



PBC 2022 Legislative Update

Department of Legislative Affairs

This Week in Congress

The federal government set aside \$1.1B to Restore Florida Everglades
Wednesday the Biden administration announced \$1.1B in funding for the Everglades through the Infrastructure and Jobs Act. According to their statement, this is the largest single investment for restoring and revitalizing the Florida Everglades.[1] This funding is in addition to the \$350 million set aside for the Everglades Restoration Project in the 2022 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

District 20 winner, Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, sworn into Congress
On January 18th, 2022, Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, JD was sworn-in as the Congresswoman for Florida's 20th District for the remainder of the 117th Congress



Redistricting

Redistricting is the process of adjusting the lines of voting districts in accordance with population shifts. District lines are redrawn every 10 years following completion of the U.S. Census. The federal government stipulates that districts must have nearly equal populations and must not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity.

The DeSantis administration released a Congressional map proposal. The map shows 18 districts with a Republican lean and 10 districts that favor Democrats. DeSantis' map would cut in half the number of Black districts to two, and completely eliminate “the 5th Congressional District along Florida’s northern border currently represented by Rep. Al Lawson.”

Meanwhile, the Senate moved forward with its own congressional redistricting map that would likely keep the partisan breakdown in the state's congressional delegation largely the same. On Thursday, SB 102: Establishing the Congressional Districts of the State passed with a 31Y, 4N vote and SB 100: Joint Resolution of Apportionment passed with a vote 34Y, 3N. They were both immediately certified to the House.

Week 2: Statewide Bills of Note

National Anthem Mandate Advances in Senate

Under legislation SB 1298, any professional sports team that gets government money would be required to play the national anthem at games. The bill was approved last Tuesday in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee. This bill mirrors a new Texas law, after the NBA's Dallas Mavericks made the decision to stop playing the anthem before games. Bill sponsor Sen. Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota, said he didn't know of any teams not playing the anthem in Florida, but wanted to make sure they do – citing the state's effort to be known as a "freedom state."

Bill Taking Aim at Critical Race Theory Advances in Senate

A hot-button effort to quash the idea that institutional racism continues to hamper minorities was debated Tuesday in a Senate committee. The approved bill (SB 148) bans the teaching of certain ideas related to race in workplace training sessions or Florida public schools. The Senate Education Committee voted 6-3 in favor of the bill seeking to reduce the influence of "critical race theory" in schools and businesses across Florida. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Manny Diaz, said the main aim of the legislation was to prevent people from teaching others that "the very nature of their race or national origin makes them guilty of racism." The bill does not, as of now, allow parents of students to sue over alleged violations in the schools – which is what Gov. Ron DeSantis wants to see.

Ban on Early Abortions Clears First House Committee

After hours of public testimony, debate and questioning, the House Professions and Public Health Subcommittee on Wednesday cleared the way for a ban on most abortions. The House priority bill (HB5), filed on the first day of the 2022 legislative session, would ban abortions after 15 weeks and revamp legal definitions of gestation in Florida. The measure, sponsored by Rep. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, 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.

Senate Shrinks Emergency Fund By Half

The full Senate on Wednesday passed a bill (SB 96) to give the governor control of an unencumbered stash of money to be used during declared emergencies when there isn't time for legislative approval, but voted first to approve an amendment to cut the amount available from \$1 billion to \$500 million. The bill passed the Senate on a 31-4 vote and now goes to the House.

Week 2: Statewide Bills of Note

Bill Would Raise Sovereign Immunity Threshold to \$1 Million

A proposal to raise the sovereign immunity threshold for claims against local governments from \$200,000 to \$1 million began moving on Wednesday in the House, with approval by the House Civil Justice and Property Rights Subcommittee. Since 2010, state law has capped most claims against a government entity at \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident. For damages above that amount, plaintiffs must come to the Legislature and seek compensation through a claims bill. The bill (HB 985) allows claims up to \$1 million before the claims bill would be needed. It was approved by the panel on a 16-1 vote and needs to clear two more committees before a full House vote. A similar bill, SB 974, is filed in the Senate but has yet to be heard in committee.

House Committee Votes to Eliminate School Board Salaries, Cement Parental Role in School Decisions

Two bills that backers hope will solidify parents' ability to control decisions on their children's educations advanced Thursday in the House Education and Employment Committee. HB 1557, a wide-ranging bill spelling out parents' rights to be notified about and allowed to make the final decision on elements of their children's education and their mental, emotional or physical health, was approved 15-5, sending the measure to the House Judiciary Committee.

