



PALM BEACH COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT



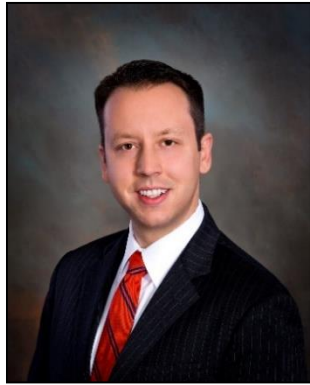
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2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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2021 Session Overview

The 2021 Legislative Session began on March 2 and ended April 30 as planned. As legislators approached the session, a lean budget year was predicted as a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses, educational institutions, local governments and families across the state. With the Capitol limited to outside visitors, and testimony delivered before the Senate from an off-site location, the pandemic dominated the mood in Tallahassee during the first weeks of the session.

As the session moved forward, however, the mood lightened somewhat, particularly as it related to the budget. Revenue collections in early 2021 began to increase in expectation of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). Legislators headed into budget negotiations in April without a plan for how to allocate the \$10.2 billion in federal funding the State of Florida was expected to receive.

The Governor proposed spending \$4.1 billion of the \$10.2 billion to boost state ports, augment climate resilience spending and send every Florida first responder a \$1,000 payment for their extraordinary service during the pandemic. Of the remaining \$6 billion, legislative leaders were granted expansive discretion in distributing this one-time federal relief. In the end, Florida lawmakers agreed to a \$101.5 billion state budget that gave the Governor many of his top priorities.

Along with providing bonuses to first responders, the final budget included a \$50 million increase to raise teacher salaries, \$96 million to provide services to more people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and \$100 million to clean up Piney Point, an old phosphate plant reservoir in Manatee County that nearly spilled over into an environmental catastrophe during the session. The budget also includes funding for Everglades restoration, sea-level rise and raising the minimum pay of state workers to \$13 an hour.

The 2021 Regular Session was a success for the Governor, who saw many of his priorities pass: anti-riot legislation (HB 1); social media regulations (HB 7072); a vaccine passport ban (SB 2006); increased investment in resiliency (SB 2519); continued investment in teacher salaries; federal funding directed towards bonuses for first responders and teachers; control over local COVID-19 ordinances, and more.

This session, 1,839 general, 52 local, and 1,060 appropriations bills were filed. Of those, 248 general bills and 24 local bills passed both chambers. A down year by any measure. There was one concurrent resolution and one joint resolution that passed both chambers.

Priorities of the county were considered during the course of the session, with successes seen in increasing the amount of money going to affordable housing after initial amounts were announced, the passing of the Online Sales Tax, robust funding in natural resource, water and Everglades restoration, and a continued fight against local government preemptions.

On the pages to follow, we will highlight some of the priority appropriations and legislative issues which affect Palm Beach County.

2021-2022 Budget Highlights

Total Budget: \$ 101.5 billion

- General Revenue: \$36.3 billion
- Trust Funds: \$65.2 billion

Reserves: \$9.5 billion Total Aggregate:

- \$4.9 billion in unallocated GR
- \$2.7 billion - Budget Stabilization Fund
- 1.9 billion in unallocated TF

The total veto amount was \$1.5 billion; all but \$54 million were federal ARPA dollars.

Palm Beach County items vetoed: 12 projects for \$6.2 million.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health and Human Services received \$44.57 billion. This is the largest portion of funding in the budget.

Total Budget: \$44.57 billion [\$12.1 billion GR; \$32.5 billion TF]

Agency for Health Care Administration

Total: \$35 billion [\$8.6 billion GR; \$26.8 million TF]

- \$4.3 billion in funding to cover the highest Medicaid enrollee workload in history.
- \$240 million to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to mothers and newborns, from two months to a full year following birth.
- \$22 million increase for Healthy Start
- KidCare Workload (Due to Caseload Shift to Medicaid) - (\$106.7) million
- \$9 million to support the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity to develop strategies to reduce health disparities and advance health equity.
- \$89 million physician supplemental payments
- \$9.4 million increase for the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program
- \$5.4 million rate increase for Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center (PPEC)
- \$25 million reimbursement for Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Teams
- \$18.3 million rate increase for intermediate care facilities serving persons with disabilities
- \$100 million+ for child welfare
- \$42 million for best practices
- \$12 million adoption subsidies
- \$1 billion+ to address the community mental health/substance abuse, including:
 - \$117.1 million from the State Opioid Response Grant to provide evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery
 - \$11.3 million Opioid Legal Settlement Funds
 - \$112.5 million Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grants
 - \$3 million 2-1-1 Call Volume and Coordination Expansion
 - \$1 million Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Mental Illnesses

Community Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services:

- Opioid Response Grant - \$117.1 million
- Legal Settlement Funds for Abatement of the Opioid Epidemic - \$11.3 million
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grants - \$112.5 million
- Medicaid Savings for Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Teams - (\$7.2) million GR; \$7.2 million TF
- 2-1-1 Call Volume and Coordination Expansion - \$3.0 million
- Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Mental Illnesses - \$1.1 million GR
- State Mental Health Facilities:
 - Medical Care Costs - \$2.9 million GR
 - Food Products Costs - \$1.1 million [\$0.6 million GR; \$0.5 million
 - Fixed Capital Outlay Repairs and Maintenance - \$10.6 million
- \$134.7 million in funding for children and families who receive services through the child welfare system. This investment includes an additional \$12.4 million for maintenance adoption subsidies and adoption incentive benefits for state employees to provide post adoption supports for children who are adopted out of the child welfare system.
- \$137 million to provide community-based behavioral health needs for adults and children
- \$14.1 million in funding for services to individuals who are victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation
- \$3.2 million for homelessness challenge grants
- \$90 million for State Opioid Funding
- \$95.6 million to allow approximately 1,900 individuals on the waitlist to be served through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities waiver program.
- 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

Department of Children and Families: \$3.7 billion

Department of Elder Affairs Total: \$405.1 million

- \$51 million for Alzheimer's and dementia treatment, up \$12 million from previous year.

Department of Health Total: \$3.2 billion

Department of Veterans Affairs: \$153.0 million

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations totaled \$5.9 billion.

- Increase Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program - \$74.2 million
- \$60.9 million for crime labs
- \$9 million for Public Safety, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Local Grant Program

Department of Corrections: \$2.896 billion

- Reducing from 12 to 8.5 Hour Corrections Shift - \$17.4 million

- Staffing to Support Statutory Changes - \$4.6 million

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE): \$313.7 million

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ): \$586.1 million

State Court System: \$667.2 million

Justice Administrative Commission (JAC): \$1.042 billion

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations totaled \$13.7 billion.

Transportation Work Program - \$10.3 billion

County Transportation Programs:

- Small County Road Resurface Assistance Program (SCRAP) - \$38.1 million
- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) - \$88.8 million
- Local Transportation Initiatives (Road Fund) Projects \$89.5 million
- Transportation Disadvantaged Program - \$65.9 million

Department of Economic Opportunity - \$1.1 billion

- Economic Development Toolkit Payments (existing contracts) - \$20.5 million
- Economic Development Partners (VISIT Florida - \$54 million, Space Florida, Enterprise Florida, Florida Sports Foundation) – Total: \$81.6 million; \$6 million
- Affordable Housing Programs - \$209.2 million
 - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) - \$146.7 million TF (allocated to local governments) **Palm Beach County expected to receive \$7.3 million**
 - State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Programs - \$62.5 million
- Administration of Federal Grants (Hurricane Recovery, Community Development) - \$14 million
- Economic Development Projects - \$1.56 million
- Housing and Community Development Projects - \$24.5 million
- Workforce Projects - \$5.2 million
- Job Growth Grant Fund - \$50 million (ARPA)

Department of State: \$120 million

- Maintenance of Effort for Libraries - \$23.9 million
- Grants to Library Cooperatives - \$2 million
- Library State Aid - \$21,500,000
- Online Adult High School Program for State Library System - \$700,000
- Cultural and Museum Program Support and Facilities Grants and Initiatives - \$31.1 million
- Cultural & Museum Program Support Grants - \$26.7 million
- Cultural and Museum Ranked List - \$23.2 million (funds distributed proportionally to all 515 projects)

- Culture Builds Florida Ranked List - \$3.5 million (funds all 153 projects)
- Cultural and Museum Projects - \$4.4 million
- Historical Resources Preservation Projects - \$5.65 million
- Historic Preservation Grants - Historic Preservation Small Matching Grants Ranked List – \$750,005 GR and \$1.5 million (funds all 58 projects)
- Historic Preservation Projects - \$3.4 million
- Elections – \$7.6 million:
 - Cyber Security and Election Activity Grants to Supervisors of Elections - \$3 million
 - Florida Voter Registration System Hardware Refresh - \$1.5 million
 - Elections Hardware Refresh - \$2 million
 - Voter Registration Activities - \$1.1 million

