



PBC 2022 Legislative Update

Department of Legislative Affairs

Week 3: January 24th - 28th

State Surgeon General

The Senate Committee on Health Policy voted to recommend confirmation of Dr. Joseph Ladapo with 6 of 10 members voting in favor. Four democrat Senators walked out before the vote when Dr. Ladapo was accused not answering questions directly.

Redistricting Update

The House Redistricting Committee advanced a new map proposal on Wednesday. The House and Senate are fast-tracking the redistricting maps because the Supreme Court must review the proposals for a 30-day period and the Legislature wants to leave enough time for changes later in session if required by the courts.



Annual "King of the Hill" softball game between the Democrats and Republicans. The evening is an annual tradition hosted by Florida's Professional Firefighters.

Statewide Bills of Note

Many bills are making headlines statewide. Here are just a few of those major topics discussed last week:

District School Boards:

SB 1300 modifies district school board member salaries, possibly reducing the salary of school board members in 49 school districts and increasing the salary in about 18 districts. Additionally, it includes certain requirements for instructional materials. On Tuesday, with a committee substitute, this passed the Education Committee with a vote of 6Y, 3N. It is now in its final committee stop: (S) Rules.

Ban on Early Abortion:

The House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee heard and passed HB 5 on Thursday. After hours of public testimony, debate and questioning, the ban cleared with a vote of 10Y, 5N. The bill bans abortions after 15 weeks and does not give exceptions for rape or incest, but would only allow for abortions in extreme cases of serious medical emergencies affecting the mother, or if fatal fetal abnormalities are present. During this committee meeting, 3 amendments were proposed:

- The sponsor's amendment, which passed, increases the appropriation request to \$1,602,000 for the fetal and infant mortality review committees.
- Representative Skidmore's amendment requires that the cost of attaining a 2nd physician certification is covered by Medicaid, private insurance and kid care. This amendment failed: 5Y, 10N.
- Representative Smith, C.'s amendment provides protections and prohibit intimidation tactics. This amendment failed: 5Y, 10N

HB 747 Protections of Medical Conscience:

Passed the House Judiciary Committee with a 12-6 vote on Tuesday. The bill allows health care practitioners and insurers to deny services based on conscience. Opposition complains that vague language may open the door to discrimination in health care and does not clarify whether this still applies during emergency situations. One committee stop remains in the House; the Senate companion SB 1820 has not yet been heard in committee.

Advanced Air Mobility:

On Tuesday, the House Tourism, Infrastructure and Energy Subcommittee unanimously passed HB 1005, proposing a 20-member Advanced Air Mobility Task Force. The group would evaluate and plan for vertical take-off as well as focus on the potential for electric air transportation. The bill has two more committee stops.

Preemptions

SB 620 Local Business Protection Act:

With amendments adopted, the bill was read third time and passed on the Senate floor on Thursday. The bill would allow companies in business for at least three years to sue local governments over ordinances if they cause a 15% or more loss in profit. The measure passed 22-14 with one Republican joining Democrats in voting no.

SB 280 Local Ordinances:

Passed the full Senate 22-14. This bill requires local governments to undertake a "business impact estimate" spelling out how a new regulation or ordinance would impact local businesses.

CS/SB 254 Religious Institutions:

Read second and third time, bill passed with a vote 31Y, 3N. Provides that an emergency order may not directly or indirectly prohibit religious services or activities; providing an exception under certain circumstances.

PBC Priority/Watch List

HB 777 - Local Tax Referenda Requirements:

Requires the referenda approving certain local taxes be held at a general election. On Monday, the bill passed the Ways & Means Committee and is now in its last committee stop. Work continues with Rep. Robinson to resolve certain issues with the bill.

HJR 663 – Recall of County Officers and Commissioners:

Passed the Local Administration & Veteran Affairs Subcommittee. The resolution proposed amending the state constitution to allow the Legislature to provide for the recall of county officers and commissioners. A joint resolution amending the constitution must be passed by 3/5th of each house of the Legislature. PBC is currently monitoring this bill as there are concerns with the bill exempting charter counties and leaving out constitutional officers.

SB 1124/HB 943 - Preemption of Local Government Wage Mandates:

Passed the House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee with a 10-7 vote. The bill prohibits local governments from setting wage mandates greater than that set by the state. The Senate bill was heard in the Community Affairs committee on Tuesday, but time expired before a vote was held. It is scheduled for the same committee on Wednesday 2/2.

HB 105 - Regulation of Smoking:

Passed its first committee stop with a 17Y 1N vote. Authorizes counties and municipalities to restrict smoking at public beaches and parks under certain circumstances.

SB 434/HB 489 Tourism Marketing:

Extends the repeal date for Visit Florida and the Division of Tourism Marketing from October 1, 2023 to October 1, 2028. Both bills passed their Appropriations Committees this week and head to each floor for a vote.

SB 160/HB 37 – Transportation Facility Designations – Deputies Manuel and Wallace:

These bills were passed in House and Senate committees this week. One House Committee remains; two Senate committees remain.

Appropriation Requests Passing Committees This Week

- Palm Beach County Lake Okeechobee Shoreline Restoration
- Green Cay Phase 2
- Glades Region Infrastructure Improvements
- Briny Breezes Pocket Drainage Study
- Corbett Levee Project
- PBC Fire Rescue – Station 24 Rebuild
- RESTORE Reentry

Local Bills Affecting Palm Beach County

HB 471 - Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Palm Beach County:

Passed its second committee stop with a 17-0 vote. Now in its last stop: (H) State Affairs Committee. Provides a legal description for an area and provides that it will be considered an enclave of the town for purposes of municipal annexation.

HB 929 - City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County:

Passed its first committee stop with a 14-0 vote. The bill updates the definition for the term “salary”, modifying the members’ collective bargaining representative, provides for a retroactive benefit accrual rate, and provides that members are eligible to receive lump-sum payments for accumulated leave upon retirement. Anticipated to result in an increase in required employed contribution and to increase long-term benefit payouts by the city.

Bills to Watch This Week

SB 974/HB 985 - Sovereign Immunity

This bill would raise the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against state & its subdivisions. An amendment offered this week would substantially reduce the limits from \$1 million to \$300,000. HB 985 will be heard in the House Appropriations Committee, 01/31/22, 3:00 pm; SB 974 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee, 01/31/22, 3:00 pm

HB 691 - Resilience-related Advisory Committees

This authorizes specified resilience-related advisory committees to conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology. Will be heard in the House Environment and Natural Resources, 01/31/22, 3:00 pm

SB 1156 - Study to Establish a Statewide Long-term Recycling Goal

Will be heard in the House Environment and Natural Resources, 01/31/22, 3:00 pm

HB 195 – Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction

House Judiciary Committee, 02/01/22, 9:00 am

HB 471 - Town of Lake Clarke Shores

(Local Bill) State Affairs Committee, 02/01/22, 9:00 am

HB 513 - Comprehensive Review Study of the Central and Southern Florida Project

State Affairs Committee, 02/01/22, 9:00 am

SB 1702 - Mandatory Building Inspections

This is the bill response to the Surfside tragedy, requiring owners of certain multifamily residential buildings to have milestone inspections performed at specified time. Senate Regulated Industries, 02/01/22, 3:30 pm

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