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MEMORANDUM

TO: NAIOP

FROM: GrayRobinson

DATE: March 28, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Legislative Session – Week 4 (March 22-26)

Governor Ron DeSantis announced COVID-19 vaccine eligibility will be open to those 40 and older tomorrow (Monday, March 29), and thereafter to all adults on Monday, April 5. The move comes after several reductions in the minimum age for eligibility, which lingered at 65 until earlier this month when it began to drop each week. The announcement follows similar action by surrounding states and puts Florida nearly a month ahead of President Joe Biden's goal of universal adult eligibility by May 1.

This week, which marks the halfway point of session, saw the House and Senate roll out their initial budget recommendations. Compared to the current fiscal year, the 2021-2022 spending plans are leaner. However, the budgets are based on outdated revenue estimates that do not account for the improved economy (next revenue estimate is expected in mid-April) and billions of dollars Florida will receive from the latest federal coronavirus relief package.

For now, the Senate has proposed a \$95 billion budget, which includes \$5 billion in reserves. The House proposal is at \$97.1 billion, which also includes \$5 billion in reserves. Both budgets include major cuts to Medicaid rates and higher education. Both plans also fully fund the FDOT work program and honor the Governor's request for \$625+ million towards water quality and storage funding.

In a controversial proposal, legislative leadership also pitched a plan that would direct two-thirds of affordable housing money toward programs addressing sea-level rise and wastewater grants. Whether to raid or protect the Sadowski Trust Fund is an annual fight in Tallahassee and, in the current-year budget, the House and Senate fully funded affordable housing before COVID-19

required vetoes. Governor DeSantis called for fully funding the programs again in his proposed spending plan presented to the Legislature and he is yet to weigh in on this new proposal.

The House passed a controversial bill that would increase penalties for certain crimes committed during protests. Combatting Public Disorder (HB 1) is a priority of legislative leaders and Gov. DeSantis; however, the Senate bill has been stalled for weeks by Sen. Jason Pizzo, a Miami Democrat who chairs the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. A procedural maneuver used for an unrelated bill last week could have been a preview for a controversial strategy Republican Senate leaders may employ to pass the bill.

All of <u>these</u>, a preview of <u>Week 5</u>, our <u>Federal Spotlight</u> and current <u>Session Statistics</u> are detailed below.

But first, here are the two proposed budgets at a glance.

Silo	House (Billions)	Senate (Billions)
Education (All)	\$28.717	\$26.339
K-12	\$17.427	\$15.433
Higher Ed	\$5.956	\$6.261
Health and Human Services	\$42.121	\$42.335
Criminal Justice and Corrections	\$5.136	\$5.022
Natural Resources/Environment	\$4.120	\$4.170
Dept of Transportation	\$10.263	\$10.263
General Government	\$6.118	\$6.176
Judicial Branch	\$0.601	\$0.651
Total	\$97.077	\$94.958

Activities and Bills related to NAIOP – Summary List

Key Issues for 2021 As Determined at the NAIOP Summit

- Enacting provisions of the Georgia FAST Act in Florida;
- Phasing out the Business Rent Tax;
- Enforcing the Internet Sales Tax;
- Improving the State Fire Code, with particular regard to radio antenna requirements; and
- Monitoring Florida Building Commission membership and adding NAIOP member

Business Rent Tax – The Senate and House have both filed bills to enforce the online sales tax (bills summarized below). A deal was struck on the online sales tax with unemployment tax being the offset. There still, however, remains an opportunity for the annual tax package to include a

reduction in the BRT. We expect that the House tax package is filed in week 6, right before budget conference.

FAST Act – HB 1059 which increases time by which cities/counties must react to permits is on Special Order calendar for the House floor on March 31. In the Senate, SB 1788 is set to be heard in its second committee this week.

Fire Code – CFO Jimmy Patronis has included our language regarding in his official package (summarized below). As well, we are in a standalone package dealing directly with the radio communication antennae.

Detailed Activities and Bills related to NAIOPFL

The following are bills filed that impact (positively and/or negatively) the commercial real estate industry. Information that is highlighted is new as of this week.