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Funding for Agriculture and Natural Resources totaled \$6.7 billion.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - \$1.8 billion

- Water Supply Planning - \$1.5 million
- Lake Okeechobee Agriculture Projects - \$5 million

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission - \$429.5 million

- Hurricane Irma Marine Fisheries Disaster Recovery - \$9.4 million

Department of Environmental Protection: \$2.2 billion

- DEP Everglades Restoration - \$360.1 million
- Water Quality Improvements - \$354.5 million
 - Wastewater Grant Program - \$116.7 million
 - Staffing for Reclaimed Water Program and Environmental Resource Permitting – 26 positions and \$2.0 million
 - Water Quality Improvements Everglades - \$50 million
 - Water Projects - \$116.6 million GR including:
 - Palm Beach County Lake Worth Lagoon Mon. Program . . . \$250,000
 - South Indian River Water Control Dist, Drainage Improvement . . . \$353,650
 - Septic Upgrade Incentive Program - \$10 million
 - Non-Point Source Planning Grants - \$17 million
 - Okeechobee and Suwannee River Basins WQI - \$1.3 million
 - Reclaimed Water Program - \$0.8 million
- Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern - \$20 million
- Water Quality Improvements - Blue Green Algae Task Force - \$10.8 million
- Resilient Florida Program - 25 positions and \$29 million
- Innovative Technology Grants for Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10 million
- Springs Restoration - \$75 million [\$50 million LATF; \$25 million ARPA]
- Florida Forever - \$102 million to Division of State Lands - \$100 million
- Florida Recreational Development Assistance Grants - \$2 million
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program - \$125 million [\$75 million TF; \$50 million ARPA]

- Volkswagen Settlement - \$30 million
- Hazardous Waste and Dry Clean Site Cleanup - \$9 million
- Beach Management Funding Assistance - \$150 million [\$100 million LATF; \$50 million ARPA]
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program - \$136.6 million
- Wastewater Revolving Loan Program - \$211.2 million
- Small County Solid Waste Management Grants - \$3 million
- Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants - \$11 million
- Reef Protection Tire Abatement - \$2.5 million
- Land and Water Conservation Grants - \$13.8 million
- Local Parks - \$4.7 million
- State Parks Maintenance and Repairs - \$50 million

EDUCATION

Public Schools / K12 FEFP

\$22.8 billion [\$12.9 billion state funds; \$9.9 billion local funds]

- FEFP Total Funds decrease is \$149.1 million (due to the 2020-21 pandemic-related enrollment decline)
- Increases the Total Funds per Student from \$7,756 to \$7,795 after adjusting for the one-time hold harmless funding provided to school districts in Fiscal Year 2020-21
- Increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$53 or 1.2%
- FEFP Base Funds (flexible \$) increase of \$473 million or 3.5%
- Required Local Effort (RLE)
- Teacher Salary Increase Allocation - \$550 million - funds that school districts must use to increase the minimum salaries of classroom teachers (\$440 million) to at least \$47,500, and to increase salaries for other instructional personnel (\$110 million)
- Safe Schools Allocation - \$180 million for School Safety Officers and school safety initiatives
- Mental Health Assistance Allocation - \$120

Florida College System

\$2 billion [\$1.14 billion GR; \$216.9 million TF; \$719.1 million tuition/fees]

- Florida Integrated Library System and Distance Learning Student Services - \$9.1 million GR
- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$14 million GR
- Open Door Grant Program - \$20 million TF
- Student Success Incentive Funds - \$30 million in prior performance earnings rolled into the base of each college, and \$25 million in additional funds for new performance earnings
- College Operational Enhancements - \$24.5 million TF
- No tuition increase

State University System

Total: \$5.3 billion [\$2.8 billion GR; \$508.3 million TF; \$2 billion tuition/fees]

- Performance Based Funding - \$560 million
 - State Investment - \$265 million GR
 - Institutional Investment - \$295 million
- Reduction of University Faculty Salaries (state funded) in Excess of \$200,000 - (\$18.5) million

- Incentives for Programs of Strategic Emphasis - \$25 million
- New Worlds Reading Initiative - \$75 million GR
- IFAS Workload - \$4 million GR
- Florida Integrated Library System and Distance Learning Student Services - \$11.8 million GR
- No tuition increase

Federal Stimulus/Relief Highlights - \$6.7 billion

- Pandemic Response
 - ~~New Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund- \$1 billion (veto)~~
 - Child care for essential workers- \$950.4 million
 - \$1000 bonuses to essential first responders - \$208.4 million
 - \$1000 bonuses to classroom teachers and principals- \$215.7 million
 - \$1000 bonuses to child care/ early learning instructors- \$166 million
- Infrastructure
 - Florida Department of Transportation- \$2 billion
 - New State Emergency Operations Center- \$100 million
- Environment
 - Everglades Restoration- \$60 million
 - Resilient Florida Grant Program- \$500 million
 - Wastewater Grant Program- \$500 million
 - Land Acquisition- \$300 million
 - Coastal Mapping- \$100 million
 - Beach Management- \$50 million
 - C-51 Reservoir- \$48 million
 - Alternative Water Supply- \$40 million
 - Springs Restoration- \$25 million
 - Derelict Vessel Removal- \$25 million
 - Petroleum Tanks Cleanup- \$50 million
 - Piney Point- \$100 million
- Workforce and Economic Support
 - Visit Florida- \$25 million
 - African American Cultural & Historic Grants- \$30 million
 - Job Growth Grant Fund- \$50 million
 - “Consumer-First” workforce information system- \$100 million
 - Re-employment Assistance System Modernization- \$56.4 million
- Education
 - New Worlds Reading Initiative- \$125 million
 - Higher Education Capital Outlay - \$250 million
 - PreK-12 Special Facilities Capital Outlay- \$125 million

o Child Care Program Stabilization Funds - \$1.5 billion

● Budget Stabilization Fund- \$350 million



Palm Beach County Budget Items of Interest

Those projects marked with * indicate that it was a legislative delegation member sponsored project.
~~Strike through~~ indicates Gubernatorial veto.

EDUCATION

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University – Operating	\$114,704,709
Florida Atlantic University – Education Enhancement	\$37,891,551
Florida Atlantic University – AD Henderson University Lab School - STEM Arena & Multipurpose Building	\$17,304,000
Florida Atlantic University – Medical School	\$27,464,420
Florida Atlantic University – Autism Program	\$1,056,776
Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program (Recurring)	\$889,101
Florida Atlantic University – Need Based Financial Assistance	\$399,658
Florida Atlantic University – Tuition Authority	<u>\$136,401,331</u>
TOTAL:	\$336,111,546

Palm Beach State College

Florida College System Program Fund	\$58,017,036
Florida College System Education Enhancement	\$9,949,475
Palm Beach State College - Student Success Incentives	<u>\$1,365,189</u>
TOTAL:	\$69,331,700

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 Services Early Learning	\$40,845,982
Palm Beach County Voluntary Prekindergarten	\$30,491,205
Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Non-enrollment Assistance	\$6,884,551
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) – Academic Assistance Allocation	\$34,442,752
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) –	

Technology Assistance Allocation	\$8,605,688
TOTAL:	\$1,838,055,728

Private Colleges and Universities

EASE Tuition Assistance Grants	
Everglades University	\$1,639,257
Keiser University	\$20,543,271
Lynn University	\$2,139,273
Palm Beach Atlantic University	\$3,440,451
South University – West Palm Beach	<u>\$1,352,316</u>
Total	\$29.114.568

Other Education

Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools* (Rep. Caruso)	\$3,500,000
Learning for Life* (Rep. Caruso)	\$500,000
Wayne Barton Study Center* (Rep. Caruso)	\$300,000
Community Based Post-COVID Acceleration Initiative* (Sen. Powell/Rep. Hardy)	\$200,000
City of Delray Beach Learning Loss Recovery* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Hardy)	\$80,000
West Technical Education Center Adult Vocation Training * (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Skidmore)	\$426,857
Building Hope for People with Autism on the Treasure Coast* (Sen. Harrell)	\$1,340,000
University of Florida – Jacksonville – Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship* (Sen. Harrell)	\$300,000
Stay Kidsafe! Elementary Safety Education and Human Trafficking Prevention* (Sen. Polsky)	\$184,760
WXEL-TV, Boynton Beach - Replace Failing HVAC System and Building Automated System	<u>\$733,469</u>
TOTAL:	\$7,285,086

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Behavioral Health Services

The Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service Mental Health First Aid* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Silvers)	\$100,000
Behind the Mask: Support for Mental Health Services Through the Faulk Center for Counseling * (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Skidmore)	\$75,000
TOTAL:	\$100,000

Elder Affairs

Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) funding for 200 client increase	\$7,250,574
Alzheimer's Community Care Association - Critical Support Initiative	\$250,000
Alzheimer's Community Care Association	\$1,500,000
Alzheimer's Association Brain Bus	\$319,000
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation	<u>\$92,946</u>
TOTAL:	\$9,412,520

