



Palm Beach County State Legislative Update

Department of Legislative Affairs

Legislative Session Week 2

January 15-19, 2024

State Budget Update

The Florida House and Senate are soon expected to release their chamber's budget proposals. Upon their release, the budgets will be considered in committee and on the chamber floors where legislators can offer amendments. Palm Beach County has worked with lawmakers in our state legislative delegation to request state funding for programs and projects located throughout our community. Included below is a list of these requests.

<i>Balanced Community Justice Project (Powell/Edmonds)</i>	\$367,420
<i>Central Palm Beach Historic Infrastructure (Berman/Silvers)</i>	\$1,000,000
<i>CR 880 Road Reconstruction Phase I (Harrell/Caruso)</i>	\$25,000,000
<i>Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (Powell/Gossett-Seidman)</i>	\$906,000
<i>Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (Harrell/Snyder)</i>	\$774,543
<i>PBC Discounted Bus Pass Program (Berman/Silvers)</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>PBC Fire Rescue Water Vessels for Hazard Mitigation (Berman/Casello)</i>	\$385,000
<i>PBC Fresh Food Boxes & Early Bird Meals Pilot Program (Harrell/Skidmore)</i>	\$1,000,000
<i>PBC Green Cay Phase II (Polsky/Skidmore)</i>	\$3,000,000
<i>PBC Senior Art, Education, & Recreation Programs (Berman/Waldron)</i>	\$500,000
<i>Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard Bridge Widening & Reconstruction (Powell/Edmonds)</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>Peanut Island Historic Restoration (Powell/Caruso)</i>	\$2,000,000
<i>RESTORE Re-entry Program (Berman/Waldron)</i>	\$500,000
<i>West Delray Regional Park All Abilities Nature-based Playground (Polsky/Skidmore)</i>	\$1,500,000
<i>Westgate CRA Enhanced Street Lighting & Safety Initiative (Powell/Silvers)</i>	\$750,000

In addition to these requests, PBC Delegation members had submitted for funding for a variety of projects and programs benefitting other local governments, community organizations, and local non-profits. A full list of every appropriation request these legislators have filed can be found by clicking the link [HERE](#).

On the Floor This Week

SENATE

The full Senate unanimously passed two robust healthcare bills known as the "Live Healthy" initiative on Thursday after trimming \$116 million in funding via amendments. The initiative, a priority of Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, aims to address the shortage of healthcare providers among Florida's growing population and support innovation in the healthcare marketplace.

The first proposal (**CS/SB 7016**) now allocates \$737 million to various programs, including initiatives to increase positions for graduate medical students, incentivize healthcare professionals to work in rural areas, and enhance Medicaid reimbursement rates, particularly in mental health and disability services. The bill was amended on the floor several times to reduce Medicaid spending by approximately \$96 million and modify requirements for hospitals to have non-emergent care access plans. The bill provides \$50 million to expand the number of medical residency slots by 500 in an attempt to increase the number of physicians in the state, establishes the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program to increase and improve clinical opportunities, and boosts funding for the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical and Dental Education (FRAME) by \$30 million.

The other bill that is part of the Live Healthy initiative (**SB 7018**), focusing on health innovation, was also amended on the floor Thursday to reduce funding for the low-interest revolving loan program from \$75 million to \$50 million. Both bills have been sent over to the House for consideration.

Senators also passed legislation this week urging Congress to allow an increase in the Florida National Guard's force structure (**SM 226**) and a bill that exempted certain entities from Florida's public records and public meetings requirements (**SB 322**).

HOUSE

Legislation defining antisemitism in state statutes passed the full House this week on a 113-3 vote (**HB 187**). The bill gives several examples of behaviors or speech that could be considered antisemitic, though none of the examples would be made illegal under the proposal. Among several examples of antisemitism that would be included in state law include "accusing Jewish people as a collective of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group or for acts committed by non-Jewish individuals," denying the Holocaust happened or diminishing the scope of the collective killing of Jews by the Nazis during World War II, claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a "racist endeavor," and "holding Jewish individuals collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel," among other things.

Also passed off the floor were bills regarding offenses involving children (**CS/HB 305**), the safe exchange of minor children when complying with a court-ordered parenting plan (**CS/CS/HB 385**), the excusal of women who have recently given birth from jury service (**CS/HB 461**), and lost and abandoned property notice timeframes (**CS/HB 487**).

