

**PALM BEACH COUNTY 2023
LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FINAL REPORT**



Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department

Todd J. Bonlarron, Assistant County Administrator

Ed Chase, Intergovernmental Affairs Director

Kasey Denny, Legislative Affairs Director

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners



GREGG K. WEISS
MAYOR
DISTRICT 2
(561) 355-2202
GWeiss@pbcgov.org



MARIA SACHS
VICE MAYOR
DISTRICT 5
(561) 355-2205
MSachs@pbcgov.org



MARIA G. MARINO
DISTRICT 1
(561) 355-2201
MMarino@pbcgov.org



MICHAEL A. BARNETT
DISTRICT 3
(561) 355-2203
MBarnett@pbcgov.org



MARCI WOODWARD
DISTRICT 4
(561) 355-2204
MWoodward@pbcgov.org



SARA BAXTER
DISTRICT 6
(561) 355-2206
SBaxter@pbcgov.org



MACK BERNARD
DISTRICT 7
(561) 355-2207
MBernard@pbcgov.org

2023 Legislative Session Final Report

<u>2023 SESSION OVERVIEW</u>	4
-------------------------------------	---

BUDGET

HIGHLIGHTS	5
PALM BEACH COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS	18

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

FINANCE & TAX	25
PREEMPTIONS & MANDATES	26
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	31
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	36
TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	38
CRIMINAL & CIVIL JUSTICE	40
PUBLIC SAFETY	42
EDUCATION	44
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES	45
PALM BEACH COUNTY LOCAL BILLS	47

2023 Session Overview

The 2023 Legislative Session began on March 7th and ended as scheduled on May 5th. The first session held since last year's redistricting, the legislature convened with two new presiding officers, a large amount of freshman lawmakers, more committees than in recent years, and a Republican supermajority in both chambers.

Over the 60-day session, members of the legislature dedicated a significant amount of time to debating a variety of contentious topics including a 6-week abortion ban, universal school vouchers, immigration, permitless concealed carry, adult performances, treatments for transgender youth, the teaching of sexuality in schools, and the Reedy Creek Improvement District (Disney's special district).

There were also several bills of interest relating to local government that were considered. One of these was Senate President Kathleen Passidomo's top priority, SB 102 by Senator Calatayud. This bill created a new framework for affordable and workforce housing in Florida. It also allocates a historical \$711 million in state funds to assist local governments in their efforts to encourage more attainable housing and to incentivize developers to build more units. The legislation ultimately passed with overwhelming support in both chambers and it was signed into law by the Governor in March.

Florida's local governments and their associations were also watching SB 170 by Senator Trumbull relating to local ordinances. The bill requires local governments to prepare and publish online a "business impact statement" prior to adopting certain ordinances. In addition, the bill allows challenges to ordinances based on the grounds that they are "arbitrary or unreasonable" and it gives courts authorization to assess and award attorney fees in certain civil actions filed against local governments associated with the adoption of the ordinance. The bill passed with a majority of Democrats voting against the measure in both the House and Senate.

Before adjourning the 2023 Legislative Session, lawmakers approved a record \$117 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 23-24. The largest budget in state history, it sits at about \$7 billion larger than the current fiscal year and \$25 billion larger than the state spending plan was just three years ago. Our state has recently seen massive growth in revenue from increased tax collections, a growing economy fed by an increasing population, and a huge influx of federal dollars.

This session, a total of 1,873 bills and 2,674 amendments were filed. Similar to previous years, county government was the third most frequent topic addressed by the bills filed this session. Of the bills submitted for consideration, 356 of them successfully made it through both the House and Senate.

The pages to follow will highlight some of the priority appropriations and policy issues from the 2023 Legislative Session that affect Palm Beach County.

FY 2023-2024 Budget Highlights

TOTAL STATE BUDGET: \$117 billion [\$46.5 billion GR; \$65.5 billion TF]

TOTAL RESERVES: \$10.9 billion

- Unallocated General Revenue: \$5.3 billion
- Budget Stabilization Fund: \$4.1 billion
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund: \$1.4 billion
- Retirement of State Debt: \$200 million

Major Issues

Compensation and Benefits

- Five percent pay increase for all state employees. In addition to the five percent across the board pay increase:
 - Agency Discretion Pay Increase Plans to address compression, recruitment, and retention
 - Correctional Officers – Starting salary to \$45,760 (\$22/hr.) and bonuses for high vacancy facilities
 - Department of Corrections Educational and Maintenance Staff – additional pay increases
 - Assistant State Attorneys and Public Defenders – additional pay increases
- Retirement – enhanced benefits
 - Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy increase of up to \$75 per month
 - DROP Program - extension from 5 to 8 years for all employees, from 8 to 10 years for teachers
 - Special Risk - reduced normal retirement to age 55 or 25 years of service
 - Increase of Investment Plan employer contributions to 2%

Education

Total Budget: \$30.3 billion [\$20.4 billion GR; \$9.8 billion TF]

Education Capital Outlay

Total Appropriations: \$1.3 billion

- State University System Projects - \$682.2 million
- Florida College System Projects - \$272.4 million
- Charter School Repairs and Maintenance - \$213.5 million
- Small School District Special Facilities - \$88.6 million

Early Learning Services

Total: \$1.6 billion [\$585.3 million GR; \$1 billion TF]

- Partnerships for School Readiness - \$56.7 million
- School Readiness Program - \$1.1 billion
 - Increase of \$100 million for School Readiness Services

- Early Learning Standards and Accountability - \$4.9 million
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$427 million
 - Decrease of 14,630 fewer students (\$46.5 million)
 - Increase of \$20 million to increase the Base Student Allocation

Public Schools/K12 FEFP

Total: \$26.7 billion [\$14.52 billion state funds; \$12.25 billion local funds]

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$2.2 billion or 9.04 percent
- FEFP increases in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$404.67, a 4.91 percent increase
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase by \$552.33 or 12.04 percent
- FEFP Base Funds (flexible \$) increase of \$2.7 billion or 18.09 percent
 - Includes a small district factor - adds \$20 million to base funds
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$1 billion; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.262 mills
- Teacher Salary Increase - \$252 million increase for a total of \$1 billion
- Safe Schools Allocation - \$40 million increase for a total of \$250 million for School Safety Officers and school safety initiatives
- Mental Health Assistance Allocation - \$20 million increase for a total of \$160 million to help school districts and charter schools address youth mental health issues
- Educational Enrichment Allocation (New) - \$825 million - provides funds to assist school districts in providing educational enrichment activities and services that support and increase the academic achievement of students
- State-Funded Discretionary Supplement (New) - \$436 million - to fund the non-voted discretionary millage for operations for students awarded a Family Empowerment Scholarship

Public Schools/FEFP Back of the Bill

- Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program - \$350 million - provides funds (pursuant to HB 5101) to maintain the stability of the operations of public schools in each school district and to protect districts from financial instability as a result of changes in full-time equivalent student enrollment throughout the school year.

Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP

Total: \$585.7 million [\$578.3 million GR; \$7.4 million TF]

- Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program - \$6.5 million
- School Recognition Program - \$200 million
- Mentoring Programs - \$14.6 million
- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers - \$8.7 million
- School District Foundation Matching Grants - \$6 million
- Autism Programs - \$12 million
- Recruitment of Heroes Bonus - \$10 million
- Regional Literacy Teams - \$5 million
- Early Childhood Music Education - \$10.4 million
- Micro-Credential Incentives - \$21 million
- Science of Reading Literacy and Tutoring Program - \$16 million

- Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation - \$1.5 million
- Early Start Time/Transportation Grant Program - \$5 million
- Department of Juvenile Justice Teacher Salary Increase - \$2.1 million
- Florida Safe School Canine Program - \$4 million
- New World Reading - \$4 million
- SEED School of Miami - \$11.9 million
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$40.5 million
- Exceptional Education - \$8.8 million
- Florida School for the Deaf and Blind - \$62.4 million
- Florida School for Competitive Academics - \$24 million
- Capital Projects - \$44.2 million
- Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches - \$3.5 million

State Board of Education

Total: \$306.8 million [\$146.3 million GR; \$160.5 million TF]

- Assessment and Evaluation - \$127.2 million
- ACT and SAT Exam Administration - \$8 million
- Just Read Florida Early Literacy Professional Development - \$1 million
- School Choice Online Portal - \$3 million
- Career Planning and Work-based Learning Coordination System - \$4 million
- District Tools (CPALMS) - \$3.5 million

Vocational Rehabilitation

Total: \$250.4 million [\$57.9 million GR; \$192.5 million TF]

- Adults with Disability Funds - \$8.3 million
- Vocational Rehabilitation Recruitment and Retention Efforts - \$2 million
- ABLE Trust High School/High Tech Program - \$468,177

Blind Services

Total: \$61 million [\$19 million GR; \$42 million TF]

- Community Rehabilitation Services for Blind Citizens Workload - \$477,165
- Recruitment and Retention Services - \$345,081

Private Colleges

Total: \$217.2 million GR

- Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) - \$134.8 million
 - Workload increase - \$46,000
 - Increase EASE award from \$2,000 to \$3,500 - \$59.4 million

Student Financial Aid

Total: \$1.003 billion [\$294 million GR; \$710 million TF]

- Bright Futures - \$590.7 million
 - Workload decrease - \$30 million
- Benacquisto Scholarship Program - \$34.7 million
 - Workload decrease - \$1.7 million
- Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans - \$16.7 million
 - Workload increase - \$3.2 million
- Dual Enrollment Scholarship - \$18.05 million
- Teacher Scholarship to teach Dual Enrollment - \$3.5 million
- Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship - \$5 million
- Open Door Grant Program - \$35 million

School District Workforce

Total: \$675.8 million [\$343.7 million GR; \$291.9 million TF; \$40.2 million tuition/fees]

- Workforce Development - \$426.6 million
 - Workload increase - \$36.2 million
- Teacher Apprenticeship Program and Mentor Bonus - \$4 million
- Student Success in Career and Technical Education Incentive Funds - \$2.5 million
- Adult General Education Incentive Funds - \$5 million
- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$8.5 million
 - Workload increase - \$2 million
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$20 million
 - Increase for “Grow Your Own Teacher” Apprenticeship Program - \$5 million
- Nursing Education Initiatives - \$20 million
- No tuition increase

Florida College System

Total: \$2.4 billion [\$1.4 billion GR; \$274 million TF; \$668.5 million tuition/fees]

- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$20 million
 - Workload increase - \$6 million
- College System Program Fund - \$1.6 billion
 - Florida College New Funding Model - \$100 million
 - Dual Enrollment Fee Reimbursement - \$25.7 million
- Nursing Education Initiatives - \$59 million
- Postsecondary Academic Library Network - \$11.1 million
- Student Success Incentive Funds - \$30 million
 - 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds - \$17 million
 - Work Florida Incentive Funds - \$13 million
- No tuition increase

State University System

Total: \$6.4 billion [\$3.7 billion GR; \$704.8 million TF; \$1.97 billion tuition/fees]

- Performance Based Funding - \$645 million
 - State Investment - \$350 million

- Institutional Investment - \$295 million
- Preeminent State Research Universities - \$100 million
- Performance-Based Recruitment and Retention Incentives - \$100 million
- Programs of Strategic Emphasis - \$7.2 million
 - Teacher Education programs addition - \$3 million
 - Workload Increase - \$4.2 million
- Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education - \$10 million
- New College of Florida Operational Enhancement - \$25 million
- IFAS Workload - \$3.9 million
- Institute of Human and Machine Cognition Workload - \$2.3 million
- Nursing Education Initiatives - \$46 million
- Postsecondary Academic Library Network - \$13.5 million
- Community School Grant Program - \$11 million
- No tuition increase

Health and Human Services

Total Budget: \$47.3 billion [\$15.2 billion GR; \$32.1 billion TF]

Agency for Health Care Administration

Total: \$35.6 billion [\$10.3 billion GR; \$25.3 billion TF]

- KidCare Workload (due to caseload shift to Medicaid) - \$47.8 million
- Expand KidCare Access - \$20.6 million
- Pediatric Physicians - \$76.1 million
- Children's Hospitals - \$130.7 million
- Graduate Medical Education - \$139.3 million
- Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates - \$125 million
- Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - \$73.5 million
 - Durable Medical Equipment (DME) - \$14.5 million
 - Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities - \$5 million
 - Maternal Fetal Medicine - \$2.5 million
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services - \$29.7 million
 - Organ Transplant - \$1.8 million
 - Pediatric Behavioral Health Services - \$15 million
 - Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) - \$5 million
- Personal Needs Allowance Increase - \$20.3 million
- Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing Coverage - \$3.3 million
- Florida Medicaid Management Information System (FMMIS) - \$182.6 million
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) - \$60.3 million