Vocational Rehabilitation

Palm Beach Habilitation Center (Recurring)	\$225,000
Boca Raton Habilitation Center for the Handicapped – Adults with Disabilities* (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Caruso)	<u>\$200,000</u>
TOTAL	\$425,000

Other

Florida Caregiving Youth Expansion* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Caruso)	\$250,000
Place of Hope – Child Welfare Services* (Sen. Harrell/Rep. Snyder)	\$250,000
ChildNet – Preventing Opioid/Substance Abuse Based Removals* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Silvers)	\$360,000
4Kids – Foster Parent Recruitment and Stability* (Sen. Harrell/Rep. Caruso)	\$750,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center (recurring)	\$282,039
Homeless Housing Assistance Grants	\$3,000,000
Jordan Avi Ogman Foundation TECPR2 Research & Development of Gene Therapy Cure for Rare Neurodegenerative Disease* (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Slosberg)	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$4,642,039

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sago Palm Facility – Payment in Lieu of Taxes \$142,900	
South Bay Correctional Facility – Payment in Lieu of Taxes \$275,560	
Oak Street Home II – Female Delinquency Prevention	\$630,000
Justice Administrative Commission for PIP Fraud (Palm Beach and other counties)	\$1,953,374
Riviera Beach Public Safety Complex	\$1,000,000
RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program	<u>\$500,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$3,453,374

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation/Economic Development

Jewish Association for Residential Care (JARC) Community Works* (Rep. Caruso)	\$335,000
Everglades Workforce Training* (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Skidmore)	\$750,000
Floridians Active Duty Assistance Program* (Rep. Snyder)	\$250,000
Palm Beach County Operating Assistance Public Transit Development/Grants	<u>\$5,952,137</u>
TOTAL:	\$7,287,137

Arterial Highway Construction

Bridgeman Drive, Wellington Road & Longwood Road Various Locations	\$1,060,814
City of Boca Raton Various Locations	\$2,128,000

Clear Lake Trail from SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd to Palm Beach Lakes Blvd	\$1,135,681
Indiantown Road from SR 5/US 1 to A1A	\$1,196,138
Lyons Rd/Sansbury Way from SR 882/Forest Hill Blvd to SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd	\$4,215,640
Westgate Avenue from Wabasso Drive to Congress Avenue	<u>\$2,324,351</u>
TOTAL:	\$12,060,624

Aviation Development Grants

Palm Beach County Park Airport – Lantana	\$1,800,000
PBI Construct New Arf Facility	<u>\$4,000,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$5,800,000

Bridge Construction

SR 704/Royal Park Bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, Rehabilitation	<u>\$3,039,929</u>
TOTAL:	\$3,039,929

Construct/Inspect/Consult

Resurface Turnpike (SR 91) in Palm Beach County (Milepost 112.212-117.843)	\$1,196,654
SR 15/US 441 from South of Shirley Dr to East Main Street	\$1,029,129
SR 25/US 27 from Hendry/Palm Beach County Line to SR 80	\$3,096,278
SR 5/US 1 Federal Highway from CR A1A to Beach Road	\$3,909,561
SR 7 from 60th Street to North Lake Blvd	\$5,194,831
SR 7 from SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd to 60th Street	\$2,695,115
SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd	<u>\$11,279,278</u>
TOTAL:	\$28,400,846

County Transportation Programs

Congress Ave Ext. from Northlake Blvd to Alternate A1A	\$2,540,647
SR 809/Military Trail at Forest Hill Blvd	<u>\$6,744,260</u>
TOTAL	\$9,284,907

Highway Maintenance

I-95 Asset Maintenance Palm Beach County	\$4,336,613
Lighting Contract in Palm Beach	\$3,588,737
Palm Bch County ITS Maintenance	\$2,225,848
SR 25/US 27 Asset Management Contract US 27 & Belle Glade Area	<u>\$1,899,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$12,050,198

Highway Safety Construction/Grants

SR 9/I-95 from South of 10th Ave North to SR 882/Forest Hill Boulevard	<u>\$2,336,015</u>
TOTAL:	\$2,336,015

Intrastate Highway Construction

Safety Improvements to Turnpike (SR 91) in Palm Beach County	\$1,090,856
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Sheet Pile Wall on A1A Adjacent to John D. Macarthur Beach State Park	\$1,348,024
SR 7 from 60th Street to North Lake Blvd	\$52,323,055
SR 7 from SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd to 60th Street	\$17,565,354
SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd	\$125,221,899
SR 802/Lake Worth Road from Raulerson Dr to Palm Beach State College Entrance	\$1,871,911
SR 9/I-95 and Palmetto Park Road Interchange	\$1,091,928
SR 9/I-95 at 6th Avenue South	<u>\$2,850,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$203,363,027

Local Transportation Projects

Boynton Beach Town Square Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing* (Sen Berman/Rep Casello)	\$75,000
Central Palm Beach County Historical Infrastructure Improvement* (Sen Berman/Rep Silvers)	\$3,000,000
Jewish Transportation – Rides Rides (JTRR)* (Sen Polsky/Rep Slosberg)	\$150,000
Transportation Disadvantaged Discounted Bus Passes* (Sen Powell/Rep Casello)	\$994,550
Village of Royal Palm Beach – La Mancha Extension* (Sen Powell/Rep Willhite)	\$450,000
TOTAL:	<u>\$4,669,500</u>

Preliminary Engineering Consult

SR 25/US 27 at 27 Miles North of the I-75/US 27 Interchange	\$1,419,231
SR 80 from SR 15 to CR 880	\$1,600,000
SR 806/Atlantic Ave from East of Lyons Rd to Jog Rd	\$3,403,337
SR 9/I-95 at Hypoluxo Road	<u>\$2,074,515</u>
Total:	\$8,497,083

Resurfacing

Resurface Turnpike (SR 91) in Palm Beach County	\$9,199,321
SR 15/US 441 from South of Shirley Dr to East Main Street	\$7,347,598
SR 25/US 27 from Hendry/Palm Beach County Line to SR 80	\$23,110,253
SR 802/Lake Worth Road from Raulerson Dr to Palm Beach State College Entrance	<u>\$4,526,746</u>
Total:	\$44,183,918

Right-of-Way Land Acquisition/Support

SR 5/US 1 over Earman River (C-17) Bridge 930003	\$1,557,105
SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd Right-of-Way	\$1,946,800
SR 9/I-95 at PGA Boulevard/Central Boulevard	\$4,806,300
SR 9/I-95 from South of Woolbright Road to North of Woolbright Road	<u>\$3,888,421</u>
TOTAL:	\$12,198,626

Seaport Grants

Port of Palm Beach Berth Improvements	<u>\$1,000,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,000,000

Small County Outreach Program

McClure Road from Palm Road to South Lake Drive	\$1,194,932
NW 10th Ave from MLK Jr Blvd to US Highway 27	<u>\$1,077,788</u>
TOTAL:	\$2,272,720

Toll Operations Contracts

Account Management System/CCSS Operations	<u>\$51,839,955</u>
TOTAL:	\$51,839,955

Traffic Engineering Consultants

Palm Beach County Road Ranger Service Patrol	\$2,559,000
Palm Beach County Signal Maintenance & Operations on State Hwy System	<u>\$2,635,818</u>
TOTAL:	\$5,194,818

Transportation Planning Grants

Palm Beach Unified Planning Work Program FY 2020-2021/2021-2022	<u>\$2,918,452</u>
TOTAL:	\$2,918,452

Turnpike System Equipment and Development

Account Management System/CCSS Operations	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$3,000,000

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Projects

Belle Glade NW/SW 3rd Avenue, SW Avenue B Extension Corridor Stormwater Conveyance Improvements* (Sen Polsky/Rep Skidmore)	\$350,000
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative - Monitoring Program*(Sen Berman/Rep Caruso)	\$250,000
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative - South Indian River Water Control District Section 7 Drainage Improvement Project*	\$353,650
Delray Beach Owens Baker Tank Improvements* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Caruso)	\$250,000
Royal Palm Beach Florida Power & Light Pathway Dry Detention Ponds Phase 2* (Sen. Powell/Rep. Willhite)	\$450,000
West Palm Beach Flood Mitigation Tidal Valve Project* (Sen. Powell/Rep. Roth)	<u>\$105,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,508,650

Beach Projects

Central Boca Raton Beach Nourishment Post-Construction Monitoring	\$29,624
Coral Cove Dune Restoration Post-Construction Monitoring	\$35,000
Delray Beach Shore Protection Project	\$1,188,250
Delray Beach Shore Protection Project Post-Construction Monitoring	\$54,250
Mid-Town Beach Nourishment	\$4,763,017
North Boca Raton Shore Protection Project Post-Construction Monitoring	\$183,400

Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Post-Construction Monitoring	\$19,500
Singer Island Dune Restoration	\$800,229
Singer Island Dune Restoration Post-Construction Monitoring	\$39,575
South Boca Raton Beach Nourishment	<u>\$4,121,520</u>
TOTAL:	\$11,234,365

Inlet Management Projects

Boca Raton Implementation	\$76,000
Jupiter Implementation	\$1,518,525
Lake Worth Implementation Post Construction Monitoring	\$324,500
South Lake Worth Implementation	<u>\$1,350,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$3,269,025

Environmental Projects

Loggerhead Marinelife Center Improving Water Quality & Coastline Cleanliness (Sen. Harrell/Rep.Snyder)	<u>\$249,779</u>
TOTAL:	\$249,779

Local Parks

Pahokee King Memorial Park Improvements	<u>\$250,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$250,000

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) (Small Development Projects)

City of Riviera Beach Goodmark Park	\$50,000
City of Riviera Beach Monroe Heights Park	\$50,000
Indian Trail Improvement District Temple Park	\$50,000
Town of Juno Beach Dune Walkover Improvements	\$50,000
Village of North Palm Beach Community Center Park	\$50,000
Village of North Palm Beach Osborne Park	\$50,000
Village of Wellington Brampton Cove Park	\$50,000
Village of Wellington Margate Park	<u>\$50,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$400,000

CULTURE & FINE ARTS

<u>Historic Preservation Grants</u>	\$250,000
Delray Beach Historic GIS	\$50,000
Delray Beach Municipal Cemetery Historic Research Survey	<u>\$50,000</u>
TOTAL	\$350,000

Cultural and Museum Grants

Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center, Inc.	\$52,827
Aequalis, Inc.	\$22,351
Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens	\$43,940

Ballet Palm Beach, Inc.	\$37,631
Blue Planet Global Education, Inc.	\$10,638
Boca Ballet Theatre Company	\$62,615
Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.	\$44,834
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Inc.	\$76,108
Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Inc.	\$45,971
Boynton Cultural Centre, Inc.	\$33,387
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.	\$12,367
Center for Creative Education, Inc.	\$25,462
Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach, Inc.	\$75,092
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.	\$78,846
Delray Beach Chorale, Inc.	\$4,664
Digital Vibez, Inc.	\$12,267
Florida Atlantic University	\$28,768
Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden, Inc.	\$62,283
Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation, Inc.	\$6,389
Lighthouse ArtCenter, Inc.	\$64,023
Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Inc.	\$12,915
Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Inc.	\$75,013
Lynn University, Inc.	\$66,879
Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc.	\$78,846
Norton Museum of Art, Inc.	\$78,983
Old School Square Center for the Arts, Inc.	\$70,305
Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.	\$78,025
Palm Beach Opera, Inc.	\$75,092
Palm Beach State College	\$78,230
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.	\$79,873
School of the Arts Foundation, Inc.	\$74,890
South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, Inc.	\$75,424
Sunfest of Palm Beach County, Inc.	\$73,918
Sunshine District Association of Chapters of S.P.E.B.S.Q.A., Inc.	\$11,931
The Armory Art Center, Inc.	\$79,174
The Chamber Music Society of Palm Beach, Inc.	\$24,824
The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum	\$78,025
The Lake Worth Playhouse, Inc.	\$44,681
The Morikami, Inc.	\$77,340
The Palm Beach Symphony Society, Inc.	\$74,974
The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	\$77,368
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	<u>\$49,466</u>
TOTAL:	\$2,329,639
<u>Culture Builds Florida</u>	
Exceptional Ensembell Inc.	\$10,750
For the Children, Inc.	\$25,000

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - Arts at St. Andrew's 21-22 Season	\$13,500
The Children's Coalition Inc. - Believe & Achieve - A Multicultural Histories Project	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$74,250

* General Revenue Fund appropriations that are contingent upon receipt of federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Legislative Issues

Tax and Fiscal

SB 50 - Taxation

SB 50 requires out-of-state retailers and marketplace providers with no physical presence in Florida to collect Florida sales tax on taxable items delivered to purchasers in Florida if they conduct remote sales exceeding \$100,000 in the previous calendar year into Florida. Estimated revenues from the collection of sales and use tax from remote dealers are applied to replenish the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund until its balance exceeds \$4.07 billion. The law reduces the tax rate on the rental of commercial real property from 5.5 percent to 2 percent beginning the second month after the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund exceeds a balance of \$4.07 billion.



Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-002

SB 2512 / HB 5401 – Documentary Stamp Distributions

This bill revises the documentary stamp tax distributions of the remainder after distributions to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF), Department of Revenue administrative cost, and the general revenue service charge by:

- Reducing the percentage of distribution to the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) from 24.18442 percent to 20.5453 percent of the remainder after distributions to LATF or \$466.75 million rather than \$541.75 million. It also moves the \$75 million transfer to the General Revenue Fund from the STTF, which results in a net zero change to the distribution to the STTF as the \$75 million distribution goes directly to GR under current practice;
- Reducing the percentage of the first distribution to the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund (housing trust funds) from 11.24 percent to 3 percent;

- Reducing the percentage of the second distribution to the housing trust funds from 12.93 percent to 3.845 percent;
- Prohibiting distributions to the housing trust funds from being transferred to the General Revenue Fund in the General Appropriations Act.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-39

HB 7061 - Tax Package

HB 7061 was this year's Tax Cut Package, which provides more than \$168 million in taxpayer savings. HB 7061 includes:

- Sales Taxes:
 - 10-day "back-to-school" sales tax holiday from July 31 to August 9, 2021, for clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$60 or less, school supplies costing \$15 or less, and the first \$1,000 of the sales tax price of personal computers or personal computer-related accessories.
 - 10-day "disaster preparedness" sales tax holiday from May 28 to June 6, 2021, for disaster preparedness supplies. Some examples of tax-free items include: flashlights and lanterns costing \$40 or less; radios costing \$50 or less; tarps costing \$100 or less, coolers costing \$60 or less, batteries costing \$50 or less; and, generators costing \$1,000 or less.
 - 7-day "Freedom Week" sales tax holiday from July 1 – July 7, 2021. Purchases of admissions to music events, sporting events, cultural events, specified performances, movies, museums, state park annual passes, and fitness facilities for events held from July 1 – December 31, 2021, will be tax free. This includes purchases of season tickets. It also includes boating, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreational supplies.
 - Permanent sales tax break for independent living items purchased for noncommercial, home, or personal use. Includes: bed rails, grab bars, bed transfer bars, and shower seats.
- Property Taxes:
 - Hospital Community Benefit Reporting: Includes language from SB 58 repealing F.S. 193.019 requiring the Department of Revenue to collect county-level data on a hospital's community benefit for ad valorem tax exemptions. The change would instead allow DOR to continue its current practice of exempting 501(c)3 hospitals from ad valorem taxes. The change is estimated to reduce local government revenue by \$2.2 million statewide and is supported by the Florida Hospital Association, Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Mayo Clinic, and the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops.
 - Affordable Housing: It increases a currently-offered property tax discount for providing affordable housing to low-income families from covering 50% to 100% of property taxes. Requires tax collectors to accept late payments and removes penalties.

- Homestead Exemption: It includes language contained in HB 1519 related to right of survivorship, change of ownership, simultaneously receiving homestead in multiple states, etc.
- Elevated Properties: Includes language from HB 1379 exempting from assessment the value of voluntary improvements made to a property in order to protect against the impacts of flooding in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program and Florida Building Code.
- Tax Credits:
 - Strong Families Tax Credit Program: Provides a corporate tax credit for donations to certain child welfare organizations, capped at \$5 million annually.
 - Corporate Income Tax Internship Credit Program: \$2.5 million
 - Contaminated Site Rehab Tax Credit: \$17.5 million
- Tax Administration: The bill also makes minor changes to doc stamp taxes, charitable properties, etc. It also repeals the Sports Development Program, an unused incentive program.
- Brownfields Tax Credit Program: Provides a one-time increase in funding of \$17.5 million for the Brownfields Tax Credit Program to fund a backlog of approved credits. This program, administered through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, incentivizes businesses to clean up and redevelop hazardous sites to protect our environment and economy.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-31

Did not pass:

SB 1906 – Reemployment Assistance

After significant job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Senate backed increasing unemployment benefits from a maximum of \$275 a week to \$375 a week. The House did not take up the proposal, which also faced opposition from Gov. DeSantis.

SB 1014 / HB 835 – Employee Organizations

Public-employee unions staved off attempts by lawmakers to place new restrictions on union dues. The proposals included adding a step in which government employers would have had to confirm with workers that they want dues taken out of their pay before the deductions could start.

SB 84 – Pension System

An effort by the Senate to overhaul the state retirement system failed as it was not taken up by the House. The Senate proposal would have blocked new government employees from enrolling in the traditional pension system and required them to enroll in a 401(k)-style plan.

