

PALM BEACH COUNTY 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT

July 11, 2017



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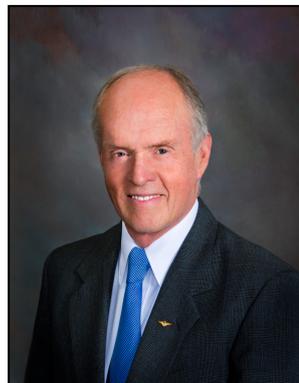
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Statewide Budget Issues

2017 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SB 2500 by Appropriations Committee and Senator Jack Latvala

The Legislature agreed upon an \$82.4 billion budget with roughly \$180 million in tax relief measures and \$3.2 billion in reserves. Compared to the FY 2016-17 Budget, this represents a \$0.07 billion (1%) increase.

SB 2500 provides:

General Revenue: \$30.9 billion
State Trust Funds: \$23.9 billion
Federal Trust Funds: 27.6 billion

The total veto amount was \$11.9 billion

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health and Human Services received \$34.16 billion, which represents a 0.4% decrease in total spending over the Fiscal Year 2016-17 appropriation. This is the largest portion of funding in the budget.

Florida KidCare, the state's health insurance program for children, is funded at \$62.7 million

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will receive \$1.28 billion.

Community Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services will receive \$10 million

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations totaled \$4.99 billion, a \$500 million decrease over FY 2016-17.

The Department of Juvenile Justice will receive \$564.8 million, which will include \$5.3 million for enhanced evidence-based services for residential programs, and \$2.8 million for PACE Center for Girls.



TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations totaled \$12.9 billion, a \$200 million increase from FY 2015-16.

The Department of Economic Opportunity will receive \$925 million, which is \$185 million less than last year's budget.

Department of Transportation - \$10.9 billion

- Transportation Work program - \$9.9 billion

Department of Economic Opportunity - \$925 million

- State Housing Programs \$100 million
 - SAIL \$150 million
- Affordable Housing Programs \$250 million
 - SHIP \$100 million
 - Palm Beach County \$5,942,410
 - Boca Raton \$376,749
 - Boynton Beach \$312,571
 - Delray Beach \$273,351
 - West Palm Beach \$464,696
 - \$5.2 million for Homeless Challenge Grants
- Weatherization Grant Program - \$2 million
- Farm Share and Food Banks - \$6.1 million
- Quick Response Training - \$16 million
- Enterprise Florida - \$16 million
- Visit Florida - \$76 million
- State Aid to Libraries: \$23.09 million
- Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - \$85 million

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Funding for Agriculture and Natural Resources totaled \$3.6 billion, a 7.7% or \$300 million decrease over FY 16-17.

The agreement zeros out funding for land acquisition.

It offers \$13.3 million for Hurricane Recovery Beach Projects, and \$50 million for Beach Management Funding Assistance.



More than \$167 million would go to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and another \$5 million would go to northern Everglades and estuaries.

Highlights include:

- Herbert Hoover Dike - \$50 million (Special Session)
- Florida Forever - \$10 million
- Springs Protection - \$50 million
- Everglades Restoration - \$167 million
- Drinking Water Construction Loan Programs - \$97.6 million
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup - \$115 million
-

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - \$1.7 billion

- Northern Everglades & Estuaries Restoration - \$35 million
- Florida Agriculture Promotion Campaign - \$5.8 million

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission - \$370.5 million

- Lake Restoration - \$7.2 million
- Artificial Reef Construction - \$600K

EDUCATION

Public Schools/K12 FEFP – Total: \$20.8 billion [\$11.8 billion state funds; \$9 billion local funds]

- FEFP Total Funds Increase is \$241.6 million
- FEFP Increase in Total Funds per Student is \$100, a 1.3% increase [from \$7,196 to \$7,296]
- Enrollment Workload Increase of \$172 million for additional 23,919 students
- Property Tax Millage Reduction of .316 mills [Property Tax Relief of \$510 million]
- Federally Connected Student Supplement – total \$12.8 million
- ESE Guaranteed Allocation – workload increase of \$5.5 million
- Supplemental Academic Instruction – increase of \$5.5 million, including workload and \$52.5 million for the Extended Day Program for Intensive Reading for 300 low performing elementary schools
- Student Transportation – \$3.7 million increase for a total of \$438.9 million
- Instructional Materials – \$2 million increase for a total of \$230.7 million
- Digital Classrooms – \$80 million for computer hardware, devices, software and professional development

Higher Education – Total: 7.8 Billion

During a special session in June 2017, the Senate attempted to override \$75 million of the \$114.5 million in vetoes Gov. Rick Scott made for university projects, but without support from the House, settled for resurrecting \$60 million in project funding.



Palm Beach County Budget Items of Interest

**strikethrough indicates item was vetoed.*

EDUCATION

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University – Education Enhancement	\$18,696,001
Florida Atlantic University – Jupiter STEM/Life Sciences Building	\$9,850,000
Florida Atlantic University – Cooling Towers Replacement - Utility Infrastructure	\$3,500,000
Florida Atlantic University – Autism Center	\$1,056,776
Florida Atlantic University – Operating	\$118,084,832
Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program	\$889,101
Florida Atlantic University – Secondary Robotics Team Support	\$250,000
Florida Atlantic University – Honors College	\$1,000,000
Florida Atlantic University Tech Runway	\$1,016,115
TOTAL:	\$152,326,710

Palm Beach State College

Palm Beach State College – Operating	\$58,025,165
Palm Beach State College – Dental & Medical Services Technology Building	\$5,000,000
Palm Beach State College – Institute on Ethics	\$200,000
TOTAL:	\$63,025,165

Palm Beach County Schools K-12

Public Schools K-12 FEFP (Statewide)	\$10,815,214,419
Palm Beach County Workforce Education Programs	\$17,547,983
Palm Beach School Readiness	\$35,991,310
Palm Beach County Voluntary Prekindergarten	\$29,060,583
TOTAL:	10,897,814,295

CreationStation Digital Learning Labs	\$200,000
EDUCATION TOTAL:	\$11,115,527,069

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health & Human Services

Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$225,000
Place of Hope – Child Welfare Foster Care Regionalization Initiative	\$2,900,000
Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health	\$500,000
Community Action Treatment for Mental Health/Substance Abuse - Sinfonia	\$750,000
Community Based Providers of Child Welfare Services	\$5,000,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center	\$282,039
Alzheimer’s Community Care Association	\$1,500,000
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation	\$92,946
Federation Transportation Services	\$143,640
State Housing initiatives Partnership (SHIP)	\$5,942,410
Affordable Housing Catalyst Program	\$500,000
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition	\$75,000
Opioid Abuse Pilot Program - Palm Beach	\$500,000
Sober Home Task Force	\$300,000
Boca Raton Habilitation Center	\$200,000
Homelessness	\$5,000,000
ChildNet SafePlace Assessment Centers (Broward and Palm Beach)	\$100,000
Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR) Certification and Training	\$100,000
MACTown - MACFit Wellness Center (Palm Beach)	\$50,000
Senior Smiles Pilot Program (Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach)	\$535,250
TOTAL:	\$24,696,285