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Total: \$2.3 billion [\$1 billion GR; \$1.3 billion TF]

- Increase Waiver Rates for Waiver Support Coordinators - \$6 million
- Home and Community Based Services Waiver Waitlist - \$79.6 million

- Dually Diagnosed Program - \$3.4 million
- Increase in Regional Positions due to Waiver Growth - \$3 million; 35 positions
- Architectural and Engineering Design Services for a new 200-bed Forensic Developmental Disability Center - \$4 million

Department of Children and Families

Total: \$4.8 billion [\$2.8 billion GR; \$2 billion TF]

- Foster Care and Guardianship Board Payments - \$20 million
- Maintenance Adoption Subsidies - \$15.1 million
- Transfer Child Protective Investigations from Sheriffs - \$7.4 million
- Opioid Treatment, Prevention, and Recovery from Opioid Settlement Funds - \$173.5 million
- Community-Based Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants - \$156.3 million
- State Opioid Response Grant - \$110.6 million
- Central Receiving Facilities - \$31 million
- State Mental Health Treatment Facilities Forensic Beds - \$77.9 million
- Jail-Based Competency Restoration - \$6 million
- Homeless Assistance Grants - \$19 million
- Florida System and Florida Safe Families Network System Technology Modernization - \$35 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for State Mental Health Treatment Facilities - \$12.4 million

Department of Elder Affairs

Total: \$482.5 million [\$222.2 million GR; \$260.4 million TF]

- Electronic Client Information and Registration Tracking System Project - \$3.5 million
- Memory Disorder Clinics and Alzheimer's Projects - \$8.5 million
- Aging Resource Centers - \$1.7 million
- Home Care for the Elderly and Community Care for the Elderly Programs - \$5 million
- Alzheimer Disease Initiative - \$4 million

Department of Health

Total: \$3.9 billion [\$829 million GR; \$3.1 billion TF]

- School Health Services - \$30.8 million
- Expansion of Maternal Health Using Telehealth - \$12.7 million
- School Based Dental Health - \$10.9 million
- Office of Medical Marijuana Use Workload - \$6.2 million; 31 positions
- Child Care Food Program - \$55.4 million
- Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program - \$172 million; 2 positions
- Child Protection Teams - \$7 million
- Primary Care Health Professional Loan Repayment Program - \$10 million
- Dental Student Loan Repayment Program - \$2 million
- Florida Cancer Innovation Fund - \$20 million
- Florida Cancer Center Funding - \$27.5 million
- Healthy Start Coalitions - \$9.6 million
- Rural Hospitals Capital Grant Program - \$10 million

Department of Veterans Affairs

Total: \$201 million [\$51 million GR; \$150 million TF]

- Telephone System Replacement - \$4.5 million
- New State Veterans' Nursing Homes Positions Increase - \$0.6 million; 8 positions
- Florida is For Veterans Programs - \$2 million
- Collier County Veterans Nursing Home Engineering and Site Preparation - \$0.5 million

Criminal and Civil Justice

Total Budget: \$6.7 billion [\$5.7 billion GR; \$1 billion TF]

Department of Corrections

Total: \$3.3 billion [\$3.1 billion GR; \$96.5 million TF]

- DOC Education Expansion - \$39.3 million
- Critical Security Equipment - \$10 million
- Correctional Officer Academy Modernization and Support - \$2.3 million
- Statewide Recruitment Staffing - \$1 million
- In Prison and Community-Based Substance Abuse Treatment - \$5 million
- Health Services Contract - \$107 million
- Food Services Contract - \$8.9 million
- Private Prison Operations - \$19.6 million
- Community-Based Treatment Provider Rate Increases - \$3 million

Attorney General/ Legal Affairs

Total: \$362.1 million [\$85.4 million GR; \$276.7 million TF]

- Office of Statewide Prosecution Cold Case Unit - \$0.8 million
- Solicitor General Workload - \$0.9 million
- Revenue Litigation Workload \$0.8 million
- Statewide Drug Take Back Program - \$1.4 million

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Total: \$490.9 million [\$317.7 million GR; \$173.3 million TF]

- Protective Services Staffing - \$10.7 million
- Law Enforcement Staffing Salary Adjustment - \$7.6 million
- Capitol Complex Security Staffing - \$0.6 million
- E-Verify Staffing - \$1 million
- State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) In Florida Program - \$20 million
- Biometric Identification Solution (BIS) Modernization - \$8.2 million
- Latent Print Workstations for Local Criminal Justice Agencies - \$1.1 million
- Alcohol Testing Program Transition to New Breath Test Instrumentation - \$3.6 million
- Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Technology Upgrade and Staffing - \$2.4 million
- Salary Increases for Law Enforcement Officers in Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$5.7 million

- Ballistic Testing Pilot Program - \$3.5 million
- Purchase of Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement - \$2 million
- Pensacola Regional Operations Center Facility - \$2.3 million
- Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grants - \$5 million

Department of Juvenile Justice

Total: \$666.2 million [\$506.9 million GR; \$159.3 million TF]

- Increase DJJ Secure and Non-secure Residential Provider Pay to \$19/hour - \$17.2 million
- Comprehensive Evaluations - \$2.4 million
- Children In Need of Services/Families In Need of Services Provider Pay to \$19/hour - \$5 million
- PACE Center for Girls Pay Adjustments - \$2.5 million

Justice Administrative Commission

Total: \$1.2 billion [\$963.9 million GR; \$203.8 million TF]

- Replacement of Motor Vehicles for State Attorneys and Public Defenders - \$2.8 million
- State Attorney Workload - \$2.4 million
- Staffing Adjustments for Workload and Increased Judgeships - \$0.7 million
- Public Defender Workload - \$0.2 million

Commission on Offender Review

Total: \$14.2 million [\$14.1 million GR; \$0.1 million TF]

- Increase Number of Cases for Submission to the Clemency Board - \$1.1 million

State Court System

Total: \$712.7 million [\$605.4 million GR; \$107.3 million TF]

- Critical Due Process Resources - \$21.8 million
- Trial Courts Pandemic Recovery Plan - \$12 million
- Bernie McCabe Second District Court of Appeal New Courthouse Construction - \$9 million

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Total Budget: \$21 billion [\$1.7 billion GR; \$19.3 billion TF]

Department of Economic Opportunity

Total: \$1.82 billion [\$345.9 million GR; \$1.5 billion TF]

- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) - \$252 million
- State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) - \$259 million
- Inflation Loan Program for SAIL - \$100 million
- Florida Hometown Heroes Program - \$100 million
- Reemployment Assistance Program Operations and Tax Services Provider - \$22.8 million
- Small Business Credit Initiatives - \$170.9 million
- Job Growth Grant Fund - \$75 million

- VISIT Florida - \$80 million
- Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program - \$20 million
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Funding and Broadband Digital Capacity Grant Program - \$112.9 million
- Rural Infrastructure Fund - \$25 million
- Economic Development Programs - \$7.4 million
- Housing and Community Development Projects - \$118 million
- Workforce Projects - \$11.9 million

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Total: \$578.6 million [TF]

- Additional Equipment for the Florida Highway Patrol - \$1.3 million
- Aircraft Replacement - \$6.8 million
- Credentialing Equipment and Maintenance - \$3.5 million
- Operating Costs for Issuance and Compliance - \$868,859
- Motorist Modernization Project Phase II - \$10 million
- Maintenance and Repair - Florida Highway Patrol Facilities, Statewide - \$3.1 million
- FHP Academy Driving Track - \$9 million

Department of Military Affairs

Total: \$296.1 million [\$251.3 million GR; \$44.8 million TF]

- Florida National Guard Tuition Assistance - \$5.2 million
- Armory Operations Expense - \$2.4 million
- Florida National Guard Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program - \$3 million
- Expand Florida State Guard - \$107.5 million
- Readiness Center Revitalization and Modernization Program - \$7.2 million
- Panama City Readiness Center - \$2.6 million
- Camp Blanding Readiness Center Level II Mobilization Force Generation Installation - \$102.5 million

Department of State

Total: \$220.5 million [\$197.6 million GR; \$22.9 million TF]

- Libraries Maintenance of Effort - \$24 million; and Additional Aid - \$2 million
- Cultural and Museum Program Support Grants and Initiatives - \$46.6 million
- Historical Preservation Grants and Initiatives - \$58 million
- Library Construction Grants - \$9.8 million
- Division of Corporations Call Center Services - \$2.4 million
- Reimbursement to Counties for Special Elections - \$1.5 million
- Department wide Litigation Expenses - \$1.3 million
- Increased Division Support - \$700,000 GR - 12 positions

Department of Transportation

Total: \$15.2 billion [\$400.7 million GR; \$14.8 billion TF]

- Transportation Work Program - \$13.6 billion
 - County Transportation Programs:
 - Small City Road Resurface Assistance Program (SCRAP) - \$28.4 million

- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) - \$87.4 million
- County Transportation Programs - \$62.8 million
 - Local Transportation Initiatives (Road Fund) Projects - \$400.7 million
- Innovative Grant Programs for Transportation Disadvantaged - \$8 million

Division of Emergency Management

Total: \$2.8 billion [\$471.7 million GR; \$2.33 billion TF]

- New Positions - \$2.7 million
- Hurricane Recovery Grant Programs - \$350 million
- Statewide Emergency Alert and Notification System - \$3.5 million
- Open Federally Declared Disaster (FEMA reimbursement and pass-through) - \$2.1 billion
- Community Recovery, Preparedness, and Critical Facilities Projects - \$93.5 million
- Sargassum Clean-Up Grants - \$5 million
- Information Technology - \$6.9 million

Agriculture, Environment and General Government

Total Budget: \$11.3 billion [\$3.4 billion GR; \$1.4 billion LATF; \$6.5 billion other TF]

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Total: \$3 billion [\$357.8 million GR; \$169.6 million LATF; \$2.5 billion TF]

- Rural and Family Lands Protection Program - \$100 million
- Wildfire Suppression Equipment/Aircraft - \$12.9 million
- Road/Bridge and Facility Maintenance - \$9 million
- Reforestation Program - \$4 million
- Law Enforcement Equipment - \$1 million
- Feeding Programs/Farm Share/Feeding Florida - \$17.5 million
- Citrus Protection and Research - \$49.5 million
- Lake Okeechobee Agriculture Projects - \$5 million
- Replace Motor Vehicles - \$3.4 million
- Information Technology Operations and Security Enhancements - \$8.9 million
- Ag Environmental Services - \$0.7 million and 8 positions
- Aquaculture Research - \$0.5 million
- Office of Energy Grants - \$30.4 million
- Agriculture Education and Promotion Facilities - \$18.1 million
- Conner Complex Planning, Design and Construction - \$31 million

Department of Citrus

Total: \$35.1 million [\$13.7 million GR; \$21.4 million TF]

- Citrus Marketing - \$5 million
- Citrus Plant Propagation and New Varieties Development - \$3 million

Department of Environmental Protection

Total: \$4.9 billion [\$2.2 billion GR; \$1.1 billion LATF; \$1.7 billion TF]