SB 510 / HB 13 - Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Would have made it more difficult for future Legislatures to sweep dollars earmarked to the affordable housing trust fund by making the Sadowski Trust Fund the 11th trust fund statutorily protected from sweeps. The bill would still allow the Legislature to sweep funding in declared states of emergency.

Statewide Bills of Local Impact

HB 1 - Combating Public Disorder

This bill addresses acts of public disorder to define previously undefined offenses of affray, riot, and inciting a riot and creates the offenses of aggravated rioting and aggravated inciting a riot. It requires a person arrested for unlawful assembly, riot, and certain offenses committed in furtherance of a riot or aggravated riot, to be held in jail until he or she appears for a first appearance hearing and a court determines bond. It creates a budget appeal process to challenge reductions in municipal law enforcement agencies' budgets similar to that available to a county sheriff. The bill provides that a municipality is civilly liable for specified damages proximately caused by the municipality's breach of a duty to allow the municipal law enforcement agency to respond appropriately to protect persons and property during a riot or an unlawful assembly.

It also creates the crime of mob intimidation, which prohibits a mob from using force or the threat of imminent force to compel or induce, or attempt to compel or induce, a person to do or refrain from doing any act or to assume, abandon, or maintain a particular viewpoint against that person's will.

Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2021-006

HB 9 - Protecting Consumers Against Pandemic-related Fraud

This bill provides that it is a third degree felony to knowingly and willfully make a materially false or misleading statement relating to the characteristics, authenticity, effectiveness, or availability of personal protective equipment. It also provides that it is a third degree felony to knowingly and willfully make a materially false or misleading statement regarding the availability of or access to a vaccine for COVID-19.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-34

SB 72 - Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19

This bill creates civil liability protections for individuals, businesses, governmental entities, and other organizations against COVID-19-related claims. It provides lesser liability protections to health care providers and provides procedures for civil actions against them. The bill took effect upon becoming a law on March 29, 2021 and applies retroactively. However, the bill does not apply in a civil action against a particular defendant if the suit is filed before the bill's effective date.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-001

SJR 204 – Constitutional Review Commission Repeal

The bill proposes an amendment to the State Constitution for the abolishment of the Constitutional Revision Commission by repealing provisions establishing the CRC in the Florida Constitution. The joint resolution passed both the House and Senate by the required three-fifths vote. Next, the resolution will

head to the voters for approval on the 2022 General Election ballot. In order to take effect as of January 3, 2023, the amendment must be approved by at least 60% of the votes cast on the measure.

Filed with the Secretary of State on May 18, 2021.

SB 90 - Election Administration

The bill limits a person's lawful possession of a VBM ballot to his or her own, those of his or her immediate family, and two others, and expands the definition of "immediate family" to include a grandchild. It prohibits a governmental entity from mailing or otherwise providing a VBM ballot without a request. The bill requires that a voter's signature be verified against a signature within the preceding 4 years. It limits use of drop boxes to a county's early voting hours of operation and requires drop boxes at all locations to be monitored in person. It reduces the number of elections for which one request for a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot is sufficient to all elections through the end of the calendar year of the next regularly scheduled general election.



Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-011

SB 498 / HB 259 - Firearms in Religious Institutions

The bill would allow concealed weapons license holders to carry in church buildings, synagogues, and religious institutions that host schools on their properties. The institution may choose to prohibit firearms on their grounds via an adopted policy. Only the property owner and not a lessee would make the determination of permitting or disallowing firearms. Supporters point to acts of mass violence that specifically targeted places of worship and argue that the co-location of schools on their grounds should not prohibit concealed weapons license holders from carrying firearms for protection.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-200

SB 7072 / HB 7013 - Social Media Platforms

SB 7072 is a key bill in the Governor's "Big Tech" agenda that would punish social media platforms for deplatforming candidates. It would create a cause of action for users who feel they were unfairly targeted. It would fine social media companies \$100,000 per day for deplatforming a statewide candidate and \$10,000 per day for all other candidates. It would also limit the number of changes the companies could make to their policies and require them to provide users with information on who is seeing their posts. Social media companies which violate the bill would be found guilty of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act and placed on the Antitrust Violator Vendor List. Supporters argue social media company power and influence over public sentiment should be one of bipartisan concern as it can suppress legitimate political speech. Opponents argued the companies need to have the ability to remove dangerous content that is found to be inciting violence or spreading false information.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-32. (On June 30, 2021 United States District Court Judge Robert Hinkle issued a preliminary injunction blocking nearly all of this bill. Industry groups including NetChoice sued to stop the law's enforcement, saying it would compel social media platforms to host offensive speech that violated their editorial policies.)

SB 1944 / HB 1567 - Redundant Utility & Communication Poles

The bill would move telecommunications poles under the regulatory purview of the PSC, the same as electric utility poles, rather than the Federal Communications Commission. As electric utilities install new, hardened utility poles mandated by the PSC's resilience requirements, they have found they cannot remove the older "redundant" poles due to telecommunications providers not transferring their attachments to the new poles.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-191

Did not pass:

SB 969 / HB 971 – Data Privacy

This bill would have given consumers more control over personal data collected by companies. The bill, backed by House Speaker Chris Sprowls, faced heavy opposition from an army of business lobbyists.

SB 102 / HB 1053 - Attorney General Matters of Great Concern

This legislation would have taken away local governments' ability to participate in class action lawsuits and enable the Attorney General to take control of those suits. Neither bill made it out of the Committee process.

Health & Human Services

SB 804 / HB 319 - Recovery Residences and Treatment Programs

This bill addresses licensure and regulation of substance abuse treatment programs and recovery residences, including through exemptions for disqualifying offenses in background checks. It removes an exemption for referrals to and from non-certified providers if they are contracted with a managing entity and allows DCF to suspend the license of a treatment provider for failing to pay fines and interest accrued related to disciplinary actions within 60 days. It also provides that the Florida Building Code and additional fire sprinkler requirements cannot be enforced on recovery residence, such as the Oxford House model.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-128

SB 1080 / HB 987 - Tobacco & Nicotine Products

The bill raises the age to buy tobacco products to 21 or older, with the exceptions for those serving in the military and persons acting within the scope of their employment. It also creates a separate licensure for the sale of nicotine dispensing devices. The Legislature passed a similar bill in the 2020 Legislative Session,

which was vetoed by the Governor due to his concerns with retailer impacts and availability of products that aid in smoking cessation or provide a healthier alternative to smoking.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-014

Did not pass:

HB 1091/ SB 1442 – Substance Abuse Prevention

Would have required DOH to develop and implement a statewide awareness campaign to educate the public on opioid overdoses and safe disposal of opioids and allowed pharmacists to order and dispense an emergency opioid antagonist (i.e. Narcan) to a patient or caregiver. Notably, the House stripped the pharmacist language from the telehealth bill during the final hours. The bill would have authorized law enforcement agencies and child protective investigators to possess, store and administer opioid antagonists and provides legal protections. Lastly, the bill required life support services to report any response to an emergency call for a suspected or an overdose to DOH. The bill sponsor shared that this legislation originated from the Statewide Opioid Taskforce.

Transportation

SB 100 / HB 763 - MCORES Repeal – Highway Projects

This bill repealed a portion of the rural toll roads projects, known as MCORES, which the Legislature created two years ago as a priority of former Senate President Galvano. The bill would redirect \$132 million back to the state transportation trust fund of which \$20 million would go to support rural aerial trucking routes. The sponsor stated the pandemic’s impact on the budget necessitated the bill. It would leave in place plans for two of the MCORES roadways to be built within the same footprint as current roads and according to applicable studies and task force guidance.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-161

SB 1620 / HB 1289 - Autonomous Vehicles

This bill defines the term “low-speed autonomous delivery vehicle” (LSADV) as a fully autonomous vehicle that meets the current federal definition of low-speed vehicle, and is not designed for, or capable of human occupancy. It authorizes LSADVs to operate only on streets or roads with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less but does not prohibit such vehicles from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour. The bill provides equipment requirements for LSADVs and provides that these requirements are superseded by any conflicting federal regulations.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-233

SB 54 – HB 719 - Motor Vehicle Insurance

This repeals the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law, and thus repealing the requirement to purchase personal injury protection (PIP) insurance. Instead, the bill requires owners and operators of motor vehicles in Florida to maintain financial responsibility of at least \$25,000 for bodily injury or death of one person, and subject to such limit, \$50,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more persons.