Projected Net Payments for LIP and DSH

Bethesda Hospital East	\$2,486,991
Boca Raton Regional Hospital	\$831,350
Delray Medical Center	\$317,692
Good Samaritan Medical Center	\$1,040,563
JFK Medical Center	\$892,338
JFK Medical Center - North Campus	\$420,551
Jupiter Medical Center	\$316,316

Kindred Hospital the Palm Beaches	\$49,862
Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center	\$393,347
Palms West Hospital	\$312,014
St. Mary's Medical Center	\$526,988
Wellington Regional Medical Center	\$413,019
West Boca Medical Center	\$440,662
TOTAL:	\$8,441,693

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TOTAL: \$66,275,956

CRIMINAL & CIVIL JUSTICE

Criminal & Civil Justice

Sago Palm Facility – PILT	\$142,900
South Bay Correctional Facility – PILT	\$275,560
Continuum of Care Program (Bay, Glades, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa)	\$2,962,578
South Bay Correctional Facility	\$2,035,875
Sago Palm Work Camp	\$799,875
Justice Administrative Commission for PIP Fraud (Palm Beach and other counties)	\$1,725,519
Opioid Abuse Pilot Program - Palm Beach	\$500,000
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for an Unmanned Aircraft System program	\$728,378
RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program	\$500,000
TOTAL:	\$9,670,685

TRANSPORTATION & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Transportation Economic Development

Belle Glade: Avenue J Reconstruction	\$1,028,635
Transportation Disadvantaged	\$55,856,668
TOTAL:	\$56,885,303

Aviation Development Grants

Belle Glade State Municipal Airport Drainage Master Plan	\$150,000
Belle Glade State Municipal Airport Obstruction Relocation/Removal	\$400,000
Boca Raton Airport Access Road Development	\$600,000
Boca Raton Airport Airfield Pavement Rejuvenator	\$728,000
Boca Raton Airport Taxiways P4, C & F Widening	\$300,000
Boca Raton Airport, Landside Access Pavement Rehabilitation	\$280,000
N. PB County Airport Construct Additional Tie Down/Transient Apron	\$1,500,000
Palm Beach County Glades Airport Hangers & Infrastructure	\$500,000
Palm Beach Int'l Airport Gafis Facilities Improvements	\$2,250,000
Palm Beach Int'l Airport Golfview Commercial Property Acquisition	\$4,704,879
TOTAL:	\$11,412,879

Highway Maintenance

Palm Beach Guardrail Block Replacement	\$200,000
I-95 Asset Management Palm Beach County	\$3,415,000
Landscape Maintenance, Various Roads in Palm Beach County	\$18,404
Palm Beach County NPDES	\$15,000
Palm Beach County ATMS Maintenance	\$12,000
Palm Beach County Desilting – Primary Roads	\$400,000
Palm Beach County Ditch Cleaning - Primary	\$75,000
Palm Beach County Drainage Video Inspection	\$250,000

Palm Beach County Guardrail Repair Primary Roads	\$200,000
TOTAL:	\$4,585,404

Highway Safety Grants

SR-708/Blue Heron From 200ft west of Avenue S to 200ft east of Avenue S	\$16,612
SR-708/Blue Heron from Military Trail to Congress Ave.	\$18,070
SR-808/Glades Road from SR-7 to SR-5/US-1	\$2,000
SR-809/Military Trail Shiloh Drive to Burns Road	\$22,000
TOTAL:	\$58,682

Intrastate Highway Construction

Palm Beach County Pavement Marking and Signing	\$600,000
Palm Beach County Push Button Contract Traffic Ops Misc. Construction	\$1,000,000
Beeline Hwy from W. of Australian Ave to Old Dixie Hwy. Landscaping	\$1,012,053
Southern Blvd Add Lanes and Rehabilitate Pavement	\$18,779,135
Intersection Improvement at Southern Blvd. and Lyons Rd	\$802,823
Turn Lanes at Southern Blvd from Pike Road to East of Turnpike	\$1,324,168
Special Use Lane 1-95 from Broward/PB County Line to Glades	\$150,000
Resurfacing I-95 from the L30 Canal to North of Gateway Blvd	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$23,718,179

Public Transit Development

City of Boca Raton Transit Corridor Southwest Planning Area Shuttle	\$111,000
Palm Beach County Block Grant Operating Assistance	\$5,337,955
Palm Beach MPO section "5305D" Transit Planning	\$56,761
Palm Tran Transit Corridor	\$865,000
SFRTA Layover Maintenance Facility with RTA	\$5,900,000
TOTAL:	\$12,270,716

Rail Development

South Central Florida Express	\$5,000,000
New Tri-Rail Station at Palm Beach Int'l Airport	\$250,000
Northwood Connection from CSX mainline to FEC mainline	\$16,422,016
TOTAL:	\$21,672,016

Resurfacing

SR-5/US-1 from South of Beach Road to just North of Countyline Rd	\$2,661,808
TOTAL:	\$2,661,808

Right of Way Land Acquisition

Construction SR-7 from 60 th St to North Lake Blvd	\$1,045,000
Intersection Improvement Blue Heron Blvd and Avenue S	\$420,000
Add Lanes from Beeline Hwy west of Australian to Old Dixie Hwy	\$500,000
Traffic Signal Update at Boynton Beach Blvd & Winchester Park Blvd.	\$137,000
Interchange Improvement at I-95 at Linton Boulevard	\$514,000
Add Lanes at Interchange at I-95 and Atlantic Avenue	\$3,674,000
New Interchange from North of Glades to South of Congress Ave.	\$52,000
TOTAL:	\$6,342,000

Traffic Engineering

City of Boca Raton Signal Maintenance	\$218,975
Palm Beach County ITS Facility Operate & Maintain	\$50,000

Palm Beach County Signal Maintenance & Operations on State Highways	\$2,354,212
TOTAL:	\$2,623,187

Transportation Economic Development

Belle Glade: Avenue J Reconstruction	\$1,028,635
Transportation Disadvantaged	\$55,856,668
TOTAL:	\$56,885,303

Highway Maintenance

Palm Beach Guardrail Block Replacement	\$200,000
I-95 Asset Management Palm Beach County	\$3,415,000
Landscape Maintenance, Various Roads in Palm Beach County	\$18,404
Palm Beach County NPDES	\$15,000
Palm Beach County ATMS Maintenance	\$12,000
Palm Beach County Desilting – Primary Roads	\$400,000
Palm Beach County Ditch Cleaning - Primary	\$75,000
TOTAL:	\$4,135,404

Economic Development

Pahokee Commissioners Park	\$550,000
South Bay Multi-Purpose Emergency Shelter and Care Center	\$337,500
Pahokee Marina	\$1,200,000
Inland Port South Bay	\$1,000,000
Drug Discovery and Translation Research Partnership with Scripps Florida	\$2,031,780
Lake Worth Park of Commerce	\$3,000,000
City of Riviera Beach Summer Youth Employment Program	\$500,000
JARC Transition Pre-Employment Training Program	\$204,746
TOTAL:	\$2,292,246

TRANSPORTATION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT TOTAL: 205,543,127

