



HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

Members,

Congratulations on another successful session. Each of you should be proud of the great work we accomplished on behalf of all Floridians.

Our state faced monumental and unexpected challenges, but each time we were met with adversity, our legislature stood together and provided solutions for the future. Whether it was Hurricane Irma or the tragedy in Parkland, our goal and duty is to ensure that no Floridian is left unprotected. When you look back on this session, it is my hope that you will be as proud of our hard work to fulfill that duty as I am.

This year we passed a balanced budget that continues our conservative approach of responsibly funding our state's critical needs, including significant investments for funding hurricane response and preparedness, addressing agriculture and environmental needs, providing funds for important health care programs, and increasing total educational spending by \$101.50 per student. The House budget also continues our commitment to tax relief by buying back the value of property value growth in the K-12 funding formula to prevent property tax increases. Finally, the budget responsibly plans for the future by placing \$3.3 billion in reserves to prepare for any unforeseen future economic uncertainty.

This session we continued our fight to bring transparency and accountability to every level of government. We fulfilled our duty to address ethics reform and put forth protocols to end the culture of silence and protect victims of sexual harassment. In the House, we passed the Rule of Law Adherence Act to end sanctuary city policies across our state. We also passed legislation that would add accountability measures to tourism and economic development agencies that receive taxpayer dollars.

We set the tone last session by passing transformational education reform. This year, we built off that success with a series of new, historic measures to help increase access to quality school choice options, provide new hope to victims of bullying, and improve the quality of higher education. Together, we set a clear precedent about the direction of education for future generations.

In September 2017, Hurricane Irma posed an unprecedented threat to the state and a severe test of existing emergency preparedness and response protocols. Testimony in the select committee revealed that some nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies, nurse registries, and other entities caring for Florida's most vulnerable populations needed new resources and reform. We passed legislation that addressed the special needs of those communities to ensure that they are fully supported during future threats of natural disaster.

We passed reforms to increase access to affordable and quality health care and made improvements to our Pregnancy Support Services Program. Protecting the sanctity of life is always a priority as conservatives, and we furthered this commitment by voting in the House to make it a crime for a physician to perform dismemberment abortions. We also addressed the opioid crisis by passing measures to help our families, friends, and communities reverse the widespread devastation this crisis has had on our state.



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At the end of session, we were met with unimaginable tragedy in Parkland. I am proud of the way we came together and passed comprehensive legislation to ensure it never happens again. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act addresses firearm safety, school security, inter-agency information sharing and coordination, mental health, and victim's privacy. We also issued subpoenas to local agencies regarding any interactions they had to the shooter, furthering our commitment to ensuring this evil never reaches our state again.

These are just a few of our many legislative successes this past session. I am proud of our work and hope this Session Highlights book will be a helpful resource as you talk about the great work we did this year on behalf of Floridians.

Sincerely,

Ray Rodrigues
Majority Leader

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2018–19 Conference Report **Breakdown¹**

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¹ The following information is a summary of HB 5001 as it passed the Legislature, prior to the vetoes of any specific appropriations.

Budget by the Numbers

- **Total Conference Report on the GAA: \$ 88.7 billion**
 - General Revenue Funds \$32.4 billion
 - State Trust Funds \$24.8 billion
 - Federal Funds \$31.5 billion

- **Compared to the FY 2017–18 Budget — Up by \$3.8 billion (4.4 %).** The slight year over year increase is driven by a few specific issues including funding provided for response and recovery costs related to several 2017 federally declared disasters (\$1.4 billion); price and workload increases in Medicaid (\$1.314 billion); increases in PreK-12 funding relating to increased funds per student, increases in federal funds for PreK-12 programs, and increased funding for the Gardiner Scholarship Program (\$235 million); and increased funding in various environmental programs (\$291 million).
 - General Revenue Funds – Up by \$874.7 million (2.8%)
 - State Trust Funds – Up by \$1,092.1 million (4.6%)
 - Federal Funds – Up by \$1,807.5 million (6.1%)

- **Compared to the Base Budget — up by \$18.4 billion (26.1%)**
 - General Revenue Funds – Up by \$1,639.5 million (5.3%)
 - State Trust Funds – Up by \$10,129.6 million (68.8%)
 - Federal Funds – Up by \$6,615.7 million (26.6%)

- **FTE's**
 - FY 2018–19 FTE = 112,857
 - FY 2017–18 = 112,827
 - Increase of 30 FTE; (0.0%)

- **Reserves — \$3.3 billion**
 - General Revenue Fund = \$1.0 billion
 - Budget Stabilization Fund = \$1,483.0 million
 - Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund = \$770.3 million

Budget Highlights

Overview:

- **FULFILLS CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT:** The Legislature fulfilled its constitutional requirement to pass a balanced budget. The budget totals **\$88.7 billion**.
- **SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY:** Just like Florida families, government must responsibly plan for the future. The FY 2018-19 budget maintains \$3.3 billion in reserves to prepare for any future economic uncertainty.
- **TAX RELIEF FOR FLORIDIANS:** The Legislature not only cut roughly \$170 million in taxes, it also passed a bill that will protect taxpayers by proposing an amendment to the state Constitution requiring a supermajority vote to raise any state tax or fee.
- **INVESTING IN FUTURE GENERATIONS:** The Legislature once again made significant investments in our state’s education system by increasing the total funds per student by \$101.50. This furthers the Legislature’s goal of providing a world–class education to all children in Florida.
- **NOT BINDING FUTURE LEGISLATURES:** The Legislature continues its work from last year of finding ways to curtail the practice of binding future legislatures with recurring dollar commitments to particular projects. Although some are worthwhile, projects are not a core function of government. Therefore, projects should be reviewed and reconsidered on an annual basis.

Tax Relief:

- **This year, the Legislature passed measures to return roughly \$170 million to Floridians. This means more money in the pockets of families and students, farmers, business owners, military families and servicemembers, and other Floridians.**
- **Tax cuts:** The Florida Legislature passed roughly \$170 million in tax cuts that will result in savings for millions of Floridians. The tax cuts include a back–to–school holiday tax holiday, a reduction of the business rent tax, a disaster preparedness sales tax holiday, and several others.
- **Required Local Effort (RLE):**
 - The RLE is the amount of funds each school district must provide annually toward its cost of the Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP) for grades K–12. The Legislature determines the total amount of revenue that must be generated from the RLE, and each local school district generates, collects and retains its RLE by levying millage rates on ad valorem property in the district.
 - This year the Legislature is adjusting the RLE to reflect the value of new construction. This continues the Legislatures commitment to reducing taxes as it avoids an increase by not exceeding the statewide equivalent of the “rolled back rate.”
 - The “rolled back rate” generates last year’s taxes but allows for new revenue on the new construction.
 - The adjusted RLE will result in a \$375.6 million tax reduction to Florida property owners.