- Everglades Restoration - \$574.6 million
- Water Quality Improvements - \$1 billion
 - Wastewater Grant Program - \$200 million
 - Indian River Lagoon WQI - \$104.9 million
 - Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements - \$20 million
 - Caloosahatchee WQI - \$25 million
 - Water Projects - \$433 million
 - C-51 Reservoir - \$70 million
 - Water Quality Improvements - Everglades - \$50 million
 - Total Maximum Daily Loads - \$40 million
 - Northwest Florida On-site Septic Systems - \$2 million
 - Non-Point Source Planning Grants - \$5 million
 - Alternative Water Supply - \$60 million
 - Onsite Sewage Program - \$0.7 million
- Flood and Sea-Level Rise Program - \$300 million
- Water Quality Improvements - Blue Green Algae Task Force - \$12.8 million
- Innovative Technology Grants for Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10 million
- Innovative Wastewater Technology - \$10 million
- Springs Restoration - \$50 million
- Florida Forever Programs and Land Acquisition - \$1 billion
 - Florida Wildlife Corridor - \$850 million
 - Division of State Lands - \$100 million
 - Florida Communities Trust - \$15 million
 - Florida Recreational Development Assistance Grants - \$11.2 million
 - Kirkland Ranch Land Acquisition - \$30.8 million
 - Nassau County/Piney Island/Amelia River - \$1 million
 - St. Johns County Summer Haven Managed Retreat - \$5 million
 - Wetland Restoration and Protection Program - \$5 million
- Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern - \$20 million
- Lake Apopka Restoration - \$5 million
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program - \$195 million
- Volkswagen Settlement - \$15 million
- Hazardous Waste and Dry Clean Site Cleanup - \$16 million
- Beach Management Funding Assistance - \$206 million
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program - \$508.9 million
- Water Infrastructure Improvements - \$155.7 million
- Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants - \$11.5 million
- Land and Water Conservation Grants - \$13.8 million
- Local Parks - \$22.9 million
- State Parks Maintenance and Repairs - \$37 million

Department of Financial Services

Total: \$679.3 million [\$200.6 million GR; \$478.7 million TF]

- My Safe Florida Home Additional Funding - \$102 million
- PALM Readiness - \$3 million
- PALM Contract Contingency - \$1.5 million
- Coverage Plan for Maintaining FLAIR - \$2.1 million
- PALM (FLAIR Replacement) - \$62.6 million
- Increase in Contracted Legal Services, Investigations, Medical Bill Review, Excess Property Insurance and Medical Case Management - \$16.1 million
- Information Technology Security, Support, and Enhancements - \$13.2 million
- Property and Casualty/Homeowners Fraud Investigation - \$1.3 million
- Local Government Fire and Firefighter Services - \$87.4 million
- Firefighter Cancer Initiative - \$2 million
- Increase Contracted Services for Division of Risk Management - \$10 million
- Law Enforcement and Florida State Fire College Enhancements, Vehicles, Equipment and Training - \$5 million

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Total: \$517.6 million [\$113.5 million GR; \$126.8 million LATF; \$277.3 million TF]

- Increased Law Enforcement Positions - \$8.1 million
- Law Enforcement Vehicle Replacement - \$5.5 million
- Law Enforcement Equipment and Expenses - \$9.4 million
- Motor Vehicle/Vessel Replacement - \$5.8 million
- Artificial Reef - \$10.6 million
- Wildlife Management Area Additions - \$3.1 million
- Lake Restoration - \$3 million
- Manatee Population Assessment and Management - \$0.9 million
- Invasive Species Control - \$4 million
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration Projects - \$23.3 million
- Freeman Conservation Center - \$2.7 million
- Maintenance and Repairs - \$1.2 million
- FWRI Facilities Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement - \$8.9 million

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Total: \$172.1 million [\$3.4 million GR; \$168.7 million [TF]

- Licensing System Identity Verification Technology - \$3.5 million
- Motor Vehicle Acquisition for Hotel and Restaurant Inspectors - \$1.2 million
- Private Lease Cost Increase - \$2.3 million

Florida Gaming Control Commission

Total: \$28.6 million [TF]

- Information Technology Infrastructure - \$1.1 million
- Operational Licensing System Studies - \$1.1 million

Department of the Lottery

Total: \$223.3 million [TF]

- Information Technology Security, Support and Enhancements - \$2.7 million
- Increase to Instant Ticket Purchase - \$1 million
- Increase to Gaming System Contract - \$5.8 million

Department of Management Services

Total Budget: \$903.5 million [\$240.5 million GR; \$663 million TF]

- Florida Facilities Pool (FFP) Fixed Capital Outlay - \$65.4 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay Special Purpose - \$48 million
 - Capital Circle Office Complex Planning and Design - \$6 million
 - Florida Capitol Building Cabinet Office Renovations - \$20 million
 - Sixth District Court of Appeal New Courthouse Planning and Design - \$6 million
 - Land and Building Acquisition - \$8 million
 - FFP Security Improvements - \$4 million
- Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) Towers and Workload - \$6 million
- SLERS Radio Replacement - \$6 million
- Local Government Cybersecurity Grants - \$40 million
- Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency - \$10 million
- Florida PALM IV and V - \$6 million
- Florida Health Care Connection (FX) Project Assessment - \$5 million
- First Net Subscriptions - \$2.2 million
- Weight Loss Pilot Program - \$1.5 million
- Florida Commission on Human Relations - \$0.8 million
- Public Employee Relations Commission Staffing for Implementation of SB 256 - \$0.9 million

Division of Administrative Hearings

Total Budget: \$31.2 million [TF]

- Additional ALJ Positions for Citizens Property Insurance Disputes - \$1 million

Public Service Commission

Total: \$28.9 million [TF]

Department of Revenue

Total: \$717.3 million [\$280.1 million GR; \$437.2 million TF]

- Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$59.4 million
- Child Support Partner Agency Increases - \$4.9 million

Palm Beach County Appropriations

*Projects in red were requested by PBC; projects that are struck through received funding in SB 2500 but were later vetoed by the Governor

Education

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

FAU Education and General Activities	\$174,032,161
FAU University Grants & Aid	\$119,222,224
FAU University Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$4,073,283
FAU Enhancing and Expanding Florida's Nursing Workforce	\$4,261,000
FAU Cultural & Museum Grants	\$37,460
FAU Autism Program	\$1,386,508
FAU Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program	\$889,101
FAU Medical School	\$16,747,039
FAU Medical School Establishment of a Doctor of Dental Medicine Program	\$5,000,000
FAU College of Dentistry Planning, Engineering, and First Tranche of Construction	\$30,000,000
FAU Student Financial Assistance	\$399,658
FAU University Lottery Funds	\$53,920,836
TOTAL	\$409,969,270

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

PBSC Florida College System Program Fund	\$65,047,135
PBSC Florida College System Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$1,576,533
PBSC Florida College System Lottery Funds	\$13,961,552
PBSC Board of Trustees Cultural & Museum Grants	\$102,629
PBSC Florida College System Student Success Initiatives	\$1,524,062
PBSC Emergency Response Training Center	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$85,211,911

PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS K-12

Total FEFP	\$1,404,669,959
Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds	\$18,651,113
West Technical Education Center Adult Education & Workforce Development Training	\$239,045
TOTAL	\$1,423,560,117

PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Palm Beach Atlantic University Center for Financial Literacy	\$2,000,000
TOTAL	\$2,000,000

OTHER EDUCATION

School Readiness Services	\$53,080,481
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$31,208,884
Riviera Beach School Readiness Outreach Program	\$218,000

Aerospace & Innovation Academy Aerospace Technical Certification for At-Risk Youth	\$350,000
Best Foot Forward Grounded for Life: Empowering At-Risk Foster Care Students	\$203,189
Holocaust Education	\$2,050,000
Florida Caregiving Youth At Risk Student Services	\$318,600
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Environmental Education Center	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$87,929,154

Health and Human Services

CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE

ChildNet - Parent Engagement Program	\$250,000
Children's Healing Institute Exchange Parent Aide	\$259,257
EJS Project Teen Center	\$250,000
Place of Hope Child Welfare Services	\$1,000,000
City of Greenacres Youth Programs	\$950,000
TOTAL	\$2,709,257

HEALTH

Habilitation Center for the Handicapped Programs in Education, Art & Recreation	\$175,000
Florida Community Health Centers Obstetrical Services Viability for the Underserved	\$1,249,467
Promise Fund of Florida	\$250,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center (Butterfly House)	\$282,039
TOTAL	\$1,956,506

ELDER AFFAIRS

Alzheimer's Community Care Association	\$1,500,000
Alzheimer's Community Care Critical Support Initiative	\$750,000
Boca Raton Jewish Federation Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program	\$92,946
TOTAL	\$2,342,946

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH

211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast Building	\$1,000,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health Services for Persons with Disability	\$487,987
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health First Aid	\$1,911,233
Alpert Jewish Family Service Community Access Life Line Service	\$250,000
Center for Child Counseling Children's Mental Health Services Expansion	\$300,000
Faulk Center for Counseling - Mental Health Services Expansion	\$250,000
Henderson Behavioral Health Affordable Housing for People with Mental Health Issues	\$2,400,000
Jewish Family Services Affordable Behavioral Health Collaboration	\$1,200,000
Jewish Family Services Affordable Psychiatry Access	\$750,000
The Hanley Foundation Community Recovery Center	\$1,500,000
Statewide Study of Community Residence Zoning	\$110,000
Florida Veterans Suicide Prevention	\$528,508
TOTAL	\$10,687,728

FACILITIES

Field for Dreams—West Jupiter Community Group	\$80,000
YMCA of the Palm Beaches Community Center	\$1,250,000
YMCA Volunteer Campus Safety Initiative	\$65,000
Arc of Palm Beach County—Hurricane Hardening at the South Campus	\$555,000
Specialized Autism Recreation Complex & Hurricane Shelter	\$1,000,000
THE LAB: YMCA Leadership Academy Renovation	\$447,900
Palm Beach County Food Bank Produce Processing Facility	\$650,000
TOTAL	\$4,047,900

WORKFORCE/VOCATIONAL

Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$225,000
HabCenter Supported Employment Program	\$200,000
JARC Community Works	\$425,000
TOTAL	\$850,000

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Oak Street Home II - Female Teen Delinquency Prevention Program	\$630,000
Balanced Community Justice Project	\$183,710
Sago Palm Facility	\$142,900
South Bay Correctional Facility	\$275,560
Palm Beach County RESTORE Re-entry Program	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,732,170

PUBLIC SAFETY

Palm Springs EOC/Police Department Expansion & Hardening	\$1,000,000
Palm Beach Historic North Fire Station Resilience, Hardening, & Renovation	\$437,500
Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Fire Alerting System Upgrades	\$800,000
Palm Beach County Sheriff Unmanned Aerial Response Team	\$500,000
Town of Jupiter Town Hall Cybersecurity Infrastructure	\$102,250
Riviera Beach Mobile Command Center	\$600,000
Wandering Rescue and Prevention Project	\$200,000
West Palm Beach Incident Command Vehicle	\$498,943
TOTAL	\$4,138,693

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

36 th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project	\$375,000
Central Palm Beach County Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,000,000
City of Belle Glade Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	\$252,505
City of Belle Glade Roadway Project	\$1,185,000
City of Boca Raton NW/SW 4 th Ave Widening	\$1,000,000
Lighthouse Drive Bridge Replacement	\$270,000

Palm Beach County Transportation Disadvantaged Discounted Bus Passes	\$1,000,000
Royal Palm Beach La Mancha Subdivision Roadway Underdrain	\$500,000
South Bay SW 11th Ave Improvements	\$250,000
Town of Mangonia Park Road Re-Paving	\$750,000
TOTAL	\$6,582,505

TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM

Arterial Highway Construction	\$20,413,930
Aviation Development Grants	\$13,000,000
Bridge Construction	\$13,326,731
Construction Inspection Consultants	\$34,066,427
Highway Maintenance Contracts	\$14,456,381
Highway Safety Construction Grants	\$4,933,158
Intrastate Highway Construction	\$329,952,268
Preliminary Engineering Consultants	\$34,156,790
Public Transit Development Grants	\$8,022,250
Resurfacing	\$53,982,492
Right-of-Way Land Acquisition	\$22,013,081
Right-of-Way Support	\$3,958,120
Seaport Grants	\$2,265,083
Toll Operation Contracts	\$59,143,554
Traffic Engineering Contracts	\$4,991,205
Transportation Planning Grants	\$4,557,071
Turnpike System Equipment and Development	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$626,238,541

TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peanut Island Historic Restoration	\$750,000
Port of Palm Beach Land Acquisition for Cargo Capacity	\$500,000
WXEL - TV Replacement of Aging HVAC, Building Automation & Infrastructure	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$1,850,000

FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP)

Airport Park Renovations & Improvements	\$200,000
Bicentennial Park	\$200,000
Bryant Park Playground Improvements Phase I	\$50,000
Citrus Grove Park	\$50,000
Frost Lake Park	\$50,000
Greenbrier Park	\$50,000
Kidscape Park	\$50,000
Maddock Park	\$112,500
Paseos Nature Area	\$50,000
Patch Reef Park	\$200,000
Remembrance Park	\$200,000
South Palm Park Playground Improvements	\$50,000