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Projects

City of South Bay Flood Control and Waterway Management	\$550,000
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative - Lost Tree Village Septic to Sewer	\$1,000,000
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	\$635,000
Pahokee East Lake Village Stormwater Improvements	\$750,000
Pahokee Glades Citizens Villa Stormwater Improvements	\$635,000
Palm Beach County Lake Region Water Infrastructure Improvement Project	\$1,000,000
Riviera Beach Water Treatment Plant Disinfection Project	\$500,000
Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation Project	\$475,000
West Palm Beach Stormwater Improvements in Historic Pineapple Park	\$500,000
Herbert Hoover Dike	\$50,000,000
TOTAL:	\$55,570,000

Beach Restoration

North Boca Raton Segment/Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project	\$52,500
Delray Segment/Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project	\$26,013
Central Boca Raton Beach Nourishment	\$58,275
Ocean Ridge Segment/Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project	\$100,000
Jupiter/Carlin Segment – Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project	\$160,000
Central Boca Raton Beach Nourishment	\$3,202,180
South Boca Raton Beach Nourishment	\$824,915
Mid-Town Beach Nourishment, Town of Palm Beach	\$7,820,000
Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring Program	\$1,000,000
TOTAL:	\$13,243,883
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT:	68,813,883

PARKS & RECREATION

Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society, Safety and Preparedness Program	\$300,000
South Bay Park of Commerce	\$1,000,000
TOTAL:	\$1,000,000

CULTURE & FINE ARTS

Cultural Facilities Grants (Statewide) **\$11,895,088**

The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches – Renovation	\$500,000
Norton Museum of Art – Renovation	\$500,000
South Florida Science Center and Aquarium – New Construction	\$400,000
Maltz Jupiter Theatre – Renovation	\$500,000
TOTAL:	\$1,900,000

Historic Preservation Small Matching Grants **\$2,687,190**

Lake Worth Historic Preservation Design Guidelines	\$30,000
DuBois Park Historic Preservation Plan	\$48,000
FEC Train Depot Museum	\$14,300
Lake Worth Historical Resources Survey Update, Phase II	\$50,000
Delray Beach Seaboard Airline Railway Station Rehabilitation	\$50,000
1000 Lake Avenue Preservation and Development Request for Proposals RFP	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$217,300

Cultural and Museum Grants (Statewide) **\$13,541,124**

African American History Museum at Historic Roosevelt High School	\$350,000
The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum	\$150,000
Norton Museum of Art	\$150,000
Florida Atlantic University	\$36,550
TOTAL:	\$336,550

Culture Builds Florida (Statewide) **\$2,320,109**

Inspirit - Belle Glade Performance Program	\$5,000
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - Arts at St. Andrew's 17-18 Season Program	\$9,500
Palm Beach Poetry Festival	\$25,000
Street Beat - Reclaiming the City Through Arts for Underserved Teens	\$25,000
Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation - Dia De Los Muertos	\$14,550
TOTAL:	\$79,050

Cultural Endowment Program (Statewide) **\$2,880,000**

Norton Museum of Art	\$2,400,000
TOTAL:	\$2,400,000

Library Grants

State Library State Aid	\$23,098,834
Public Library Grant Program	\$3,000,000
Library Cooperatives	\$2,000,000
TOTAL:	\$25,098,834

TOTAL CULTURE AND GRANTS: 30,031,734

**strikethrough indicates item was vetoed.*

TAX CUT

The governor signed a tax cut package (HB 7109) worth **\$180 million** next year.

The bill includes the following:

- Decreasing the tax on business rents by \$61 million
- Sales Tax Holidays
- 3-day back-to-school sales tax holiday (August 4-6, 2017)
- 3-day disaster preparedness sales tax holiday (June 2-4, 2017)
- Property Taxes
- Expanding the property tax exemption for assisted living facilities beginning in 2017
- Providing 50% discount in property taxes to certain multifamily, low-income housing projects

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT PASSED

EDUCATION

Biomedical Research Funding

\$889,101 in recurring general revenue continues to be allocated for Max Planck for an ongoing partnership with FAU.



BUDGET AND TAX ISSUES

Renewal Energy Tax Exemption

SB 90 by Sen. Brandes The bill implements the renewable energy tax exemption constitutional amendment. It limits the exemption from real property taxes for nonresidential real property to 80 percent of the just value of the property attributable to a renewable energy source device. It applies the real property tax exemption prospectively only.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 16, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-118

Property Tax Assessments

HB 21 by Rep. Burton Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to remove a future repeal of provisions which limit annual assessment increases for specified non-homestead real property, etc.

Signed by officers and filed with Secretary of State on May 8, 2017

Transportation and Growth Management

Expressway Authorities

HB 1049 by Rep. Avila The bill authorizes the FDOT to require use of an electronic transponder interoperable with the FDOT's electronic toll collection system for the use of high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes, including express lanes on the turnpike system. Implementation of variable pricing in express lanes on the turnpike system is restricted based on certain level-of-service or highway capacity criteria. Effective July 1, 2018, the bill requires the FDOT to charge a customer the minimum express lane toll if the customer's average travel speed falls below 40 miles per hour, and that a customer be charged a general toll lane toll amount plus an amount set by FDOT rule if the customer's average travel speed falls below 40 miles per hour in an express lane on the turnpike system. The bill also extends the time frame (from 2017 to 2027) during which the FDOT is required to program sufficient funds in the tentative work program such that the percentage of turnpike toll and bond financed commitments in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties is at least 90 percent of the share of net toll collections attributable to users of the turnpike system in those counties, as compared to total net toll collections attributable to users of the turnpike system.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 26, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-182

Transportation Network Companies

HB 221 by Reps. Sprowls, Grant, J., and others The bill (Chapter 2017-12, L.O.F.) creates statewide requirements for transportation network companies (TNCs). Transportation network companies use smartphone technology to connect individuals who want to ride with private

drivers for a fee. The bill preempts any local ordinances or rules on TNCs and provides that state law will regulate TNCs. The bill prohibits local governments from imposing taxes, licensing requirements, or other restrictions on TNCs

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 9, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-012

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Glades Initiatives

The Glades area had much success in the budget this year. 1.2 million dollars was included for the Pahokee Marina, as well as an additional \$550,000 for improvements to Commissioners Park. An additional \$337,500 has been appropriated to South Bay's emergency shelter and care center. There was also 1.02 million dollars appropriated to Belle Glade for Avenue J reconstruction.

Enterprise Florida/Visit Florida

The agreement between the Governor and the House Speaker allocated \$16 million to DEO to contract with Enterprise Florida, \$76 million to DEO to contract with Visit Florida and \$85 million to a new program called the Job Growth Grant Fund, although ultimately the number was closer to \$65 million. The Job Growth Grant Fund is meant to act as economic incentives, but rather than benefiting one company or entity, the funding would go towards infrastructure investment in communities that would then drive private sector investment. The bill also creates the Targeted Marketing Program to focus advertising efforts for the state. The bill places additional transparency and other good governance reforms on Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida.