Bills of Interest in Committee

Senate Committee on Ethics & Elections

CS/SB 850, Use of Artificial Intelligence in Political Advertising: Creates a definition for the term "generative artificial intelligence" and requires a disclaimer be included on specified forms of political advertisements created with generative AI. The bill has one more committee of reference before it can be heard on the Senate Floor.

SB 438, Term Limits: Establishes a term limit of 8 years for county commissioners. The new term limit will apply to terms of office beginning on or after November 8, 2022, but does not supersede more restrictive term limits already imposed by county charter. The bill provides that a county commissioner who terms out must sit out for two years before running for a different district or at-large seat of the same county commission. This bill must pass through two more committees of reference. The House companion, CS/HB 57, passed its first of three references this week as well.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

SB 1174, Identification Documents: Prohibits a county or municipality from accepting, as a valid ID, an identification card or document issued by an entity that knowingly issues the card or document to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States. The legislation must pass through two more committees before being eligible to be heard on the Senate Floor.

Senate Committee on Regulated Industries

SB 1218, Broadband: Extends the date through which municipal electric utilities are required to offer to broadband providers a promotional \$1 per pole, per year, wireline attachment rate for any new pole attachments necessary to make broadband service available to an unserved or underserved user within a municipal electric service territory to December 31, 2028. This was the bill's first committee of three to pass through and it is on the agenda of its second committee to be considered next week. The House companion measure, HB 1147, was also passed in its first committee this week.

Senate Committee on Banking & Insurance

CS/SB 556, Protection of Specified Adults: Providing additional safeguards for seniors and vulnerable adults, the bill allows financial institutions to delay disbursements or transactions of funds from an account of the specified or vulnerable adult if certain conditions are met. The bill intends to protect from financial fraud those 65 and older as well as adults whose ability to perform the normal activities of daily living is impaired. The bill has two more committees of reference.

CS/SB 1106, Coverage by Citizens Property Insurance Corporation: Revises the criteria for personal lines residential structures and single condominium units that are eligible for coverage with Citizens Property Insurance. Provides that such structures and units are eligible if the dwelling replacement cost or the dwelling and contents replacement cost is less than \$1 million and, for a unit with the replacement cost of at least \$700,000 but less than \$1 million, the risk has not been offered comparable coverage from an authorized insurer at the insurer's approved rate under a standard policy including wind coverage. This legislation has two more committees of reference to pass through before it can be heard on the Senate Floor.

Senate Committee on Community Affairs

SB 1082, Housing for Agricultural Workers: Preempts a local government from inhibiting the construction or installation of housing for certain agricultural works on land classified as agricultural if the housing meets certain criteria related to location and construction. The bill has two more committees of reference and is scheduled to be heard in the second committee next week.

Senate Committee on Government Oversight & Accountability

SB 674, United States-produced Iron and Steel in Public Works Projects: Requires a governmental entity that contracts for a public works project, or for the purchase of materials for a public works project, to use iron and steel produced in the United States if it is to be incorporated into the project. The bill waives this contract requirement if the entity determines that the products required are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient quantities, the products aren't reasonably available, the products are of unsatisfactory quality, the use will increase the total cost of the project by more than 20 percent, or compliance is inconsistent with public interest. The bill has one more committee to pass through before the Senate Floor. The House companion bill, HB 377, was also heard this week in its first committee.

House Ways & Means Committee

HB 479, Alternative Mobility Funding Systems: Authorizes local governments to adopt a mobility fee system or an alternative system in lieu of transportation concurrency. The bill stipulates that only the local government issuing the building permit can charge for transportation impacts within its jurisdiction, the bill requires the permitting local government to "collect and account" for any extra-jurisdictional impacts. Palm Beach County is strongly opposed to any legislation that would allow municipalities to cease the collection and remittance of the County's voter-approved impact fees, which are critical to offsetting the cost of capacity building on county thoroughfares necessitated by new development.