Tennis Courts Phase II	\$50,000
Town Center Phase II	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$1,512,500

LOCAL PARKS

Delray Beach Lakeview Park Playground Improvements	\$100,000
North Palm Beach Lakeside Park Bulkhead Replacement	\$500,000
Pahokee King Memorial Park Improvements Phase 2	\$550,000
Town of Mangonia Park Addie Greene Park Improvements	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$1,400,000

CULTURAL & MUSEUM GRANTS

Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center	\$76,663
Aequalis	\$27,693
Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens	\$71,108
Ballet Palm Beach	\$27,155
Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts	\$42,990
Boca Ballet Theatre Company	\$74,835
Boca Raton Historical Society	\$61,749
Boca Raton Museum of Art	\$99,022
Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia	\$52,695
Boynton Cultural Centre	\$49,456
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary	\$101,903
Center for Creative Education	\$98,906
Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park	\$17,741
City of Boynton Beach	\$16,659
City of Lake Worth Beach	\$30,680
City of Riviera Beach	\$96,181
Cox Science Center and Aquarium	\$97,652
Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach	\$101,903
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County	\$98,742
Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden	\$79,763
Historical Society of Palm Beach County	\$78,441
Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation	\$7,157
Lighthouse Art Center	\$67,814
Loxahatchee River Historical Society	\$100,050
Lynn Conservatory of Music	\$93,184
Maltz Jupiter Theatre	\$106,626
Memory Trees Corporation	\$15,395
Norton Museum of Art	\$100,424
Palm Beach Dramaworks	\$103,356
Palm Beach Opera	\$107,080
Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival	\$15,712
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts	\$104,264
Resource Depot	\$16,590

School of the Arts Foundation	\$100,498
Society for Preservation & Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing	\$7,811
Spady Cultural Heritage Museum	\$42,138
Sunfest of Palm Beach County	\$96,817
The Armory Art Center	\$103,901
The Chamber of Music Society of Palm Beach	\$46,792
The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum	\$103,102
The Lake Worth Playhouse	\$56,309
The Morikami	\$95,691
The Palm Beach Symphony Society	\$105,990
The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches	\$93,365
Village of Wellington	\$87,190
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches	\$63,169
TOTAL	\$3,242,362

CULTURAL FACILITIES

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Living Museum	\$296,741
Cox Science Center & Aquarium	\$500,000
The Center for Arts & Innovation	\$750,000
Village of Wellington – Stoneman Douglas Nature, Arts, & Cultural Center	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$2,046,741

CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA

Fiesta De Pueblo Multicultural Arts Program	\$25,000
For the Children Multicultural Arts Program	\$25,000
Natural Movers Dance Festival	\$25,000
Shakespeare Troupe – Performing Shakespeare in Schools	\$25,000
St. Andrews Protestant Episcopal Church Arts at St. Andrews	\$13,000
Veterans Memorial & Multicultural Histories Believe and Achieve Project	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$138,000

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS & HISTORIC PROPERTIES RESTORATION

Delray Beach Municipal Cemetery Historic Resource Survey	\$31,750
The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach – Resilient Little Red Schoolhouse	\$442,195
TOTAL	\$473,945

Agriculture & Natural Resources

BEACH PROJECTS

Juno Beach Nourishment Project (Segment 3)	\$175,000
Jupiter-Carlin Shore Protection Project (Segment 1)	\$125,000
Mid-Town Beach Nourishment Project	\$694,695
North Boca Raton Shore Protection Project (3)	\$63,675
Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Project	\$559,120
South Jupiter Beach Restoration Project (Segment 2)	\$190,097

TOTAL	\$1,807,587
INLET MANAGEMENT	
Boca Raton IMP Implementation	\$117,100
Jupiter IMP Implementation	\$1,151,625
Lake Worth IMP Implementation	\$698,500
South Lake Worth IMP Implementation	\$138,147
TOTAL	\$2,105,372
WATER PROJECTS	
Boca Raton Drinking Water Transmission & Distribution Improvements	\$1,400,000
Boca Raton NW 35 th St Drainage Improvement Project	\$300,000
C-51 Reservoir	\$70,000,000
Delray Beach Historical Campus Drainage Improvements	\$100,000
Delray Beach Public Seawall Improvement	\$1,000,000
Greenacres Swain Boulevard Sewer Extension Phase I	\$600,000
Highland Beach Climate Vulnerability and Clean Water Project Lift Stations Rehab	\$250,000
Indian Trail Improvement District M-0 Canal Outfall	\$500,000
Juno Beach Universe Boulevard Drainage Improvements	\$1,000,000
Lake Park Septic to Sewer Conversion Project	\$1,000,000
Lantana Water Main Replacement	\$1,200,000
Loxahatchee Groves Stormwater System Rehabilitation	\$750,000
PBC Glades Region Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,500,000
PBC Green Cay Phase II	\$3,000,000
PBC Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI)	\$2,361,804
PBC LWLI Bonefish Cove Environmental Enhancement Project	\$500,000
PBC Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	\$985,255
Palm Beach Shores Lake Worth Inlet, Singer Island Channel Dredging Project	\$1,000,000
Riviera Beach Utility Special District Three Critical Lift Station Replacement	\$1,000,000
Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation Phase II	\$500,000
South Bay Stormwater Flood Control and Waterway Management Phase III	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$89,097,059
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS	
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center - Improving Water Quality and Coastline Cleanliness	\$250,000
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center -Water Treatment System for Sick or Injured Sea Turtles	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$500,000

2023 Legislative Issues

*this report reflects bills passed by the Legislature, the Governor must approve each bill before becoming law, bills in red are PBC priorities

Finance & Tax

SB 7024 – Retirement

This legislation makes significant changes to the Florida Retirement System. The bill changes the normal retirement date for Special Risk Class members who enrolled after July 1, 2011 to age 55 with 8 years of service or at any age with 25 years of service. It also makes several changes to the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) by: allowing all FRS members to enroll in DROP at any time after reaching the normal retirement date, rather than within the 1-year period immediately following the normal retirement date; extending the maximum time a member can participate in DROP from 5 years to 8 years regardless of class membership and occupation, and from 8 years to 10 years for teachers; increases the DROP interest rate from 1.3% to 4% on DROP accumulations held on or after July 1, 2023. Employer-paid contribution rates for each class of employee and officer are established in the bill, and employer-paid contributions to Investment Plan members are increased to 2% of the member's compensation. The monthly retiree health insurance subsidy for each year of service is also increased, as is the minimum subsidy an eligible retiree can receive.

HB 7063 – Taxation

This year's tax relief package included a long list of changes to Florida tax law. Among these, the bill makes permanent sales tax exemptions for baby and toddler products, oral hygiene products, adult incontinence products, firearm safety devices, agricultural fencing, private investigative services, and natural gas machinery. There is also a temporary, one-year sales tax exemption provided for new gas ranges and cooktops, as well as new Energy Star appliances. Other items of note in the tax package include a corporate income tax credit for the installation of graywater systems, a freeze of Local Communication Services Tax rates for three years, a delay of the Natural Gas Fuel Tax for two years, a cut to the Business Rent Tax to 4.5%, and a prohibition on special assessments on agricultural property.

As usual, the tax package provides for several sales tax relief holidays. These holidays include two 14-day Back to School Holidays for clothing and related supplies (July 24, 2023 – August 6, 2023 and January 1, 2024 – January 14, 2024), two 14-day Disaster Preparedness Holidays exempting items needed for hurricane season (May 27, 2023 – June 9, 2023 and August 26, 2023 – September 8, 2023), a 14-week Freedom Summer Holiday exempting certain recreational items for summer (May 29, 2023 – September 4, 2023, and a 7-day Tools for Skilled Workers Holiday for tools and equipment needed for skilled trades (September 2, 2023 – September 28, 2023).

This legislation authorizes a county to levy the local option food and beverage tax in a city or town that levies the municipal resort tax, if the levy is approved by referendum and increases from 225,000 to 275,000 the population cap under which certain counties are authorized to use up to 10 percent of their tourist development tax receipts on public safety expenses necessitated by tourism. The bill also appropriates \$35 million to reimburse local governments for the property tax refunds issued to property owners whose residential property was rendered uninhabitable by Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole during 2022.

HB 133 – Fees in Lieu of Security Deposits

For some, a security deposit may be an unaffordable barrier to obtaining housing. Some landlords in Florida have begun offering tenants security deposit alternatives, including fees paid in lieu of a security deposit. This bill creates statutory guardrails for fees in lieu of a security deposit and does not require, but allows for, this option to be offered by landlords. If a landlord offers this option under the provisions of the bill, the landlord must give the tenant written notice that they have the option to pay a security deposit instead of a fee, that the tenant may terminate the fee payment agreement at any time to instead pay a security deposit, that the fee is nonrefundable if applicable, that the fee does not change the tenants obligation to pay rent, and that if the landlord uses any portion of the fee to purchase insurance the tenant is not the insured.

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 7053 – Tourism Development

Starting out as a Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) in the House, HB 7053 was heard only once this session and had no Senate companion bill. The Local Option Tourist Development Act would have authorized counties to levy five separate taxes on transient rental transactions (tourist development taxes or TDTs). In Palm Beach County, the TDT tax rate is 6 percent of total taxable rental receipts. This bill would have required VISIT Florida (VF), the state’s tourism marketing agency, to be fully funded by local TDTs. It required each county to send the State 5 percent of TDT revenue to fund VF for three years. After three years, the county contributions are optional, but if funding for VF fell below a certain point the agency would be dissolved. The legislation also required VF to expend 75 percent or more of its funds directly to assist rural counties and Florida’s state parks and forests, provided that TDTs expire after six years and must be renewed by referendum, and required counties submit a six-year plan for the expenditure of TDT revenues to the governing Board prior to the referendum. Palm Beach County was successful in opposing this measure, along with the PBC Tourist Development Council.



Preemptions & Mandates

SB 170 – Local Ordinances

SB 170 is similar to legislation introduced in previous years and requires counties and cities to produce a “business impact estimate” prior to passing certain ordinances. The estimate must be published on the local government’s website and include certain information, such as the proposed ordinance’s purpose, estimated economic impact on businesses, and compliance costs. Additionally, the bill imposes certain conditions on lawsuits brought by any party to challenge the legal validity of local ordinances as preempted by state law, arbitrary, or unreasonable. In these cases, the local government is required to suspend enforcement of the ordinance in question and a court must give priority to these cases. The court may also award attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff under the provisions of the bill.

SB 102 – Housing

The top priority of Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, SB 102 was introduced to address the lack of affordable housing stock in Florida. Also known as the “Live Local Act” the bill provides significant investments in the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) appropriating \$252 million and \$259 million respectively for these programs. Another \$100 million is allocated for an Inflation Loan Program for SAIL and \$100 million was also dedicated for the Florida Hometown Heroes Program. The total state investment into affordable housing programs under the bills is \$711 million, significantly higher than what has been appropriated for this purpose in recent history. This comprehensive legislation makes several changes to current law by:

- Establishing the Florida Hometown Hero down payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers with incomes at or below 150 percent of the area median income (AMI) and employed by a Florida-based employer.
- Providing up to a \$5,000 refund for sales tax paid on building materials used to construct an affordable housing unit funded through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC).
- Creating a new tax donation program to allow corporate taxpayers to direct certain tax payments to the FHFC.
- Expanding Job Growth Grant Fund eligibility to specifically authorize public infrastructure projects that support affordable housing.
- Preempting local governments’ requirements regarding zoning, density, and height to allow for streamlined development of affordable multifamily rental housing in commercial, industrial, and mixed-use zoned areas under certain circumstances.
- Removing a local government’s ability to approve affordable housing on residential parcels by bypassing state and local laws that may otherwise preclude such development, while retaining such right for commercial and industrial parcels.
- Removing a provision in current law allowing local governments to impose rent control under certain emergency circumstances and preempting rent control ordinances entirely.
- Requiring counties and cities to update and electronically publish the inventory of publicly owned properties which may be appropriate for affordable housing development.
- Authorizing the FHFC, through contract with the Florida Housing Coalition, to provide technical assistance to local governments to facilitate the use or lease of county or municipal property for affordable housing purposes.
- Requiring local governments to maintain a public written policy outlining procedures for expediting building permits and development orders for affordable housing projects.
- Introducing three ad valorem property tax exemptions to apply on the 2024 tax roll.