Education:

- **The budget makes significant investments in our state’s education system.**
 - The PreK–12 Education budget totals \$15.7 billion which is a \$621.5 million (or 4.0 percent) increase over the base budget and a \$438.9 million (or 2.9 percent) increase over the current year.
 - **FEFP** includes \$21.1 billion in total funding, including \$166.7 million included in CS/SB 7026, which is an increase of \$462 million in total funds.
 - **Early Learning Services budget** increased by \$36.1 million.
 - **The School Readiness program’s** total budget is \$630.8 million and includes an additional \$7 million from federal awards for an estimated 1,228 additional childcare slots.

- The Higher Education budget proposes an overall budget of \$8 billion, an increase from the base budget of \$237 million (3.1%); an increase from the current year appropriation of \$167 million (2.1%), which includes Fixed Capital Outlay appropriations.
 - **State University System:** Total funding for the State University System is \$5.1 billion, which is an increase from the base budget of \$142 million (2.9%), or an increase from the current year appropriation of \$122 million (2.5%).
 - **Florida College System:** Total funding for the Florida College System is \$1.2 billion, which is an overall \$59.6 million increase from the base budget (5.1%), or \$15.8 million over the current year appropriation (1.4%).
 - **Workforce Education:** Total funding for Workforce Education is \$482.1 million, which is an overall \$7 million increase from the base budget (1.5%), or \$6.2 million over the current year appropriation (1.3%).
 - **Student Financial Assistance:** Total state funding for Student Financial Assistance is \$717.6 million, an increase in funding for Student Financial Aid Programs of \$2.2 million over the base budget, and over the current year appropriation (0.3%).
 - **Vocational Rehabilitation:** Total state funding for Vocational Rehabilitation is \$224 million, an increase over the base of \$5.2 million (2.4%), and over the current fiscal year of \$3.7 million (1.7%).
 - **Blind Services:** Total state funding for the Division of Blind Services is \$58.2 million, an increase over the base of \$2.7 million (4.9%), and over current fiscal year of \$2.2 million (4.0%).
 - **Private Colleges & Universities** Total state funding for the Private Colleges and Universities is \$172.7 million, an increase of \$17.5 million from the base budget (11.3%), and \$12.2 million over the current fiscal year (7.6%).

Education Fixed Capital Outlay:

- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) was funded at \$454.1 million including the following issues:
 - Regular Maintenance Funding (\$ 277.9 million total) for the following:
 - Public Schools – \$50 million
 - Charter Schools – \$145.3 million (an additional \$5.0 million is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
 - Florida Colleges Regular Maintenance – \$35.4 million

- State Universities Regular Maintenance – \$47.2 million
- New Construction & Renovation Funding:
 - Florida Colleges – \$30.9 million (an additional \$11.2 million is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
 - Universities – \$101.4 million (an additional \$12.2 million is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
 - Special Facilities Construction – \$ 31.4 million

Health Care and Protecting Florida’s Vulnerable:

- The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$37.1 billion (\$9.9 billion General Revenue and \$27.3 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 31,350 authorized positions.
- There is a 3.30% increase in total spending and a 4.90% increase in general revenue funds from the 2017–18 Fiscal Year.
 - This includes a 0.45% reduction in state FTE over the prior year or a reduction of 142 FTE.
- **The Legislature Cares:**
 - **Florida Kid Care Enrollment – \$42.2 million, \$3.3 million GR** – Fully funds the KidCare program for the 2018–19 Fiscal Year to serve approximately 238,432 children.
- **Taking Care of Our Grandmothers and Grandfathers:**
 - **Alzheimer’s Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives – \$2.1 million GR** – Funding to reduce the waitlist by 66 individuals for Alzheimer’s respite services, by 61 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 215 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program.
- **Addressing Mental Health:**
 - **Mental Health:**
 - **Mental Health Community Initiatives – \$18.5 million GR** – Provides an array of behavioral health services offered through local, community-based settings; including, residential treatment, medication assisted treatment, counseling, and crisis stabilization services.
- **Serving Those Who Served:**
 - **Veterans’ Claims Examiners – \$386,000 TF Recurring** – Provides funding for 5 new FTE Veterans’ Claims Examiners to assist with claims, issue resolutions, and outreach activities.
 - **State Veterans Nursing Homes – Fixed Capital Outlay – \$2 million TF Nonrecurring:** Provides funding for maintenance, repair, and replacement of fixed capital outlay at State Veterans’ Homes.

Protecting the Environment:

- The Florida House is committed to protecting our state’s beautiful natural resources.

- The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Subcommittee overall budget totals \$4.0 billion (\$441.7 million General Revenue and \$3.6 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 8,699.25 authorized positions.
- There is a 10.1% increase in the total spending and a 21.3% increase in general revenue funds over the current fiscal year appropriation including a reduction of 13 FTE.
- **Florida's Treasures:**
 - **Everglades Restoration – \$248.1 million TF** – \$111.1 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; \$64 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir; \$32 million for Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan; \$31.0 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection; \$5.0 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (*funded in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*); and \$5 million for dispersed water storage.
 - **Springs Restoration Projects – \$50 million TF** – Continuation of recurring base funding for springs restoration, protection and preservation around the state.
 - **Beach Restoration Projects – \$61.2 million, \$5.9 million GR** – Provides an additional \$20.5 million to the recurring base of \$29.5 million for financial assistance to local governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management (\$50 million total in current year). Provides \$11.2 million for beach recovery projects for damages from Hurricane Irma (\$13.3 million total in current year for Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine).
- **Water Projects – \$30.1 million GR** – Provides funds for various stormwater, wastewater and water supply projects in local communities.
- **Hazardous Waste Cleanup – \$123.5 million TF** – Provides \$110 million for the clean-up of contaminated petroleum sites, \$8.5 million for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup and \$5 million for cleanup of a variety of hazardous substances.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

- The Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee's budget is \$12.7 billion (\$220.7 million in general revenue funds and \$12.4 billion in trust funds) and includes funding for 12,916 positions. The overall TTA budget is 0.2 percent larger than FY 2017–18, or 0.7 percent larger than HB 5001.
- **Promoting Economic Development:**
 - Visit Florida's budget is maintained at \$76 million in an effort to promote our state's vital tourism industry through increased marketing and advertising.
 - Space Florida's budget is maintained at \$18.5 million to support the space and aerospace industry in our state.
 - Current year level funding for Enterprise Florida, \$16 million, has also been maintained.
 - \$85 million is provided for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund so that we might continue efforts to support public infrastructure and workforce training around the state.

