

PALM BEACH COUNTY 2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT

June 3, 2014



**Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department
301 North Olive Avenue, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-3452**

**Robert Weisman, County Administrator
Todd Bonlarron, Legislative Affairs Director**

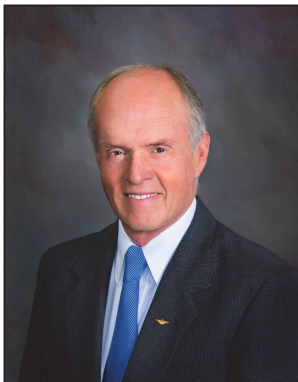
PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



PRISCILLA TAYLOR
MAYOR
DISTRICT 7
561/355-2207
PTAYLOR@pbcgov.org



PAULETTE BURDICK
VICE-MAYOR
DISTRICT 2
561/355-2202
PBURDICK@pbcgov.org



HAL R. VALECHE
DISTRICT 1
561/355-2201
HVALECHE@pbcgov.org



SHELLEY VANA
DISTRICT 3
561/355-2203
SVANA@pbcgov.org



STEVEN L. ABRAMS
DISTRICT 4
561/355-2204
SABRAMS@pbcgov.org



MARY LOU BERGER
DISTRICT 5
561/355-2205
MBERGER@pbcgov.org



JESS SANTAMARIA
DISTRICT 6
561/355-6300
JSANTAMA@pbcgov.org

Table of Contents

1.	BUDGET ISSUES.....	6
1.1.	2014 General Appropriations Act.....	6
1.2.	Health and Human Services	6
1.3.	Criminal Justice and Corrections	6
1.4.	Transportation & Economic Development	6
1.5.	Agriculture & Natural Resources.....	7
1.6.	Education	8
2.	BUDGET ITEMS OF INTEREST	8
2.1.	EDUCATION	8
2.2.	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	9
2.3.	CRIMINAL & CIVIL JUSTICE.....	9
2.4.	TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	9
2.5.	ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES	11
2.6.	PARKS & RECREATION	11
2.7.	CULTURE & FINE ARTS	12
3.	LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED	13
3.1.	TRANSPORTATION & GROWTH MANAGEMENT	13
	<i>Transportation - Rural Cities</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Fuel Terminals</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Rail Service on the FEC.....</i>	<i>13</i>
3.2.	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	13
	<i>Spring Training Baseball.....</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>Tax Cut Package.....</i>	<i>14</i>
	<i>Glades Initiatives.....</i>	<i>15</i>
	<i>Biomedical Research Funding.....</i>	<i>15</i>
3.3.	FINANCE & TAX	15
	<i>Emergency Communication–E911 Fee.....</i>	<i>15</i>
3.4.	CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES	16
	<i>Inmate Reentry.....</i>	<i>16</i>
	<i>Juvenile Justice - 985 ReWrite.....</i>	<i>16</i>
	<i>Juvenile Justice Educational Programs</i>	<i>16</i>
	<i>Article V.....</i>	<i>16</i>
3.5.	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES	16
	<i>Homelessness</i>	<i>16</i>
	<i>Affordable Housing</i>	<i>17</i>
	<i>Sickle Cell Screening Funds.....</i>	<i>17</i>
3.6.	EDUCATION	17
	<i>School Sign Pilot Program.....</i>	<i>17</i>
4.	BILLS OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT FAILED	18

4.1.	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	18
	<i>Growth Management and Development Exactions</i>	18
	<i>Growth Management and Private Property Rights</i>	18
	<i>Sales Tax on Commercial Leases</i>	18
	<i>Communications Services Tax (CST) Rate Reduction.....</i>	18
	<i>Medical Examiners.....</i>	18
	<i>Local Preferences in Award of State Contracts</i>	18
4.2.	TRANSPORTATION and NATURAL RESOURCES	19
	<i>Red Light Cameras</i>	19
	<i>Environmental Regulation.....</i>	19
	<i>Fair Associations.....</i>	19
	<i>Hazardous Walking Conditions.....</i>	19
	<i>Limousine Preemption</i>	19
5.	LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT FAILED	20
5.1.	FINANCE & TAX ISSUES	20
	<i>Film and TV Incentives</i>	20
	<i>Gaming.....</i>	20
	<i>Enterprise Zones.....</i>	20
5.2.	CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES	20
	<i>Sober Homes</i>	20
	<i>Juvenile Detention Costs</i>	21
5.3.	GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES	21
	<i>Local Ethics Code</i>	21
	<i>Wage Theft.....</i>	21
	<i>Public Records.....</i>	21
	<i>Nonresidential Farm Buildings.....</i>	22
	<i>Henry Flagler Memorial.....</i>	22
	<i>County and Municipal Parks</i>	22
5.4.	ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/AGRICULTURE ISSUES.....	22
	<i>Agricultural Gleaning.....</i>	22
6.	OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST	22
6.1.	CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES	22
	<i>Prescription Drug Monitoring</i>	22
6.2.	GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES	23
	<i>Florida Retirement System</i>	23
	<i>Ethics Package</i>	23
	<i>E-Cigarettes</i>	23
	<i>Vacation Rentals.....</i>	23
	<i>Regulations Regarding Fuel Terminals</i>	24
	<i>Banking Regulation.....</i>	24
6.3.	GROWTH MANAGEMENT and TRANSPORTATION ISSUES	24

<i>Utility Relocation</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Transportation - Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.....</i>	<i>24</i>
6.4. PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES	24
<i>Yellow Dot Program</i>	<i>24</i>
6.5. LOCAL BILLS.....	25
<i>Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District - Easements to the Public.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District - Trails.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Wellington Medical Arts District</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>West Palm Beach Pension - Firefighters and Police</i>	<i>25</i>

BUDGET OVERVIEW

1. BUDGET ISSUES

1.1. 2014 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HB 5001 by the House Appropriations Committee

While focusing on investing new state revenues in the most efficient manner, the Republican-led Legislature agreed upon a \$77.1 billion budget with more than \$500 million in tax relief measures. Compared to the FY 2013-14 Budget, this represents a \$2.8 billion (3.7%) increase. The Legislature also placed an additional \$3.1 billion dollars in reserve. *Update: The Governor vetoed \$68.9 million from the \$77.1 billion budget on June 2, 2014.

HB 5001 provides:

- General Revenue: \$27.9 billion
- State Trust Funds: \$22.8 billion
- Federal Trust Funds: 26.4 billion

1.2. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Appropriations totaled \$31.9 billion, which represents a 2.3% increase in total spending over the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Appropriation. It also includes a 1.18% reduction in state positions or 395 FTE.