Preemptions

CS/SB 280 Local Ordinances: Passed Rules Committee. The committee substitute (CS) addresses concerns from the original filed bill regarding attorney fees, the business impact estimate for certain ordinances. FAC-backed amendment was accepted which lessened the impact of this bill significantly. *Current PBC Position: Moved to Support*

CS/SB 518: Residential Home Protection – Tree Trimming The CS modifies the definitions of “documentation” and “residential property” and changes the title of the bill from “an act relating to residential home protection” to “an act relating to private property rights to prune, trim, and remove trees.” *This change moved PBC's position from Oppose to Monitor.*

SB 620 Local Government: Passed Appropriations Committee. Amendments were proposed to narrow the scope of the bill, but the bill still poses many issues and concerns. Commissioner McKinlay testified in opposition of the bill during Thursday's Appropriation Committee. *Current PBC Position: Oppose*

PBC Priority/Watch list

SB 690 Resilience-related Advisory Committees: Passed Community Affairs Committee. Permits certain resilience-related advisory committees to conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology pursuant to the rules of the Administrative Procedures Act. Current PBC Position: Support

CS/SB 1194 Local Tax Referenda Requirements: Passed Community Affairs Committee. The CS removes unnecessary conforming language relating to a referendum to approve Charter County and Regional Transportation System Sales Surtaxes to a 2019 law requiring that such referenda be held at general elections. Current PBC Position: Monitor

SB 1326 Comprehensive Review Study of the Central and Southern Florida Project: Passed Senate Community Affairs Committee. By October 1, 2023, and each October 1st thereafter, the bill requires SFWMD to prepare and submit a consolidated annual report regarding the status of the restudy to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor, and the Legislature. Current PBC Position: Support

CS/SB 518 Residential Home Protection – Tree Trimming The CS modifies the definitions of “documentation” and “residential property” and changes the title of the bill from “an act relating to residential home protection” to “an act relating to private property rights to prune, trim, and remove trees.” This change moved PBC position from oppose to Monitor.

SB 704 Substance Abuse Service Providers passed Senate Community Affairs Committee. This bill tightens regulations on Sober Homes and those who staff them. Current PBC Position: Support

Bills to Watch This Week

SB 1078 Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Abolishes all soil and water conservation districts in Florida and transfers the assets and liabilities of such districts. A strike-all amendment was filed on Friday that appears to transfer discretion of the practicability of each district to the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. On Committee Agenda – Environment & Natural resources, 1/24/2022, 3:00PM

SB 1124 Preemption of Local Government Wage Mandates: Prohibits local governments from enacting, maintaining, or enforcing wage mandates in an amount greater than the state minimum wage rate. On Committee Agenda – Community Affairs 1/25/2022, 3:30PM

HB 513 Comprehensive Review of the Central and Southern Florida Project: Requires SFWMD to prepare and submit a consolidated annual report regarding the status of the restudy to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor, and the Legislature. HB 513 will be in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Committee 1/25/2022 9:00AM

HB 195 Juvenile Diversion Expunction Program: Requires FDLE to expunge a juvenile's nonjudicial arrest record following his or her successful completion of a diversion program for any offense that is not a forcible felony or any felony involving the manufacture, sale, purchase, transport, possession, or use of a firearm or weapon, rather than only a misdemeanor. HB 195 will be in House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee on 1/25/2022 at 3:30PM

Appropriations

We continue working to get our County priority appropriations projects heard in their House subcommittees, to get them eligible for inclusion in the state budget. Projects currently in the Appropriations have been passed in their subcommittee of reference.

Requests heard in committee last week:

Homeless Resource Center 2

BC Fire Rescue Bunker Gear Contamination

Palm Beach County Singer Island Submerged Lands – Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative

Palm Beach County Bonfish Cove – Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative

Unit 3 Water Control Structure – Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

PBC Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail Access Project

Everglades Restoration Workforce Training Program

Requests scheduled to be heard this week:

Palm Beach County Glades Region Infrastructure Improvements

Palm Beach County Lake Okeechobee Shoreline Restoration

Palm Beach County Green Cay Phase Two

Corbett Levee Project

PBC Fire Rescue Station 24 Rebuild

RESTORE Reentry Program

State Appropriations Priority Requests

| HB/Senate Tracking Number | FY 2022-2023 Appropriations | \$ Amount | Sponsor | Committees | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 1121 HB 2559</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Everglades Workforce Training Program</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$1,700,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Polsky Skidmore</p> | <p>(H) Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 1136 HB 3371</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Peanut Island Restoration</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$1,500,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Powell Caruso</p> | <p>(H) Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 1200 HB 2361</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Central PBC Infrastructure</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$1,000,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Berman Silvers</p> | <p>(H) Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 1199 HB 3313</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Transportation Disadvantaged</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$2,000,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Powell Casello</p> | <p>(H) Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 1831 HB 3693</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Briny Breezes Pocket Drainage Study</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$100,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Berman Caruso</p> | <p>(H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee On Committee Agenda: 01/25/22, 9:00 am, 17 H</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR XXXX HB 3819</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Chain of Lakes / Blueway Trail - C-51 Boat Lift</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$250,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Powell Willhite</p> | <p>(H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 1125 HB 2381</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">RESTORE: ReEntry</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$500,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Berman Willhite</p> | <p>(H) Justice Appropriations Subcommittee 01/25/22, 3:30 pm,</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">LFIR 2169 HB 3321</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Urban Search and Rescue</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">\$ 1,100,000</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Garcia Caruso</p> | <p>(H) State Administration & Technology</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">(H) Appropriations Committee</p> |

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| | | | | Appropriations Subcommittee Y:13 N:1 | |
| LFIR 1352 HB 3611 | PBC F/R Bunker Gear Contamination Project | \$821,000 | Polsky Willhite | (H) State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 1 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| LFIR 1959 HB 3609 | PBC F/R Station 24 Rebuild | \$2,100,000 | Powell Willhite | (H) State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee 01/25/22, 1:00 pm | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| LFIR 1409 HB 3925 | HRC 2 | \$1,000,000 | Berman Silvers | (H) Health Care Appropriations Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| LFIR 1391 HB 2079 | LRPI 1 - Cypress Creek Floodplain Restoration Project | \$ 750,000 | Harrell Snyder | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 2077 | LRPI 2 - Pennock Point Industrial Stormwater Improvements | \$ 150,000 | Harrell Snyder | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 2047 | LRPI 3 - Lox River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Maintenance | \$ 377,500 | Harrell Snyder | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 2045 | LRPI 4a - Environmental Education Facilities at the JLONA | \$ 350,000 | Harrell Snyder | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 2387 | LRPI 4b - Sims Creek Preserve Hydrologic and Env. Restoration | \$ 100,000 | Harrell Roth | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations | (H) Appropriations Committee |

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| | | | | Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | |
| HB 2287 | LRPI 6 - Bush Road Stormwater Improvements | \$ 94,500 | Harrell Roth | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 2281 | LRPI 7a - Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park Culvert Replacement | \$ 125,000 | Harrell Roth | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 2279 | LRPI 7b - Canal C Storage Project | \$312,500 | Harrell Roth | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 3617 | LRPI 9 - Unit 3 Water Control Structure | \$ 40,000 | Harrell Oberdorf | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
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| LFIR 1042 HB 3563 | LWL 1 - 18th Ave. North & Wellesley Drive Lagoon Enhancement | \$ 250,000 | Berman Caruso | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 3339 | LWL 2 - Bonefish Cove Environ. Enhancement | \$ 500,000 | Berman Caruso | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 3325 | LWL 3 - Hypoluxo Septic to Sewer Conversion | \$ 359,375 | Berman Caruso | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |

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| HB 2161 | LWL 4a – Lake Clarke Shores West Water Quality Improvement Project | \$ 1,700,000 | Berman Silvers | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee 01/25/22, 9:00 am | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 3333 | LWL 4b - Providencia Cay Habitat Restoration Project | \$ 1,000,000 | Berman Caruso | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 14 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| HB 3337 | LWL 6 - Singer Island Submerged Land Acquisition | \$250,000 | Berman Caruso | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Y: 12 N: 0 | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| LFIR 1076 HB 2565 | Palm Beach County Glades Region Infrastructure Improvements | \$3,000,000 | Polsky Skidmore | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee 01/25/22, 9:00 am | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| LFIR 1077 HB 2671 | Palm Beach County Lake Okeechobee Shoreline Restoration | \$1,600,000 | Polsky Skidmore | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee 01/25/22, 9:00 am | (H) Appropriations Committee |
| LFIR 1410 HB 3131 | Green Cay Phase 2 | \$ 3,000,000 | Berman Slosberg | (H) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee 01/25/22, 9:00 am | (H) Appropriations Committee |

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