglades Workforce Training	\$ 850,000 H
Chain of Lakes/Blueway Trail	\$ 200,000 H & \$ 250,000 S
Loggerhead Marinelife Ctr.	\$ 125,000 H
Loggerhead Underserved Youth	\$ 125,000 H & S
Loggerhead Water Treatment System	\$ 250,000 S
West Tech Workforce Training	\$ 198,644 H
Busch Wildlife Center Education Ctr.	\$ 250,000 H
Palm Beach Gardens Stormwater	\$ 250,000 H
Delray Beach Stormwater	\$ 918,500 H
Lake Shore Drive Drainage	\$ 350,000 H
Lake Worth Parrot Cove	\$ 225,000 H
Delray Beach Catherine Strong Park	\$ 100,000 S
Palm Beach Historical Fire Station	\$ 400,000 S
Palm Beach County Oral History Project	\$ 47,400 H
Palm Beach Historical Fire Station	\$ 400,000 S
Greenacres Fire Station HQ Renovation	\$ 150,000 S
Place of Hope – Child Welfare	\$ 400,000 S
Alpert Jewish Fam Svcs. – Support Line	\$ 200,000 S
Alpert Jewish Fam Svcs. – MH First Aid	\$ 200,000 S
Ruth Rales	\$ 200,000 H
Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$ 225,000 H
Palm Beach Rape Crisis Center	\$282,039 H & S
Alzheimer's Community Care	\$ 400,000 S & \$ 375,000 H
Cox Science Ctr. and Aquarium Expansion	\$ 500,000 S
North Palm Beach EOC Generator	\$ 200,000 S
Boca Raton Municipal Complex Emergency Generators	\$ 550,000 H
Palm Springs Public Safety Building	\$ 315,011 H
SR A1A Drainage Repairs - Highland Beach	\$ 500,000 H

These priority projects are currently not funded in either budget but our team continues to work on amendments to include dollars in the appropriations bills:

Peanut Island Restoration
 Central PBC Infrastructure
 Fire Rescue Bunker Gear
 TD Funding Supplemental
 Briny Breezes Pocket Study
 Fire Rescue Urban SaR
 HRC 2
 Glades Region Infrastructure
 Lake O Shoreline
 Green Cay Phase 2
 Fire Rescue Station 24 Rebuild
 Corbett Levee

Statewide Issues

SB 96,98 / HB 7023,7025 – Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund

A proposal to provide \$500 million that the governor could immediately access during emergencies is now ready to be considered by the Florida House. On Monday, the House Appropriations Committee on Monday backed a pair of measures (HB 7023 and HB 7025) that would move \$500 million in state general revenue into a new emergency fund that the governor could tap. Lawmakers initially considered providing \$1 billion, but the amount was cut in half in the Senate, which approved its version of the proposal (SB 96 and SB 98) on Jan. 19. The House committee followed suit Monday, so these bills are poised for final passage on Wednesday.

HJR 1 – Homestead Property Tax Exemption

Police, firefighters, prison guards, teachers, child welfare officials and active duty military personnel with homestead property in Florida could see a new tax break under a constitutional amendment that passed the Ways and Means Committee Monday. The bill would create another homestead exemption on the assessed value of property from \$100,000 to \$150,000 for eligible first responders, teachers and military members. If the Legislature passes the measure, more than 60% of voters would have to approve it on the 2022 General Election ballot. If voters give the go-ahead, it would take effect Jan. 1, 2023. HJR 1 has two more committee stops in the House. Identical Senate measures, SB 1746 and SB 1748, also are moving through the committee process. HB 1563, which would implement HJR 1, also passed the committee.

SB 1664 – Unlawful Assemblies

Legislation putting restrictions on protests in front of homes was approved Monday by the Senate Judiciary Committee, the first committee stop for the bill. SB 1664 would ban people from picketing or protesting outside a person's residence. Protestors caught harassing or disturbing a person's home could be charged with a second degree misdemeanor and potentially face up to two months in jail. There is no current House companion bill.

HB 1467 - School Board Pay Cut

A measure that would eliminate regular salaries for local school board members and replace it with per-meeting pay that would be capped at \$4,800 per year was approved Monday by the House Appropriations Committee. The bill (HB 1467) was approved 15-10 and goes next to the full House for approval. The Senate companion, SB 1300, is in its final committee of reference.

SB 1658 – Executive Appointments

Rules surrounding appointments of people to lead state agencies made by the governor could change under legislation that cleared the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on Monday. SB 1658 would repeal the need for a unanimous Cabinet vote for some new state agency heads appointed by the governor and instead give the governor the choice of having the nominee approved by the Cabinet or be confirmed by the Senate. Currently, the governor's appointments to head some state agencies need approval from the full Cabinet, which at the moment includes Democrat Nikki Fried, the agriculture commissioner and a potential opponent for DeSantis in the upcoming governor's race. The measure has one more committee stop, as does a similar version in the House (HB 1295).

PBC Watch List Week 4

Monday:

SB 1156 Study to Establish a Statewide Recycling Goal:

Passed Senate Environment & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 6-0 Two more committees.