1.3. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations totaled \$4.64 billion. The budget includes funding for 44,884 FTE positions. There is a \$198.9 million (4.5%) increase in total spending compared to FY 2013-14 Appropriation.

1.4. TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations totaled \$11.9 billion, a 9.5% increase over the current year budget.

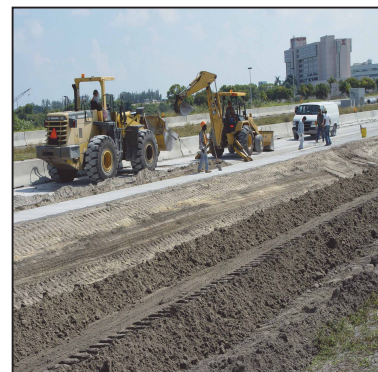
The Subcommittee on **Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations** Conference Report provides for the following:

Department of Transportation - \$10.1 billion

- Transportation Work program - \$9.2 billion

Department of Economic Opportunity - \$1.1 billion

- FL Housing Finance Corporation \$167.6 million
 - SAIL \$67.6 million
 - SHIP \$100 million
- Community Development Block Grant Program - \$30 million
- Weatherization Grant Program - \$2 million
- Low Income Energy Assistance Grant Program - \$16 million
- Community Services and Energy Assistance - \$100 million
- Skills Assessment and Training/Ready to Work - \$4 million



- Regional Planning Councils - \$2.5 million
- Quick Response Training - \$12 million
- Fund Regional Workforce Boards - \$283.3 million
- Economic Development Incentives - \$71 million (\$16 million based on reversion)
- Visit Florida - \$74 million
- Space Florida - \$19.4 million
- Small Cities Community Developmental Block Grants - \$30 million
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program grants - \$16.0 million
- State Small Business Credit Initiative Program - \$33.2 million

Department of State - \$162.5 million

- State Aid to Libraries Grants - \$27.4 million
- Cultural and Museum Grants - \$34.9 million
- Historic Preservation Grants - \$1.9 million
- Restoration of Historic Properties - \$14.3 million

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles - \$435.5 million

- Florida Highway Patrol to replace motor vehicles - \$3.2 million
- Florida Highway Patrol 28 new positions - \$3.5 million

Department of Military Affairs - \$100.1 million

- National Guard Community Tuition Assistance - \$3.1 million

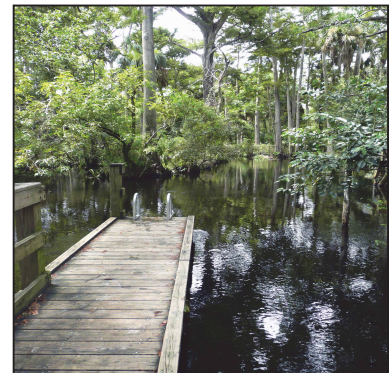
1.5. AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations totaled \$3.5 billion. This represents an increase from the current year of 1.25% for DEP, 3.7% for DACS and 15.02% for FWCC.

The **ANR Appropriations Committee** Conference Report provides for the following:

Department of Environmental Protection

- Florida Forever - \$57.5 million
- Springs Protection - \$25 million
- Everglades Restoration - \$135 million
 - \$ 32M - Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan
 - \$ 40M - C-44 Reservoir and Associated Treatment Areas
 - \$ 18M - C-43 Caloosahatchee River Basin Storage Reservoir
 - \$ 5M - Kissimmee River Restoration Project
 - \$ 5M - C-111 South Dade Project
 - \$ 2M - Picayune Strand Restoration
 - \$ 3M - Northern Everglades and Estuaries protection (DACS)
 - \$ 30M - Tamiami Trail Bridge Project (in the FDOT Work Plan)
- Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin - \$22.8 million
 - \$ 10M - Sediment & Muck Removal in Northern and Central Lagoon
 - \$ 3M - Dispersed Water Management in the Northern Everglades
 - \$ 4M - Water Quality Monitoring devices in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, St. Lucie River, and Indian River Lagoon
 - \$ 2.8M - South Florida Water Management District operational support for excessive Lake Okeechobee Water Discharges
 - \$ 2.075M - Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration
 - \$ 1M - Northern Estuaries Resource Recovery pilot program to reestablish oyster populations in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries



- Beach Restoration - \$45.1 million
- Local Water Projects - \$74 million
- Wastewater Revolving Loan Program - \$77.2 million
- Drinking Water Construction Loan Programs - \$161.6 million
- Small Community Wastewater Grants - \$21 million
- Underground Storage Tanks Cleanup - \$110 million
- Dry Cleaning Solvent Cleanup - \$6.5 million

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- Northern Everglades BMP's & Water Quality projects - \$23.6 million
- Agricultural Non-point Source Control BMP's - \$7.1 million
- BMP's in Springs Watershed Areas - \$5 million
- Florida Agriculture promotion campaign - \$5.3 million
- Farm Share and Food Banks - \$2.5 million

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

- Lake Restoration - \$6.4 million
- Artificial reef Construction - \$11.8 million
- Land management & Invasive Plant Control – \$5 million

1.6. EDUCATION

The overall Education budget totals \$20.7 billion, which is a \$360.4 million (1.78%) increase over the prior year.

Per student funding increased to approximately \$7174.18. This represents a total amount of \$1.3 billion to Palm Beach County, an increase of approximately \$36 million. Of that \$36 million, \$30 million is appropriated for charter schools while just over \$6 million is appropriated for traditional public schools.



2. BUDGET ITEMS OF INTEREST

2.1. EDUCATION

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University – Grants & Aid	\$26,656,903
Florida Atlantic University – Medical School	\$22,583,395
Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Partnership	\$2,000,000
Florida Atlantic University – Jupiter Bioscience Gateway	\$500,000
Florida Atlantic University – AMI Experimental Education	\$1,500,000
Florida Atlantic University – Autism Program	\$856,065

University Lab Schools (Multi-County)	\$4,798,454
---------------------------------------	-------------

Palm Beach State College

Palm Beach State College - Lottery Funds	\$12,804,319
Palm Beach State College - Program Funds	\$44,064,312
Palm Beach State College – Loxahatchee Campus	\$6,000,000

Voluntary PreKindergarten Program	\$27,641,580
-----------------------------------	--------------

School Readiness Program	\$33,556,964
Adults with Disabilities – Vocational Rehabilitation	\$760,481
WestTech Adult Ed Glades Workforce	\$426,628
Performance Adjustments to School Districts	\$51,136
Workforce Development	\$17,026,477