Promoting Business Friendly CRE Regulations

Fire Prevention and Control – SB 360 (Hooper) and HB 415 (Botana)

Key Take Away

Requiring the authority having jurisdiction to determine certain minimum radio signal strength requirements for all new and existing buildings; authorizing the use of radio communication enhancement systems to comply with minimum radio signal strength requirements; extending the deadline to comply with minimum radio strength for fire department communications from 2019 to 2024 for permitting and from 2022 to 2027 for installation; providing an exception to the prohibition against installing or transporting certain radio equipment using law enforcement or fire rescue frequencies, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 17.

Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 21.

Community Affairs - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3. Banking & Insurance – On Committee Agenda for March 30. Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Construction Defects – HB 21 (Andrade) and SB 270 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Defining the term "material violation"; requiring that a person submit a construction defect claim to the warranty provider before bringing a cause of action; requiring that a claimant submit a construction defect claim to the warranty provider before serving a notice of claim; authorizing a person served with a copy of a notice of claim to perform a reasonable inspection of the property subject to the claim; requiring, instead of authorizing, a person served with a notice to serve a copy of the notice to specified persons under certain circumstances, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 30, 2020.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 10-8 on February 17.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-5 on March 8.

Judiciary Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 21.

Judiciary – Approved by vote of 9-1 on February 15.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules -N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Building Design – HB 55 (Overdorf) and SB 284 (Perry)

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide that regulations relating to building design elements may not be applied to residential dwellings unless they are historic properties; provides affected party may submit certain local government regulations to Florida Building Commission for review; provides for enforcement of such regulation.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 10.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on February 10.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 3.

Commerce – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-5 on March 9.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 11.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 16.

Regulated Industries – Passed by vote of 8-1 on March 23.

Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

County and Municipal Code Enforcement – SB 60 (Bradley) and HB 883 (Overdorf)

Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit code inspectors designated by boards of county commissioners from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints; require persons who report potential violations of codes and ordinances to provide specified information to the board before an investigation occurs; prohibit code inspectors designated by governing bodies of municipalities from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 13-4 on March 9.

Public Integrity & Elections Committee - On Committee Agenda for March 29. State Affairs Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 5.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 6-3 on February 2. Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Approved by vote of 4-1 on March 3. Rules – Approved by vote of 11-4 on March 11.

Senate Floor – Passed by vote of 27-11 on March 25.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Home-based Business – SB 266 (Perry) and HB 403 (Giallombardo)

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide legislative findings and intent; specify conditions under which a business is considered a home-based business; authorize a home-based business to operate in a residential zone under certain circumstances; preempt to the state the ability to regulate or license home-based businesses; prohibit a local government from certain actions relating to the licensure and regulation of home-based businesses, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 10-6 on February 18.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 14-8 on March 9.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 14.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 10. Commerce and Tourism – Passed by vote of 9-2 on March 22. Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Engineers - SB 572 (Baxley) and HB 931 (Toledo)

Key Take Away

Prohibiting a person who is not licensed as an engineer from using a specified name or title; prohibiting, after a specified date, a person who is not a licensed professional structural engineer from using specified names and titles or practicing professional structural engineering; authorizing the Board of Professional Engineers to refuse to certify an applicant for a professional structural engineer license for certain reasons; exempting certain applicants who apply for licensure before a specified date from having to pass a certain national examination, under certain conditions; specifying acts that constitute grounds for disciplinary action, including civil penalties, against a professional structural engineer, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 11.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee - N/A. Commerce Committee - N/A.

> **Senate Approval Milestones** – Bill filed on January 12 Regulated Industries – Approved by vote of 9-0. Commerce & Tourism – Approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15. Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Florida Building Code – HB 401 (Fetterhoff) and SB 1146 (Brodeur)

Key Take Away

Provides that assisting living facilities are exempt from certain compliance standards; authorizes substantially affected person to file petition with Florida Building Commission to review local government regulations; provides requirements for such petition; provides requirements for commission when considering petition; requires commission to issue nonbinding advisory opinion within specified timeframe; authorizes commission to issue errata to code; prohibits local government from requiring certain contracts for issuance of building permit; requires evaluation entities that meet certain criteria to comply with certain standards.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-0. Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing. Professions & Public Health Subcommittee – N/A. Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8. Community Affairs - On Committee Agenda for March 30. Appropriations – N/A. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Alcoholic Beverage Licenses – HB 329 (Tomkow) and SB 134 (Brandes)

Key Take Away

Authorizes food service establishments to sell or deliver alcoholic beverages for offpremises consumption if requirements are met; revises provisions that authorize restaurant

> to allow patrons to remove partially consumed bottles of wine from restaurant for offpremises consumption; revises requirements for sale of alcoholic beverages by certain vendors.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on February 18. Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 24-0 on March 16. House Floor - Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 4, 2020.

Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing. Commerce and Tourism – N/ARules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Tolling and Extension of Permits and Other Authorizations During States of Emergency-SB 912 (Albritton) and HB 859 (Grant)

Key Take Away

Adding consumptive use permits issued under part II of ch. 373, F.S., and specified development permits and development agreements to the list of permits and other authorizations that are tolled and extended during a state of emergency declared by the Governor for a natural emergency; providing for retroactive application.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Approved by vote of 16-0 on March 9. Commerce Committee – On Committee Agenda for March 29. State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Community Affairs – Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

Environment and Natural Resources – Committee Substitute approved by vote 6-0 on March 22.

Rules – On Committee Agenda for March 31.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Public Safety Emergency Communications Systems— HB 587 (Snyder) and SB 1902 (Rodrigues)

Key Take Away

Revises requirements for minimum radio signal strength for fire department communications; requires State Fire Marshal to adopt minimum radio coverage design criteria for public safety emergency communications systems & minimum standards for interior radio coverage & signal strength in buildings; requires local jurisdiction's public safety emergency communications system be certified as meeting or exceeding certain criteria before new & existing buildings are required to install, or to be assessed for, two-way radio communications enhancement systems; requires local jurisdictions to produce radio coverage heatmaps; prohibits local jurisdictions from withholding certificates of occupancy under certain circumstances.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 29.

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee - N/A. Commerce Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26. Banking and Insurance – Awaiting Hearing. Appropriations – N/A. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Building Inspections – HB 667 (Mooney) and SB 1382 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Requires certain counties & enforcement agencies allow requests for inspections to be submitted electronically; provides acceptable methods of electronic submission; authorizes enforcement agencies to perform virtual inspections; requires refund of fees in certain circumstances; requires surcharges be recalculated under certain conditions.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 1.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 2.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. Commerce Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10. Governmental Oversight and Accountability – On Committee Agenda for March 31. Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Application for and Issuance of Building Permits – HB 1059 (Robinson) and SB 1788 (Boyd)

Key Take Away

Application for and Issuance of Building Permits: Requires county that issues building permits & local enforcement agency to post certain information on their websites; authorizes all components to completed application be submitted electronically or in person; requires local enforcement agency, local government, or local building department to reduce permit fee by specified amount for failing to meet certain deadlines; prohibits authority that issues building permit from requiring applicant to provide specified contracts as part of application for certain construction.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 2.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 21-0 on March 24. House Floor – On Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 9-0 on March 10. Governmental Oversight and Accountability - On Committee Agenda for March 31. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Department of Financial Services – SB 1408 (Burgess) and HB 1209 (Fetterhoff)

Key Take Away

Requires State Risk Management Trust Fund to provide insurance for certain firefighter cancer-related benefits; prohibits persons from acting or advertising themselves as funeral directors, embalmers, authorizes contractor repairing certain existing fire alarm systems to begin work after filing application for required permit; revises continuing education requirements for certain persons licensed to solicit, sell, or adjust insurance; provides exemption from diligent-effort requirement for surplus lines agents exporting contracts or endorsements providing flood coverage; extends deadline for certain buildings to comply with minimum radio signal strength requirement under Florida Fire Prevention Code; provides that certain persons serving as volunteer firefighters may serve as regular or permanent firefighters for limited period.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 22.

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on March 17.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing. Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.