SB 1940/ HB 7053 Resilience & Coastal Protection: A 22 page strike all amendment was accepted in its Senate Committee, which will now act as the main Resilience Bill this legislative session.

Passed Senate Environment & Natural Resources Subcommittee; 5-0 Two more committees.

SB 974/HB 985 Sovereign Immunity: The House bill has not yet accepted the welcomed Senate reductions of award limits. SB 974 Passed Senate Judiciary Committee; 10-1 Community Affairs Committee next.

HB 985 Passed House Appropriations Committee; 23-1 Judiciary Committee next.

SB 1186 / HB 717 Agritourism: This bill prohibits denial or revocation of property's agricultural classification; requires certain farm buildings, structures, facilities, or other improvements to be assessed according to specified provisions. Met with the House sponsor to add an amendment which would allow local governments to regulate issues including but not limited to noise, hours of operation, traffic, road performance standards, and minimum separation requirements from residential uses.

HB 717 passed House Ways and Means Committee 13-0. One committee remaining.

SB 1186 passed the Finance and Tax Committee on Thurs; 8-0. Now in Appropriations.

SB 690 Resilience-Related Advisory Committees: A priority of the South Florida Climate Compact.

Passed Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; 6-0. Moves to the Senate Floor.

Tuesday:

SB 524 – Elections: Florida senators Tuesday considered a proposal that would require local supervisors to scour voter rolls each year, add steps for voting by mail and create a state office to probe alleged election irregularities. The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee took up proposal, which emerged Monday as a 45-page rewrite of a bill (SB 524) filed by Sen. Travis Hutson, R-St. Augustine. The proposal includes:

— Requiring county elections supervisors to conduct reviews of voter-registration rolls at least once a year, which would be more frequent than the currently required every other year. The bill also would set additional requirements for supervisors about issues such as confirming addresses.

— Adding requirements to the vote-by-mail process, including requiring voters to write in a designated space the last four digits of their driver license numbers, state identification-card numbers or Social Security numbers. Supervisors would compare the numbers to registration information.

— Creating the “Office of Election Crimes and Security” in the Department of State. The office, in part, could initiate inquiries and conduct preliminary investigations into allegations of election-law violations and forward information to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. DeSantis proposed creation of such an office, though he wanted it to include sworn law-enforcement officers — which is not part of the Senate proposal.

— Increasing criminal penalties from first-degree misdemeanors to third-degree felonies for certain elections offenses, including what has become known as ballot “harvesting.” That practice can involve collecting vote-by-mail ballots from multiple people.

HB 195/HB 197 – Juvenile Diversion Expunction and Public Records Exemption: Passed House Judiciary Committee.

HB 513 – Comprehensive Review Study of the Central and Southern Florida Project: Passed House State Affairs Committee.

PBC Watch List: Week 4

Tuesday:

SB 1702 – Mandatory Building Inspections: The bill would establish a mandatory structural inspection program for multi-family residential buildings that are greater than three stories and larger than 3,500 square feet. Inspections would be required once a building is 30 years old and every 10 years afterward. Buildings that are within 3 miles of a coastline and assumed to be more vulnerable to the corrosive effects of sea salt, are required to be inspected after 20 years and every seven years thereafter. For buildings built prior to 1992, they must have their first inspection completed by Dec. 31, 2024.

Passed the Regulated Industries Committee; 8-0 Moves to final committee, Rules.

SPB 7042 – Community Association Building Safety:

This bill is similar, but makes requirements for buildings three stories and higher. Passed the Regulated Industries Committee; 8-0 Moves to final committee, Appropriations

Wednesday:

SB 730 - Step-therapy Protocols: Provides that the insurer or HMO must prescribe the manner, form, and timeframe in which an insured or subscriber may request a protocol exemption. Further, SB 730 requires the insurer or HMO to authorize or deny a protocol exemption in reasonable amount of time. If the insurer or HMO denies the protocol exemption, the insurer or HMO must provide the insured or subscriber with a written response and the procedure for appealing a denial. The House companion, HB 459 by Rep. Matt Willhite, has passed its committees of reference and is on the House floor for a vote.

SB 512 – Vacation Rentals: With a minor amendment, this bill passed its second Senate Committee, Community Affairs, 6-3. The Rules Committee is the next stop. The House companion, HB 512, remains in the House Ways and Means Committee.

SB 1420 Public Records/City and County Attorneys: Providing an exemption from public records requirements for the personal identifying and location information of current and former county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, city attorneys, and assistant city attorneys, and the names and personal identifying and location information of the spouses and children of such attorneys.

Passed the Community Affairs Committee, 9-0. It moves to the Senate Rules Committee. The House companion, HB 1213, remains in its first committee of reference.

SB 1124 / HB 943 - Preemption of Local Government Wage Mandates: Revises prohibitions relating to political subdivisions enacting, maintaining, or enforcing wage mandates in an amount greater than the state minimum wage rate. A delete-all to SB 1124 adopted exempts collective bargaining agreements from this preemption.