Public Broadcasting

WXEL Repairs	\$529,000
WXEL-TV Reroofing	\$1,099,008
WPBI-FM, West Palm Beach	\$100,000
WXEL-TV, Palm Beach	\$307,447

2.2. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health & Human Services

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Program	\$200,000
Ruth Rales Jewish Services – Meal Program	\$250,000
Palm Beach County PACE Slots	\$3,890,112
200 Additional Palm Beach County PACE Slots	\$1,573,161
Place of Hope – Haven Campus	\$2,700,000
Sickle Cell Research – Tampa Bay Area	\$100,000
Statewide Homelessness Funding	\$4,000,000
Alzheimer’s Community Care – Palm Beach, Martin	\$1,000,000
Early Cancer Detection – Broward, Palm Beach, Martin	\$1,800,000
Bethesda College of Health Sciences Program	\$1,500,000

2.3. CRIMINAL & CIVIL JUSTICE

Criminal & Civil Justice

PILT – South Bay Correctional	\$275,560
PILT – Sago Palms South Bay	\$142,900
4 th DCA Courthouse Construction	\$7,145,763
State Attorney – Insurance Fraud Prosecution	\$139,437
SA, PD, Court Workload Funding Statewide	\$10,900,000

**Article V Funding – 1.5% required increase suspended for FY14/15*

2.4. TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation

Arterial Highway Constr

23rd Street from Tamarind Avenue to Spruce Avenue	\$1,142,494
---	-------------

Aviation Dev/Grants

Belle Glade State Municipal Airport Rehab Runway 9/27	\$1,070,000
Boca Raton Airport Construct Building	\$1,200,000
North Palm Beach Cty General Aviation Airport Hangars & Infrastructure	\$1,600,000
Palm Beach County Park Airport Construct Hangars	\$2,400,000
Palm Beach International Airport Construct Apron Golfview	\$1,325,276
Palm Beach Int'l Airport Security Improvements, Phase 2	\$1,302,328

Palm Beach Int'l Airport Taxiway Lima Upgrades & Improvements	\$2,604,656
<u>Bridge Construction</u>	
SR 80/Southern Blvd Bridges 930097 & 930098	\$1,500,000
<u>Community Services</u>	
City of West Palm Beach - Broadway Redevelopment	\$400,000
<u>Construct Inspect Consult</u>	
Northwood Connection from CSX Mainline to FEC Mainline	\$1,434,391
<u>2012 FDOT Workplan/Major Disasters</u>	
CR 880 Eastern Most 1.5 Miles Embankment Washout	\$2,030,000
<u>Highway Maintenance Contr</u>	
I-95 Asset Management Palm Beach County	\$3,415,000
Palm Bch Co ITS Maintenance	\$14,000
Palm Beach County JPA's for Maintenance Lighting	\$2,022,617
Palm Beach County Road Ranger Service Patrol	\$1,497,000
SR 25/US 27 Asset Management Contract US 27 & Belle Glade Area	\$1,549,778
<u>Hiway Safety Constr/Grants</u>	
SR 809/Military Trl @ Community Drive	\$1,236,000
<u>Intermodal Development/Grants</u>	
Port of Palm Beach Port-Wide Slip Redevelopment	\$1,300,000
<u>Intrastate Highway Constr</u>	
Landscaping for Okeechobee Blvd Interchange (Tpk Mp 99)	\$1,000,000
Palm Beach County Push-Button Contract for Signalization	\$1,000,000
SR 786 PGA Blvd from SR 710 to West of Florida's Turnpike	\$6,007,608
SR 809/Military Trl from Shilo Dr to SR 710/Bee Line Hwy	\$1,225,060
SR 9/I-95 @ Blue Heron Blvd Interchange	\$2,133,385
<u>Preliminary Engr Consult</u>	
I-95/SR 9 at Linton Boulevard Interchange Palm Beach	\$1,600,000
SR 7/US 441 from Broward/PB Co/Line to SR 808/Glades Road	\$1,300,000
SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd	\$4,500,000
SR 808/Glades Road from SR 7 to SR 5	\$4,150,000
SR 9/I-95 @ Gateway Blvd. Interchange	\$1,000,000
SR 9/I-95 @ Northlake Boulevard Interchange	\$1,000,000
SR 9/I-95 @ SR 80/Southern Blvd. Interchg. Ultim. Imprvmt.	\$2,000,000
SR 9/I-95 @ SR 804/Boynton Beach Blvd Interchange	\$1,000,000
SR 9/I-95 @ SR 808/Glades Road	\$4,500,000
SR 9/I-95 from Brow/Palm Bch Co Line to Linton Blvd.	\$1,000,000
<u>Public Transit Dev/Grants</u>	
Palm Beach County Block Grant Operating Assistance	\$4,944,697
<u>Rail Development/Grants</u>	
Northwood Connection Fr. CSX Mainline to FEC Mainline	\$11,416,122
Northwood Connection Fr. CSX Mainline to FEC Mainline	\$2,886,260
South Central Fl Express Cane Block	\$16,312,500
Villa Rica Siding Extension	\$2,441,983

Resurfacing

SR 812/Hooker Hwy. from SR 715 to SR 15/US 441 \$1,649,851

Right-of-Way Land Acq

SR 80 from West of Lion Co Safari Rd to Forest Hill/Crestwood Bl \$2,063,791

SR A1A Flagler Memorial Bridge Bridge #930157 \$1,150,000

Seaport Grants

Port of Palm Beach Port-Wide Slip Redevelopment \$3,301,000

FY 2014/2015 & 2015/2016 Transport Planning Grants

Palm Beach UPWP \$1,069,161

Turnpike Sys Equip & Devel

Sunpass Capital Assets \$1,100,000

Economic Development

Scripps Florida Economic Development \$3,000,000

2.5. ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Projects

Belle Glade NW Avenue H Storm Water Improvements \$250,000

C-51 Reservoir Implementation \$500,000

Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative Projects \$2,076,718

Palm Beach County Lake Region Infrastructure Improvement \$1,000,000

Riviera Beach Avenue O Stormwater Easement Extensions \$425,000

Riviera Beach West 18th Street - West 22nd Street Stormwater Improvement \$375,000

Riviera Beach West 6th Street Improvements \$500,000

Royal Palm Beach Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program \$250,000

Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (funded at \$2.075 million under IRL/Lake O report)

Inlet Management

Lake Worth IMP Implementation \$36,000

Beach Restoration

Delray Segment \$1,006,016

Jupiter/Carlin Segment \$1,625,000

North Boca Raton Segment \$351,500

Ocean Ridge Segment \$751,300

2.6. PARKS & RECREATION

FRDAP

Community Park, Phase IV \$50,000

North West Park \$50,000

Overlook Park \$50,000

Town Hall Park \$50,000

Local Parks

Town of Lantana Recreation Fields Relocation \$1,000,000

Hunting & Game Management

Public Recreational Shooting Park	\$3,200,000
-----------------------------------	-------------