Banking and Insurance – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 10. Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Licensure Requirements for Land Surveyors – HB 821 (Mariano) and SB 1342 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Authorizing an exiled professional to substitute specified lawful practice of profession for education requirement for examination; revises education requirements for licensure; provides that specified work experience or completion of specified apprenticeship program may be substituted for education requirements for licensure as land surveyor or mapper; provides applicant who holds license from other state, jurisdiction, or territory, & has certain experience in practice of surveying & mapping may take licensure examination to practice as land surveyor or mapper in this state.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Regulatory Reform – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 13-5. Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing. Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing. Commerce and Tourism – N/A. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Department of Business and Professional Regulation – HB 1517 (Duggan) and SB 1966 (Diaz)

Key Take Away

Revises & provides requirements relating to electronic reporting, application fee schedules, weight of boxing gloves, fingerprint processing procedures, proof of occupancy of premises, food service establishment audit schedules, delinquency of payment conditions, rules related to submission of certain complaints, & location of Office of the Condominium Ombudsman.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Regulatory Reform – Committee Substitute approved by vote 14-0 on March 24. State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing. Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Regulated Industries – On Committee Agenda for March 30. Appropriations – N/A. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Promote Feasible Sustainability Initiatives

Resiliency – SB 514 (Rodrigues) and HB 315 (LaMarca)

Key Take Away

Establishing the Statewide Office of Resiliency within the Executive Office of the Governor; creating the Statewide Sea-Level Rise Task Force adjunct to the office; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to contract for specified services, upon request of the task force; requiring the Environmental Regulation Commission to take certain action on the task force's recommendations, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing. Appropriations Committee – N/A. State Affairs Committee – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.

Environment and Natural Resources – Passed by vote of 6-0 on February 15.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, & General Government – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Renewable Energy – SB 208 (Brandes) and HB 775 (Omphroy)

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize owners of commercial or industrial businesses, or third parties contracted by such owners, to install, maintain, and operate a renewable energy source device on or about the structure in which the business operates or on a property the business owns or leases; authorizes owners or contracted third parties to sell electricity generated from the device to certain businesses regardless of whether the device is located in a utility's service territory, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 4.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee - N/A. Commerce Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 7, 2020. Regulated Industries – Passed by vote of 9-0 on March 23.

> Commerce and Tourism - Awaiting Hearing. Rules - N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Renewable Energy – HB 539 (Byrd) and SB 896 (Brodeur)

Key Take Away

Provides definitions of terms "biogas" & "renewable natural gas"; revises definition of term "renewable energy" to include certain energy created to displace traditional fuel sources.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 17-0 on March 9. Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 17-1 on March 23.

Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute approved by vote 7-1 on March 16. Environment and Natural Resources – On Committee Agenda for March 29. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Brownfield Site Rehabilitation –SB 1054 (Broxen)

Key Take Away

Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to make information relating to areas of PFAS contamination available to certain governmental entities; requiring the department to provide constructive notice to local governmental entities and to certain property owners and residents when the department issues a site rehabilitation completion order that relies on intuitional controls not recorded in public records; requiring the department to adopt rules for statewide cleanup target levels for PFAS in soils and groundwater; providing that a person who executes a PFAS voluntary site rehabilitation agreement with the department is immune from and has no liability for certain claims under certain circumstances.

House Approval Milestones - No bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 2.

Environment and Natural Resources – Committee Substitute approved by vote 6-0 on March 22.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations -N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

State Preemption of Energy Infrastructure Regulation – SB 856 (Hutson) and HB 839 (Fabricio)

Key Take Away

Prohibits local government from regulating energy infrastructure; preempts such regulation to state.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 9.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. Commerce Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Regulated Industries –Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 7-2 on March 9. Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 6-3 on March 16. Rules – Awaiting hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Public Financing of Potentially At-risk Structures – SB 1550 (Rodriguez)

Key Take Away

Providing that coastal building zones are areas at risk due to sea level rise and coastal structures within those areas are potentially at-risk structures; requiring state-financed

constructors to include certain flood mitigation strategies in sea level impact projection studies.

House Approval Milestones - No Bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 23. Environment and Natural Resources – Passed by vote of 6-0 on March 22. Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations -N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Promote Fair Taxation

Internet Sales Tax Enforcement – SB 50 (Gruters) and HB 15 (Clemons)

Key Take Away

If passed, would revise definitions for "retail sale" and "mail order sale" to capture internet sales, and thus enforce the sales tax on internet sales. Amended to require certain amounts to be deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund during specified periods.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 30, 2020.