- Recurring funding remains in place for underserved areas or populations, as well as military or space activities unique to Florida. These programs include: the black business loan program at \$2.2 million; the Hispanic business initiative at \$775,000; and incumbent worker training at \$3 million.
- **The Conference Committee continued to invest in safety and citizen protections:**
 - The budget has funded key aspects of the Dept. of Military Affairs' budget request. This includes a \$1 million increase for the National Guard Tuition Assistance Program, and \$610,000 for additional equipment that includes search and rescue boats and protective kits the Guard can use in the event of chemical or biological events.
 - In Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the budget provides \$390,000 for Electronic LED flares, approximately \$390,000 for a GPS-enabled pursuit intervention system, and approximately \$900,000 for hand-held narcotics analyzers for the Highway Patrol. This will help the FHP stay well-equipped for the difficult tasks they confront every day.
- **Investing in Florida's Infrastructure:**
 - This budget fully funds the Transportation Work Program at \$9.9 billion.

Justice:

- **Department of Corrections**
 - **\$1 million recurring GR** for vocational and post-secondary education for inmates through CareerSource.
 - **\$4.0 million TF** (\$2.7 million nonrecurring) to upgrade computer workstations and implement virtual desktop infrastructure.
- **Department of Law Enforcement**
 - **\$5.7 million** (\$4.2 million nonrecurring + \$1.5 million recurring) to finalize the Computerized Criminal History database.
 - **\$2.2 million nonrecurring TF** authority for the Sexual Offender and Predator database.
- **Department of Legal Affairs/ Office of the Attorney General**
 - **\$1.5 million nonrecurring GR** to match federal grant funds to purchase and install generators at Certified Domestic Violence Centers (recommendation of Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness).
 - **\$4.2 million GR** transferred from the State Court System to the Department of Legal Affairs for funding Children's Advocacy Centers statewide.

Government Operations:

- The Florida Legislature is committed to making government as efficient as possible.
 - The Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee's budget is \$2.06 billion (\$317.1 million in general revenue funds and \$1.74 billion in trust funds) and includes funding for 11,209 positions.
 - **Trust Fund Transfers to General Revenue** – \$89.3 million in identified excess cash balances in various trust funds is transferred to the General Revenue Fund.

- **Fiscally Constrained Counties** – \$28.6 million. This issue provides funding for counties to offset the reductions in ad valorem tax revenue because of State Constitutional Amendments approved by voters in 2008.
- **MyFloridaMarketPlace** – Continues the reduction of the transaction fee from 1% to .7% for purchases made by agencies through the state’s on–line purchasing system. The reduction will save businesses that do business with the state millions in fees. The savings are estimated to be \$7.7 million in FY 2018–19 and over \$15.4 million the following two years through FY 2020–21.

Summary of Each Appropriations Subcommittee's Budget

PreK–12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview:

The PreK–12 Education budget totals \$15.7 billion which is a \$621.5 million (or 4.0 percent) increase over the base budget and a \$438.9 million (or 2.9 percent) increase over the current year.

- General Revenue is increased by \$167.8 million (or 1.4 percent) for a total General Revenue allocation of \$12.4 billion.
- Combined state funds (General Revenue, Educational Enhancement Trust Fund, and State School Trust Fund) increased by \$462 million (3.6 percent).

Highlights:

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)

The FEFP includes \$21.1 billion in total funding (including \$166.7 million included in CS/SB 7026) and represents a total increase compared to the current year FEFP budget of \$484.8 million. The FEFP:

- Increases the total funds per student by \$101.50.
- Provides a statewide average funds per student of \$7,408.
 - Since FY 2011–12, FEFP funds per student have increased by 20.29% compared to the 5.77% increase in the number of FTE students.
- Adjusts the Required Local Effort (RLE) to reflect the value of new construction. Continues the Legislature's commitment to reducing taxes as it avoids an increase by not exceeding the statewide equivalent of the "rolled back rate". The "rolled back rate" generates last year's taxes but allows for new revenue on the new construction. The adjusted RLE results in a \$375.6 million tax reduction to Florida property owners.
- Funds \$54 million associated with the increase in the FRS employer contribution rate.
- Provides an additional \$97.5 million in the Safe Schools Allocation (funded in CS/SB 7026); these funds must be used exclusively by school districts to hire or contract for additional school resource officers. These funds will allow for the number of school resource officers to double or even achieve a goal of one school resource officer per school if there is an assumption of local funding participation.
- Provides \$69.2 million in a new Mental Health Assistance Allocation (funded in CS/SB 7026) to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care.

Office of Early Learning

Budget includes an increase of \$36.1 million in General Revenue and trust funds. Funds provided:

- \$15.5 million for School Readiness Provider Performance Funding.
- \$10 million for Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Program (T.E.A.C.H.).
- \$2.2 million for Help Me Grow Florida Network.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

The VPK program total budget is \$398.4 million and funds an estimated enrollment increase of 630 students, estimated total number of students to be served in FY 2018–19 is over 157,000 students.

School Readiness

The School Readiness program total budget is \$630.8 million and includes an additional \$7 million from federal awards for an estimated 1,228 additional childcare slots.

Non-FEFP

The Non-FEFP Budget Entity proposes total funding of \$642.8 million; the Non-FEFP includes initiatives that supplement or enhance initiatives K-12 education. These initiatives include:

- An additional \$25 million for the Gardiner Scholarship Program for a total of \$128.3 million
- \$140 million for the Schools of Hope Program Fund
- \$234 million for the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Program
- \$3 million in the Standard Student Attire Program
- \$2.7 million for the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource Centers
- \$9.4 million for the Centers for Autism and Related Disorders
- \$9.7 million for Teacher Professional Development
- \$6.6 million for Exceptional Education programs

State Board of Education (SBE)

- Total budget for the SBE is \$251.2 million, which is a decrease of \$51,071 compared to Fiscal Year 2017-18 funding level.
- There are reductions related to vacancies over 120 days, which includes 31 FTE in the SBE.

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview:

The Higher Education budget proposes an overall budget of \$8 billion, an increase from the base budget of \$237 million (3.1%); an increase from the current year appropriation of \$167 million (2.1%), which includes Fixed Capital Outlay appropriations.

Highlights:

State University System

Total funding for the State University System is \$5.1 billion, which is an increase from the base budget of \$142 million (2.9%), or an increase from the current year appropriation of \$122 million (2.5%).