HB 1417 – Residential Tenancies

This bill preempts residential tenancies and the landlord-tenant relationship to the state. HB 1417 also revises state notification requirements to 30 days (from 15) for termination of a tenancy and to 60 days (from 30) for notification of landlord or tenant intention to not renew a tenancy. The steady influx of people relocating to South Florida has made Palm Beach County one of the fastest-growing destinations for those seeking a place to call home. This migration has depleted residential rental unit inventory and caused significant rental hikes. To provide residents with an adequate amount of time to negotiate with their landlord or seek alternative housing should their tenancy be terminated or their rent increased, the Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners enacted Ordinance 2022-027 in 2022. This ordinance requires landlords in Palm Beach

County to provide residential tenants with 60 days' written notice when the landlord intends to not renew an annual lease, the landlord intends to terminate an at-will tenancy, or when the landlord proposes to increase the rent by more than 5%. The bill renders all existing local government ordinances throughout the state that purport to regulate residential tenancies, including PBC Ordinance 2022-027, null and void. Palm Beach County joined other counties in expressing opposition to HB 1417. The Senate companion bill, SB 1586, contained language PBC advocated for that was largely in line with our ordinance, including the rental increase notification requirements, but in the last few days of Session the House bill was first to move through the chambers killing the Senate bill in the process.

HB 3 – Corporate & Government Activism

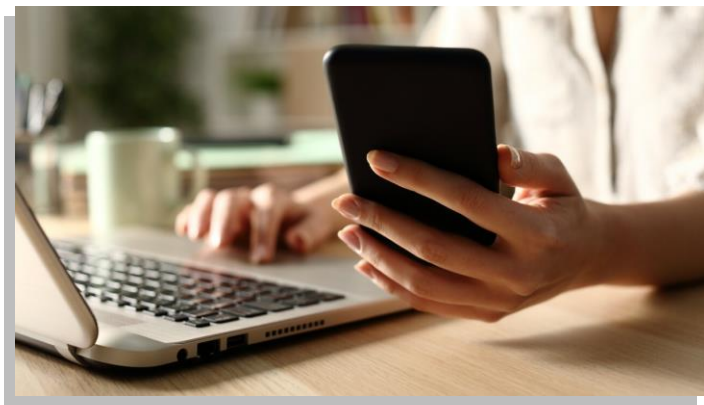
A priority of House Speaker Paul Renner, HB 3 addresses the provision of products and services by financial institutions, the investment of certain state and local government funds, the issuance of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) bonds, and procurement of and contracting with vendors by certain state and local entities and educational institutions. Most pertinent to counties in Florida, the bill prohibits state and local governments from investing funds based on ESG factors and from considering social, political, or ideological beliefs when evaluating prospective vendors or giving any preference. The legislation also requires governments to deposit funds only into banks designated as a Qualified Public Depository (QPD), which will be required to certify compliance with new investing requirements.

SB 144 – Lactation Spaces

This bill requires each county courthouse to provide at least one dedicated lactation space outside of the confines of a restroom. The lactation space must be provided no later than January 1, 2024 and state-appropriated funds may be used for creating such space.

SB 258 – Prohibited Applications on Government-issued Devices

Many applications are owned or operated by foreign principals. Certain applications owned by these principals, such as WeChat and TikTok, have been at the center of data privacy and cybersecurity concerns. SB 258 directs the Department of Management Services (DMS) to create a list of prohibited applications,



defined as those that (1) are created, maintained, or owned by a foreign principal and that engage in specific activities that endanger cybersecurity; or (2) present a security risk in the form of unauthorized access to or temporary unavailability of a public employer's information technology systems or data. The bill also requires public employers block access to these prohibited applications on their wireless networks, VPNs, and government-issued devices. All employees

are prohibited from downloading prohibited applications on a government-issued device, and a public employer must remove any prohibited application from their government-issued devices within 15 calendar days of the DMS' issuance of a list of prohibited applications.

SB 752 – Temporary Commercial Kitchens

Temporary kitchens are typically used when fixed kitchens are unavailable, like when damaged by a fire, during remodeling, when extra kitchen space is needed, and for catering at events. Temporary kitchens may also be used after a natural disaster, such as a hurricane. Temporary kitchens are contained in a variety of modular structures, such as portable cabin structures, modular buildings, towed trailers, or standard freight containers. Creating a state regulatory scheme for temporary commercial kitchens, the bill contains a preemption over the regulation of licenses, registrations, permits and fees for these entities. SB 752 regulates temporary commercial kitchens in the same manner as mobile food delivery vehicles (MFDVs or food trucks). Temporary commercial kitchens may not operate in one location for longer than 30 consecutive days under the bill unless authorized under specified circumstances.

SB 942 – Authorization of Restrictions Concerning Dogs

Local governments may adopt ordinances to address safety and welfare concerns stemming from dog attacks on people or domestic animals, placing restrictions and additional requirements on owners of dangerous dogs, provided that no regulations may be breed-specific. This bill adds weight and size to the prohibited dog characteristics a local government may not use to regulate. It also authorizes public housing authorities to adopt policies regulating dogs, charge fees for dog ownership, and require certain conditions for owners.

HB 1281 – Preemption of Utility Service Restrictions

HB 1281 prohibits certain local governments from enacting or enforcing ordinances that restrict or prohibit the use of certain appliances. The bill defines "appliances" to include air conditioners, water heaters, and other devices that use electricity or natural gas to provide heat, cooling, or water. This prohibition does not apply to ordinances that are necessary to protect public health or safety nor does it apply to ordinances that are adopted by a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 people.

HB 1521 – Facility Requirements Based on Sex

Named the "Safety in Private Spaces Act," HB 1521 establishes a procedure for individuals to notify authorized persons for specified public sector entities that a person of the opposite sex has entered into a restroom or changing facility designated for exclusive use for females or males. The bill provides exceptions for assisting a child, elderly person, or a person with disabilities as well as for law enforcement, cases of an emergency, or custodial purposes when the restroom is not in use. Entities subject to the bill include state adult correctional institutions, educational facilities (K-12 to university level), juvenile correctional facilities and secure detention centers, county and city detention facilities (jails), and public buildings that are owned or leased by the state, a state agency, or a county, city, or special district. These entities are also required to provide, at a minimum, a water closet or changing facility that is designated exclusively for females and exclusively for males or a unisex restroom or changing facility intended for a single occupant. Covered entities must submit documentation regarding compliance with the minimum requirements for restrooms and changing facilities, within one year after being established or, if the institution or facility was established before July 1, 2023, no later than April 1, 2024, to the Board of Governors, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or the State Board of Education, as applicable.

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 671/SB 682 – Residential Building Permits

These bills would have prescribed several requirements of local governments with respect to residential building permits. Some provisions in the bill include a requirement that local jurisdictions reduce their permit fee by 75 percent when a property owner retains a private provider for plans review and inspection services, drastically shortened timeframes for review and approval of



permit applications, the establishment of the timeframe in which a permit is automatically deemed approved, and restrictions on the amount of times additional project information could be requested. Palm Beach County's Permit Center accepts permit applications online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to make it accessible for residents to apply for a permit. Drastically reducing the timeframe for review and the frequency by which local governments can request additional information of the applicant compromises the ability for officials to properly review and evaluate the safety of a project. Allowing an application to be "deemed approved" without proper review for compliance with the Florida Building Code and minimum safety standards presents serious life safety concerns for residents. Palm Beach County and other local governments were successful this session in opposing the bills.

HB 917 – Wage & Employment Benefits

Local governments have limited authority to establish a minimum wage and to require specific employment benefits for their own employees and those of their vendors or contractors. HB 917 would have amended Florida's wage and employment benefits law to prohibit local governments from seeking to control the wages or employment benefits of, or awarding preferences on the basis of wages or employment benefits, provided by their vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with the local government. The bill would have eliminated Palm Beach County's prevailing wage established for vendors and service providers we contract with. Palm Beach County joined other local governments were successful in opposing the measure.

HB 1197/SB 140 – Land and Water Management

Catching the eye of local governments across the State of Florida was HB 1197 and SB 140. The bills would have prohibited counties and municipalities from adopting laws, regulations, or policies relating to water quality, water quantity, pollution control and prevention, and wetlands and would have preempted the regulation of these to the state. The bills did not receive any hearings this session.

SB 740 – Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on County Realignment

In an effort to "explore the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating counties," this legislation would have created a Statewide Blue Ribbon Task Force on County Realignment within the Department of Economic Opportunity. The task force would evaluate several factors, including the number of counties, their size and population, the efficiency and effectiveness of county government, and the impact on the economy.

HB 833/SB 714 – Vacation Rentals

In the final hours of session HB 714, which was substantially amended and bounced between the House and Senate, died when the two chambers could not agree on the final terms of the bill. Both bills would have made significant revisions to the regulatory framework of vacation rentals and vacation rental advertising platforms. Some items included in the bills were a preemption of vacation rental platforms, point of contact disclosure requirements for the property to local governments, authorization of local governments to maintain limited local vacation rental registration programs, limitations on registration fees, and more.

SB 1110 – Term Limits for County Commissioners

SB 1110 would have established 8 year term limits for county commissioners in Florida. This bill's House companion, HB 477, did pass this legislative session. More information on HB 477 can be found on page 44.

HB 1361/SB 1472 – Organic Material Products

Both HB 1361 and SB 1472 would have added “organic material” as a bona fide farm operation to the Florida Right to Farm Act. The Senate bill maintained language that prohibited local governments from adopting any ordinance or regulation to prohibit, restrict, regulate, or limit the collection, storage, processing, or distribution of organic material products.

Local Government

SB 256 – Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees

This legislation enacts several new requirements for employee organizations that represent public employees in collective bargaining. Specifically the bill:

- Requires employees wishing to join employee organizations to sign a membership authorization form;
- Requires organizations to allow members to revoke their membership any time without reason;
- Prohibits these organizations from receiving member dues and assessments via automatic salary deduction by the member's employer;
- Expands the information required in an employee organization's annual registration renewal with the Public Employees Relations Commission;
- Authorizes the public employer or an employee who is eligible for representation in the bargaining unit to challenge the application for registration renewal;
- Requires the employee organization to be recertified as the bargaining agent if the number of employees paying dues to the employee organization during the last registration period is less than 60 percent of the number of employees eligible for representation in the bargaining unit; and
- Expands the prohibited activities by certain employee organizations and its representatives.

Initially, concerns were raised about the impact of this legislation on federal transit funding. Palm Beach County was successful in advocating for an amendment to the bill which addressed these issues.

SB 346 – Public Construction

Each local government contract for construction services must provide for the development of a single list of items required to render complete, satisfactory, and acceptable construction services purchased by the local

governmental entity, also referred to as a punch list. SB 346 requires each punch list to outline the estimated cost of each item necessary to complete the work and requires the local government pay all portions of the contract balance, except for 150 percent of the portion attributed to those projects on the list, within 20 days after the list is created. A local government must pay the contractor for the remaining list projects upon their total completion. Some exceptions are provided in the bill. Timeframes in which a disputed construction services contract must be resolved are shortened by the legislation and it clarifies that a local government must pay the undisputed portions of a contract within 20 days.

As filed, the bill would have also prohibited counties and cities from applying local preferences or prevailing wages to any public works projects funded by local or state dollars. Palm Beach County and others were successful in advocating for the removal of this prohibition on locally funded projects. Current law prohibits the application of these preferences and wage requirements on state-funded public works projects in excess of \$1 million. The final bill changes applies the prohibition to all state funded public works projects.

HB 1383 – Specialty Contractors

In 2021, the Legislature passed HB 735 which preempted locally licensed occupations to the state. However, the act allowed local licensing to continue for two-years, including construction trade occupations, in those counties that licensed the occupations locally as of January 1, 2021. Section 163.211, Florida Statutes, would have expired all local occupational licenses issued to construction industry specialty contractors on July 1, 2023, unless the Legislature took action. This session, four bills were filed to address the issues created by HB 735 but ultimately HB 1383 emerged as the vehicle to tackle these concerns.