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 16-2 on March 11. Commerce – On Committee Agenda for March 29.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 18, 2020.

Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote 11-0 on January 25.

Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 8-0 on February 18.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-0 on March 4.

Senate Floor - Passed by vote of 30-10 on March 25.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday – SB 598 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Providing exemptions from the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain clothing, wallets, bags, school supplies, personal computers, and personal computer-related accessories during a specified timeframe; defining terms; specifying locations where the exemptions do not apply; authorizing certain dealers to opt out of participating in the tax holiday, subject to certain requirements, etc.

House Approval Milestones - No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 13.

Commerce and Tourism – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 11-0 on February 15.

Finance and Tax – Approved by vote of 8-0 on March 11.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Sales Tax Holiday for Disaster Preparedness Supplies – SB 734 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

Providing exemptions from the sales and use tax for specified disaster preparedness supplies during a specified timeframe; requiring purchasers of certain items to furnish a specified affidavit and information to the selling dealer; providing a criminal penalty for furnishing a false affidavit with certain intent; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 22.

Commerce and Tourism – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 11-0 on February 15. Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 8-0 on March 11.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing – HB 563 (Anthony Rodriguez) and SB 674 (Ana Maria Rodriguez)

Key Take Away

Authorizing counties and municipalities to adopt ordinances to grant ad valorem tax exemptions to property owners whose properties are used for the governmental or public purpose of providing affordable housing to certain persons or families; specifying procedures in the event property is transferred for other purposes; specifying procedures in the event an exemption is improperly granted as a result of certain acts by the property appraiser, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. Ways & Means Committee - N/A. State Affairs Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 15.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing. Finance and Tax - N/A. Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Impact Fees – HB 337 (DiCeglie) and SB 750 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

Specifies instances when local government or special district may collect impact fee; requires local governments & special districts to credit against collection of impact fee any contribution related to public facilities; provides annual limitations on impact fee increases; requires school districts to report specified items regarding impact fees; requires specified entities to file affidavit attesting that impact fees were appropriately collected & expended.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 13-5.

Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting hearing. State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote 5-3 on March 24. Finance and Tax – On Committee Agenda for March 31.

Appropriations -N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday – HB 637 (DiCeglie) and SB 302 (Taddeo)

Key Take Away

Defining the term "small business"; providing that small businesses are not required to collect the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain items of tangible personal property during a specified timeframe; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules; providing an appropriation.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 1.

Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce Committee -N/A.

Appropriations -N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 18.

Commerce and Tourism –Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15.

Finance and Tax – Passed by vote of 7-0 on March 25.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Tax Refund Program for Qualified Target Industry Businesses – SB 982 (Gruters) and HB 6071 (LaMarca)

Key Take Away

Deleting a provision prohibiting the certification of applicants after a specified date.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means Committee - N/A.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 1.

Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote of 10-0 on March 9.

Finance and Tax – Approved by vote of 8-0 on March 18. Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Government Property Tax Exemptions – HB 1555 (Harding) and SB 1702 (Hutson)

Key Take Away

Revising the types of lessees whose purposes and functions are deemed to be governmental, municipal, or public purposes or functions; providing exemptions from ad valorem taxes for certain real property.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee - Awaiting Hearing. Ways & Means Committee - N/A. Commerce Committee - N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 25.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing. Finance and Tax - N/A. Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Limitation on Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes – HB 1377 (Chaney) and SB 1182 (Brandes)

Key Take Away

Proposes amendment to State Constitution to authorize Legislature to prohibit consideration of changes or improvements made to real property used for residential purposes to improve property's resistance to flood damage in determining assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 22.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 17-0 on March 15.

Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting Hearing State Affairs Committee – N/A.

> Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18. Community Affairs – Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10. Finance and Tax – Awaiting Hearing. Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Tax Administration – HB 1241 (Stevenson)

Key Take Away

Requires tax collectors to accept late payments of prepaid property taxes; specifies severance tax rate for titanium; revises conditions for sales tax exception for tangible personal property exported out of state; specifies application requirements & procedures for forwarding agent; specifies procedures regarding forwarding agents and reporting tax; provides criminal penalties for certain violations; revises recordkeeping requirements for dealers collecting sales & use tax; provides that stolen sales tax revenue may be aggregated for purposes of determining grade of criminal offenses; authorizes DOR to publish list of forwarding agents' addresses on its website.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 24.