CS/HB 7013, Special Districts: Creates a 12 year term limit for elected members of governing bodies of most types of independent special districts, requires all special districts to adopt goals and objectives as well as performance measures, repeals current law that allows a special district to use the municipal conversion process to become a municipality, reduces the maximum ad valorem millage rate that may be levied by mosquito control districts, and prohibits the creation of new safe neighborhood improvement districts. The legislation passed and is now on the agenda for its final committee of reference and will be considered again next week.

Senate Committee on Transportation

CS/SB 266, Transportation: Prohibits the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) from annually committing more than 20 percent of revenues derived from state fuel taxes and motor vehicle license fees to public transit projects. It also makes revisions to FDOT's authority regarding public-private partnerships, provides a claimant must institute an action against a contractor within 365 days after the labor, revises the application of immunity under certain conditions, and requires utility relocation agreements to contain liquidated damages provisions. The bill must still pass through two more committee references.

SB 774, Towing & Storage: Makes numerous changes related to wrecker operator systems and towing-storage operator practices including allowable fees, payment acceptance, lien requirements, sale of unclaimed vehicles, and record retention. Most notably, the bill prohibits Florida Highway Patrol from excluding a wrecker operator from its system based solely on a prior felony conviction, reduces the timeframe a towing-storage operator must send the notice of lien, increases the timeframe an unclaimed vehicle or vessel three years or newer may be sold by a lienor, and increases the public notice requirement timeframe related to the sale of an unclaimed vehicle. This legislation has two additional committees to pass before the Floor. The House companion bill, HB 179, was also passed through its first committee reference this week.

House Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law, and Government Operations Subcommittee

HB 901, Display of Flags by Governmental Entities: Prohibits governmental entities from displaying a flag that represents a political viewpoint, including but not limited to a political partisan, racial, sexual orientation and gender, or political ideology viewpoint. The bill has two more committees left before the Floor.

House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

HB 377, License or Permit to Operate a Vehicle for Hire: Prohibits a county or municipality from requiring a person to obtain an additional license or permit to operate a vehicle for hire if a vehicle for hire already holds a valid permit or license in another county or municipality. The provisions of this bill do not apply to public-use airports and do not prohibit requiring an additional license or permit for non-emergency medical transport vehicles. The bill still has two more committees to pass through. The Senate companion measure, SB 648, was also passed by its first committee of reference this week.

House Judiciary Committee

CS/HB 1, Social Media Use for Minors: Requires social media platforms to prohibit children under the age of 16 from creating an account and to perform reasonable age-verification methods to verify that the age of a person attempting to create an account is 16 years of age or older. The reasonable age-verification method must be conducted by an independent third-party not affiliated with the social media platform, and any information used to verify age must be deleted after it is verified. The bill does not apply to certain websites whose predominant function is e-mail, messaging, or texts; streaming services, news, sports, or entertainment sites; and online shopping or gaming. This bill, a top priority of House Speaker Renner, is scheduled to be voted on by the full House next week.

CS/CS/HB 3, Online Access to Materials Harmful to Minors: The bill requires a commercial entity that intentionally publishes material harmful to minors on a website or application to take steps prohibiting access to such material by any person younger than 18. The bill requires such a commercial entity to perform reasonable age-verification methods to verify that the age of a person attempting to access the material is 18 or older. This bill, also a top priority of House Speaker Renner, is scheduled to be voted on by the full House next week.

House Agriculture, Conservation, and Resiliency Subcommittee

HB 455, Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan: Requires DEP to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan for the state by July 1, 2025. At a minimum, the bill requires the plan to identify recycling goals based on sustainable materials management and waste diversion and include a three-year plan to implement certain specified policies. Upon completion of the plan, the bill requires DEP to provide a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. This bill has two more committee references.

House Insurance & Banking Committee

CS/HB 625, Property Insurance Coverage: Allows eligibility for wind-only coverage by Citizens Property Insurance Corp. for condos that are currently ineligible due to their short-term rental status. The bill also requires property

insurance policies issued to residential condo unit owners on or after July 1, 2024, to contain at least \$5,000 in property loss assessment coverage. This legislation has one more committee to pass through before consideration by the full House.