Vetoed by the Governor on June 29, 2021

SB 566 / HB 365 - Motor Vehicle Rentals

This bill would treat vehicle rentals facilitated by peer-to-peer platforms like Turo, by requiring collection of a rental surcharge, similar to car rental companies. However, it would impose a lower surcharge amount on peer-to-peer car rentals (\$1) than that imposed on traditional car rentals (\$2). The dollar is attributable to the county rather than the state. It also establishes insurance, liability, and consumer protection requirements negotiated in previous sessions. The Florida Dept. of Revenue interprets peer-to-peer car transactions as subject to the rental car transaction surcharge. Opponents, including peer-to-peer platforms, argued car sharing is different from traditional car rentals and car rental companies currently receive a sales tax break not given to those renting their cars on the platform. Supporters, including car rental companies, argue that their customers are being treated differently by being required to pay a surcharge. The \$1 surcharge reflects the compromise.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-175

Did not pass:

SB 1034 / HB 1629 – SR 715 Designation

A section of SR 715 in Pahokee to be named after two PBSO Deputies killed in the line of duty: Deputy Sheriff Donta Manuel and Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Wallace.

Criminal Justice

SB 1002 / HB 673 - DNA Evidence Collected in Sexual Offense Investigations

The Legislature unanimously passed SB 1002, titled “Gail’s Law.” It would require FDLE to create a statewide system for tracking sexual assault evidence kits throughout the entire criminal justice process by 2023. It would provide survivors with a mechanism to opt-in to receiving updates on the status of their assault kits and be notified if a DNA match is found in the federal CODIS system.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-213

SB 274 / HB 93 - Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction

This bill would allow minors who complete diversion programs for any offense, rather than just first-time misdemeanors, to expunge their arrest records and lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge participation in the program or the expunction.

Vetoed by the Governor on June 29, 2021

SB 166 / HB 95 – Non-Judicial Record of the Arrest of a Minor

This bill is the public records exemption linked to SB 274. This bill provides that a non-judicial record of the arrest of a minor who has successfully completed a diversion program and is eligible for expunction is made confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

Vetoed by the Governor on June 29, 2021

Education

SB 590 / HB 7035 - School Safety

Both chambers unanimously passed SB 590, a bill that originally was filed to address involuntary examination of minors, but in the last few weeks of session was expanded to include school safety provisions. The House passed HB 7035 unanimously off the floor, but the Senate did not file a companion, so some of the provisions in HB 7035 were amended on to SB 590. In the end, SB 590 requires best efforts for parental notification prior to the initiation of a Baker Act, requires parental notification of threats and specified incidents on school property (the top priority of the Parkland Families this Session) and requires the school district to formalize eligibility criteria for school-based and criminal justice based diversion programs.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-176

HB 7045 – School Choice

The wide-ranging bill, in part, would consolidate the Gardiner and McKay scholarship programs, which serve students with special needs, with the Family Empowerment Scholarship program, which serves a broader population of low- to middle-income families. It would also would increase the maximum income eligibility to receive vouchers to 375 percent of the federal poverty level, meaning a family of four making nearly \$100,000 a year would qualify.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-027

Did not pass:

SB 86 – Student Financial Aid (Bright Futures)

The Senate ran into opposition from students and other critics when it started moving forward with a proposal to make eligibility for Bright Futures scholarships contingent on students selecting degree programs likely to lead to employment. The Senate ultimately backed away from the idea.

Public Safety

SB 2006 – Emergency Management

SB 2006 passed on Friday, April 30, was immediately sent to the Governor and was signed into law on Monday, May 3. The bill requires state agencies to take specific actions to prepare for the next public health emergency, including creating an emergency management plan, maintain an inventory of PPE, and address sheltering during a pandemic. In addition, the bill limits emergency orders, proclamations, and rules to 60-day durations that can be renewed as long as the emergency conditions persist and authorizes the legislature to pass a concurrent resolution to terminate orders and directives issued under a state of emergency, instead of just the state of emergency itself. The bill also requires county and city emergency orders to be narrowly tailored to address a compelling public health or safety purpose and authorizes the Governor to invalidate an order that unnecessarily restricts individual rights or liberties. The bill limits the duration of emergency orders to 7 days, with the option to renew the orders up to 5 times, except in response to a hurricane or weather-related emergency. The service from businesses, governmental entities, and educational institution. Such entities are prohibited from requiring Floridians to provide proof of vaccination or post-infection recovery from COVID-19 but does not restrict the use of screening protocols.

Finally, the bill includes several provisions to better address the financial strain that emergencies place on state and local government by providing legislative intent that during an emergency, spending will first come from funds specifically appropriated to state and local agencies for disaster relief, the second recourse for funding is the newly created Emergency Response Fund, and if additional funds are needed during an emergency beyond what is already appropriated in the new Emergency Response Trust Fund, the Governor can request additional funds by submitting a budget amendment through the LBC, requesting more funds in the Trust Fund. These provisions take effect July 1, 2021, except where otherwise provided.



Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-008

SB 418 / HB 327 - Public Records Exemption – Persons Seeking Shelter

Creates an exemption from public records requirements for the addresses and telephone numbers of persons provided public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic event and held by the agency that provided the emergency shelter.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-019

Did not pass:

SB 1824 / HB 1153 - Public Records, DEM and Local EM

Would have expanded the current public records exemption relating to any information furnished by a person or business to the Division of Emergency Management or a local emergency management agency for the purpose of receiving assistance with emergency planning to exempt from public inspection and copying requirements the following information held by the Division of Emergency Management or a local emergency management agency:

- *Emergency response assessment reports prepared by the division or a local emergency management agency;*
- *Evaluation tools prepared by the division or a local emergency management agency; and*
- *After-action reports prepared by the division or a local emergency management agency.*

Local Government/Preemptions

SB 896 / HB 539 - Renewable Energy

SB 896 passed the legislature making a number of changes to improve access to renewable energy. Among its many provisions, the bill requires solar facilities to be a permitted use in all agricultural land use categories in a local government's comprehensive plan, expands the definitions of "renewable energy," "bio gas," "renewable natural gas" and allows the Public Service Commission to approve cost recovery by a gas public utility for RNG purchase contracts in which the pricing provisions exceed the current market price of natural gas, but which are otherwise deemed reasonable and prudent by the PSC.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-178

SB 1876 / HB - 421 - Relief from Burdens of on Real Property Rights

The bill modifies the Bert Harris Act to:

- Reduce the timeframe under which a claimant must notify the government before filing an action;
- Specify that written settlement offers are presumed to protect the public interest;
- Allow the claimant to have the court, rather than a jury, determine damages;
- Extend the point from which a prevailing claimant may recover attorney fees and costs;
- Authorize a property owner, under specified conditions, to notify the government that he or she deems a law or regulation's impact on his or her real property to be restrictive of allowable uses; and

- Allow a property owner to challenge an unlawful government exaction upon his or her property Without waiting for a written notice of the action if the local government action is imminent.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-203

SB 1128 / HB 919 - Preemption Over Restriction on Utility Services

This bill prohibits local governments and special districts from passing or enforcing any law that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting a resident from selecting their own energy utility service. The bill does not prohibit the board of a municipality or governmental entity from adopting rules, regulations, and policies governing an electric or natural gas utility that it owns or operates and directly controls.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-150

SB 856 / HB 839 – State Preemption of Energy Infrastructure Regulation

This bill prohibits local governments from regulating transportation energy infrastructure, specifically preempting such regulation to the state. The bill defines “energy infrastructure” as the infrastructure used to support the production, import, storage, and distribution of natural gas, petroleum, electricity, biomass, renewable fuels, hydrogen, solar, wind, or geothermal energy. The bill prohibits a local government from implementing or enforcing any policy, resolution, or ordinance that has the effect of prohibiting, restricting, or requiring the construction of new infrastructure, or the expansion, upgrade, or repair of existing energy infrastructure. It also prohibits local governments for amending their comprehensive plans, land use maps, zoning districts, or land development. Lastly, it prohibits local governments from imposing requirements that are more stringent than state law.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-111

SB 266 / HB 403 - Home Based Businesses

This bill provides that any local regulations on noise, vibration, heat, smoke, dust, glare, fumes, or noxious odors may not be more restrictive for home-based businesses than other residential property. It requires local regulations of home-based business parking not be more stringent than other residential property. It also requires the use of the residential property, as viewed from the street, to be consistent with surrounding residential properties. It provides that a home-based business may not be prohibited, restricted, regulated, or licensed in a manner that is different from other businesses in a local government's jurisdiction and does not supersede local ordinances and regulations related to transient public lodging establishments.



Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-202

SB 1884 / HB 1409 - Preemption of Firearms and Ammunition Regulation

This bill provides that the right to maintain a legal action against a preempted local regulation applies even if the local regulation is unwritten. The bill also provides a mechanism for a plaintiff to recover damages and attorney's fees when a government entity changes its regulation while the regulation is being challenged.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-015

SB 268 / HB 735 - Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing

The licensing of occupations is expressly preempted to the state and supersedes any local government licensing requirement of occupations with the exception of the following:

- (a) Any local government that imposed licenses on occupations before January 1, 2021. However, any such local government licensing of occupations expires on July 1, 2023.
- (b) Any local government licensing of occupations authorized by general law.
- (b) The bill expressly still allows local journeyman licensure for plumbing, pipe fitting, mechanical, HVAC, and alarms and electrical trades.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-214

SB 1294 / HB 663 - Cottage Food Operations

The bill preempts the regulation of cottage food operations to the state. However, these home-based operations must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances regulating traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours of retail operation. A cottage food operation is an unincorporated business operated by a natural person who, under certain conditions and restrictions, produces or packages food that is not potentially hazardous in their residence, such as breads, pastries, honey, jams, popcorn, nuts, dry pasta, dry herbs, etc. It increases the gross annual sales threshold for a cottage food operation from \$50,000 to \$250,000, revises the definition of a "cottage food operation" to clarify that an operator is allowed to have business partner and allows the sale and delivery of cottage food products by United States Postal Service or commercial mail delivery service.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-211

SB 1084 / HB 805 - Volunteer Ambulance Services

Allows faith-based volunteer ambulance services that have operated for at least 10 consecutive years to operate in certain counties without receiving a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. It prohibits a local government from limiting, prohibiting, or preventing a volunteer ambulance service from responding to an emergency or providing emergency medical services or transport within its jurisdiction.

It also prohibits a local government from requiring a volunteer ambulance service to obtain a license or certificate or pay a fee to provide ambulance or air ambulance services within its jurisdiction.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-90

1076 / HB 53 - Public Works Projects

The bill removes the 50 percent or more, state-appropriated funding threshold within the definition of public works project and applies the pre-bid prohibitions to activities that exceed \$1,000,000 in value and that are paid for, in whole or in part, with state-appropriated funds. Specifically, except as required by federal or state law, the state or any political subdivision that contracts for a public works project may not prevent a certified, licensed, or registered contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier, from participating in the bidding process based on the geographic location of the company headquarters or offices of the contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier submitting a bid on a public works project or the residences of employees of such contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier.



In comparison to the language originally proposed and advanced through committees, local governments won large concessions on local preference ordinances, apprenticeship programs and the preemption threshold. However, late changes to the bill included House-driven language placing additional requirements on stormwater management programs.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-194

SB 1382 / HB 667 - Building Inspections

This legislation would require local governments to provide an electronic method to request building inspections and allows local enforcement agencies to conduct virtual inspections at their discretion, with some exceptions. The bill also requires a local enforcement agency to refund 10% of the permit fee if it find the inspection fails but does not provide a reason for the failure to the permit holder within five business days.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-212

SB 1146 / HB 401 – Building Codes

This omnibus bill contains a section that prohibits local governments from adopting regulations requiring specific design elements for single/two-family dwellings, except under certain conditions. Conditional exceptions apply to the following:

- Historic properties;

- For implementation of National Flood Insurance Program;
- To be in compliance with Florida Building Code;
- To protect coastal wildlife;
- Dwellings located in community redevelopment areas; or
- Dwellings located in a local government that has a design or architectural review board.

The bill further defines “building design elements” as exterior color, type, or style of exterior cladding, style or material of roof structures or porches, exterior nonstructural architectural ornamentation, location or styling of windows or doors, location and orientation of garage, and number and layout of rooms. It does not include setback, height, bulk, orientation, location of zoning plot, or buffering and screening. Local governments may apply building design restrictions in planned unit developments or master planned communities created by local ordinance enacted on or before July 1, 2021, or in a community redevelopment area.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-201

SB 60 / HB 883 - County & Municipal Code Inspections

The bill prohibits local government code inspectors from conducting inspections based upon anonymous complaints and requires those making a complaint to provide their name and address before an inspection can begin. The bill does allow inspections based on anonymous complaints where the code inspector has reason to believe the violation presents an imminent threat to public health, safety or welfare or in cases of imminent destruction to habitat or sensitive resources.



Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-167

SB 1788 / HB - 1059 Construction Permits

Requires local enforcement agencies to:

- post each building permit application, including a list of any required attachments, such as drawings or plans, on their websites;
- allow applicants to submit completed building permit applications electronically including any required payments and attachments, such as plans;
- post the current status of every received building permit application on their website; and
- post their procedures for reviewing, processing, and approving building permit applications on their websites.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-224

SB 998 / HB 823 - Alarm System Contractors

Provides that an electrical contractor or an alarm system contractor does not have to include their license number in an advertisement if the advertisement directs consumers to the contractor's website and the website includes their license number. It also allows an alarm system contractor to begin repairs on an alarm system before a building permit is obtained but after a permit is applied for. The work would not be considered complete until the permit is obtained and the work is verified by local enforcement.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-110

SB 750 / HB - 337 - Impact Fees

The bill provides that if a local government, school district, or special district impact fee increases not more than 25 percent above the current rate, the increase must be implemented in two equal annual increments. If a fee is increased more than 25 percent but does not exceed 50 percent above the current rate, it must be implemented in four equal installments. No impact fee increase may exceed 50 percent and an impact fee may not be increased more than once every four years. Additionally, an impact fee may not be increased retroactively for a previous or current fiscal or calendar year. The impact fee increase limitations operate retroactively to January 1, 2021. The bill also requires local governments to provide a credit against any impact fees for any contributions related to public facilities.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-63

SB 88 / HB - 1601 - Farming Operations

Prohibits farms from being held liable for certain claims for tort liability except under certain circumstances. This bill expands the Right to Farm Act, adding "agritourism" and the generation of "particle emissions" to the statutory definition of "farm operations" covered by the Act. The bill also raises the burden of proof for civil nuisance claims against agricultural operators to one of clear and convincing evidence and prohibits nuisance actions from being filed against farm operations unless specified conditions are met. To recover punitive damages, the alleged nuisance must substantially be the same conduct that was subject to a civil enforcement judgement or criminal conviction (regardless of whom brought it) within the past 3 years prior to the first action.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-007

SB 1182 / HJR 1377 – Limitation on Assessment of Real Property

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to authorize the Legislature to prohibit the consideration of increasing a property's assessed value because of any change or improvement to real property (used for residential purposes) made to improve the property's resistance to flood damage. The joint resolution will be considered by the electorate at the next general election in November 2022. If adopted at the 2022 general election, the resolution would take effect January 1, 2023.

Filed with the Secretary of State on May 11, 2021.

SB 694 / HB 331 - Waste Management

Amends the requirement that a local government must either provide three years' notice before its solid waste collection service displaces a private waste company or pay the displaced company an amount equal to the company's preceding 15 months' gross receipts for the displaced service. Also requires a local government that displaces a solid waste collection service to provide a three-year notice period and pay the displaced company an amount equal to the company's preceding 18 months' gross receipts at the end of the notice period.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-125

SB 496 / HB 59 - Growth Management

The bill would require local governments to update their comprehensive plans with a private property rights element. It allows the parties to a development agreement to amend or cancel the agreement without the consent of other property owners whose property was originally subject to the agreement unless the amendment or cancellation would directly modify the allowable uses or entitlements of such owners' property.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-195

SB 378 / HB 585 - Payment for Construction Services

Enhances the statutory interest rate for public and private parties that fail to make required payments for certain construction labor, services, and material. The bill increases, by one percent per month, the remedial interest rate applied to payments wrongfully withheld for construction services for public and private construction projects. For public sector construction projects, the bill increases the interest rate from one percent to two percent per month. The provisions of the bill apply only to contracts executed on or after July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-124

SB 400 / HB 913 - Public Records

Prohibits an agency that receives a public record request from responding to the request by filing an action for declaratory relief against the requester to determine whether that record meets the definition of a public record or if it is confidential or exempt. The intent of the bill is to ensure the burden of going to court should not be on the requester simply for making a public records request. The sponsors also offer that seeking an Attorney General opinion is a low cost, available method to determine whether the information is confidential and exempt.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-173

SB 402 / HB 35 - Legal Notices

The bill gives governmental agencies the option to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website in lieu of newspaper publication if certain conditions are met. Specifically, the bill allows a governmental agency:

- In a non-fiscally constrained county to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website if online publication costs less than newspaper publication.
- In a fiscally constrained county to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website after determining, at a publicly noticed meeting, that online publication:
 - Is in the public interest;
 - Will cost less than newspaper publication; and
 - Will not, after accounting for the county's level of internet access, unreasonably restrict legal notice access.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-017

SB 426 / HB 267 - Preemption of Seaport Regulations

Amended to another transportation bill during the last days of session (SB 1194), the amendment prohibits a local ballot initiative or referendum from restricting maritime commerce in all of Florida's seaports, including, but not limited to, regulations related to:

- Vessel type, size, number, or capacity;
- Number, origin, nationality, embarkation, or disembarkation of passenger or crew or their entry into this state or any local jurisdiction;
- Source, type, loading, or unloading of cargo; or
- Environmental or health records of a particular vessel or vessel line.

Any local ballot initiative or referendum that was adopted before, on, or after July 1, 2021, and any local law, charter amendment, ordinance, resolution, regulation, or policy adopted in such an initiative or referendum, is prohibited, void, and expressly preempted to the state. This includes the three referendums approved by the City of Key West voters in the November 2020 General Election which restricted the types of cruise vessels that could call on the Port of Key West. The Port of Palm Beach was made specifically exempt from this measure.