Ways & Means – Approved by vote of 16-0 on March 11.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote 27-0 on March 22.

House Floor - Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – No Bill filed.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions – SB 2512 (PCB bill by Appropriations) and HB 5401 (Tomkow)

Key Take Away

Revising and deleting distributions of the documentary stamp tax; providing that specified distributions may not be transferred to the General Revenue Fund; revising the purposes for which distributions may be made from the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 25.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 26. Appropriations – On committee Agenda for March 31.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Collaborative Growth Management

State Housing Funds – SB 510 (Hooper) and HB 13 (Killebrew)

Key Take Away

If passed, would protect Housing Trust funds by exempting State Housing Trust Fund & Local Government Housing Trust Fund from provision authorizing Legislature, in GAA, to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to Budget Stabilization Fund & General Revenue Fund

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 30.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing. Appropriations Committee – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.

Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 9-0 on February 2.

Finance & Tax – Passed by vote of 7-1 on February 18.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Growth Management – HB 59 (McClain) and SB 496 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Requires local governments to include property rights element in their comprehensive plans; provides statement of rights that local government may use; requires local government to adopt property rights element by specified date; prohibits local government's property rights element from conflicting with statutorily provided statement

of rights; provides that certain property owners are not required to consent to development agreement changes; prohibits municipality from annexing specified areas; requires DOT to afford right of first refusal to certain individuals; provides requirements & procedures for right of first refusal; authorizes certain developments of regional impact agreements to be amended.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on December 10, 2020.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 4.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 17.

State Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 20-3 on March 10.

House Floor- Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 7.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

Judiciary – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15.

Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote 17-0 on March 25.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: N/A.

Small Scale Development Amendments – HB 487 (Duggan)

Key Take Away

Revises acreage thresholds adopting an amendment using a small scale development amendment.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 17-1 on March 3.

Commerce Committee – Approved by vote of 22-1 on March 9.

State Affairs Committee – Approved by vote of 20-3 on March 17.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Promote Economic Prosperity

Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 – HB 7 (McClure) and SB 72 (Brandes)

Key Take Away

Provides requirements for civil action based on COVID-19-related claim; provides that plaintiff has burden of proof in such action; provides statute of limitations; provides retroactive applicability.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote 11-6 on January 13. Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Passed by vote 11-6 on February 3. Judiciary Committee - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-7 on February 16. House Floor – Passed on March 5 by vote of 83-31 and sent to Senate.

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.

Judiciary – Approved by vote 7-4 on January 25.

Commerce and Tourism Committee – Approved by vote of 7-4 on March 3.

Rules – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on March 11.

Senate Floor – HB received and Referred to Rules.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Evidentiary Standards for Actions Arising During an Emergency – HB 579 (Melo)

Key Take Away

Provides that specified actions taken by business during declared emergencies may not be used as evidence in certain civil causes of action.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 29.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 14-1 on March 12. Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Passed by vote of 17-1 on March 24. Judiciary Committee – On Committee Agenda for March 29.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Governmental Actions Affecting Private Property Rights – HB 421 (Tuck) and SB 1876 (Albritton)

Key Take Away

Revises notice of claim requirements for property owners; creates presumption that certain settlement offers protect public interest; specifies property owners retain option to have court determine awards of compensation; authorizes property owners to bring claims against governmental entities in certain circumstances; authorizes property owners to bring actions to declare prohibited exactions invalid; provides for resolution of disputes concerning comprehensive plan amendments under Florida Land Use & Environmental Dispute Resolution Act.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 26.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 15-3 on March 4. Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing. Judiciary Committee- N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones –Bill filed February 26.