Within the State University System, operational funding is provided for the following:

- Preeminence Funding: \$20,000,000
- World Class Faculty and Scholar Program: \$20,000,000
- Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program: \$10,000,000
- FAMU: \$6,000,000
- FAU: \$2,129,824 (\$23,125 Nonrecurring)
- FSU: \$7,500,000 (4,045,027 Nonrecurring)
- FGCU: \$13,776,000
- FIU: \$4,700,000 (\$1,831,478 Nonrecurring)
- UF: \$7,500,000 (4,045,027 Nonrecurring)
- USF St. Petersburg: \$750,000
- UNF: \$4,094,345 (\$1,395,345 Nonrecurring)
- New College: \$3,635,000

Within the State University System, nonrecurring funding is provided for the following specific projects:

- FAU – Everglades Restoration & Community Resiliency Post Irma: \$250,000
- FAU – Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows: \$750,000
- FIU – Targeted STEM Initiatives: \$3,500,000
- FIU – University–Industry Research and Development Lab: \$500,000
- FIU – Washington Center University Scholarships: \$300,000
- FPU – Advanced Mobility Institute: \$500,000
- FSU – Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative: \$400,000
- UF Health – Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease: \$1,500,000 (FEMA Contingent)
- UF – Lastinger Center: \$500,000
- UF – Lastinger Center– Algebra Nation: \$1,000,000
- UF – Lastinger Center– Trauma Informed Care for School Resource Officers: \$1,500,000
- UF Health Program to Treat and Cure Dystonia and other Movement: \$500,000
- UF/IFAS – 4–H & Family Initiative: \$500,000
- UNF – The Jax Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative: \$350,000
- UCF – FIRST Robotics Competition: \$400,000
- UCF – PTSD Clinic for Florida Veterans and First Responders: \$500,000

- USF Sarasota–Manatee – Florida Center for the Partnerships for Arts Integrated Teaching (PAInT): \$350,000
- USF St. Petersburg – YMCA Civic Fellows Program: \$263,458
- USF St. Petersburg – STEM Programs: \$1,000,000
- USF St. Petersburg – Family Study Center: \$300,000
- USF St. Petersburg – Joint Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies: \$100,000
- USF St. Petersburg – Paraprofessionals Receiving Preparation (PREP): \$400,000 (FEMA Contingent)
- UWF – Cybersecurity Support: \$600,000

Florida College System

Total funding for the Florida College System is \$1.2 billion, which is an overall \$59.6 million increase from the base budget (5.1%), or \$15.8 million over the current year appropriation (1.4%). The funding includes the following:

- \$40 million in nonrecurring funding provided in FY 2017–2018 for Performance funding is restored as follows:
 - \$30 million as the state investment for Performance funding
 - Total Performance – \$60 million (\$30 million state / \$30 million institutional investment)
 - \$10 million for Industry Certifications
- \$5 million in additional operational support is provided for the following colleges:
 - Broward College: \$500,000
 - College of Central Florida: \$1.0 million
 - Polk State College: \$500,000
 - St. Johns River State College: \$3.0 million for transferred Workforce Programs
- \$6.8 million is provided to partially restore reductions taken during FY 2017–2018
- \$4.8 million is provided for Florida Retirement System Contribution Adjustments
- \$2.8 million in nonrecurring funds are provided for the following appropriations projects:
 - Daytona SC – Multiple Campus Writing Center: \$1,000,000
 - Daytona SC – Optician Technology Program: \$350,000
 - Florida Keys Community College – Hurricane Student Gap Funding: \$250,000
 - Lake Sumter SC – Math Emporium/ Expansion of RISE Summer Math Academy: \$250,000
 - Miami Dade College – Cybersecurity Training Center: \$700,000
 - South Florida State College – Mobile Welding Lab: \$500,000

Workforce Education

Total funding for Workforce Education is \$482.1 million, which is an overall \$7 million increase from the base budget (1.5%), or \$6.2 million over the current year appropriation (1.3%). The funding includes the following:

- \$4.5 million in recurring funds is provided for Performance funding for Industry Certifications.
- \$1.8 million in nonrecurring funds are provided for the following appropriations projects:
 - AmSkills Apprenticeship Phase 3 Expansion in Pasco County: \$50,000
 - Bay District Schools Shipbuilding Trade Craft Facility and Training Programs: \$500,000
 - Lake Technical College Center for Advanced Manufacturing: \$750,000
 - Lotus House Education and Employment Program for High Special Needs Homeless Women and Youth: \$200,000
 - Putnam County School District advanced Manufacturing: \$250,000

- Smart Horizons Online High School: \$750,000
- Haney Technical Center Automotive Service Technology: \$500,000 (FEMA contingent)
- Haney Technical Center Industrial Pipefitting Program: \$500,000 (FEMA contingent)

Student Financial Assistance

Total state funding for Student Financial Assistance is \$717.6 million, an increase in funding for Student Financial Aid Programs of \$2.2 million over the base budget, and over the current year appropriation (0.3%).

The following funding adjustments are based on Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference Enrollment projections.

- \$1.5 million for the estimated increase in Benacquisto Scholars.
- \$523,240 for the estimated increase in Children and Spouses of Deceased and Disabled Veterans’.
- \$636,712 is included to provide students attending UF Innovation Academy with an additional semester of Bright Futures funding. Currently, these students may use Bright Futures awards in summer and one of either fall, or spring terms. This will allow these students to use Bright Futures awards in all three terms like all other Bright Futures student.
- \$500,000 is removed from the General Appropriations Act for the Florida Farmworker Scholarship Program because the program is created and funded in CS/SB 4, and other similar legislation.

Private Colleges & Universities

Total state funding for the Private Colleges and Universities is \$172.7 million, an increase of \$17.5 million from the base budget (11.3%), and \$12.2 million over the current fiscal year (7.6%).

The funding includes the following adjustments based on Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference Enrollment projections.

- \$1.2 million is provided to fund the estimated enrollment in FRAG and ABLE programs for 2018–2019.
- \$9.6 million is provided as increased tuition assistance for students in FRAG and ABLE Grant programs.
 - Awards are increased from \$2,500 to \$3,500 for ABLE Grant Recipients – \$1.8 million
 - Awards are increased from \$3,300 to \$3,500 for FRAG recipients – \$7.8 million

Additional funds are provided to Private Colleges and Universities as follows:

- \$1.1 million in nonrecurring funds are provided to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for the following appropriations projects:
 - Bethune–Cookman University – Petrock College of Health Sciences: \$250,000
 - Edward Waters College – College Promise Program: \$356,000
 - Florida Memorial – Technology Learning Opportunities for Local Workforce: \$500,000
- \$4.6 million in nonrecurring funds are provided to Private Colleges and Universities for the following appropriations projects:
 - Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University – Unmanned Autonomous Systems Facility: \$1.5 million
 - Embry–Riddle Applied Aviation and Engineering Research Hanger: \$1.0 million
 - Flagler College – Hotel Ponce de Leon Disaster Recovery: \$1.0 million
 - Florida Institute of Technology – Center for Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID): \$450,000

- Lake Erie College of Medicine (LECOM) Health Programs: \$425,897
- Medical Training and Simulation Laboratory receives an additional \$500,000 appropriation
- Nova Southeastern University – Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program: \$669,282

Vocational Rehabilitation

Total state funding for Vocational Rehabilitation is \$224 million, an increase over the base of \$5.2 million (2.4%), and over the current fiscal year of \$3.7 million (1.7%).