Historic Properties Restoration

Addison Mizner's Memorial Fountain	\$350,000
Restoration of Addison Mizner's Memorial Fountain	\$350,000

Youth Conservation

Everglades Youth Conservation Camp Improvements	\$450,000
---	-----------

2.7. CULTURE & FINE ARTS

Cultural and Museum Grants

Aequalis Inc.	\$22,161
Boca Ballet Theatre Company	\$88,600
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Inc.	\$150,000
Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach, Inc.	\$25,000
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.	\$150,000
Delray Beach Center for the Arts, Inc.	\$150,000
Florida Classical Ballet Theatre, Inc.	\$28,700
Lighthouse ArtCenter, Inc.	\$88,000
Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Inc.	\$84,485
Lynn University, Inc.	\$25,000
Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc.	\$150,000
Norton Museum of Art, Inc.	\$150,000
Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.	\$150,000
Palm Beach Opera Inc.	\$150,000
Palm Beach State College	\$150,000
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.	\$150,000
School of the Arts Foundation, Inc.	\$150,000
Sunfest of Palm Beach County, Inc.	\$150,000
The Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.	\$89,000
The Children's Museum, Inc.	\$20,250
The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum	\$150,000
The Lake Worth Playhouse, Inc.	\$75,000
The Morikami, Inc.	\$150,000
The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	\$150,000
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	\$59,422

Cultural Endowment Grants

Boca Raton Historical Society	\$240,000
Boca Raton Museum of Art Cultural Endowment Grants Palm Beach 240,000	\$240,000
Norton Museum of Art	\$240,000
Old School Square	\$240,000
Raymond K. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts	\$240,000

Cultural Facilities

Lake Worth Community Redevelopment Agency	\$150,000
Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.	\$500,000
South Florida Science Museum, Inc.	\$500,000
Culture Builds Florida	\$1,600

**strikethrough indicates item was vetoed.*

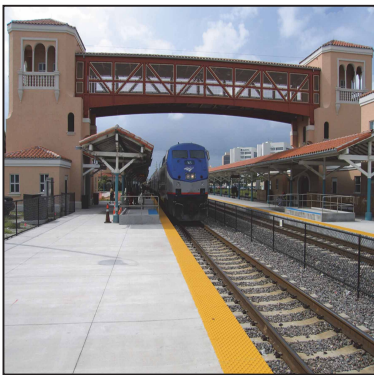
3. LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED

3.1. TRANSPORTATION & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Transportation - Rural Cities

SB 218 by Sen. Grimsley will allow the cities of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee to compete for state funds to help meet some of the needs of their road infrastructure. The bill passed during the final days of session.

Funding of \$9 million for the small county road program was agreed to by House and Senate negotiators to be used for this new program. The dollars appropriated were new monies allocated for this specific purpose.



Fuel Terminals

SB 1070 would prohibit local governments from changing the land use classification for land used for fuel terminals as well as require local governments to allow fuel terminals to be restored to their original capacities if damaged by natural catastrophes. The bill originally removed all authority of local governments to control the expansion of fuel terminals or consider them in local comprehensive plans. The current language is a compromise struck between fuel companies and local governments. The bill passed the House and the full Senate.

Rail Service on the FEC

Palm Beach County was successful in providing \$10 million in the state budget for a quiet zone program that will allow local governments to make application to a new DOT program that will provide matching state funds to upgrade rail road crossings to quiet zone status.

3.2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Spring Training Baseball

SB 1216 by Sen. Jack Latvala changes the current distribution allocations for the State's Spring Training retention program that was approved last year. It was passed by both the House and Senate during the last week of session.

Under the bill, construction of a single team stadium would be eligible for \$20 million over 20 years and a two team stadium would be eligible for \$50 million over 25 years. Additionally, a provision would allow an existing stadium to utilize the dollars to expand to a two-team stadium.

Additionally, the bill would require all future stadium funding applicants to go through an economic-impact ranking process by the Department of Economic Opportunity. The projects then would have to get legislative support. One of Palm Beach County's top policy priorities requested the changes to the Spring Training allocations.



Tax Cut Package

HB 5601 (House Finance and Tax Subcommittee) is the comprehensive tax package for this year. The bill includes language clarifying the authority to adjust the local business tax as well as authorizing a state wide sales tax holidays for school supplies, hurricane preparedness supplies, youth bike helmets, medicinal pet food, certain energy efficient products, and college meal plans. The bill also includes a Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) tax swap which reduces the sales tax rate and increases the gross receipts tax rate on commercial electricity. The bill also addresses community contribution tax credits. The League was successful in getting language into the bill that holds local governments harmless from this PECO energy tax swap. HB 5601 has a \$105 million fiscal impact to the state and will cost local governments \$13.5 million in nonrecurring and \$16.5 million in recurring revenue. Not included in the tax package is a reduction in the communications services tax or financial incentives for television and film industry projects.

The following is a very brief overview of issues that have a fiscal impact on local governments (City and County) that are included in the package.

Concept	Local Government Statewide Impact	
	Non-Recurring (1 Year)	Recurring (Ongoing)
Sales Tax Holidays 3 – Day Back to School Sales Tax Holiday 12 – Day Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday 3 – Day Energy Efficient Appliances Sales Tax Holiday	(\$7,300,000) (\$820,000) (\$300,000)	
Sales Tax Exemption on Car Seats The draft legislation will add a permanent exemption for sales of child restraint systems and booster seats for use in motor vehicles.		(\$500,000)
Sales Tax Exemption on Youth Bicycle Helmets The bill adds a permanent exemption from the sales tax for bicycle helmets marketed for use by youth.		--
Sales Tax Exemption on Cement Mixers The draft legislation will add cement mixer drums that are affixed to mixer trucks, as well as the parts and labor necessary to affix those drums to trucks, to the sales tax exemption for manufacturing machinery and equipment that will sunset on April 20, 2017.	(\$400,000)	
Sales Tax Exemption on Therapeutic Pet Foods Sales of therapeutic pet foods sold by veterinarians are exempt from sales tax		(\$600,000)
Sales Tax Exemption on College Meal Plans Exemption for prepaid college meal plans purchased by students		(\$2,600,000)
Private Label Credit Cards Provides for refund of sales taxes originally remitted for accounts that are “charged off”		(\$1,600,000)
Community Contribution Tax Credit The Community Contribution Tax Credit Program provides a credit or refund in the amount of 50 percent of eligible donations to Florida businesses that make donations toward community development and housing projects	(\$1,630,000)	

for low-income persons. The draft legislation extends the expiration date of the program by one year to June 30, 2016.		
Prepaid Calling The concept language modernizes the definition of "prepaid calling arrangement" (Broadens exemption from state and local CST taxes)		(\$11,200,000)
Total Fiscal Impact to Local Government	(\$13,150,000)	(\$16,500,000)