ENVIRONMENT

Pollution

SB 1018 by Sens. Grimsley and Galvano The bill creates the Public Notice of Pollution Act. It requires the owner or operator of an installation where a reportable pollution release has occurred to provide a notice of the release to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) within 24 hours after the release's discovery. The definition of a reportable release is limited to releases not authorized by law that are required to be reported to the State Watch Office pursuant to a DEP rule, permit, order, or variance. The owner or operator of the installation, in its notice of a release, must provide DEP the same information which is reported to the State Watch Office. The bill also requires additional notice to DEP if a release migrates outside the property boundaries of the installation.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-095

CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE ISSUES

Practices of Substance Abuse Service Providers

HB 807 by Rep Hager The bill takes a comprehensive approach to the problem of fraudulent patient brokering and deceptive marketing practices in the business of substance use addiction services, particularly related to the economic relationship between service providers and "recovery residences." The bill requires entities providing substance abuse marketing services to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under the Florida Telemarketing Act. The bill strengthens the Department of Children and

Families' (DCF) substance abuse treatment provider licensure program and improves the regulation of service providers. The DCF must draft rules on minimum licensure standards and require that certain providers be accredited. The bill also expands DCF's authority to take action against a service provider for violations on a tier-based system that also includes the imposition of fines. The bill creates new and amends existing criminal offenses (prohibited acts) related to patient brokering and marketing practices that create or increase fines and potential prison sentences. These offenses are added to the Criminal Punishment Code ranking chart for purposes of assigning sentencing points.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 26, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-173

Controlled Substances

HB 477 by Rep. Boyd The bill addresses scheduling for controlled substances and punishment for controlled substance offenses. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides that a person 18 years of age or older commits felony murder if he or she unlawfully distributes any specified controlled substance, including a specified fentanyl related substance, and the distribution is proven to be the proximate cause of death of the user;
- Includes in Schedule I of the controlled substance schedules a class of fentanyl derivatives and five substances that were originally developed for legitimate research but that have now emerged in the illicit drug market;
- Provides that it is a first degree felony to unlawfully possess 10 grams or more of certain Schedule II substances, including certain fentanyl-related substances;
- Adds codeine, an isomer of hydrocodone, to a current provision punishing trafficking in hydrocodone, and adds additional phenethylamines and phencyclidines to current provisions punishing trafficking in phencyclidine and phenethylamine;
- Punishes trafficking in fentanyl, synthetic cannabinoids, and n-benzyl phenethylamines, including mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines;
- Ranks new trafficking offenses (first degree felonies) in the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code;
- Authorizes certain crime laboratory personnel to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists used to treat opioid overdoses; and
- Provides that cross-references throughout the Florida Statutes to the Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act (ch. 893, F.S.), or any portion thereof, include all subsequent amendments to the act.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-173

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES

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 \$150 million for SAIL for FY 2017-2018.

SHIP Program Funding:

Palm Beach County Total	\$5,942,410
Boca Raton	\$376,749
Boynton Beach	\$312,571

Delray Beach	\$273,351
West Palm Beach	\$464,696
Palm Beach County	\$4,515,043

Sober Homes Task Force

The Appropriation of \$300,000 has been appropriated to the Office of the State Attorney in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit to investigate and prosecute criminal and regulatory violations within the substance abuse treatment industry.

Drug Overdoses

HB 249 by Rep. Rommel The bill requires hospitals with emergency departments to develop best practice policies that focus upon the prevention of unintentional drug overdoses. The bill defines “overdose” and provides parameters for the contents of a hospital’s overdose prevention policy.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 2, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-054

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE COUNTY THAT FAILED

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Film and TV Incentives

SB 1576 by Sen. Gibson creating the Florida Film Investment Corporation and stating its purpose; authorizing the corporation to make investments in scripted productions in the state subject to certain conditions; requiring the board of directors to establish criteria, bylaws, rules, and policies for making investments.

This bill died in its second committee of references (Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development)

Gaming

The Gaming Bill, **SB 8** died in conference when an agreement could not be made between the two chambers. SB 8 would have ratified the gaming compact negotiated by Gov. Scott and the Seminole Tribe.

This bill died in the Conference Committee on Gaming

ENVIRONMENT

Well Stimulation

SB 98 by Sen. Farmer this bill would have prohibited persons from engaging in extreme well stimulation prohibited the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing permits authorizing extreme well stimulation; prohibited the department from authorizing certain permit-holders to engage in extreme well stimulation on or after a specified date.

This bill died in its first committee of reference (Environmental Preservation and Conservation)

Coastal Management

HB 1213 by Rep. Peters This bill would have revised criteria for state & local participation in authorized projects & studies relating to beach management & erosion control; revises

procedures for prioritizing & funding beach restoration, beach management, & inlet management projects.

This bill died in its third committee of reference (House Government Accountability Committee)

Septic Tank Inspections

SB 1748 by Sen. Stewart this bill would have required that onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems be inspected by specified professionals at the point of sale in real estate transactions.

This bill died in its second committee of reference (Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Vacation Homes

SB 1516 by Sen. Rader authorizing local laws, ordinances, and regulations to prohibit vacation rentals or regulate the duration and frequency of rental of vacation rentals.

This bill died in its first committee of reference (Commerce and Tourism Committee)

LEGISLATION OPPOSED BY THE COUNTY THAT FAILED

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Vacation Rentals

HB 425 by Rep. La Rosa would have authorized local laws, ordinances, or regulations to regulate activities relating to vacation rentals; requires vacation rental owner or representative to submit specified documents & information to local jurisdiction; prohibits local jurisdiction from assessing certain fees; revises applicability for preemption of certain local laws, ordinances, or regulations.

This bill died on Senate Calendar

Residency of Elected Officials

SB 1494 by Sen. Rader would repeal a requirement that all write-in candidates must reside within the district represented by the office sought at the time of qualification; providing an effective date.

Withdrawn from the Senate on Second Reading

TRANSPORTATION

Towing and Storage Fees

SB 828 by Sen. Steube Prohibiting counties and municipalities from enacting certain ordinances or rules to impose a fee or charge on wrecker operators or vehicle storage companies.

Died in its first committee of reference (Senate Appropriations)

TAX AND ADMINISTRATION

Local Regulation Preemption

HB 17 by Rep. Fine would have prohibited certain local governments from imposing or adopting certain regulations on businesses, professions, & occupations after certain date; preempts to state regulations concerning businesses, professions, & occupations; provides exceptions to preemption.

This Bill died in its second committee of reference (House Commerce Committee)

OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

BUDGET AND TAX ISSUES

Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption

HB 7105 by Rep. LaRosa is a joint resolution proposing amendments to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies, etc.

Voters' approval needed in November 2018.

Homestead Exemption Implementation

HB 7107 by Rep. LaRosa provides the statutory implementing language for the amendment to Article VII, Section 6(a) of the State Constitution, proposed in HJR 7105. HJR 7105 provides an additional homestead property tax exemption from all taxes, other than school district taxes, of up to \$25,000, by exempting assessed value greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000.