Within Vocational Rehabilitation, funds are provided for the following purposes:

- Improve Security, Safety And Access To Vocational Rehabilitation Facilities: \$900,000
- Information Management System Replacement And Upgrade: \$2,750,000

Within Vocational Rehabilitation, nonrecurring funding is included for the following projects:

- Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM): \$750,000
- Brevard Adults with Disabilities: \$199,714
- WOW Center: \$350,000
- Jacksonville School for Autism – Strategies and Techniques for Effective Practice (STEP) Program: \$250,000

Blind Services

Total state funding for the Division of Blind Services is \$58.2 million, an increase over the base of \$2.7 million (4.9%), and over current fiscal year of \$2.2 million (4.0%).

Within Blind Services, recurring funds are provided for the following purpose:

- Vending Stands – Equipment And Supplies Contracts: \$1,502,345

Within Blind Service, nonrecurring funds are provided for the following purposes:

- Blind Babies Successful Transition From Preschool To School: \$500,000
- Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind: \$500,000
- Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Pasco County – FCO: \$200,000

Board of Governors

Total state funding for the Board of Governors is \$9.5 million, an increase over the base of \$1.1 million (13.2%), and over current fiscal year of \$1.1 million (13.4%).

Within the Board of Governors, nonrecurring funds are provided for the following purposes:

- Information Technology And Application Support – Staff Augmentation: \$193,053
- Information Technology – Disaster Recovery: \$20,000
- Information Technology – Security: \$162,402
- Take Stock In Children – Dramatically Improving Post–Secondary Completion: \$650,000

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview:

The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$37.1 billion (\$9.9 billion General Revenue and \$27.3 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 31,350 authorized positions.

There is a 3.30% increase in total spending and a 4.90% increase in general revenue funds from the 2017–18 Fiscal Year. This includes a 0.45% reduction in state FTE over the prior year or a reduction of 142 FTE.

Highlights:

- **Medicaid Price Level and Workload Adjustment – \$898.9 million, \$414.8 million GR** – Funding for Medicaid caseloads and price level adjustments as agreed upon by the January 2018 Social Service Estimating Conference. Fully funds Medicaid services for an anticipated 4,020,978 Medicaid beneficiaries. No category of Medicaid eligibility is eliminated or reduced.
- **Florida Kid Care Enrollment – \$42.2 million, \$3.3 million GR** – Fully funds the KidCare program for the 2018–19 Fiscal Year as agreed upon at the February 2018 Social Services Estimating Conference to serve approximately 238,432 children.
- **Florida Medicaid Management and Information System – \$24.5 million TF** – Nonrecurring funding to continue procurements for vendors and consultants related to enhancements/development of new Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) and procurement of new fiscal agent.
- **Cancer Centers – \$81.5 million TF** – Funding to exempt Cancer Centers from Medicaid reimbursement through the prospective payment system and provide reimbursement through a cost based system.
- **Medical School Faculty Physician Payments – \$277.3 million TF** – Funding to support supplemental payments to medical school faculty physicians. Current year funding was appropriated as nonrecurring.
- **Low Income Pool – \$1,508.4 million TF** – Funding to support supplemental payments made to hospitals and other allowable providers under the Low Income Pool program, as directed by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Current year funding was appropriated as nonrecurring.
- **Nursing Home Reimbursement Increase – \$128.5 million, \$50.0 million GR** – Nonrecurring funding provided to increase Medicaid Nursing Home rate enhancements by increasing the quality incentive pool and the direct care reimbursement.
- **Nursing Home Transition Payments – \$9.8 million TF** – Funding provided to increase Medicaid Nursing Home reimbursement to assist in transitioning to a prospective payment system (PPS) reimbursement methodology.

- **Rural Hospital Increase – \$8.6 million, \$3.3 million GR** – Nonrecurring funding to increase the DRG reimbursement for Lower Keys Hospital and Flagler Hospital, as a result of meeting the statutory definition of a “rural hospital.”
- **Medicaid Rate Increases – \$80.0 million, \$31.1 million GR** – Funding provided to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled (\$11.5 million), Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) facilities (\$5.1 million), Critical Pediatric Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Pediatric Intensive Care Units (\$3.5 million), Delivery Epidural services (\$1.3 million), and increased hospital outpatient caps for adults (\$58.5).
- **Graduate Medical Education (GME) – \$45.0 million TF** – Funding for GME to address shortages in primary care and training in Medicaid regions with primary care demand greater than supply by 25% or more (\$5.0 million); to address shortages in certain physician specialties, including urology, thoracic surgery, nephrology, and ophthalmology (\$10.0 million); and for hospitals that have high charity care costs that also provide specialized tertiary care (\$30.0 million).
- **Retroactive Eligibility Reduction – \$98.4 million, \$38.1 million GR** – Limits Medicaid eligibility to the first day of the month in which a person applies for Medicaid. Encourages medical providers to enroll their patients in Medicaid in a timely manner to receive coordinated care services in the most appropriate setting.
- **Alzheimer’s Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives – \$2.1 million GR** – Funding to reduce the waitlist by 66 individuals for Alzheimer’s respite services, by 61 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 215 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program.
- **Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) – \$14.3 million, \$5.6 million GR** – Funding to support the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) by funding each of the following PACE locations: Miami-Dade County (100 slots), Lee County (100 slots), Collier County (100 slots), Martin County (75 slots), and Northeast Florida (100 slots).
- **Local Community Initiatives and Alzheimer’s Disease Community Projects – \$8.4 million GR** – Provides nonrecurring funding for elder meal programs, local community initiatives, and Alzheimer’s Disease projects that provide needed services to vulnerable seniors in a home and community based setting.
- **Increase Personal Needs Allowance – \$17.0 million, \$7.7 million GR** – Funding to increase the personal needs allowance of individuals residing in institutional settings from \$105 to \$130 per month.
- **APD DOL Rate Restoration – \$41.0 million, \$16.0 million GR** to continue a rate increase to APD service providers to meet the U.S. Department of Labor’s Fair Standards to Domestic Service Rule.
- **Supported Employment and Internships – \$900,000 GR** to assist approximately 200 APD Waiver waitlist clients to gain employment or paid internships.