Other Issues included in 5601 but not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on local governments:

1. Tax Swap to generate funds to support PECO
2. New Markets Economic Development Incentives
3. Exemptions for Bail Bonds and Insurance Premiums Tax
4. Modification in the distribution of Cigarette Tax Revenues to benefit the Moffitt Cancer Center
5. Modification to policy governing Tourist Development taxpayer records
6. Funding to D.O.R. for implementation of sales tax holidays

Negotiated out of the tax package was sales tax paid on electrical purchases from 7% to 4% and increase the Gross Receipts Tax paid on electric utilities by the same amount with the intent to increase funding to PECO. Major opposition from the Florida League of Cities and Association of Counties who argue that it is not local government's responsibility to fund PECO and at such an impact enabled the language to be removed from the final bill. The fiscal impact to Palm Beach County would have been \$1 million a year.



Glades Initiatives

This year three of the county's top priorities for the Glades were included in the General Appropriations bill. \$1 million was included for funding street repaving in the tri-city area with the inclusion of an additional \$9 million for a new small city road fund that the Glades region can compete for additional funds. \$1 million was included for infrastructure improvements to the Glades Regional Water Treatment System. \$426,628 was included for workforce initiatives at the newly reopened WestTech Workforce Center.

Biomedical Research Funding

New funds were included in the budget for two of Palm Beach County's local biomedical research centers. Scripps received \$3 million and Max Planck was allocated \$2 million.

3.3. FINANCE & TAX

Emergency Communication—E911 Fee

The Legislature passed **CS/CS/HB 175** unanimously. This legislation allows for the collection of the E911 fee on prepaid phones. The E911 fee helps to fund costs incurred by local governments to install and operate 911 emergency systems. The bill reduces the fee from \$.50 to \$.40 per month but allows the E911 board to amend the rate in the future.

3.4. CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

Inmate Reentry

HB 53 by Rep. Stone/SB 274 by Sen. Simmons provides relief to one of the hurdles to successful reentry by inmates back into their communities - the lack of identifying documents such as a birth certificate or a state identification card. Without these types of documents, it is nearly impossible to secure employment, housing or other needs. However, obtaining these documents is not free. Under this legislation, the Florida Department of Corrections will be required to provide every Florida-born inmate with a certified copy of their birth certificate and a state identification card before release from prison.

Juvenile Justice – 985 ReWrite

HB 7055 by Rep. Pilon/SB 700 by Sens. Bradley & Detert was also known as the “985 Rewrite” in reference to the Florida Statutes section on juvenile justice. This legislative package was a priority of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and Secretary Wansley Walters as part of the Department’s efforts to reduce recidivism through the recognition of children with special needs and transitional services, improved care to juveniles while in the care of the Department, and an increased focus on serious cases and public safety.

Juvenile Justice Educational Programs

HB 173 by Rep. Adkins/SB 598 by Sen. Bean/SB 850 by Sen. Legg makes changes to the provisions of law governing accountability, deliverance, and review of juvenile justice education programs that provide educational services to children within Department of Juvenile Justice programs, detention centers and residential facilities. Among other provisions within the comprehensive legislation, it requires intense educational transitional planning services for children in order to improve their chances of success once released from a program as well as requiring residential programs with a contracted minimum length of stay of nine months to provide career education courses that lead to pre-apprentice certifications and industry certification.

The content of this legislation was amended onto *SB 850*, an overall educational legislative package that also contained the controversial school voucher expansion language. It passed the Legislature and will head to the Governor for his consideration.

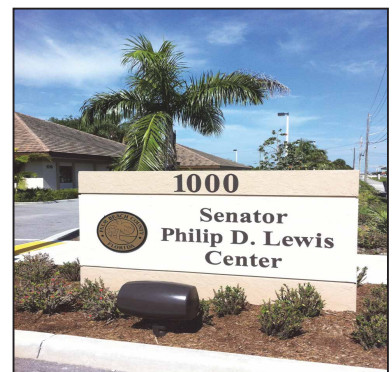
Article V

Florida Counties were successful in getting a reprieve from additional Article V costs this year as the state included a respite from the 1.5% statutory increase in local Article V costs.

3.5. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES

Homelessness

The legislature passed **CS/CS/HB 979** (Peters) which allocated \$4 million for homelessness issues. The bill originally created a dedicated funding source for homelessness issues, but was amended during the committee process to only allocate money for FY 2014-2015. This money will be used by the Department of Children and Families for “Challenge Grants” to provide support, training and technical assistance to designated continuums of care.





Additional proviso language was included in the budget allocating \$4 million for Homeless funding out of the State Housing Trust Fund.

Affordable Housing

The documentary stamp tax paid on all real estate transaction funds the local housing trust fund which is the funding source for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program and the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program. The legislature approved \$100 million for SHIP and \$67.7 million for SAIL for FY 2014-2015. This is fully funding the SAIL program and 75% funding for the SHIP program. This is the first time in four years that the Housing Trust Fund was not swept into General Revenue.

For Palm Beach County, that translates into the following funding allocations:

Palm Beach County	\$ 4,683,057
Boca Raton	\$ 392,971
Boynton Beach	\$ 320,403
Delray Beach	\$ 282,275
<u>West Palm Beach</u>	<u>\$ 471,073</u>
Palm Beach County Total	\$ 6,149,779

Sickle Cell Screening Funds

While efforts to attain funds for Sickle Cell screening fell short in terms of earmarking the \$100,000 allocated in the budget to Palm Beach County, the Tampa based program may expand to the Palm Beach area if there is some success in the initial education program being developed.

3.6. EDUCATION

School Sign Pilot Program

Language is included in the FDOT legislative package (HB 1161) that extends the Palm Beach County/School Board Pilot Program until 2015. The bill passed during the final week of session.

The proposal emanates from Palm Beach County where each of the 30 high schools have business partnerships for the promotion of Project Graduation (drug/alcohol-free celebration) and other key school events. These schools raise funds through business partnerships for these activities and display sponsorship banners recognizing the sponsors around school fencing.

Because Palm Beach County has schools located in 26 municipalities plus the unincorporated County area, there are widely varying municipal and local codes. The County Commission, for one, supports the display of school sponsorship banners, but is concerned that amending their own code for one exception could leave them open for other entities wanting an exception. In 2008, the County Commission and School Board suggested the creation of a pilot program to standardize the display and location of these school recognitions.