Senate Committee on Fiscal Policy

CS/SB 280, Vacation Rentals: Revises the regulation of vacation rentals. The bill permits “grandfathered” vacation rental ordinances to be amended to be less restrictive and preempts the regulation of vacation rental advertising platforms to the state. Under the bill, a local government is permitted to restrict the maximum occupancy of a vacation rental and may require the rental to be registered, pay a fee, and be to an inspection to verify compliance with the Florida Building Code and Florida Fire Prevention Code. Local governments will also be able to request proof of state licensure, obtain contact information from a responsible person available 24 hours day, 7 days a week who is in charge of responding to complaints and emergencies, and request the payment of all recorded liens. Fines may be issued for violations by the vacation rental owner and a local government is authorized to suspend or revoke a local license under certain conditions. The bill also requires advertising to comply with various requirements. CS/SB 280 has passed through both committees of reference and stands ready to be considered on the Senate Floor.

House Local Administration, Federal Affairs, and Special Districts Subcommittee

HB 601, Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers: Preempts to the state the receipt, processing, and investigation of complaints against law enforcement and correctional officers, as well as the rights and privileges afforded to such officers while under investigation. Local governments are expressly prohibited from passing or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, or rule relating to these topics. The bill now has one more committee of reference.

CS/HB 705, Public Works Projects: Changes the statutory definition of “public works project” to include all projects paid for with local or state funds. The change in the bill prohibits local governments from applying local preference points, used by many local governments as one of several criteria in a ‘best value’ evaluation and award process, regardless of the project’s funding source. The bill has one more committee before it can be voted on by the full House.

Bills of Interest Up Next Week

***CS/HB 1, Social Media Use for Minors:** House Special Order Calendar, 1/23 at 3 PM

***CS/CS/HB 3, Online Access to Materials Harmful to Children:** House Special Order Calendar, 1/23 at 3 PM

HB 1195, Millage Rates: House Ways & Means Committee, 1/22 at 12 PM

SB 1142, Occupational Licensing: Senate Committee on Regulated Industries, 1/22 at 1:30 PM

SB 1104, Policy Cancellations & Non-renewals by Property Insurers: Senate Committee on Banking & Insurance, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 660, Pub. Rec./Animal Shelter Foster & Adoptions: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 742, Public Works: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 770, Improvements to Real Property: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 812, Expedited Approval of Residential Building Permits: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 1322, Millage Rates: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 1150, Development Permits & Orders: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 1122, Protection of Historic Monuments and Memorials: Senate Committee on Government Oversight & Accountability, 1/22 at 4 PM

SB 1746, Public Employees: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/22 at 4 PM

CS/HB 7013, Special Districts: House State Affairs Committee, 1/23 at 10 AM

HJR 7017, Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value: House State Affairs Committee, 1/23 at 10 AM

HB 7019, Exemption of Homesteads: House State Affairs Committee, 1/23 at 10 AM

CS/HB 303, Rabies Vaccinations: House Commerce Committee, 1/23 at 12:30 PM

HB 849, Veterinary Practices: House Commerce Committee, 1/23 at 12:30 PM

HB 1459, Artificial Intelligence Transparency: House Commerce Committee, 1/23 at 12:30 PM

SB 1082, Housing for Agricultural Workers: Senate Committee on Agriculture, 1/23 at 1 PM

SB 1156, Dangerous Dogs: Senate Committee on Agriculture, 1/23 at 1 PM

SB 1218, Broadband: Senate Committee on Commerce & Tourism, 1/23 at 1 PM

SB 1748, Tourist Development Taxes: Senate Committee on Commerce & Tourism, 1/23 at 1 PM

SB 1492, Employment: Senate Committee on Commerce & Tourism, 1/23 at 1 PM

SB 576, Investigation of Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers: Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, 1/23 at 1 PM

SB 1692, Preventing Contaminants of Concern from Discharging Into Wastewater Facilities & Waters of the State: Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources, 1/23 at 3:30 PM

SB 332, Wrecker Operators: Senate Committee on Transportation, 1/23 at 3:30 PM

SB 1362, Aviation: Senate Committee on Transportation, 1/23 at 3:30 PM

SB 334, Rabies Vaccinations: Senate Committee on Rules, 1/24 at 11 AM

SB 1638, Funding for Environmental Resources Management: Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government, 1/24 at 4 PM

SB 650, Alternative Fuel Fleet Vehicle Rebates: Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government, 1/24 at 4 PM