The bill establishes that local government licensing of occupations will now expire on July 1, 2024. By July 1, 2024, the Construction Industry Licensing Board is required to establish certified specialty contractor categories for voluntary licensure for structural aluminum or screen enclosures, marine seawall work, marine bulkhead work, marine dock work, marine pile driving, structural masonry, structural prestressed precast concrete work, rooftop solar heating installation, structural steel, window and door installation, including garage door installation and hurricane or windstorm protection, plaster and lath, as well as structural carpentry. The bill provides a local government may not require a license issued by the local government or CILB to perform a job scope which does not substantially correspond to one of the state contractor or specialty contractor categories. A local government may continue to offer a license for veneer, including aluminum or vinyl gutters, siding, soffit, or fascia; rooftop painting, coating, and cleaning above three stories in height; or fence installation and erection if the local government imposed such a licensing requirement before January 1, 2021. Lastly, a local government may not require a license as a prerequisite to submit a bid for public work projects if the work to be performed does not require a license under general law.

SB 264 – Interests of Foreign Countries

SB 264 generally restricts the issuance of government contracts or economic development incentives to, or real property ownership by, foreign principals associated with declared countries of concern. Foreign countries of concern under the bill include the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro, and the Syrian Arab Republic. These foreign principals are prohibited from owning or acquiring agricultural land and any interest in real property within 10 miles of a military installation or critical infrastructure in the state. The bill also prohibits China, Chinese Communist Party or

other Chinese political party officials or members, Chinese business organizations, and persons domiciled in China, but who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents of the U.S., from purchasing or acquiring any interest in real property in the state.

HB 89 – Building Construction

After a building permit is issued, HB 89 prohibits counties and cities from requiring substantive changes to building plans unless the changes are required by state regulations and requires the local government provide written notification of specific noncompliant aspects of the plan. The bill also requires a fire official to notify the permit applicant of the specific reasons the plans do not comply with the Fire Prevention Code, if applicable.



HB 327 – Fire Sprinkler System Projects

The bill creates a simplified permitting process for fire sprinkler system alteration projects involving 20 or fewer sprinklers. A local enforcement agency may require a fire system contractor to submit a permit application and pay a permit fee according to HB 327, but may not require the contractor to submit plans or specifications as a condition of obtaining such permit. Such fire sprinkler system projects must have at least one inspection to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards, and a contractor must keep a copy of plans available for inspection. The local enforcement agency must issue a permit for a fire sprinkler system project in person or

electronically. These provisions mirror the simplified permitting process in current law for small fire alarm system projects.

SB 404 – Public Records/Photograph, Video, or Audio Recording of the Killing of a Minor & Autopsy Reports of Minors

To protect victims who are minors and their families, SB 404 creates two new public records exemptions. The bill makes confidential and exempt from public record photos, videos or audio recordings of the killing of a minor and applies the exemption retroactively. Resulting from the efforts of a mother who could not obtain an autopsy report after the death of her children, the “Rex and Brody Act” was created by the bill to establish an exemption for an autopsy report of a minor whose death was related to an act of domestic violence as well but allows access to the report of the surviving parent who did not commit such act.

SB 726 – Library Cooperative Grants

This bill removes the \$400,000 cap on annual grants to library cooperatives in Florida and mandates the Department of State to offer technical assistance to these cooperatives. The legislation aims to address concerns regarding limited funding for library cooperatives and aims to ensure equitable access to funding.

SB 1068 – Drone Delivery Services

A political subdivision under SB 1068 is prohibited from withholding the issuance of a business tax receipt or enacting/enforcing an ordinance prohibiting a drone delivery service’s operation based on the location of the delivery service’s drone port. However, it allows a subdivision to enforce generally applicable minimum setback and landscaping regulations. The drone ports are also exempt from the Florida Building Code and

SB 540 – Local Government Comprehensive Plans

The bill provides that in an administrative challenge to a comprehensive plan or a plan amendment, the prevailing party is entitled to recover attorney fees and costs, including reasonable appellate attorney fees and costs. The bill also clarifies the scope of review for a local government decision to grant or deny a development order by providing that the order may only be challenged if it would materially alter the use, density, or intensity of the property in a manner not consistent with the comprehensive plan. Lastly, the bill provides that land development regulations relating to any characteristic of development other than use, or intensity or density of use, do not apply to Florida College System institutions.

HB 645 – Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act

Florida law protects critical infrastructure facilities from dangers associated with drone operation by criminalizing knowingly operating a drone over a critical infrastructure facility. HB 645 expands the definition to include: water intake structures, water treatment facilities, wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, liquid natural gas or propane gas terminal or storage facility, refineries, gas processing plants, a seaport, an airport, an inland port, a spaceport territory, certain military installations, and a dam and its associated structures. The bill removes the requirement that a person or governmental entity seeking to restrict or limit the operation of drones in close proximity to infrastructure apply to the Federal Aviation Administration for such designation.

SB 718 – Local Government

This legislation makes changes to the municipal annexation and contraction process by specifying requirements for the report a municipality must prepare prior to any annexation or contraction action. As it pertains to contraction, the bill removes the requirement that a municipality provide specific findings when rejecting a petition from the voters in an area desiring to be excluded from the municipal boundaries. It also revises the contraction procedures in situations where more than 70 percent of the acres proposed to be contracted are owned by private entities that are not registered electors. The bill requires in these instances that the owners of a majority of the acreage consent to such contraction. Additionally, SB 718 contains a ban on local governments requiring an initiative and referendum process for amendments to land development regulations.

HB 977 – Clerks of Court

HB 977 makes several changes to close the funding gap between the clerks' current revenues and anticipated expenditures so that they can provide essential court-related functions. Specifically, the bill redistributes funds from specific sources that would otherwise be deposited into the General Revenue Fund and directs them to be deposited into the Fine and Forfeitures Trust Fund. These revenue sources include the \$37.50 filing fee for a petition for dissolution of marriage, the General Revenue Fund's allotted share of various probate proceeding filing fees, a portion of the General Revenue Fund's allotted share of the foreclosure filing fees for certain claims valued at over \$50,000, and the \$10 summons surcharge. The bill provides for the redirection of specified revenue from the General Revenue Fund totaling approximately \$25.6 million annually over the next five years for deposit into specified trust funds for use by the clerks in performing court-related functions.

HB 1373 – County Constitutional Officers

HB 1373 prevents a county from creating or expanding the powers or authority of any office, special district, or governmental unit if the purpose of such creation or expansion is to exercise any power or authority allocated exclusively to a county constitutional officer by the Florida Constitution or general law. Under the bill, a county commissioner who votes in favor of a proposed ordinance for such a creation or expansion of powers is guilty of misfeasance or malfeasance in office. The bill provides that if a county adopts such an ordinance, the State may withhold all or part of any distribution under local government revenue sharing, which is otherwise allocable to the county, other than any distribution exclusively for school purposes or required for existing bond debt service, during the period such ordinance is in force. Additionally, the bill authorizes a county constitutional officer or a resident of the county to bring an action in circuit court against a county that adopts such an ordinance. The bill authorizes a court to enter a judgment awarding declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing county constitutional officer or resident of the county.

SB 1604 – Land Use & Development Regulations

SB 1604 increases the length of the required planning period to a 10-year period and a 20-year period and revises the comprehensive plan evaluation and appraisal process. The bill requires land development regulations adopted by a local government to establish minimum lot sizes consistent with the maximum density authorized by the comprehensive plan and to provide standards for infill residential development. The bill also allows local governments to require certain building design elements to single-family or two-family dwellings located in a planned unit development (PUD) or master planned community (MPC) created before July 1, 2023. This ability will not be allowed prospectively and is preempted. The bill limits the application of those elements in communities with a design review board or architectural review board to those who had such a board before January 1, 2020. Lastly, the bill precludes an independent special district from complying with the terms of any development agreement, or other agreement for which a development agreement served as consideration, that was adopted in the three-month period preceding the effective date of a law modifying the manner of selecting the governing body of that independent special district, and requires the district to take certain actions within a specified period. Additionally, the bill revises the process for approving certain electric substation installations.

SB 7050 – Elections

A total of 96-pages, this bill makes changes to state imposed campaign finance deadlines, speeds up when local officials must scrub voter rolls for deceased and ineligible voters and increases fines on voter registration groups if they break the law. The bill also makes changes to voter list maintenance processes, preempts local governments from enacting campaign finance reporting schedules that differ from those provided in statute, and requires additional information to be included on voter identification cards. The broad election reform bill was amended to include a provision clarifying that resign-to-run requirements in law, which apply to persons who qualify for office, do not apply to persons seeking the office of President or Vice President. Local governments around Florida are working to determine what fiscal impact these changes will have in their jurisdictions, including the cost of printing of new information on voter ID cards, a requirement that the phrase “Do Not Forward” be printed on all Vote by Mail envelopes, and the modernization of requirements for precinct boundary data collection and maintenance.

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 401/SB 604 – Sovereign Immunity

Both of these bills sought to increase sovereign immunity thresholds. House bill, HB 401, would have waived sovereign immunity for tort claims brought against the state, its agencies, or subdivisions, by increasing the per person limit amount from \$200,000 to \$2.5 million and increasing the current per incident limit of \$300,000 to \$5 million. SB 604, also would have waived sovereign immunity for tort claims brought against the state, its agencies, or subdivisions, by increasing the per person limit amount from \$200,000 to \$400,000 and increasing the current per incident limit of \$300,000 to \$600,000. Palm Beach County is opposed to drastic increases in sovereign immunity thresholds and worked to help defeat these bills.

HB 975/SB 798 – Solid Waste Management

These bills would have restricted counties and municipalities from prohibiting or unreasonably restraining private entities from providing solid waste management services within the local government's jurisdiction. This includes negotiating exclusive commercial solid waste franchise agreements. Counties and municipalities would be able to require these entities to require a permit, license, or non-exclusive franchise equivalent, though the cost may not exceed a nominal amount for administration. The bills also would have made sunset all active commercial solid waste franchise agreements at the conclusion of their current contract and prohibited exclusive renewal. Local governments could, however, continue to charge existing franchise fees in excess of administrative costs for the duration of any active contract.

HB 729/SB 696 – Local Officials

HB 729 and the Senate companion measure, SB 696, would have prevented the contracts of certain individuals from being renewed or extended within 8 months of a November general election for members of the applicable governing body. The individuals subject to the restrictions include county administrators, county general counsels, municipal chief executives, municipal general counsels, school superintendents, and school board general counsels. The bill provides an exemption only if an employee produces a competing offer from another governmental entity.

Health & Human Services

SB 210 – Substance Abuse Services

Upon the recommendation of the State Attorney's Addiction Recovery Task Force, this legislation modifies requirements for licensed substance abuse providers offering treatment to individuals living in recovery residences. The bill prohibits the use of alcohol, marijuana (including marijuana for medical use), illegal drugs, and prescription drugs when used by persons other than for whom the medication is prescribed to from being used on the premises of a provider licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The bill also prohibits referrals to recovery residences which allow the use of such substances, requires providers to prove that they prohibit these substances as a condition of licensure, and makes it a second degree misdemeanor for a person discharged from a recovery residence to refuse to leave. Lastly, the bill requires DCF to establish a mechanism for the imposition and collection of fines arising from failed inspections of recovery residences and improper referrals made by providers. SB 210 was sponsored by PBC Legislative Delegation members Senator Gayle Harrell and Representative Mike Caruso, and was supported

by Palm Beach County.

HB 783 – Opioid Abatement

Opioid antagonists are used to treat opioid overdoses and counteract an overdose's life-threatening effects. HB 783 expands caregiver authority to possess and administer these antagonists. The bill creates the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to enhance the development and coordination of state and local efforts to abate the opioid epidemic and to support the victims of the opioid crisis. Lastly, the legislation requires every Florida College System institution and state university to have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists in specified, clearly marked locations on campus.



HB 121 – Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility

The Florida Kidcare Program implements the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Florida. The CHIP provides federal matching funds to states to subsidize health insurance coverage for children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid and meet other eligibility requirements. Eligibility for the CHIP-funded program components of Kidcare is determined by household annual income, and set as a factor of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Children in families with incomes up to 200% FPL are currently eligible for CHIP-subsidized coverage. This legislation increases eligibility for CHIP-

subsidized Kidcare programs to 300% FPL and requires the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation to establish new monthly premiums for enrollees in households over 150% FPL.