The bill amends s. 196.031, F.S., to provide the dollar threshold for the additional homestead exemption in the constitutional amendment. Additionally, the bill provides that the rolled back rate used by local governments in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 must be calculated as if the tax base had not been reduced by the increased homestead exemption. This provision also applies to the calculation of higher millage rates that may be levied with either a two-thirds or unanimous vote by a local governing board. The bill directs the Legislature to appropriate funds to offset ad valorem tax revenue losses in fiscally constrained counties, as defined in s. 218.67(1), F.S., attributable to the reduction in the property tax base caused by the increased homestead exemption. There are presently 29 fiscally constrained counties.

This bill was signed by the Governor May 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-035

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Public Records: Firefighters and their Spouses and Children

SB 1108 by Sen. Steube The bill expands an existing public records exemption in s. 119.071(4)(d)2.b., F.S., for the personal identifying information of current firefighters, their spouses, and children. The expansion will extend the public records exemption to former firefighters and their families. The records exempted are the names of the spouses and children, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, photographs, places of employment, and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of firefighters.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-096

CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE/PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

Drones

HB 1027 by Rep. Yarborough The bill creates s. 330.41, F.S., the “Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act.” It preempts local governments from regulating the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, but does allow them to enact or enforce local ordinances relating to illegal acts arising from the use of unmanned aircraft systems if the ordinances are not specifically related to the use of a drone for the commission of the illegal acts.

The bill protects critical infrastructure facilities, as defined in the bill, by prohibiting any person from knowingly or willfully:

- Operating a drone over a critical infrastructure facility, unless the drone is in transit for commercial purposes and is in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations;
- Allowing a drone to make contact with a critical infrastructure facility, including any person or object on the premises of or within the facility; or
- Allowing a drone to come within a distance of a critical infrastructure facility that is close enough to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility. The bill creates exemptions to these prohibitions, including for persons acting under the direction of a government or drones operating in transit for commercial purposes.

This bill was signed by the governor on June 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-150

Florida Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act

HB 505 by Rep. Trumbell The bill amends Florida’s controlled substance schedules to provide that ioflupane I 123, a radiopharmaceutical used in the diagnosis of Parkinsonian syndromes, is not a Schedule II controlled substance. Without this change, ioflupane I 123 would be a Schedule II controlled substance because it is derived from cocaine via ecgonine, both of which are Schedule II controlled substances.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-110

Terrorism and Terrorist Activities

HB 457 by Rep. Gonzalez The bill addresses terrorism by creating a crime of terrorism and related crimes. A person who violates any listed statute or statutory provision in furtherance of intimidating or coercing the policy of a government, or in furtherance of affecting the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping, commits the crime of terrorism, a first degree felony (or a life felony if there is a death or serious bodily injury).

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 25, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-037

Controlled Substances

HB 477 by Rep. Boyd The bill provides that a person 18 years of age or older commits felony murder if he or she unlawfully distributes any specified controlled substance, and the distribution is proven to be the proximate cause of death of the user; Includes in Schedule I of the controlled substance schedules a class of fentanyl derivatives; Provides that it is a first degree felony to unlawfully possess 10 grams or more of certain Schedule II substances, including certain fentanyl-related substances; Adds codeine, an isomer of hydrocodone, to a

current provision punishing trafficking in hydrocodone, and adds additional phenethylamines and phencyclidines to current provisions punishing trafficking in phencyclidine and phenethylamine; Punishes trafficking in fentanyl, synthetic cannabinoids, and n-benzyl phenethylamines, including mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment and mandatory fines; Ranks new trafficking offenses (first degree felonies) in the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code; Authorizes certain crime laboratory personnel to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists used to treat opioid overdoses.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-107

Justifiable Use of Force

SB 1052 by Sen. Simmons The bill replaces the flawed subsection of statute with new provisions that govern the use of defensive force in a dwelling against a person who has not unlawfully or forcibly entered a dwelling or residence, such as a co-occupant or guest. In these circumstances, the bill provides that the general standard for using or threatening to use deadly or non-deadly force outside a dwelling or residence applies. Additionally, a person who is in a dwelling or residence in which he or she has a right to be has no duty to retreat before using lawful defensive force.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 9, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-077

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & GROWTH MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Utilities (Cell Towers)

HB 687 by Rep. La Rosa The bill creates the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act (Act), which provides for the collocation of small wireless facilities on an authority utility pole. An authority is a county or municipality having jurisdiction and control of the rights-of-way of any public road. A utility pole is not a utility pole in the sense of a municipal electric utility pole, but rather is a pole or similar structure that is used to provide lighting, traffic control, signage, or a similar function. The term includes the vertical support structure for traffic lights, but does not include any horizontal structures upon which traffic control devices are attached. It does not include any pole or similar structure 15 feet in height or less.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-136

Department of Transportation

HB 865 The bill contains the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) 2017 Legislative Package, as well as additional transportation-related provisions. More specifically, the bill:

- Directs the FDOT, in consultation with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, to develop a Florida Smart City Challenge Grant Program allowing applicants to compete for funding for demonstrated and documented adoption of emerging technologies and their impact on the transportation system.
- Increases the allowable gross vehicle weight for vehicles using natural-gas fueling systems by up to 2,000 pounds under certain conditions, resulting in a reduced overweight penalty and avoiding a potential loss of federal funds;
- Aligns state and federal law by mandating bridge inspections at intervals as required by the Federal Highway Administration, as opposed to intervals not exceeding two years, resulting in compliance with revised national bridge inspection requirements and avoiding a potential diversion of federal funds;

- Increase the current \$120,000 cap on “fast response” contracts to \$250,000 to account for increased construction costs due to inflation;
- Authorizes the FDOT and certain local governmental entities to prescribe and enforce reasonable rules or regulations with reference to placing and maintaining within the right-of-way limits of any road or publicly owned rail corridors under their respective jurisdictions any voice or data communications services lines or wireless facilities;
- Allows turnpike bonds to be validated at the option of the Division of Bond Finance and limits the location of publication of certain related notices to Leon County;
- Requires the FDOT to undertake an economic feasibility study relating to the acquisition of the Garcon Point Bridge and to submit the completed study to the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker by January 1, 2018;
- Exempts emergency work program amendments from a requirement for Legislative Budget Commission review and approval of any work program amendment in excess of \$3 million that also adds a new project, or phase thereof, to the adopted work program, under specified conditions;
- Repeals the Florida Highway Beautification Council, leaving the FDOT to administer the award of grants for beautification of the State Highway System;
- Defines “department” to mean the FDOT for purposes of part II of ch. 343, F.S., relating to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA);
- Prohibits the SFRTA from entering into, extending, or renewing any contract without the FDOT’s prior review and written approval of the proposed expenditures if such contract may be funded with FDOT-provided funds;
- Deems funds provided by the FDOT to the SFRTA to be state financial assistance subject to specified requirements;

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 31, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-042

Construction

HB 1021 by Rep. Avila this bill:

- Revises the Florida Building Code to prohibit local governments from requiring an impact fee or payment for a separate connection for a fire sprinkler system for a single family residence or duplex.
- Prohibits additional chargers for a larger meter for a single family residence or duplex for fire control above the difference in actual cost between the base water meter and larger water meter.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-149

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 1A The bill specifies new accountability and transparency measures for VISIT FLORIDA and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), including the following:

- Limits lodging expenses and requires compliance with state travel and per diem laws;
- Requires officers and board members to file annual conflict of interest disclosures;
- Subjects proposed contracts of \$750,000 or more to a 14-day legislative consultation period prior to approval;
- Caps salaries and benefits paid from state funds at the salary and benefits authorized to be paid to the Governor;

- Prohibits performance bonuses or severance pay paid from state funds unless specifically authorized by law;
- Specifies limitations on the giving and receiving of gifts;
- Requires the submission of proposed operating budgets;
- Requires that contracts, and financial, expenditure, and meeting information be posted on websites; and
- Requires that entities receiving a majority of their revenues from VISIT FLORIDA, EFI, or from certain taxes, must post and report specified financial information. The bill amends the one-to-one public/private match requirements for VISIT FLORIDA.