Judiciary - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-4 on March 22. Community Affairs – On Committee Agenda for March 30. Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Electronic Legal Documents – HB 483 (Altman) and SB 848 (Powell)

Key Take Away

Clarifies that supervising witnessing of electronic record by online notary public is notarial act; specifies applicability of online notarization procedures to supervision of witnessing of electronic record; modifies witnessing procedures; revises statutory forms for affidavit for acceptance of & reliance upon power of attorney, for notice of election relating to descent of homestead property, for self-proof of will or codicil, for disposition of certain

assets at death, & for petition of summary relief for sale or transfer of property owned by absentee, to reflect means of notarization.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – On Committee Agenda for March 30. Commerce Committee – N/A. Judiciary Committee- N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote of 11-0 on March 2. Judiciary – Approved by vote of 10-0 on March 9. Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Tourism Marketing Entities – HB 675 (Plasencia) and SB 778 (Hooper)

Key Take Away

Authorizes Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation to carry forward unexpended state appropriations into succeeding fiscal years; abrogates repeal of provisions establishing Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, direct-support organization of Enterprise Florida, Inc., & Division of Tourism Marketing within Enterprise Florida.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 2.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing. Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – N/A. Appropriations Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Commerce and Tourism – Passed by vote of 10-1 on February 15.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development – Subcommittee Recommendation approved by vote of 10-0 on March 10.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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Health Care Civil Liability - HB 7005 (Formerly HHS1 Bill by Health & Human Services Committee)

Key Take Away

Provides protections for COVID-19 related claims for Health Care providers.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 5.

Health & Human Services Committee – Passed by vote of 17-3 on February 17.

Pandemics & Public Emergencies - Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on March 2.

Judiciary— Committee Substitute passed by vote of 15-5 on March 10.

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Repeal of Developer Incentive Requirements - HB 6067 (Eskamani)

Key Take Away

Removes provisions requiring counties & municipalities to provide incentives to fully offset costs of certain affordable housing contributions or linkage fees.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Summary of Session Week 4 (March 22-26)

In case you missed it, here is an update on last week's legislation to watch:

Florida to take on the CDC? Governor DeSantis, Attorney General Ashley Moody, and FDOT Secretary Kevin Thibault paid a visit on Friday morning to Port Canaveral's beautiful new Cruise Terminal 3 (which should have been open for operation last summer if not for the pandemic and the CDC's no sail order) to hold a roundtable with Cruise Line Executives, State Senators Debbie Mayfield and Tom Wright, Canaveral CEO John Murray, and small business owners severely impacted by the lack of cruise business. The discussions included a plea for the CDC to work with the State to get cruiseliners back up and running and an exploration of what legal options Florida might pursue in order to get the major economic driver back in business as soon as possible.

Foreign Influence Legislation (HB 7017 by Rep. Grall/SB 2010 by Sen. Diaz) — The bills would require organizations seeking state funding to disclose any financial ties to adversarial countries, or "foreign country of concern." The list includes China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela. The legislation is a priority of Gov. DeSantis and House Speaker Sprowls. The House version cleared the House Appropriations Committee and has one stop left before the chamber floor. The Senate version was temporarily postponed and will be considered in the Senate Education Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Student Financial Aid Legislation (SB 86 by Sen. Baxley) — The bill originally would have limited Bright Futures scholarship funding for degree programs that are not seen as leading directly to a job, but it has been substantially reworked following outcry from students and parents. The bill would now put a hold on course registrations for college freshmen until they confirm they are aware of their chosen degree's job prospect potential. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on a party-line vote and now heads to the chamber floor.

Online Sales Tax Legislation (HB 15 by Rep. Clemons/SB 50 by Sen. Gruters) — The bills would harness the 2017 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *South Dakota* v. *Wayfair* to require most out-of-state retailers to collect and remit sales tax. The legislation is expected to boost sales tax revenues by more than \$1 billion a year, with the revenues being used to refill the state's unemployment trust fund. The Senate passed the bill with a 30-10 vote.

State Preemption of Seaport Regulations Legislation (<u>HB 267 by Rep. Roach/SB 426 by Sen. Boyd</u>) — The bills would preempt local government ordinances that "restrict or regulate commerce" at Florida seaports. The provision targets a Key West ordinance aimed at keeping cruise ships away from the island. The Senate version was approved by the Senate Community Affairs Committee last week and now awaits a hearing in the Senate Rules Committee, its final stop before the chamber floor.