SB 252 & SB 238 – Protection from Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices & Public Records

SB 252 amends several statutes prohibiting several COVID-19 and pandemic-related responses. Of interest to counties, the legislation prohibits mandates on masks, certain vaccines including the COVID-19 vaccine, and COVID-19 testing by businesses, educational institutions and government. The bill also restricts these entities from requiring face masks or covering and from discriminating against someone because of their refusal to wear one. International health organization guidelines may not be implemented or enforced unless authorized by state law, rule, or executive order pursuant to a declared emergency pursuant to the bill. It also prohibits business and governmental entities from certain employment practices based on an employee's, or a potential employee's, vaccination status or the refusal to take a COVID-19 test. These entities cannot require proof of a vaccination or COVID-19 test to gain entry to or service from them.

SB 300 – Pregnancy & Parenting Support

Titled the "Heartbeat Protection Act," this legislation prohibits abortion after six weeks of gestation unless an exception is met. Exceptions include in the instance of rape, incest, or human trafficking and the woman must provide a copy of a restraining order, police report, medical record, or other court order to provide evidence she meets the exception. If an exception is met, an abortion may be obtained up to 15 weeks of gestational age. This legislation also specifies that abortions may not be provided through telehealth and that only a physician can dispense such medication. It prohibits any person, educational institution or governmental entity from expending state funds for a person to travel to another state to receive services

intended to support an abortion unless there is a legitimate medical emergency. The bill expands eligibility of services under the pregnancy support and wellness services network, appropriating \$25 million in recurring funds for this purpose and an additional \$5 million in recurring funds for family planning services provided by the Florida Department of Health. The bill will become effective 30 days after one of the following events occurs: the Florida Supreme Court overturns *In re T.W.*, or one of several other related cases; a Florida Supreme Court ruling stating that the privacy clause in the Florida Constitution does not protect the right to abortion; or an amendment to the Florida Constitution which provides the same.

SB 1550 – Prescription Drugs

This bill regulates the coverage of pharmacy benefits with the intent of increasing transparency and accountability. Prescription drug manufacturers will now be required to submit information on reportable drug price increases for disclosure and made publicly accessible. Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) will be regulated as administrators under the Florida Insurance Code, triggering a variety of reporting and disclosure requirements. The bill also requires additional contract provisions relating to the reimbursement of network companies, information sharing, prohibition of financial clawbacks, and other activities by a PBM.

SB 1580 – Protections of Medical Conscience

Establishing the rights of conscience for health care providers and payors, the bill codifies that a health care provider or payor has the right to opt-out of participation in or payment for a health care service on the basis of a conscience-based objection (CBO). The bill states that it does not allow these individuals to opt-out of providing health care services to any patient because of their patient's race, religion, sex, or national origin.

Transportation & Economic Development

HB 5 – Economic Programs

Legislation similar to HB 5 has been introduced for several years before it was finally successful this legislative session. The bill eliminates Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) and provides all duties, functions, and funds be transferred to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), which will now be named the Department of Commerce. The bill also repeals several obsolete or expired economic development programs, such as the Entertainment Industry Tax Credit, from statute. The Film Advisory Council is eliminated under the legislation, however it saves the Florida Development Finance Corporation from its sunset on July 1, 2023.

HB 1123 – Commercial Service Airport Transparency & Accountability

This bill makes revisions to the Commercial Service Airport Transparency Law passed by the Legislature in 2020. In the years since the law was enacted, certain provisions were identified by Palm Beach International Airport (PBIA) and others around the state that needed clarification to provide further guidance for compliance. The bill makes several clarifying changes including defining the term "consent agenda," specifying that an airport must have a link to the Airport's Master Plan on the airport's website, clarifying that copies of certain contracts must be posted on the airport's website if they are in excess of \$325,000, and allowing airports to utilize the same competitive solicitation process as their local government uses. The bill also makes adjustments to current threshold amounts to allow certain low dollar contracts to be placed on a consent agenda, rather than on the regular agenda of the governing body. The new thresholds would be broken down by FAA airport hub classification, now allowing any contracts less than \$1 million for PBIA to

be approved on the PBC Board of County Commissioner's consent agenda. The bill was sponsored by two members of the PBC Legislative Delegation, Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman and Representative Joe Casello, with several other delegation members listed as co-sponsors of the bill. Palm Beach County joined the Florida Airports Council in supporting this legislation.

HB 1209 – Economic Development

Starting out as the Department of Economic Opportunity's "agency package," HB 1209 was heavily amended throughout the legislative session. The final form the bill amends the Rural Infrastructure Fund to increase the maximum grant award from 50 percent to 75 percent of the total infrastructure cost, or up to 100 percent of the total infrastructure project cost for a project that is located in a rural community that is also located in a fiscally constrained county or in a rural area of opportunity (RAO). It also removes the requirement that projects are linked to specific job creation or retention opportunities, increases the maximum grant for infrastructure feasibility studies, design and engineering activities, or other infrastructure planning activities to \$300,000 for all projects and removes the limitation that the grant not exceed 30 percent of the total project cost. Lastly, it removes the 33 percent local match requirement for grants for surveys, feasibility studies, and the preclearance review of land for projects in a RAO. These changes will significantly benefit a variety of projects that require demucking in the Glades region. Palm Beach County supported this measure as it moved through the legislative process.

SB 106 – Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network

The Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SUN) Network is a statewide system of strategic paved trail corridors for bicyclists and pedestrians. This legislation expands the SUN Trail Network and enhances coordination of the state's trail system with the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Specifically, the bill prioritizes the development of regionally significant trails crossing multiple counties to serve as economic and ecotourism development and to showcase the state's wildlife areas, ecology and natural resources. The bill will maximize the use of previously disturbed lands such as abandoned roads and railroads in the development of trails and authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation and local governments to enter into sponsorship agreements for trails. Lastly, a nonrecurring appropriation of \$200 million to plan, design, and construct the SUN Trail Network, as well as a recurring appropriation of \$50 million are required under the bill.



HB 949 – Operation of a Golf Cart

The operation of a golf cart on Florida's public roads is generally prohibited; however, if specified conditions are met, a road may be designated for use by golf carts. Under current law, the golf cart operator must be at least age 14, and no driver license is required for operation of a golf cart on public roads that have been designated for use by golf carts. In the interest of public safety, HB 949 requires that the operator of a golf cart on public roads who is under 18 years of age hold a valid driver's license.

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 251/SB 476 – Entertainment Industry Tax Credit Program

HB 251 and its companion measure, SB 476, would have created the Florida First Production Partnership Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity and provided a tax credit for Florida

entertainment industry projects that met certain criteria.

HB 235/SB 350 – Alternative Mobility Funding Systems

These bills would have created a statutory framework for the collection of mobility fees in lieu of voter-approved impact fees and prohibited local governments from charging multiple fees for the same transportation impacts. Palm Beach County joined several other counties in opposing this measure and successfully defeated the bill this legislative session.

HB 807/SB 1700 – Vehicles for Hire

As filed, these bills would have allowed a person who holds a license or permit issued by one county, municipality, or airport to operate a vehicle for hire in another county or municipality without being subject to additional fees or regulations. Originally, the bills would have required Palm Beach County to provide reciprocity to any vehicle for hire driver with a permit from elsewhere, without them being subject to our consumer protection and safety requirements. Palm Beach County was successful in working with the Florida Airports Council to remove the language subjecting airports to the legislation in HB 807. We were also successful in getting non-emergency medical transport vehicles, exempted from the provisions of this bill as well. Even with these amendments, the bills would have had a significant negative impact on the County's ability to institute and enforce safety and consumer protection requirements established by our ordinance.

Criminal & Civil Justice

HB 269 – Public Nuisances

Introduced in response to the rise of anti-Semitic displays across the state, as well as local incidents noted by Mayor Gregg Weiss, this legislation makes several changes relating to current public nuisance laws. These changes include increasing the penalties to a first degree misdemeanor or third degree felony if a credible threat is present for the following: a person intentionally dumping litter onto private property for the purpose of intimidating or threatening an owner, resident or invitee of the property; a person maliciously harassing, threatening or intimidating another person based on the person's display of religious or ethnic heritage; the display or projection of an image onto a building without the written consent of the building owner. The bill also creates a new trespass offense, classified as a first degree misdemeanor, if a person is not authorized to enter the campus of a state university or Florida College System Institution for the purpose of threatening or intimidating another person and is warned to leave but refuses to do so. It also prohibits a person from making a credible threat while disturbing a school, religious assembly, a funeral, or any other assembly for a lawful purpose and classifies a violation as a third degree felony. The bill provides any violation of the provisions of the bill are to be reported as a hate crime. HB 269 was sponsored by Representative Mike Caruso of the PBC Legislative Delegation and was supported by Palm Beach County.

HB 119 – Visiting County and Municipal Detention Facilities

This bill authorizes members of the governing body of a county or municipality, members of the legislature, state court judges, the state attorney, the public defender, and the regional counsel to visit a county or municipal detention facility at their pleasure if they are elected or appointed to serve in the county or city where the facility is located.

SB 164 – Controlled Substance Testing

To assist in the preventing of overdoses and accidental ingestion of fentanyl, the bill decriminalizes possession of narcotic drug testing products, like fentanyl test strips. This bill was sponsored in the Senate by Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Chair, Senator Tina Polsky.

HB 365 – Controlled Substances

HB 365 revises elements of murder offenses, providing and enhancing criminal penalties for adults who unlawfully distribute controlled substances that result in an overdose or serious bodily injury of the user. The bill also provides enhanced criminal penalties for repeat offenders.

SB 450 – Death Penalty

This legislation changes the requirements for the imposition of the death penalty. Previously, a jury was required to unanimously recommend the death penalty, however the bill changes this to a recommendation of no less than 8 jurors. It is clarified that a judge still has discretion to impose the recommended death sentence or to choose to impose life in prison without the possibility of parole.

HB 837 – Civil Remedies

One of the most lobbied bills this legislative session, HB 837 provided comprehensive legal reforms in an effort to reduce the amount of frivolous lawsuits and prevent certain practices by attorneys. This bill modifies the bad faith framework, eliminates one way attorney’s fees and fee multipliers and ensures that Floridians can’t be held liable for damages if the person suing is more at fault. Additionally, this bill expands immunity for property owners defending against a criminal who is injured on their property while providing uniform standards for juries in calculating medical damages and reducing the statute of limitations for general negligence cases from four years to two years.

HB 1627 – Pretrial Release & Detention

HB 1627 requires the Florida Supreme Court to establish statewide uniformity for bond schedules and authorizes the chief judge of a judicial circuit to establish a higher, but not lower, bond amount than the statewide schedule provides. The bill also prohibits judges from releasing a person prior to first appearance if the arrested person meets certain criteria and requires a pretrial detention hearing to be held in cases where a defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime that is a capital, life, or first-degree felony.



HB 1718 – Immigration

Codifying, strengthening and expanding existing executive orders and current law, SB 1718 makes several changes related to unauthorized immigration in Florida. The bill amends the crime of human smuggling to provide a person commits a third-degree felony if they willfully and knowingly transport into the state an individual who entered into the U.S. unlawfully. The penalty is enhanced to a second-degree felony if transporting a minor, more than five persons, or if previously convicted for human smuggling. Among many other provisions, the bill authorizes law enforcement to send information to federal immigration authorities, requires employers with 25 or

more employees to use E-Verify to ensure employees are eligible to work, and prohibits unauthorized

immigrants from driving without a license comparable to that issued in Florida. Of note to counties, the bill prohibits local governments from providing funds to any person, entity or organization for the purpose of issuing an identification document if they cannot provide proof of lawful presence in the United States.

Public Safety

SB 154 – Condominium and Cooperative Associations

This legislation makes changes to the law that was passed in response to the devastating building collapse in Surfside. Revisions to the milestone inspection requirements for condos and cooperatives more than three stories in height include: requiring a building that reaches 30 years of age before December 31, 2024, to have a milestone inspection before that date; deleting the 25-year milestone inspection requirements for buildings that are within three miles of the coastline; authorizing the local enforcement agencies that are responsible with enforcing the milestone inspection requirements the option to set a 25-year inspection requirement if justified by local environmental conditions; authorizing the local enforcement agency to extend the inspection deadline for a building upon a petition showing good cause that the owner or owners of the building have entered into a contract to perform the milestone inspection services and the milestone inspection cannot reasonably be completed before the deadline; permitting local enforcement agencies to accept an inspection and report that was completed before July 1, 2022; and providing that the inspection services may be provided by a team of design professionals with an architect or engineer acting as a registered design professional in responsible charge. The bill also exempts unit owner policies from the requirement that all personal lines residential policies issued by the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation must include flood coverage.