- **Implementation of the Guardian Assistance Program (GAP) – \$2.9 million, \$1.9 GR, 2.0 FTE** to implement the Guardianship Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to the caregivers of children in the child welfare system. This issue compliments efforts to transition child welfare funding to the traditional Title IV–E entitlement methodology.
- **Child Protective Resources – \$8.1 million, \$4.4 GR** to bolster the child welfare system by providing additional staffing resources in the Abuse Hotline and 110 new Child Protective Investigator positions.
- **Nonrelative Caregiver Program – \$4.4 million GR** to restore funding and growth in the Nonrelative Caregiver Program while transitioning to the Guardianship Assistance Program.
- **Extended Foster Care and Maintenance Adoption Subsidies – \$7.6 million, \$3.9 GR** to increase CBC resources necessary to extend foster care and Maintenance Adoption Subsidies up to age 21 for adolescents adopted later in life at ages 16 or 17.
- **CBC Safety Management Services – \$8.1 million TF** to the CBCs for Safety Management Services that are provided as an in–home service to prevent the removal of children from the home.
- **CBC Risk Pool – \$35.0 million** for the CBC Risk Pool and \$20.0 million for current year to mitigate CBC operational deficits.
- **Florida Safe Families Network – \$4.6 million** to the Florida Safe Families Network to increase data collection capabilities necessary to determine eligibility for the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP).
- **Maintenance Adoption Subsidies – \$5.7 million, \$1.2 million GR** for an increase of Maintenance Adoption Subsidies for an additional 3,000 new adoption finalizations. Also included is an additional \$3.4 million in the back–of–the–bill for a current year deficit.
- **Restoration of CBC Core Service Funding – \$10.4 million, \$7.0 million GR** to Community–based Care (CBC) lead agencies’ core services funds at the FY 2018–19 levels.
- **Central Receiving Facilities – \$9.8 million GR** to fully restore funding for the Central Receiving Facilities that provide for the evaluation, treatment, or triage to stabilize persons with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
- **Mental Health Community Initiatives – \$18.5 million GR** – Provides an array of behavioral health services offered through local, community–based settings; including, residential treatment, medication assisted treatment, counseling, and crisis stabilization services.
- **Tobacco Education and Use Prevention – \$1.4 million TF Recurring** – Increases the Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Program funding based on the Consumer Price Index as required by the Florida Constitution. Total program funding is \$70.3 million.
- **Florida Poison Information Centers – \$3.7 million GR Recurring** – Makes funding recurring for the operation of the three Florida Poison Control Centers, where advice related to toxic or suspected

toxic exposures is offered 24/7/365 to Floridians through the use of a toll-free hotline. Total program funding is \$5.3 million.

- **Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program – \$1.8 GR Recurring** – Provides funding for the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program established in 381.93, Florida Statutes. The Program provides free or low cost breast and cervical cancer screenings to women.
- **Information Technology – \$6.2 million, \$3.2 million GR** – Provides funding for completion of the network bandwidth upgrade started in Fiscal Year 2017–2018, funding for cloud computing services, funding to obtain the services of a managed security services provider to improve network security, and funding to replace the Early Steps administrative system.
- **HIV/AIDS Drug Rebates – \$55.9 million TF Recurring** – Provides additional budget authority to support the receipt of drug rebates received as a return of part of the cost of a client’s pharmaceutical expenses. Rebates are used for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which provides medication to HIV positive clients who are: in need of HIV/AIDS medication, have an income at 400% or less of the federal poverty level, and are uninsured or do not have adequate prescription coverage.
- **Community Water Fluoridation – \$200,000 GR Nonrecurring, \$150k TF Recurring** – Provides funding for the Community Water Fluoridation Program to help communities with initial fluoridation start-up costs to help prevent dental decay.
- **Vacant Position Reductions – \$777,000 GR Recurring** – Eliminates 77 positions in the county health departments that have been vacant for 180 days or greater. The average number of days these positions are vacant is 361. The position vacant for the most days is 2,351. Additionally, 259.31 FTE that are authorized but not established by DOH are eliminated.
- **Veterans’ Claims Examiners – \$386,000 TF Recurring** – Provides funding for 5 new FTE Veterans’ Claims Examiners to assist with claims, issue resolutions, and outreach activities.
- **Infection Prevention Specialists – \$528,000 TF Recurring** – Provides funding for 6 new FTE Veterans’ Infection Prevention Specialists to identify, investigate, and control infections and communicable diseases for residents, staff, volunteers, and visitors as required by federal regulation.
- **Veteran's Entrepreneur Veteran Support Programs – \$750,000 GR Nonrecurring** – Provides funding for the Entrepreneur Training Grant to support the network of Florida universities and colleges that offer entrepreneurial training opportunities to veterans.
- **Orange County State Veterans’ Home Operations – \$8 million TF Recurring** – Provides funding for home operations including all staff (136 FTE), resident equipment, and resident services for the new Veterans' Home at the Lake Baldwin facility in Orange County. This home has an anticipated opening date of February 2019.

- **St. Lucie County State Veterans' Home Initial Operations – \$200,000 TF Recurring** – Provides funding and staff (4 FTE) for initial operations, including administrative, medical, and maintenance personnel, for the new Veterans' Home at the Ardie Copas facility in St. Lucie County. This home has an anticipated opening date of September 2019.

- **State Veterans Nursing Homes–Fixed Capital Outlay – \$2 million TF Nonrecurring** – Provides funding for maintenance, repair, and replacement of fixed capital outlay at State Veterans' Homes:
 - Lake City State Veterans' Home: \$400,000
 - Daytona Beach State Veterans' Home: \$255,000
 - Land O' Lakes State Veterans' Home: \$295,000
 - Pembroke Pines State Veterans' Home: \$280,000
 - Panama City State Veterans' Home: \$250,000
 - Port Charlotte State Veterans' Home: \$250,000
 - St. Augustine State Veterans' Home: \$270,000

- **State Facility Fixed Capital Outlay – \$8.3 million TF Nonrecurring** – Provides funding for various fixed capital outlay renovation, maintenance, repair, and code correction projects at state owned facilities.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview:

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Subcommittee overall budget totals \$4.0 billion (\$441.7 million General Revenue and \$3.6 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 8,699.25 authorized positions.

There is a 10.1% increase in the total spending and a 21.3% increase in general revenue funds over the current fiscal year appropriation including a reduction of 13 FTE.

Highlights:

- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs – \$303.0 million, \$16.5 million GR –** Provides financial assistance to local governments for the construction of drinking water systems, wastewater treatment and stormwater management systems.
- **Everglades Restoration – \$248.1 million TF –** \$111.1 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; \$64 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir; \$32 million for Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan; \$31.0 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection; \$5.0 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (*funded in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*); and \$5 million for dispersed water storage.
- **Hazardous Waste Cleanup – \$123.5 million TF –** Provides \$110 million for the clean-up of contaminated petroleum sites, \$8.5 million for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup and \$5 million for cleanup of a variety of hazardous substances.
- **Florida Forever Program – \$100.8 million, \$3.8 million GR –** Provides \$77 million for land acquisition projects in the Florida Forever Program; \$10 million for Florida Communities Trust; \$6 million for FRDAP; \$5.8 million for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program; and \$2 million for the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program.
- **Beach Restoration Projects – \$61.2 million, \$5.9 million GR –** Provides an additional \$20.5 million to the recurring base of \$29.5 million for financial assistance to local governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management (\$50 million total in current year). Provides \$11.2 million for beach recovery projects for damages from Hurricane Irma (\$13.3 million total in current year for Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine).
- **Citrus Canker Eradication Claim – Final Judgment \$52.1 million GR –** Provides funds for the payment in the final judgement for Broward County \$22.1 million and Palm Beach County \$30.0 million.
- **Herbert Hoover Dike – \$50.0 million GR –** Provides funds for transfer to the South Florida Water Management District to expedite repairs of the Herbert Hoover Dike.
- **Springs Restoration Projects – \$50 million TF –** Continuation of recurring base funding for springs restoration, protection and preservation around the state.