The current pilot program expires on June 30, 2014; this legislation renews the authority for Palm Beach County through FY2015. This renewal also provides authority for DOT to require removal of any banner recognitions that could jeopardize federal funding.

4. BILLS OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT FAILED

4.1. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Growth Management and Development Exactions

HB 1077 (Perry) and SB 1310 (Evers) would have prohibited local governments from imposing or requiring certain exactions on or against private property when collecting impact fees or requiring transportation concurrency to pay for transportation improvements. The legislation would have eliminated the dual rational nexus test used by courts to determine what fees a local government could impose and would have replaced it with a stricter “essential nexus” standard. The bills prohibited any exaction that does not address the direct impact of a proposed development. The bills died in committee.

Growth Management and Private Property Rights

HB 395 (Perry) and SB 1314 (Evers) would have required local governments to address the protection of private property rights in their comprehensive plans. The legislation would have preempted local governments from adopting land regulations inconsistent with certain property rights elements created in the bills. The bills died in committee.

Sales Tax on Commercial Leases

HB 11(Steube) and SB 176 (Hukill) would have reduced the sales tax charged on leased commercial property. The Florida Association of Counties was opposed to these bills, which were not heard in any committee.

Communications Services Tax (CST) Rate Reduction

SB 266 by Senator Hukill originally reduced CST rates and would have impacted local governments with a negative \$31 million recurring fiscal impact. It was later amended to include a 0.52% decrease in the CST tax rate, reducing the recurring fiscal impact to negative \$8.3 million. The bill ultimately died on the calendar and did not pass this session.

Medical Examiners

A Department of Health bill, **HB 819**, included a \$50 cap on fees that can be charged by Medical Examiners. Miami-Dade currently charges a fee of \$63 and Broward County who charges \$54 are the only two local governments charging over \$50.

HB 301 by Rep. Ross Spano regarding Medical Examiners would have prohibited Medical Examiners from charging a fee to perform a cause of death determination in cases of cremation and burial at sea, while still requiring Medical Examiners to perform the cause of death analysis in such cases. HB 301 stalled in the Local & Federal Affairs Committee. The Senate companion bill, SB 584 by Sen. Tom Lee died in committee.

The Medical Examiner amendment adopted to HB 819 and approved in the House bill was not passed by the legislature and died on the Senate calendar.

Local Preferences in Award of State Contracts

Bills in both the House and Senate to preempt local preferences in award of government contracts when using state dollars were intended to save the state money by protecting against local government bids with local preferences that the state felt artificially inflated prices.

The Senate bill would have preempted local preference ordinances on competitive solicitations for projects that use at least 51% of state funds to fund the project. The original bill would have required the preemption to kick in if any state funds were used. The Senate and House bills died in committee.

4.2. TRANSPORTATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Red Light Cameras

An earlier version of **HB 7005**, would have provided that red light cameras could only issue notice of violations rather than uniform traffic citations, that seventy percent of the revenue collected must go to traffic safety capital improvements, that engineering countermeasures for intersection safety must be considered prior to installing new cameras, and provides that violations do not occur while making right or left hand turns while there is no pedestrian or vehicles in the way.

SB 144 remained temporarily postponed in committee at the end of session. It contained provisions relating to signal intervals and a uniform speed limit for making legal right on red turns.



Ultimately, no legislation passed that would alter the current red light camera program in Florida.

Environmental Regulation

CS/HB 703 (Patronis) and CS/SB 1464 (Simpson) would have prevented local governments from adopting mandatory or optional elements of a comprehensive plan from super-majority approval. HB 703 was amended to allow for 30-year consumptive use permits where landowners participate in a dispersed surface water storage program with the Department of Environmental Protection or the water management districts.

The Senate companion to this year's environmental permitting package, SB 1464, was temporarily postponed in Senate Community Affairs and remained there until the end of session. Its House companion also died in its final committee of reference.

Fair Associations

CS/SB 624 (Simpson) and HB 1259 (Rodrigues) would have prohibited a governmental entity from imposing an impact or mobility fee on a fair association. In addition, the bills would have prevented a local government from collecting a stormwater fee for the construction, operation, use or maintenance of the storm water facility on land owned by a fair association. SB 624 and HB 1259 died in committee.

Hazardous Walking Conditions

SB 1382 and HB 1121, were each amended to remove timeline provisions that would have imposed a fiscal impact on local governments for the repair of certain hazardous walking conditions on sidewalks near schools. The bills eventually died in Messages.

Limousine Preemption

SB 1618 would have prevented special districts in Hillsborough County from regulating the wait time, minimum fare, and number of licenses for limousine drivers using digital applications to connect customers to drivers. The bill would still require the drivers who use the digital service to follow the same local level regulations for financial and insurance responsibility as other similar services. Opponents of the bill's original language are still mobilized against the current bill as it could be a foothold for preemptive policies in years to come. The bill died in its final committee of reference. Its House companion, HB 1389 by Rep. Grant that barely passed its final committee, died on 2nd reading in the House.

5. LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT FAILED

5.1. FINANCE & TAX ISSUES



Film and TV Incentives

The \$20 million for film incentive funding in FY 2014-15 in proviso language in the Senate budget was not agreed to by budget conferees which set up a difficult task in terms of continuing tax credits for the film and television program. HB 5601 would have been the best vehicle for continuation of funding for the program, but the credits were not included in that bill.

The Senate bill, SB 1734, that would extend the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program an additional 4 years, appropriate an additional \$300 million (\$50 million per year) and revise eligibility to include higher percentages of Floridians hired on projects was heard in committee but eventually died in the appropriations committee.

Gaming

The Legislature was considering a comprehensive gambling bill that could have resulted in new resort casinos in South Florida; and an expansion of slots for certain existing pari-mutuel facilities. Speaker Weatherford said he wanted the Governor to renegotiate the compact with the Seminole Tribe before proceeding any further. He also said he wanted the issue to be placed before voters.

A last-ditch effort to allow track owners to eliminate greyhound racing also fell short. The Senate signed off on a measure that would require tracks to report greyhound injuries and deaths to the state. Sen. Eleanor Sobel; hoped to expand her injury-reporting measure (SB 742) to allow dog tracks to discontinue greyhound racing if they wanted to, an issue known as "decoupling" that Senate President Don Gaetz supported.

Neither of the proposed bills were considered by the House and died during the last week of session.