SB 1124 passed the Community Affairs Committee; 5-3.

HB 943 passed the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on Thursday; 11-6.

SB 578 / HB 837 – Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program: Deletes construction relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation coverage rates and delays future repeal of the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program; a priority of our Public Safety Dept.

HB 837 passed the Insurance and Banking Committee; 16-0. Three more committees await. SB 578 passed the Community Affairs Committee; 9-0 Appropriations is next.

HB 569 – Local Business Protection Act: Creates a mechanism for a private, for-profit business owner to recover business damages related to local government action not amounting to a taking in specified circumstances.

HB 569 passed the Local Admin. & Veterans Affairs Subcomm; 11-6. Judiciary is next. The Senate companion, SB 620, is in Second Reading on the Senate Floor.

PBC Watch List: Week 4

Thursday:

HB 445 – Transportation Network Companies: Limits the amount airports could charge TNC drivers (Uber, Lyft, etc.) at \$2 per pick up. PBIA is opposed to this cap in fees, as they are a self-sustaining enterprise.

On Thursday, HB 445 was Temporarily Postponed in the House Tourism, Infrastructure and Tourism Subcommittee. The Senate companion, SB 696, has not yet been heard in any committee.

HB 105 – Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities: Allows local government to further restrict smoking within boundaries of public beaches and public parks.

HB 105 passed the Environment, Ag. and Flooding Subcommittee; 16-0 Now in Health and Human Services Committee. The Senate companion, SB 224, will be heard in committee on 2/7.

SB 962 / HB 981– Residential Development Projects for Affordable Housing: Authorizes a county or municipality, regardless of zoning ordinances or the locality's comprehensive plan, to approve the development of any residential development project, including a mixed-use residential development project, on any parcel zoned for commercial or industrial use if at least 10% of the units that are affordable.

SB 962 Passed the Rules Committee; 15-1. It moves to the Senate floor.

HB 962 Passed the State Affairs Committee on Tuesday; 21-0. It moves to the House floor.

SB 544 / H 731 – Drug-related Overdose Prevention: Drugs that can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose would be more widely available. Passed unanimously Thursday in the Full Senate. The bill allows pharmacists to stock the antidote drugs, such as naloxone, and adds law enforcement personnel to the list of people authorized to carry and use the antidotes. The Senate voted to add an amendment by Sen. Jason Pizzo that would allow public schools to buy and keep on hand a supply of naloxone and provide legal immunity related to its use.

SB 544 passed the full Senate Thursday.

HB 731 passed the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday is now on Second Reading in the House.

SB 434 / HB 489 – VISIT Florida Tourism Marketing: The full Senate voted on Thursday to extend the life of the state's tourism marketing agency. SB 434 would prolong Visit Florida's repeal date, currently next year, until 2031. The similar House companion, HB 489 would only extend the life of the agency until 2028. The Senate bill now heads to the House where the House's version is awaiting consideration on the floor.

SB 434 passed the full Senate; 19-0.

HB 489 is on Second Reading in the House.

SB 1024 / HB 741 – Net Metering: The House Tourism, Infrastructure and Energy Subcommittee passed HB 741 that could reduce economic benefits to customers who have rooftop solar panels. HB 741 passed the committee on a 13-3 vote over the objection of several members of the public who testified in opposition. Large utility companies – particularly Florida Power & Light – back the measure and say the current net metering system unfairly pushes higher costs on to customers who don't have solar panels. Small business owners who install the panels oppose the bill, saying the move would put them out of business and kill hundreds of jobs in the state. The sponsor, Rep. Lawrence McClure the bill on Thursday in a bid at compromise, changing it to allow current rooftop solar users to retain their financial incentives for 20 years, instead of 10 years as the original bill would have allowed.

HB 741 passed the Tourism Infrastructure & Energy Subcomm. 13-3. Two stops remain.

SB 1024 will be heard in Community Affairs on Tuesday 2/8.

PBC Watch List: Week 4

Thursday:

HB 7055 – Cybersecurity: Bans local governments from paying attackers in ransomware cases, a growing form of hacking that uses malware intended to extort money or other ransom by encrypting files on a victim's computer or network. The bill requires counties and municipalities (local governments) to:

- Report cybersecurity and ransomware incidents to the sheriff and State Watch Office (SWO) within the Division of Emergency Management;
- Submit after action reports to FLDS following a cybersecurity or ransomware incident;
- Require employees to undergo certain cybersecurity training within 30 days of employment and annually thereafter; and
- Adopt cybersecurity standards that safeguard the local government's data, information technology (IT), and IT resources.

It establishes penalties and fines for certain ransomware offenses against a government entity. The bill provides that a ransomware offense is punishable as a first degree felony.

The bill further provides that an employee or contractor of a government entity, with access to the government entity's network, who willfully and knowingly aids or abets another in the commission of a ransomware offense against the government entity commits a felony of the first degree. In addition to any other penalties imposed, the convicted person must pay a fine equal to twice the amount demanded in the ransomware offense, the proceeds of which will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The Senate has no current companion bill.

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