- **State Park Improvements – \$46.1 million TF** – Provides \$35.1 million for state park facility improvements; \$5.0 million for projects funded from grants and donations; \$4.0 million for ADA projects; \$0.75 million for projects sponsored by citizen support organizations; \$0.75 million for department office facility repairs; and \$0.5 million for maintenance and repairs for coastal and aquatic managed areas.
- **Agricultural Non–point Source Best Management Practices – \$34.0 million, \$8.9 million GR – Continuation** of recurring base funding for the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs), addressing both water quality and water conservation on a site specific, regional, and watershed basis.
- **Water Projects – \$30.1 million GR** – Provides funds for various stormwater, wastewater and water supply projects in local communities.
- **Citrus Greening Response/Agriculture Research – \$18.3 million, \$3.3 million GR** – Provides \$8 million for citrus research; \$7.1 million for Citrus Health Response program; and \$2.5 million for citrus crop decline supplemental and \$0.75 million for Florida beef research.
- **Small County Wastewater Grants – \$15 million TF** – Provides grant funding for disadvantaged small communities to assist with meeting their needs for adequate sewer facilities.
- **Support for Food Banks – \$8.7 million GR** – Provides \$3.9 million for Farm Share, \$3 million for Feeding Florida, \$1.0 million for Feeding South Florida Community Kitchen, and \$0.8 million Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida.
- **Florida Agricultural Promotional Campaign – \$6.6 million, \$5.2 million GR** – Provides an additional \$1.5 million to the recurring base of \$5.8 million for the Florida Agriculture Promotion Campaign (\$5.1 million total in current year).
- **Boating Infrastructure and Improvements – \$6.4 million TF** – Provides funding to local governments for various boating access and maintenance and repair projects.
- **Wildfire Equipment Replacement – \$5.6 million TF** – Provides funding for the replacement of critical firefighting equipment.
- **Florida Forward Consumer Communication Program – \$5 million GR** – Continues base funding of \$1 million and provides \$4.1 million in nonrecurring funds in the Department of Citrus (\$4 million GR in current year).
- **Replacement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Equipment – \$4.4 million TF** – Provides funding for the replacement of vehicles, vessels, and equipment that exceed replacement criteria.
- **Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative – \$3.6 million GR** – Provides funding for the Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative to assist local governments with sea level rise, planning, coastal resilience projects, storm resiliency, and coral reef health.

Reductions

- **Eliminate Double Budget – \$26.7 million TF** – Eliminates the double budget in the Save Our Everglades TF. Everglades projects are funded directly from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
- **Reductions for Reversions and Unfunded Budget – \$6 million TF** – Reduces recurring budget authority based on and unfunded budget.
- **Vacant Position Reductions – \$1.1 million, \$237,000 GR** – Reduces 16 positions and \$1.1 million for positions vacant more than 180 days.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**TOTAL BUDGET for FY 2018–19: \$1.8 billion, \$186.4 million GR**

- Increase of \$61.8 million over current year – 3.5% increase.

Reduction Issues

- **Eliminates three positions vacant more than 180 days \$122,000 GR.**

Summary

- **Citrus Canker Eradication Claim – Final Judgment \$52.1 million GR** – Provides funds for the payment in the final judgement for Broward County \$22.1 million and Palm Beach County \$30.0 million.
- **Agricultural Non–point Source Best Management Practices – \$39.0 million, \$8.9 million GR** – Continuation of recurring base funding for the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs), addressing both water quality and water conservation on a site specific, regional, and watershed basis; and \$5.0 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (\$39.5 million total in current year).
- **Citrus Greening Response/Agriculture Research – \$18.3 million, \$3.3 million GR** – Provides \$8 million for citrus research; \$7.1 million for Citrus Health Response program; and \$2.5 million for citrus crop decline supplemental and \$0.75 million for Florida beef research.
- **Support for Food Banks – \$8.7 million GR** – Provides \$3.9 million for Farm Share, \$3 million for Feeding Florida, \$1.0 million for Feeding South Florida Community Kitchen, and \$0.8 million Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida.
- **Florida Agricultural Promotional Campaign – \$6.6 million, \$5.2 million GR** – Provides an additional \$1.5 million to the recurring base of \$5.8 million for the Florida Agriculture Promotion Campaign (\$5.1 million total in current year).
- **Rural and Family Lands – \$5.8 million, 3.8 million GR** – Provides funding for the acquisition of Land Protection Easements.
- **Wildfire Equipment Replacement – \$5.6 million TF** – Provides funding for the replacement of critical firefighting equipment.
- **Vehicle Replacement – \$1.8 million TF** – Provides funding for the replacement of motor vehicles in various programs that exceed replacement criteria.
- **Agricultural Water Quantity/Quality Programs – \$1.5 million GR** – Provides funding for water supply planning, technical assistance and implementation of cost shared programs and irrigation system efficiency conversions for statewide water conservation.
- **Aircraft Acquisition – \$671,000 GR** – Provides funding for the acquisition of a fixed–wing aircraft for the Florida Forest Service to help with the detection of wildfires.

- **Fixed Capital Outlay – Maintenance and Repairs – \$13.6 million, \$7.6 million GR:**
 - **Forestry Facility Improvements – \$2.5 million TF** – Provides funds for maintenance and repairs to facilities and structures that serve wildland fire protection, state forest land management and emergency response activities.
 - **Facility Improvements – \$3.1 million, 1.8 million GR** – Provides funds for facility renovations, including roof replacement and replacement of the HVAC system.
 - **Forestry Roads and Bridges Maintenance – \$2.2 million TF** – Provides funds for repair and maintenance of roads in the state forest, including the replacement of bridges and culverts.
 - **Agricultural Promotion and Education Facilities – \$5.3 million GR** – Provides funds for the Hardee County Agricultural Training/Conference Center, Arcadia Rodeo Equestrian Center, Bradford Fairgrounds, Manatee River Fair, Northeast Florida Fair, Pasco County Fair, and Marion County Southeastern Livestock Pavilion Phase 3.
 - **Florida State Fair Fairgrounds – \$0.5 million GR** – Provides funds to address safety and security issues at the fairgrounds in Tampa, FL, pursuant to section 616.251(2), Florida Statutes.

Department of Citrus

TOTAL BUDGET for FY 2018–19: \$31.3 million, \$5.7 million GR

- Decrease of \$1.9 million under current year – 5.7% decrease.