Enterprise Zones

HB 141 (Powell) and SB 472 (Abruzzo) would have extended the sunset date of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act to 2025. Enterprise Zones are an economic development tool used by local governments to incentivize private investment in economically distressed areas. There are currently 65 zones in Florida. 28 of the zones are located within municipal boundaries. The Enterprise Zone program will sunset from statute in 2015 without legislative action. The bills died in committee.

5.2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

Sober Homes

HB 479 by Bill Hager would have provided for voluntary certification through an outside entity under contract with the DCF. The bill would require level 2 background screening for administrators, staff and volunteers and directs that the information be placed in a registry. The certification program would also require the homes to have a code of ethics, a good neighbor policy and an eviction policy. Licensed substance abuse care providers would have been required to refer patients to only those sober homes that obtain certification.

This bill establishes programs for the voluntary certification of recovery residences. The bill defines "recovery residence" as a residential dwelling unit or other form of group housing that is offered or advertised through any form, including oral, written, electronic or printed means, by any person or entity to be a residence that provides a peer-supported, alcohol-free and drug free living environment.

The Senate bill, **SB 582 by Sen. Jeff Clemens**, made registration with DCF mandatory and would have charged unlicensed operators with first-degree misdemeanors. The level 2 background screening would only apply to managers, directors, owners, operators and chief financial officers of sober homes. While the House bill passed 117-1 off the floor of the House of Representatives, the Senate bill was not considered in Appropriations; therefore, it was not passed by the Legislature.

Juvenile Detention Costs

SB 1532 and HB 5303 would have revised the share of juvenile detention costs between the counties and State closer to a 50/50 proportion of actual cost. The revision was in response to a court ruling on the methodology that favored a more generous cost split for counties. However, during budget discussions, common ground could not be found regarding the issue of back payments. The House and Senate negotiators reverted to the Governor's recommendation of a 57% Local to 43% State cost split.

5.3. GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES



Local Ethics Code

SB 1474 by Sen. Joseph Abruzzo would have allowed local ethics codes to go beyond the State ethics code and provided that an individual accused of ethics violations have a right to a public hearing by alternative means besides the local ethics commission.

Sen. Joseph Abruzzo and Rep. Lake Ray withdrew both of their bills from further consideration before heading to their respective Chamber's floors and instead planned a local government ethics workshop in Palm Beach County to discuss additional reforms that could be adopted to create efficiencies for local ethics commissions.

Wage Theft

SB 926, the Senate proposal to apply a uniform wage theft model across the counties, did not pass the legislature. The bill expanded the authority of county courts to process wage theft claims while instructing local governments to establish administrative procedures to help resolve claims outside of court. The bill would preempt any new local models but would grandfather in ordinances and resolutions adopted prior to January 1, 2014. The bill died on the calendar of the Senate and in Committee in the House.

Public Records

HB 1151 would have made the following changes:

1. Requires local governments to provide appropriate training on public records requirements to each employee;
2. Limits the cost of clerical or supervisory assistance charges that may be assessed for a public records request to the lowest paid personnel capable of performing the work and excludes employer-paid benefits;
3. Provides that contracts between agencies and contractors must require the contractor to notify the public agency's custodian of public records before denying a request for records held by the

- contractor, and to notify the public agency if the contractor is served with a civil action to enforce public records requirements;
4. Clarifies that a public records request need not be made in writing unless required by law;
 5. Provides that the award of reasonable costs of enforcement available to a party who prevails against an agency to enforce public records requirements includes attorney fees incurred in litigating entitlement to and quantification of attorney fees for the underlying civil action.

The bill which had a negative though indeterminate fiscal impact on local governments died in Committee. The Senate Bill, SB 1648, which was one of the top priorities of the Senate President and passed the Senate in the early stages of session, died in Senate Messages.

Nonresidential Farm Buildings

SB 1342, regarding Nonresidential Farm Buildings, would exempt nonresidential farm buildings, farm fences, and farm signs from county or municipal assessments, including assessments by a dependent special district, except those arising from floodplain management regulations. The bill died in its final committee of reference.

Henry Flagler Memorial

Legislation filed in the House and Senate would have provided for a statute of Henry Flagler to be placed in the Capitol courtyard area. While the Senate bill received several committee hearings and unanimous support in its first two committees of reference, the House bill failed to gain a committee hearing and died in its first committee of reference.

County and Municipal Parks

HB 677 and SB 378 would have required county and municipal parks to offer discounted admission to military service members, veterans and spouses and parents of deceased law enforcement, military service members, and firefighters. Both bills died in their final committees of reference.

5.4. ENVIRONMENT/NATURAL RESOURCES/AGRICULTURE ISSUES

Agricultural Gleaning

HB 1135 by Rep. Kevin Rader that would have protected farmers from liability when gratuitously allowing people to harvest produce on their lands, and its Senate companion (**SB 1138 by Rep. Greg Evers**), ultimately died in the House this session. While the bill had not been controversial since it was amended with language suggested by the Trial Attorneys Association, it did not pass because of other issues that were ultimately tied to the passage of the bill.



6. OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

6.1. CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

Prescription Drug Monitoring

HB 7177 was passed during the last week of session. The bill reenacts the public record exemption for certain information held by the department pursuant to the PDMP. In addition, the bill requires a law enforcement agency to enter into a user agreement with the department before it can receive confidential and exempt information; provides that the Attorney General or a law enforcement agency may only share confidential and

exempt information with a state attorney in response to a discovery demand; and clarifies that the Attorney General, law enforcement agency, or health care regulatory board may only disclose to a criminal justice or law enforcement agency information that is relevant to a specific investigation or an identified active investigation prompting the request.

Other proposed bills would have provided a recurring funding source for the PDMP through appropriating a portion of pharmacy fees. Ultimately \$2 million was provided in a multi year allocation by the Attorney General to fund the PDMP.

6.2. GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES

Florida Retirement System

Neither of the two pension related bills discussed by the legislature passed this session. Under the House bill, the Florida Retirement System, which serves state and many local workers, would undergo a series of changes meant to encourage employees to choose a 401(k)-style investment plan instead of the traditional pension plan.

The House proposal would have closed off the defined benefit plan to all members of the elected officers and senior management class but leave the option open for other employees and increased the vesting period of the defined benefit plan from 8 to 10 years. The changes would have only applied to new hires into the FRS.

Local governments would have been able to ignore state rules on how to spend insurance-premium tax dollars to fund firefighter and police pensions so long as the unions for those workers agree under a bill agreed to by cities and union representatives. That bill failed to pass as well since the House linked it directly to the FRS proposed changes.