Preview of Week 5 (March 29 - April 2)

Constitutional Amendment Threshold Legislation (HJR 61 by Rep. Roth/SJR 1238 by Sen. Rodriguez) — The resolutions seek to raise the vote threshold for constitutional amendments to pass from 60% to two-thirds. The Senate version has already cleared its first committee. The House version will go before the House Public Integrity and Elections Committee at 10:15 a.m. on Monday.

Reemployment Assistance Legislation (SB 1906 by Sen. Brodeur) — The bill would increase the maximum weekly unemployment benefit from \$275 to \$375 and the minimum from \$32 to \$100. The current levels are among the lowest in the nation. It is one of several bills filed to increase unemployment benefit levels or duration, though most of them have been filed by Democrats and have not made a committee agenda. The Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee will consider the bill and the many amendments already filed by the sponsor when it meets at 3:30 p.m. Monday.

Manatee Presentation — The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will deliver a presentation on manatees to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on Monday at 3:30 p.m. So far this year, FWC reports 539 manatee deaths and the federal government has declared it an "Unusual Mortality Event."

Alimony Legislation (HB 1559 by Rep. Rodriguez/SB 1922 by Sen. Gruters) — The bills aim to end permanent alimony. They also include provisions that would default child custody time to a 50-50 split between parents. Similar legislation has made it to the Governor's desk in recent years, though it has been vetoed. The House bill passed its first committee last week. The Senate bill will go before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday at 3:30 p.m.

Appointments Considered — On Tuesday at 8:30 a.m., the Senate Education Committee will decide whether to advance 42 gubernatorial appointments to the State University System Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and the boards of trustees at several state universities.

Additionally, on Tuesday at 9 a.m., the Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee will decide whether to advance the confirmation process for DCF Secretary Shevaun Harris, who was appointed to the position in February after former Secretary Chad Poppell resigned.

Emergency Management Powers Legislation (HB 945 by Rep. Rommel/SB 1924 by Sen. Diaz)
— The bills would limit the duration of local emergency orders. The House bill would set the limit at one week and the Senate bill at 10 days, with the option to extend after that. The Senate

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security will hear the bill when it meets at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Motor Vehicle Rentals Legislation (HB 365 by Rep. Caruso/SB 566 by Sen. Perry) — The bills would regulate the emerging peer-to-peer car rental industry by requiring rentals to levy a \$1-a-day surcharge and charge sales tax. The Senate bill passed its first committee last week and will go before the Senate Transportation Committee when it meets at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday. While a comprehensive "strike all" amendment adopted in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee reflected an agreement in principal between peer-to-peer platforms and traditional rental car companies, the bill still lacks a requirement that the platforms have a formal agreement with airports before operating on their property. Such a requirement has been included by nearly every state that has passed similar legislation and already exists in Florida statute for things such as transportation network companies (TNCs) and autonomous vehicles.

House and Senate Budgets (APC1/SB 2500) – The House and Senate budget proposals begin their respective journey through the Legislature. On Wednesday at 9am and 1pm respectively, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will take up the proposals, consider amendments and ultimately vote them up or down.

Federal Spotlight

Momentum Builds for Action on Infrastructure

Between the expiration of the FAST Act in September and the Biden Administration's vow to "build back better," it seems almost certain that some form of infrastructure legislation will pass this year. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg told the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that this is "the best chance in any of our lifetimes to make a generational investment in infrastructure." Full economic recovery will require a national commitment to "fix and transform" our infrastructure, Secretary Buttigieg said, because the status quo poses rising threats to our competitiveness and national security. The Administration's infrastructure priorities include clearing the backlog of repairs needed to existing infrastructure and improve public transit and mobility options, improving transportation reliability and safety, addressing major inequities, improving air quality, and tackling the climate crisis.

For more updates from our federal lobbying team, read last week's On the Record with the Golden Apple.

Current Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 3,010 (1,988 House; 1,022 Senate)

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Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,060

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1.174 billion

Session Weekly Schedules

House Week 5:

https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%205%20March%2029%20-%20April%202,%202021.pdf

House Week 6:

https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%206%20April%205%20-%209,%202021.pdf

Senate Week 5:

https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-03-18%20153340.PDF

Senate Week 6:

https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-03-25%20170411.PDF