The bill creates the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to award funds for public infrastructure projects, infrastructure funding to accelerate the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike, and workforce training. The bill creates the Targeted Marketing Assistance Program to enhance the tourism business marketing of small, minority, rural, and agri-tourism businesses in Florida. The bill directs the Department of Revenue to audit the Professional Golf Hall of Fame and requires the Professional Golf Hall of Fame to provide certain information to the state. The bill eliminates the Displaced Homemaker Program and the associated Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund, and reduces the surcharge on marriage license applications by \$7.50. The bill redirects \$75 million of revenue from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund. The bill includes \$60 million for 17 higher education facilities. The bill appropriates \$85 million for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, and an additional nonrecurring \$50 million for projects related to the Herbert Hoover Dike. The bill appropriates \$76 million for the Department of Opportunity to enter into contract with VISIT FLORIDA and \$16 million for a contract with EFI.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 26, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-233

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES

Vessels

HB 7043 by Rep. Raschein The bill implements many of the recommendations made by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in its final report on the Anchoring and Mooring Pilot Program. Specifically, the bill implements recommendations relating to the following issues:

- Prevention of derelict vessels by:
 - Providing an additional condition that would indicate that a vessel is at risk of becoming derelict.
 - Enhancing the civil penalty for having an expired vessel registration longer than six months.
 - Prohibiting the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles from issuing a certificate of title to any applicant for any vessels that has been deemed derelict.
- Anchoring and mooring by:
 - Creating anchoring limited areas near vessel launching facilities, superyacht repair facilities, or the marked boundaries of public mooring fields.
 - Prohibiting the anchoring or mooring of a vessel or floating structure within the marked boundary of a public mooring field unless the owner or operator has a lawful right to anchor or moor in the mooring field by contractual agreement or other business arrangement or mooring, tying, or otherwise affixing to an unlawful object that is on or affixed to the bottom of the waters of the state.

- Local governmental authority by authorizing local governments to enact and enforce ordinances that:
 - Require owners or operators of vessels or floating structures subject to marine sanitation requirements to provide proof of proper sewage disposal if the FWC determines that sufficient facilities are available within the local government’s jurisdiction when anchored or moored for more than 10 consecutive days within marked boundaries of permitted mooring fields or designated no discharge zones.
 - Implement procedures for abandoned or lost property that allow a local government to remove a vessel affixed to a public dock within its jurisdiction which is abandoned or lost property.

In addition to implementing the recommendations of the FWC, the bill:

- Allows private residential multifamily docks that were grand-fathered in to use sovereignty submerged lands to exceed the 1:1 ratio for the number of moored boats to the number of units within the private multifamily development.
- Authorizes the FWC to establish boating restricted areas upon request of a private property owner of submerged lands that are adjacent to Outstanding Florida Waters or an aquatic preserve for the sole purpose of protecting any seagrass and contiguous seagrass habitat within their property boundaries from seagrass scarring due to propeller dredging. The property owner is required to apply for a uniform waterway market permit for the established boating restricted area.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-163

Public Works Projects

HB 599 by Rep. Williamson This bill provides contracts for construction services that are projected to cost more than a specified threshold must be competitively awarded. Specifically, state contracts for construction projects that are projected to cost in excess of \$200,000 must be competitively bid. Counties, municipalities, special districts, or other political subdivisions seeking to construct or improve a public building must competitively bid the project if the estimated cost exceeds \$300,000. The solicitation of competitive bids or proposals must be publicly advertised in the Florida Administrative Register.

The bill prohibits the state and its political subdivisions that contract for public works projects from imposing restrictive conditions on certain contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers, except as otherwise required by federal or state law. Specifically, the state or political subdivision that contracts for a public works project may not require that a contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier engaged in the project:

- Pay employees a predetermined amount of wages or prescribe any wage rate;
 - Provide employees a specified type, amount, or rate of employee benefits;
 - Control, limit, or expand staffing; or
 - Recruit, train, or hire employees from a designated, restricted, or single source.
- Public works projects include only those projects for which 50 percent or more of the cost will be paid from state-appropriated funds.

The bill also prohibits the state or a political subdivision from restricting a qualified contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier from submitting a bid on any public

works project or being awarded any contract, subcontract, material order, or carrying order. However, the prohibition does not apply to discriminatory vendors or those that have committed a public entity crime.

Public Records

SB 80 by Sen. Steube The bill requires a court to award attorney fees and costs to a plaintiff who sues an agency to enforce a public records request if the court determines that the agency unlawfully refused access to a public record and the plaintiff provided written request for the public records to the agency's records custodian at least five business days before filing the lawsuit. The plaintiff is not required to provide written notice if the agency does not post the records custodian's contact information in the agency's primary administrative building and on the agency's website.

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-21

Public Employees

SB 7022 by Government Oversight The bill provides most state employees with a \$1,400 increase if their current salary is below \$40,000 a year, or \$1,000 if their salary is above \$40,000 a year. Additionally, most law enforcement officers will receive a 5 percent increase in salary, most correctional officers will receive a \$2,500 increase in salary, judges and elected State Attorneys and Public Defenders will receive a 10 percent increase in salary. Other attorneys working for the guardian ad litem program or the Department of Legal Affairs will receive increases, along with certified nursing assistants working at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The bill makes several changes to the FRS. The bill permits renewed membership in the investment plan or one of the optional annuity retirement plans for certain former participants of those plans. The bill expands the survivor benefit for investment plan members killed in the line of duty, including Special Risk Class, by making it retroactive to 2002. The bill closes the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program to new hires. The bill changes the default from the pension plan to the investment plan for non-Special Risk members of the FRS initially enrolled after January 1, 2018. The bill also extends the initial election period from 6 to 9 months after being hired. Additionally, the bill provides adjustments to the contribution rates that fund the FRS's normal costs and unfunded actuarial liability.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-88

ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RESOURCES/AGRICULTURAL ISSUES

Relating to Water Issues

SB 10 by Sen. Bradley the bill provides direction to the SFWMD to purchase land and renegotiate leases south of Lake Okeechobee to achieve up to an additional 360,000 acre-feet of water storage located in the Everglades Agricultural Area, including 60,000 acre-feet for the C-51 reservoir project. The SFWMD must seek out willing buyers with the EAA in order to meet this goal, as the bill prohibits the state from exercising its right of eminent domain, and furthermore limits the



amount of land that can be acquired from private sellers.

Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BOT) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to negotiate the amendment or termination of leases on lands within the EAA for exchange or use for the EAA reservoir project;
- Requires lease agreements relating to land in the EAA leased to the Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises, Inc., (PRIDE Enterprises) for an agricultural work program to be terminated in accordance with the lease terms;
- Requires the SFWMD, upon the effective date of the act, to identify the lessees of the approximately 3,200 acres of land owned by the state or the district west of the A-2 parcel and east of the Miami Canal and the private property owners of the approximately 500 acres of land surrounded by such lands;
- Requires the SFWMD, by July 31, 2017, to contact the lessors and landowners of such lands to express the SFWMD's interest in acquiring the land through the purchase or exchange of lands or by the amendment or termination of lease agreements;
- Requires the SFWMD to jointly develop a post-authorization change report with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) to revise the project component located on the A-2 parcel for implementation of the EAA reservoir project;
- Provides that if the Corps has not approved and submitted the SFWMD's post-authorization change report to Congress for alternative storage in the A-2 by October 1, 2018, or if Congress has not approved the report by December 31, 2019, the SFWMD must, unless granted an extension by the Legislature, request the Corps initiate a post-implementation change report for the EAA reservoir project and proceed with implementation of CEPP project components in accordance with the final project implementation report;
 - Requires the SFWMD to give preference to the hiring of former agricultural workers in the EAA, consistent with their qualifications and abilities, for the construction and operation of the EAA reservoir project;
- Establishes the Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community Employment Training Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity to provide grants for employment programs that seek to match persons who complete such training programs to nonagricultural employment opportunities in areas of high agricultural employment, and to provide other training, educational, and information services necessary to stimulate the creation of jobs in the areas of agricultural unemployment. The program is required to include opportunities to obtain the qualifications and skills necessary for jobs related to federal and state restoration projects, the Airglades Airport in Hendry County, or an inland port in Palm Beach County;
- Establishes a revolving loan fund to provide funding assistance to local governments and water supply entities for the development and construction of water storage facilities; which cannot be funded through the traditional SRF program;

- Revises the uses of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund to include the water storage facility revolving loan program and delete programs that are no longer funded from it;
- Prohibits, beginning July 1, 2017, the use of inmates for correctional work programs in the agricultural industry in the EAA or in any area experiencing high unemployment rates in the agricultural sector;
- Beginning in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, appropriates the sum of \$64 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) to the Everglades Trust Fund for the purpose of implementing the water storage reservoir projects, with the remainder of such funds in any fiscal year to be made available for Everglades projects, with Phase II of the C-51 project having preference. Bonding authority for the funds is set at \$800 million, which is estimated to be half of the EAA reservoir project cost.

The bill provides the following appropriations for the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- \$30 million in nonrecurring funds from the LATF is appropriated to the Everglades Trust Fund for the purposes of acquiring land or negotiating leases pursuant to s. 373.4598(4), F.S., or for any cost related to the planning or construction of the EAA reservoir project;
- \$3 million in nonrecurring funds from the LATF to the Everglades Trust Fund for the purposes of developing the post-authorization change report pursuant to s. 373.4598, F.S.;
- \$1 million in nonrecurring funds from the LATF to the Everglades Trust Fund for the purposes of negotiating Phase II of the C-51 reservoir project pursuant to s. 373.4598, F.S.; and
- \$30 million in nonrecurring funds from the LATF to the Water Resource Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund for the purposes of implementing Phase I of the C-51 reservoir project as a water storage facility in accordance with ss. 373.4598 and 373.475, F.S.

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 9, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-10

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

HB 467 by Rep. Raburn Revises & repeals provisions relating to the agriculture, education & promotion facilities, surveyors & mappers, pesticides & devices, private investigative agencies, health studios, telephone solicitation, taximeters & transportation measurement systems, livestock, marketing & inspection of agricultural commodities, Florida Building Code & Florida Forest Service facilities, & aquaculture & agriculture dealers & producers; revises requirements for obtaining & reducing fees for concealed weapon or firearm license.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 9, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-85

Natural Hazards

HB 181 by Rep Jacobs The bill:

- Establishes an interagency working group regarding natural hazards
- Collaboration on statewide initiatives to address natural hazards
- Coordinating ongoing efforts by state agencies to address impacts
- Division of Emergency Management to submit annual progress report annually beginning January 1, 2019.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 2, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-48

Underground Facilities

HB 379 by Rep. Leek The bill requires an excavator to immediately report the contact or damage to an underground facility if any natural gas or other hazardous substance regulated by the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Administration escapes.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-102

Marine Turtle Protection

HB 1031 by Rep. Altman The bill amends the offense severity ranking chart provided in s. 921.0022(3), F.S., to:

- Update the cross-reference to s. 379.2431(1)(e)7., F.S., relating to soliciting or conspiring to commit a violation of the Marine Turtle Protection Act; and
- Add s. 379.2431(1)(e)6., F.S., relating to the possession of a marine turtle species or hatchling, or parts thereof, or the nest of any marine turtle species.

Under the bill, both offenses are Level 3 offenses.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 26, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-180

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Medical Marijuana

SB 8A requires patients to be certified by a licensed Florida physician as having at least one qualifying medical condition. If a patient is younger than 18 years of age, a second physician must also agree. The legislation also requires physicians to complete a 2-hour course and examination offered by the Florida Medical Association or the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. The course must be completed upon each licensure renewal. Further the bill, establishes requirements for physicians prior to certifying a patient and after certification. Senate Bill 8A also removes the three-month treatment prerequisite for patients. Patients and caregivers must provide proof of residency, register with the Department of Health (DOH), and possess an identification card. The DOH is required to create and maintain an online medical marijuana use registry for patients, caretakers and physicians. The bill clarifies that edibles and vaping are permitted, while smoking is prohibited.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 23, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-232

Controlled Substance Prescribing

HB 577 by Rep. Duran The bill amends provisions relating to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The PDMP uses a comprehensive electronic database to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of certain controlled substances. The bill requires dispensers to report the dispensing of a controlled substance to the PDMP by the close of the next business day, rather than seven days, after the controlled substance is dispensed. This expedited timeframe for reporting is effective January 1, 2018. The bill also requires the dispenser to report via the department-approved electronic system. The bill clarifies an exemption from reporting to the PDMP for rehabilitative hospitals, assisted living facilities, or nursing homes dispensing controlled substances, as needed, to a patient as ordered by the patient's treating physician. The dispensing must occur while the patient is present and receiving care in the facility in order for the dispensing to be exempt from mandatory reporting.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-112

Stroke Centers

HB 785 by Rep. Magar The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to add “acute ready stroke center” as a new entry in the types of stroke centers that is made available to licensed emergency medical services providers. The bill removes language instructing the AHCA to base stroke center rules on criteria established solely by the Joint Commission and requires rule criteria to be substantially similar to any nationally recognized accrediting organization.

This bill was signed by the Governor on June 26, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-172

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST THAT FAILED

Judicial Term Limits

HB 1 A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 8.3 of Article V and the creation of a new section in Article XII of the State Constitution to create a minimum age requirement and term limits for Supreme Court Justices and judges of the district courts of appeal and require 1 year of prior service as a judge for appointment as Supreme Court Justice.