S 1194 was Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-188

SB 1082 / HB 77 - Diesel Exhaust Fluid

The House and Senate unanimously passed HB 77. The bill would require public airports develop, submit, and annually certify compliance with a diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) plan. The bill is in response to incidents occurring in Opa-Locka and Fort Myers, where fuel operators incorrectly added DEF to airplane fuel-causing the engines to fail after take-off. DEF is relatively new and can be mistaken for other fuel additives. The sponsor stated that the FAA issued an advisory and, rather than taking action, recommended a 15-art study. He argued that action can't wait for a study to be completed in order to ensure airports are

following best management practices and prevent loss of life that could occur if they are not. The bill had been amended previously to allow airport boards to delegate development of the DEF plan to fuel operators in order to address concerns raised by airports and the Florida Airports Council.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-61

Did not pass:

HB 215 - Prohibition on Public Funds for Lobbying by Local Governments

Would have prohibited local governments from using public funds to retain lobbyists.

SB 1678 / HB 1129 - Sovereign Immunity

Would have Increased statutory limits on liability for tort claims against state and its agencies and subdivisions and required that limitations on tort liability be adjusted every year by specified indicator after specified date. Raised from \$200,000 to \$500,000 for single claims and from \$300,000 to \$1 million for multiple claims. The Senate bill attempted to carve out hospitals. Neither bill was heard in committee.

SB 1642 / HB 1461 – District School Board Term Limits

A renewed attempt by the House to impose eight-year term limits on county school board members died in the Senate. The proposal, which has emerged repeatedly in recent years, would have asked voters in 2022 to pass a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of school board members.

SB 522 / HB 219 – Vacation Rentals

Bills aimed at further restricting local governments from regulating vacation rental properties did not make it through the House and Senate. SB 522, amended down from its original form which preempted the regulation of vacation rentals to the state and prohibited local laws, ordinances, or regulations that permit or require the inspection or licensure of public lodging establishments, vacation rentals, and public food service establishment, only preempted the advertising platforms of vacation rentals.

SB 2008 / HB 1429 – Tourist Development Taxes

Would have authorized all TDT or CDT revenue could be used to finance flood mitigation projects or improvements. It appeared late in the session in HB 7061, the major Tax Package, but was removed.

SB 334 / HB 239 - Regulation of Smoking in Public Places

This bill would have authorized counties and municipalities to further restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks and state parks under certain circumstances.

SB 62 - Regional Planning Councils

SB 62, believed to be a Senate priority, would have eliminated Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) from Florida statutes. No House bill was ever filed.

SB 972 / HB 1019 - Administrative Entity Telecommunication Meetings

Would have allowed certain meetings of the South Florida Regional Climate Compact to meet through technology instead of in person.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

SB 64 / HB 263 - Reclaimed Water

This bill requires certain domestic wastewater utilities to submit to the DEP by a certain date a plan for eliminating nonbeneficial surface water discharge within a specified timeframe. It further requires domestic wastewater utilities applying for permits for new or expanded surface water discharges to prepare a specified plan for eliminating nonbeneficial discharges as part of its permit application.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-168

SB 1954 / HB 7019 - Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

This bill creates the Resilient Florida Grant Program, which includes a DEP administered grant fund to provide funding to local governments for the costs of resilience planning such as vulnerability assessments, a DEP developed “Comprehensive Statewide Flood Vulnerability and Sea-Level Rise Data Set and Assessment” to be updated every three years, and a Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan identifying and ranking those local municipal projects (minimum local 50% match) that will address the issue via a scoring system.

Local governments will be authorized to enter regional resiliency coalitions for the purposes of identifying shared vulnerabilities and project development. The bill also requires EDR to include an analysis of adverse economic effects due to flooding in its annual water resources and conservation land assessment. Lastly, the bill creates the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation, a state-sponsored clearinghouse to establish community-based programs to improve flood monitoring and prediction.



SB 2514 creates the Resilient Florida Trust Fund to fund the Resilient Florida Grant Program. The Fund may also be utilized by the DEP for the administrative and operational costs of the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation and coastal resilience initiatives. The Fund shall terminate July 1, 2025 unless terminated sooner or re-enacted.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-028

SB 7060 / HB 1309 – Biosolids

On December 3, 2020, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published a notice of proposed rule for new biosolids rules. Due to the estimated regulatory costs of the rules, DEP was required to prepare a Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC), which indicated that the regulatory cost of the proposed rules will exceed \$1 million aggregated within five years after implementation. Accordingly, the proposed rules were submitted to the Legislature for ratification on January 29, 2021.

This bill ratifies DEP's proposed biosolids rules, which are proposed rules 62-640.100, 62-640.200, 62-640.210, 62-640.300, 62-640.400, 62-640.500, 62-640.600, 62-640.650, 62-640.700, 62-640.800, 62-640.850, and 62-640.880, F.A.C. The bill states it serves no other purpose and will not be codified in the Florida Statutes. The bill specifies that after becoming law, its enactment and effective dates will be noted in the Florida Administrative Code, the Florida Administrative Register, or both, as appropriate. The bill exempts the biosolids rules from review and approval by the Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC). The bill also:

- Requires the DEP to obtain a private property owner's consent before entering their property to install monitoring equipment or conduct sampling of a biosolid site;
- Ratifies rules concerning the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI);
- Creates the CFWI Grant Program within the DEP for alternative water supply within the CFWI.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-153

SB 2516 - Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee

The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) is an ongoing watershed restoration effort going on north of Lake Okeechobee as part of the larger CERP initiative. The components of this project include a freshwater reservoir for storing water during storm surge events, a total of 80 aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells, and the Paradise Run and Kissimmee River-Center restoration sites.

This bill directs the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) seek congressional approval of a project implementation report for the LOWRP by a specified date. Further, it requires the SFWMD to seek a partnership agreement with the Corps and expedite implementation of the LOWRP. The bill also expressly requires the SFWMD and the Corps to use a phased approach that confirms feasibility and site suitability and addresses uncertainties identified in the ASR Science Plan. Lastly, the bill appropriates \$50 million from the SFWMD to the LOWRP.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-40

SB 588 / HB 217 – Conservation Area Designations

In 2018, the Legislature passed House Bill 53 to establish the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area. This area consists of sovereign submerged lands and waters offshore of Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties stretching from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park. The prime sponsor of the original SB 53 in 2018 bill was Representative Kristin Jacobs, who passed away in 2020.

This bill officially designates the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area and directs the DEP to erect the appropriate markers.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-107

SB 1946 / HB 1515 - Anchoring Limitation Areas

This bill provides that, notwithstanding the existing prohibition on local regulation of anchoring of vessels outside of the marked boundaries of mooring fields, a county may establish an anchoring limitation area adjacent to urban areas that have residential docking facilities and significant recreational boating traffic, which meets certain requirements imposed under the bill. The bill provides that the aggregate total of anchoring limitation areas in a county may not exceed 10 percent of the county's delineated navigable-in-fact waterways and it requires counties proposing establishment of an anchoring limitation area to provide notice to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 30 days before final adoption of an ordinance.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-192

SB 1086 / HB 639 – Operation and Safety of Motor Vessels

The bill authorizes local governments to enact and enforce regulations to implement the procedures for abandoned or lost property that allow the local law enforcement agency to remove an abandoned or lost vessel within its jurisdiction that is affixed to a public mooring.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-184

Did not pass:

SB 722 / HB 333 – Everglades Protection Area

Would have prohibited the permitting or construction of any structure intended for drilling or producing oil and gas within the Everglades Protection Area.

Local Bills Affecting Palm Beach County

HB 979 - Village of Wellington – Rep. Matt Willhite

Prohibits the sale and use of fireworks located within the Equestrian Preserve of the Village of Wellington.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-248

HB 915 - Port of Palm Beach – Rep. Matt Willhite

This local bill updates the port's director title, election and swearing-in dates and Port Commissioner salaries. There was amendment passed by the delegation that set Commission salary at \$12,500 and removes the ability for a future commission to raise the commissioners' salary.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-247

HB 1185 - Indian Trails Improvement District - Rep. Rick Roth

In consideration of converting the District to a municipality, this bill provides a procedure to study the feasibility of incorporation. In order for this bill to be heard, an amendment was approved by the delegation narrowing the scope of the bill to eliminate the defining boundaries of ITID, and removing the right to petition portion. In this amended bill, ITID may to spend funds to do a feasibility study, and to draft a charter.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-250

HB 1035 - Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District - Rep. Rick Roth

Codification of special acts and conforming changes.

Approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2021-249

Did not pass:

HB 973 - Town of Lake Clarke Shores - Rep. David Silvers

Would have expanded the town boundaries to include the Edgewater Park neighborhood that is currently part of unincorporated Palm Beach County.