Ethics Package

SB 846, an Ethics package that would have originally banned local government officials from being registered to lobby the Legislature on behalf of any entity other than his or her political subdivision passed without that provision in it during the last week of session. The bill requires Water Management Districts to create registries of individuals who lobby them and requires local officers to undergo ethics training for municipalities that do not already have ethics training requirements, 4 hours of ethics and sunshine law training annually beginning January 1, 2015. The bill allows local officials to abstain from voting if there is a conflict under locally adopted ethics standards and in specified quasi-judicial proceedings. The final bill does not contain any provision restricting the ability of elected local officers to lobby the legislature or state agencies unlike earlier versions of the bill.

E-Cigarettes

The Florida House unanimously passed a bill (**SB 224**) that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. Supporters of the bill contend that use of the e-cigarettes, which deliver nicotine, can lead to young people smoking tobacco. A provision in the bill would have prevented cities and counties from approving new regulations on the sales of tobacco products and electronic cigarettes. That proposal was eliminated in an amendment by Rep. Bill Hager before the bill was approved and the amended bill was eventually passed by both chambers.

Vacation Rentals

The legislature passed **SB 356** (Thrasher) relating to the regulation of vacation rentals. SB 356 authorizes local governments to regulate vacation rentals with the following exceptions: local governments cannot specifically prohibit vacation rentals and local governments cannot adopt ordinances regulating the duration that a vacation rental can be rented. Under the bill, local governments are authorized to adopt ordinances for vacation rentals to address parking, noise and other issues often associated with these properties.

Regulations Regarding Fuel Terminals

The Legislature passed **CS/CS/SB 1070 (Simpson)** relating to the regulation of fuel terminals. As passed, CS/CS/SB 1070 prospectively preempts local governments from changing the zoning of land on which fuel terminals are located. The bill requires local governments to allow the prompt repair of a fuel terminal should damage occur from a natural disaster. The legislation provides that cities may continue to enforce local safety regulations, such as fire suppression requirements or height restrictions.

Banking Regulation

SB 1012 (Richter) addresses the regulation of financial institutions that are overseen by the Office of Financial Regulation. SB 1012 clarifies that local government litigation against a bank cannot be based on a local ordinance that regulates banking activities or regulates the manner or terms of an individual financial transaction that is authorized by state or federal law.

6.3. GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Utility Relocation

SB 218 (Grimsley) permits the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to pay the cost of relocating municipally owned utilities under limited circumstances.

And, as previously discussed SB 218 includes language developed in coordination with Palm Beach County that allows municipalities in certain rural areas to compete for funding under the FDOT Small County Outreach Program. The budget includes \$9 million to be used exclusively for municipal transportation projects within newly designated “rural areas of opportunity.” The program allows a municipality within a rural area of critical economic concern (RACEC) or a RACEC community to compete for project funding using the existing criteria of the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) at up to 100 percent of the project costs, excluding capacity projects. The funding for municipalities would be subject to an additional appropriation in excess of those appropriated for SCOP. That appropriation was \$9 million this year.

Transportation – Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

CS/CS/HB 7005 (Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee/Articles) is a comprehensive transportation bill that includes provisions authorizing local governments to establish regulations requiring gas stations to provide certain kinds of fueling assistance to motor vehicle operators with disabilities. The bill also requires a bus may not stop to load or unload passengers in a manner that impedes, blocks, or otherwise restricts the progression of traffic on the main traveled portion of a roadway if there is another reasonable means for the bus to stop parallel to the travel lane and safely load and unload passengers; this provision does not apply to school buses.

6.4. PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Yellow Dot Program

SB 262 by Sen. Joseph Abruzzo passed the full Senate unanimously. The House companion bill, **HB 17 by Rep. Irv Slosberg**, made it to the House floor but the bill was ultimately amended to **HB 7005**, the Transportation package and passed during the last day of session.

The legislation authorizes counties to create a “Yellow Dot” critical



motorist program for the purpose of assisting emergency medical responders in the event a motorist accident or medical emergency. Participants in the program receive a yellow dot decal to place on their vehicle's rear window, which alerts emergency services personnel to look for a corresponding yellow folder in the glove box that includes emergency contact and medical information.

6.5. LOCAL BILLS

Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District – Easements to the Public

HB 1335 by Rep. Mark Pafford formalizes existing easements that are based on a 1918 agreement between the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District (District) and the Southern States Land & Timber Company. These perpetual easements are for access roads and drainage and flood control canals on either side of the 30 miles of canals throughout District. This bill is necessary to formalize the existing public uses and benefits.

In 2011, the width of four main roads in the District went through an identical process through a local bill approved by this legislature. The language in this local bill formalizes the easements in the same manner as the 2011 legislation for the remaining roads in the District. The bill provides that to the extent that the roads have been actually constructed and maintained or repaired continuously and without interruption by the District for 7 years, the easement right would be dedicated to the public.

Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District – Trails

HB 1337 by Rep. Mark Pafford authorizes for Loxahatchee Groves Maintenance Easements for recreational trail purposes by the public. This bill formalizes existing easements that are based on a 1918 agreement between the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District and the Southern States Land & Timber Company. The bill allows the District to issue permits to the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, which has contemporaneous boundaries, to complete constructing and maintain these trails. It also provides that to the extent that the maintenance roads adjacent to the canals have been actually constructed and maintained or repaired continuously and without interruption by the District for 7 years, the easement right would be dedicated to the public and used for horse trails.

Wellington Medical Arts District

HB 1143 by Rep. Pafford would correct glitches in a local bill that passed in 2012 relating to the dependent special Medical Arts District in Wellington. Due to the errors, the boundaries failed to include the Medical Center and southern portions of the Medical Arts District, erroneously included portions of suburbs to the north of the Medical Arts District, and created a gap in the boundary line in Acme Improvement District's north border.

The bill corrects the boundaries for Acme contained in Ch. 2012-256, L.O.F., but including the Medical Center and southern portions of the Medical Arts District, excluding the suburbs to the north of the Medical Arts District, and closing the boundary line gap. The bill also expands the boundaries to include five acres of land located along the northern edge of the Medical Arts District.

West Palm Beach Pension – Firefighters and Police

HB 931, by Rep. Dave Kerner, addresses the West Palm Beach Firefighters Pension Fund. The City of West Palm Beach and the Firefighters Local 727 have agreed in collective bargaining to these benefit and funding changes. According to the Economic Impact Statement, it is estimated that the City of West Palm Beach's costs for the fund will be reduced by \$1,647,968 in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

This bill provides for the use of Ch. 175, F.S., premium tax funds, to lower the actual employee contribution rate in Fiscal Year 2013-14 from 25 percent to 13.1 percent, and to lower the required employee contribution rate to 13.1 percent, effective October 1, 2014.

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