This bill died in Senate Judiciary committee (after being received in messages from the House)

Health Care Claims

HB 579 - Prohibiting a health-insurer or health-maintenance organization from retroactively denying a claim under specified circumstances, exempting certain Medicaid managed care plans.

This bill died in its second committee of reference (House Commerce committee)

Post-Secondary Education

SB 374 by Sen. Hukill The bill establishes the “Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2017” to expand financial aid provisions and modify programmatic mechanisms to assist students in accessing higher education and incentivize postsecondary institutions to emphasize on-time graduation. The bill also expands and enhances policy and funding options for state universities to recruit and retain exemplary faculty, enhance the quality of professional and graduate schools, and upgrade facilities and research infrastructure. Additionally, the bill restructures the governance and modifies the mission of the community colleges.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 14, 2017

Community Redevelopment Agencies

SB 1770 by Sen. Lee This bill would have required ethics training for community redevelopment agency commissioners; providing a phase-out period for existing community redevelopment agencies; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to declare inactive community redevelopment agencies that have reported no financial activity for a specified number of years.

This bill died in its second committee of reference (Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation)

Traffic Infraction Detectors

HB 6007 by Reps. Avila and Ingolia This bill would have repealed provisions relating to installation & use of traffic infraction detectors to enforce specified provisions when the driver fails to stop at traffic signal, provisions that authorize DHSMV, county, or municipality to use such detectors, & provisions for distribution of penalties collected for specified violations.

This bill died in the Senate Transportation Committee (after being received in messages from the House)

Coral Reefs

SB 1624 by Sen. Farmer would have established the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area; requiring the Coral Reef Conservation Program, in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to develop a comprehensive management plan for the area using and building on previous stakeholder engagement and public comment.

This bill died in its second committee of reference (Senate Appropriations)

Local Business Taxes

HB 487 by Rep. Renner Exempts veterans, veterans' spouses, active duty military service members' spouses, specified low-income persons, & certain businesses from paying local business taxes & fees under certain circumstances; authorizes certain municipalities to continue to impose such taxes & fees & change, by ordinance, specified definition.

This bill died on the House Calendar

Workers' Compensation

HB 7085 by Rep. Burgess This bill would have required Governor, or CFO in certain circumstances, to appoint member to fill vacancy on panel that establishes workers' compensation schedules within specified timeframe; requires panel to annually adopt statewide schedules of maximum reimbursement allowances; extends timeframes in which employees may receive certain workers' compensation benefits & in which carrier must notify treating doctor of certain requirements; revises provisions relating to retainer agreements & awarding attorney fees.

This bill died in Senate returning messages

Local Regulation Preemption

SB 1158 by Sen. Passidomo Reserving to the state the exclusive right to regulate matters of commerce, trade, and labor under certain circumstances; prohibiting counties, municipalities, and special districts from engaging in specified actions that regulate commerce, trade, or labor, unless otherwise expressly authorized to do so by special or general law; providing that an ordinance, rule, or regulation that violates a specified provision is null and void, etc.

This bill died in its first committee of reference (Senate Commerce and Tourism)

Government Ethics Reform

HB 7021 by Government Ethics Committee Provides that contractual relationships held by business entities are deemed held by public officers or employees in certain situations; provides ethics training requirements; prohibits certain governing board members from

voting in official capacity on specified matters; requires certain members of municipality governing body to file disclosure; provides for future repeal of provisions relating to local government authority to enact rule or ordinance requiring lobbyists to register with local government; provides for future repeal of provisions relating to registration & reporting for lobbying water management districts; requires Commission on Ethics to create Local Government Lobbyist Registration System; requires lobbyists to register with commission before lobbying specified governmental entities; provides responsibilities of Governor; provides civil penalties.

This bill died in Senate Ethics and Elections Committee (after being received in messages from the House)

Local Tax Referenda

HB 139 by Rep. Ingoglia Requires local government discretionary sales surtax referenda to be held on the date of a primary or general election and requires a specified percentage of votes for passage; requires notice of intent to levy certain local government discretionary sales surtaxes; prohibits certain entities for a specified period from increasing taxes that were reduced at the time a discretionary sales surtax was levied.

This bill died in Senate Ethics and Elections Committee (after being received in messages from the House)

Local Government Fiscal Transparency

HB 7065 by House Ways & Means Committee Revises Legislative Auditing Committee duties; specifies purpose of local government fiscal transparency requirements; requires local governments to post certain voting record information on websites; requires property appraisers & local governments to post certain property tax information & history on websites; requires public notices for public hearings & meetings prior to certain increases of local government tax levies; specifies noticing & advertising requirements; requires local governments to conduct debt affordability analyses under specified conditions; provides method for local governments that do not operate website to post certain required information.

This bill died in Senate Ethics and Elections Committee (after being received in messages from the House)

Local Government Fiscal Responsibility

HB 7063 by House Ways & Means Committee Revises dates & voting requirements for referenda related to most local government taxes & local option surcharges; prohibits certain local governments from enacting, extending, or increasing taxes otherwise authorized under specified conditions; requires local governments to receive voter approval for issuance of any new tax-supported debt with term of more than five years; provides dates & voting requirements for such referenda; authorizes referenda at times other than at general election if an emergency exists; provides exceptions for refunding or refinancing certain debt.

This bill died in its first committee of reference (House Government Accountability Committee)

Selection and Duties of County Officers

SJR 134 by Sen. Artiles proposed an amendment to the State Constitution to remove authority for a county charter or special law to provide for choosing a sheriff in a manner other than by election or to alter the duties of the sheriff or abolish the office of the sheriff.

This bill died in its third committee of reference (Senate Judiciary)

LOCAL BILLS

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

HB 531 by Rep. Lori Berman The bill allows private companies in a contract with the Solid Waste Authority to depreciate their equipment over seven years, which is the industry standard, rather than five. Seven-year contracts would encourage competition for future franchise awards and haulers can depreciate the cost of equipment over a longer period of time. With the increased competition and reduced costs, lower fees are expected for ratepayers.

This Bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-196

Port of Palm Beach District, Palm Beach County

HB 737 by Rep. Bill Hagar The bill codifies the charter of the Port into a single document by codifying, amending, reenacting, and repealing the several special acts currently comprising the charter. The bill also updates and expands definitions, clarifies the Port's authority to construct related projects and facilities, revises certain provisions pertaining to insurance provided to commissioners and employees, and updates provisions pertaining to issuing bond debt.

This Bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-199

West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund

HB 1135 by Rep. Matt Willhite The bill incorporates agreed upon changes to the police pension plan between the City of West Palm Beach and the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association. The new language adds, clarifies and updates certain provisions of the Special Act and is administrative in nature, having no actuarial cost to the Pension Plan.

This Bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2017; Chapter No. 2017- 207

HB 1297 — Palm Beach County Building Advisory Board

HB 1297 by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo The bill revises the nomination process for appointees to the Building Code Advisory Board of Palm Beach County. The proposed changes to the law are intended allow the seven industry representatives to be nominated by existing local chapters of national or regional construction industry trade associations.

This Bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 6, 2017; Chapter No. 2017-215