With regard to reserve requirements, SB 154 does the following: permits associations that are not subject to the structural integrity reserve study (SIRS) requirement to waive reserves if approved by a majority vote of the total voting interests of the association; permit multi-condo associations to waive reserves if an alternative funding method has been approved by the division; and clarify that reserves for replacement costs do not need to be maintained for any item with an estimated remaining useful life of greater than 25 years.

The bill amends SIRS requirements to include the building structure as a SIRS building component and allow associations to satisfy the SIRS requirement with a previous milestone inspection if the inspection was performed within the previous five years.

SB 250 – Natural Emergencies

In response to the aftermath of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, SB 250 was introduced. The bill requires the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to post on its website a model debris removal contract for the benefit of local governments and to prioritize technical assistance and training to fiscally constrained counties. It encourages local governments to create emergency financial plans in preparation for major natural disasters and requires they expedite issuing building permits post-disaster. Local governments affected by Ian or Nicole are prohibited from increasing building fees until October 1, 2024 and from restricting construction or redevelopment of property damaged by the Hurricane. All local governments are prohibited under the bill from preventing a resident from placing a temporary residential structure on their property for up to 36 months following a natural emergency. The legislation also establishes the Local Government Emergency

Bridge Loan Program for local governments impacted by federally declared disasters.

SB 543 – Public Safety

A bill that brought forth significant debate on the House and Senate floor, SB 543 allows a person who is qualified to carry a concealed weapon in Florida to do so without a permit or license. It also allows a person to briefly openly display a firearm to the sight of another person so long as it is not in a threatening manner.

HB 657 – Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits

Intended to protect children and pedestrians, this bill authorizes counties and municipalities to use speed detection systems, similar to red light cameras, to enforce school zone speed limits for violations in excess of 10 miles per hour over the applicable speed limit when children are going to or from school and during the entirety of the school day. The bill provides a framework for implementation and enforcement.

SB 766 – Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions

Similar to the HB 657, this legislation is aimed at protecting students when they are entering, riding, or exiting a school bus. The bill authorizes a school district to install and maintain school bus infraction detection systems and establishes guidelines for implementation and enforcement.

SB 1418 – Emergency Communications

The bill amends Florida law to support and reflect the transition from enhanced 911 (E911) to Next Generation 911 (NG911), as well as to revise the composition, name, duties, and meeting frequency of the current E911 Board. The Emergency Communications (EC) Board is also authorized, under the bill, to establish a schedule for implementing NG911 systems, public safety radio communications systems, and other public safety communications improvements. The bill also revises the distribution of revenue collected from a monthly



fee to fund 911 services assessed on voice communications services in the state, removes county exceptions to the state's uniform rate for this fee, and revises the expenditures that are eligible to be paid by revenue collected from this fee. The EC Board must ensure that county recipients of funds only use such funds for the purposes for which they have been provided. Changes, modifications, or upgrades to the emergency communications systems or services must be made in cooperation with the head of each law enforcement agency served by the primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in each county. The bill also requires the Division of Telecommunications to develop a plan by December 30, 2023, to upgrade 911 PSAPs within the state to allow the transfer of an emergency call from one local, multijurisdictional, or regional E911 system to another local, multijurisdictional, or regional E911 system in the state by December 30, 2033.

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

SB 1543 – Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer

In 2018, Florida raised the minimum age to purchase a firearm (not including hand guns) from 18 to 21. SB

1543 would have reestablished the minimum age for the purchase or transfer of a long gun at 18 years of age.

Education

HB 1 – School Choice

Florida offers scholarships, also known as vouchers, which allow parents of eligible students to register and attend private schools. These scholarship programs consist of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC), the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students attending private school (FES-EO), and the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities (FES-UA). The bill increases scholarship growth rates under the FES-UA from 1 percent to 3 percent of Florida’s exceptional education students annually. The bill also expands eligibility for the FTC and FES-EO scholarships to any student who is a resident of Florida and eligible to enroll in K-12 in a public school. The bill retains the priority for these scholarships to be awarded to students whose household income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level and creates a second priority for households with income below 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

HJR 31 – Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards

House Joint Resolution 31 (HJR 31) proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution requiring that members of a district school board be elected in a partisan election. This amendment must be approved by at least 60% of voters during the 2024 general election to take effect.

SB 266 – Higher Education

Making a variety of changes to the regulations governing state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions, this legislation establishes requirements of the Board of Governors, assigns university hiring authority to the president of the university, and establishes content standards in general education subject areas. Creating the most controversy was a provision in the bill preventing FCS institutions and state universities from expending funds on programs or campus activities that advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion or promote or engage in political/social activism.

HB 379 – Technology in K-12 Schools

In an effort to remove distractions from the classroom, this legislation bans the use of cell phones by students during instructional time. It also prescribes specific measures a district school board must undertake to protect instructional time and ensure the safety of students accessing the internet at school. The bill requires the adoption of an internet safety policy by the school district and the policy must limit access to only age-appropriate material. The school district must also prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media through district-provided internet access and requires students in grade 6-12 receive education regarding the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media.

HB 477 – Term Limits for School Board Members

This legislation reduces the term limits previously established for school board members from 12 years to 8 years. The limitation only applies to terms of office beginning on or after November 8, 2022.

HB 733 – Middle School & High School Start Times

To allow middle and high school students in Florida to achieve optimal levels of sleep, improve their physical

and mental health, safety, academic performance, and quality of life, the bill requires that by July 1, 2026, the school day for all public and charter middle schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no earlier than 8:30 a.m. for high schools.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

SB 111 – Flooding & Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies

With 1,350 miles of coastline and relatively low elevations, Florida is particularly vulnerable to coastal flooding caused by sea level rise. In 2020, the Legislature passed a bill which prohibited a public entity from commencing construction of certain state-funded coastal structures unless the entity has conducted a sea level impact projection (SLIP) study to assess risks to the structure. The bill expands the requirement for public entities to conduct a SLIP study before commencing construction of certain state-financed coastal structures to apply the requirement to certain structures that are within any area that is at risk due to sea level rise, not just those within the coastal building zone. The structures subject to this requirement are any “potentially at-risk structures or infrastructure,” which include certain critical, historical or cultural assets that are at risk due to sea level rise. The bill also expands the Resilient Florida Grant Program to provide funding to cities and counties for feasibility studies and permitting for nature-based solutions that reduce the impact of flooding and sea level rise and to water management districts to support local government adaptation planning.

SB 162 – Water and Wastewater Facility Operators

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue reciprocal licenses to water utility workers licensed in other jurisdictions and other licensed applicants who meet certain requirements. The bill also provides that during a declared state of emergency, DEP may issue a temporary license to applicants who otherwise meet the requirements for licensure reciprocity and must waive the application fee.



SB 847 – Vessel Regulations

SB 847 allows a local government to adopt an ordinance that establishes a slow speed, minimum wake boating-restricted area if the area is within 500 feet of a sewage pumpout station at any public or private nonresidential marina so long as the sewage pumpout station is within 100 feet of the marked channel of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway. The bill revises the environmental resource permitting (ERP) exemption for floating vessel platforms and floating boat lifts to specify local governments may only require a one-time registration for a floating vessel

platform where the owner self-certifies compliance with the ERP exemption criteria, ordinances, and codes.

HB 1379 – Environmental Protection

This comprehensive legislation makes a variety of changes regarding the Florida Forever Program, the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and to Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) requirements. The bill requires any county or municipality with a BMAP within its jurisdiction to include within the capital improvement element of its comprehensive plan a list of projects necessary to achieve the pollutant load

reductions attributable to the local government as established in the BMAP. It also prohibits the installation of new onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDSs) within a BMAP area, a reasonable assurance plan, or a pollution reduction plan where connection to a publicly owned or investor-owned sewerage system is available. In addition, on lots of 1 acre or less within such areas where a sewerage system is not available, the bill requires the installation of enhanced nutrient-reducing OSTDSs or other wastewater treatment systems that achieve at least 65 percent nitrogen reduction. DEP is authorized under the bill to provide grants for projects that reduce the amount of nutrients entering waters that meet certain conditions. The Indian River Lagoon Protection Program is established by HB 1379 and \$100 million is dedicated annually for the acquisition of lands through the Florida Forever Program. Finally, the bill increases the contract price for a land acquisition agreement that requires approval by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and increases the threshold for when two appraisals are required. Appraisal reports must be disclosed to private land owners during the negotiations for acquisition.

HB 1405 – Biosolids

The bill establishes a biosolids grant program within DEP and provides grants that may be awarded to counties, special districts, and municipalities to support projects that evaluate and implement innovative technologies and solutions for the disposal of biosolids or that construct, upgrade, expand, or retrofit domestic facilities that convert wastewater residuals to Class AA biosolids, nonfertilizer uses or disposal methods, or alternatives to synthetic fertilizers. DEP must reserve 10 percent of grant funds for projects located within an area designated a rural area of opportunity.

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 661/SB 1420 – Sanitary Sewer Lateral Inspection Programs

HB 661 and SB 1420 would have authorized a local government to access any sanitary sewer mainline or lateral it owns within or outside of its jurisdiction to investigate, clean, repair, or replace them. They would have allowed a local government to establish a program to evaluate and rehabilitate leaking laterals, while requiring that a damaged lateral be identified and a program to eliminate extraneous flow be initiated.

HB 979/SB 1072 – Dredging & Beach Restoration Projects

In an effort to prevent negative impacts to natural habitats, HB 979 and SB 1072 would have directed DEP, as a condition of issuing a permit for maintenance dredging of deepwater ports and beach restoration projects, to require any analysis to determine the adverse impacts of the activity on natural habitat be conducted by an independent contractor. The bills would also have prohibited an independent contractor who conducts an analysis from being associated with any project of the contractor performing the activity for the local government for five years prior to the commencement of an analysis or for five years after the completion of the analysis. Many local governments expressed concerns about the legislation causing delays to vital projects and the ability to be compliant with the requirements of the independent contractor performing the study.

HB 1343/SB 1184 – Agricultural Lands

In their final form, the bills would have allowed for the construction/installation of nonimmigrant agricultural employee housing on land zoned for agricultural use and provided specifications for such. They also would have prevented local governments from adopting land use or zoning restrictions that required the termination of an agricultural classification for a property if it is being used for bonafide agricultural purposes.

Palm Beach County Local Bills

Bills That Passed

HB 943 – ACME Improvement District & Pine Tree Water Control District

This local bill transfers lands commonly known as Wellington Preserve at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Everglades Habitat and the Moncada Property from the Pine Tree Water Control District to ACME Improvement District. The transfer of territory is to facilitate the incorporation of the Moncada Property into the existing Wellington Preserve at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Everglades Habitat, and to preserve public resources by allowing the Village of Wellington to direct financial resources to developing the area for the benefit of the public.

HB 945 – Jupiter Inlet District

The Jupiter Inlet District had not re-codified their charter since 2000. This bill codifies the charter of Jupiter Inlet District and makes revisions to the charter by reducing the maximum millage rate that may be levied from 3 to 1.5 mills, increases monthly compensation of board members, and clarifies the role of the District in permitting certain improvements.

HB 1049 – Boca Raton Airport Authority

The Boca Raton Airport Authority's charter is updated by this local bill. These charter updates include providing boundaries for the Authority, changing the frequency of Authority board meetings, updating the powers and duties of the governing board, increasing the compensation of board members, providing guidelines for the hiring or termination of the executive director of the Authority, and transferring the title of the land where the airport is located from the State of Florida to the Authority.

Bills That Did Not Pass

HB 1113 – Village of Loxahatchee

This local bill would have provided a charter to create the Village of Loxahatchee. The special act would only have taken effect upon the approval of the charter by a majority vote of qualified electors residing within the limits of the proposed Village voting in a special election referendum. The charter provided the creation and establishment of the Village of Loxahatchee, specified the boundaries, created a Village Council-Manager form of government, established non-partisan elections, provided a code of ethics, detailed a process for initial council election and transition provisions, continued the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit as well as the Palm Beach County Library Taxing District and law enforcement services through PBSO, allowed Indian Trail Improvement District (ITID) to continue as an independent district, and would have transferred certain ITID assets and liabilities.