Reduction Issues

- **Eliminates Unfunded Budget \$2.5 million TF.**

Summary

- **Florida Forward Consumer Communication Program – \$5 million GR** – Continues base funding of \$1 million and provides \$4.1 million in nonrecurring funds for Florida Forward Consumer Communication Program (\$4 million GR in current year).
- **New Varieties Development – \$0.65 million GR** – **Continues recurring base funding** to support in-state citrus breeding programs and to develop and acquire new citrus varieties to progress with an evolving marketplace and consumer preferences.

Department of Environmental Protection

TOTAL BUDGET for FY 2018–19: \$1.8 billion, \$215.4 million GR

- Increase of \$302.1 million over current year – 20.5% increase.

Reduction Issues

- **Eliminate Double Budget – \$26.7 million TF** – Eliminates the double budget in the Save Our Everglades TF. Everglades projects are funded directly from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
- **Eliminates 13 positions vacant more than 180 days \$963,000, \$0.1 million GR.**

Summary

- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan programs – \$303.0 million, \$16.5 million GR** – Provides financial assistance to local governments for the construction of drinking water systems, wastewater treatment and stormwater management systems.
- **Everglades Restoration – \$243.1 million TF** – \$111.1 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; \$64 million for the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir; \$32 million for

Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan; \$31.0 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection; and \$5 million for dispersed water storage.

- **Hazardous Waste Cleanup – \$123.5 million TF** – Provides \$110 million for the clean-up of contaminated petroleum sites, \$8.5 million for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup and \$5 million for cleanup of a variety of hazardous substances.
- **Florida Forever Program – \$95 million TF** – Provides \$77 million for land acquisition projects in the Florida Forever Program; \$10 million for Florida Communities Trust; \$6 million for FRDAP; and \$2 million for the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program.
- **Beach Restoration Projects – \$61.2 million, \$5.9 million GR** – Provides an additional \$20.5 million to the recurring base of \$29.5 million for financial assistance to local governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management (\$50 million total in current year). Provides \$11.2 million for beach recovery projects for damages from Hurricane Irma (\$13.3 million total in current year for Hurricanes Matthew and Hermine).
- **Herbert Hoover Dike – \$50.0 million GR** – Provides funds for transfer to the South Florida Water Management District to expedite repairs of the Herbert Hoover Dike.
- **Springs Restoration – \$50 million TF** – Continuation of recurring base funding for springs restoration, protection and preservation around the state.
- **Federal Grant Budget Authority – \$49.3 million TF** – Provides grant funding for Deepwater Horizon projects \$33.3 million, Volkswagen Settlement projects \$5.0 million, Federal Land & Water Conservation Grants \$4 million, National Recreation Trail Grants \$4.0 million, Clean Marina Program \$2.2 million, and Florida Coastal Zone Management Program \$0.8 million.
- **State Park Improvements – \$46.1 million TF** – Provides \$35.1 million for state park facility improvements; \$5.0 million for projects funded from grants and donations; \$4.0 million for ADA projects; \$0.75 million for projects sponsored by citizen support organizations; \$0.75 million for department office facility repairs; and \$0.5 million for maintenance and repairs for coastal and aquatic managed areas.
- **Water Projects – \$30.1 million GR** – Provides funding for various stormwater and wastewater treatment and various water supply projects in local communities.
- **St. Johns River/Keystone Heights Lake Region Projects – \$2 million, \$12.3 million GR** – Provides additional funding of \$14.5 million to the recurring base of \$5.5 million to the St. Johns River Water Management District for St. Johns River, its tributaries, and/or Keystone Heights Lake Region restoration, public access and recreation projects (\$13.3 million total in current year).
- **Nonpoint Source Grants – \$17.5 million, \$5 million GR** – Provides funding for projects that help control nonpoint sources of pollution.
- **Small County Wastewater Grants – \$15 million TF** – Provides grant funding for disadvantaged small communities to assist with meeting their needs for adequate sewer facilities. Includes proviso language dedicating \$2 million for sand and grit removal for financially disadvantaged communities.
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads – \$7.4 million TF** – Provides funding for grants to local governments for storm water quality restoration projects and nonpoint source best management practices.
- **Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern – \$5 million GR** – Provides funding for local governments in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern or the City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern to finance or refinance the cost of wastewater, stormwater, or water quality improvement projects.
- **Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative – \$3.6 million GR** – Provides funding for the Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative to assist local governments with sea level rise, planning, coastal resilience projects, storm resiliency, and coral reef health.

- **Waste Tire Abatement – \$1.5 million TF** – \$1 million for the removal of tires around reefs and \$0.5 million for the waste tire abatement program to reduce the number of waste tire sites around the state.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

TOTAL BUDGET for FY 2018–19: \$378.0 million, \$34.2 million GR

- Increase of \$5.6 million over current year – 1.5% increase.

Reductions

- **Reductions for Reversions \$1.9 million TF** – Reduces recurring budget authority based on historical reversions.

Summary

- **Boating Infrastructure and Improvements – \$6.4 million TF** – Provides funding to local governments for various boating access and maintenance and repair projects.
- **Replacement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Equipment – \$2.0 million TF** – \$0.3 million for motor vehicles and \$1.7 million for boats, motors, and trailers that exceed replacement criteria.
- **Palm Beach Recreational Shooting Sports Park – \$3.0 million TF** – Provides budget authority in the Federal Grants Trust Fund for Phase III construction of the sports park.
- **New Law Enforcement Office Building in DeFuniak Springs – \$2 million TF** – Provides spending authority to build a new office facility in DeFuniak Springs to replace the current facility in Pensacola.
- **FWC Facilities Maintenance and Repairs – \$1.4 million TF.**
- **Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area – \$1.1 million GR** – Provides funding to upgrade camping infrastructure.
- **Aviation Enhancement – \$1.0 million GR** – Provides funding for refurbishment, and operations and maintenance of a newly acquired twin–engine aircraft to be used for search and rescue.
- **Derelict Vessel Removal Program – \$1.0 million TF.**
- **Lionfish Nonnative Species Management – \$1.0 million TF.**

Trust Fund Sweeps

- **Department of Environmental Protection**
 - Air Pollution Control Trust Fund \$3 million
 - Inland Protection Trust Fund \$58 million
- TOTAL \$61 million**

Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview:

The Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee's budget is \$12.7 billion (\$220.7 million in general revenue funds and \$12.4 billion in trust funds) and includes funding for 12,916 positions. The overall TTA budget is 0.2 percent larger than FY 2017–18, or 0.7 percent larger than HB 5001.

Highlights:

- The Conference Committee continued to invest in safety and citizen protections:
 - The budget has funded key aspects of the Dept. of Military Affairs' budget request. This includes a \$1 million increase for the National Guard Tuition Assistance Program, and \$610,000 for additional equipment that includes search and rescue boats and protective kits the Guard can use in the event of chemical or biological events.
 - In Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, we have provided \$390,000 for Electronic LED flares, approximately \$390,000 for a GPS-enabled pursuit intervention system, and approximately \$900,000 for hand-held narcotics analyzers for the Highway Patrol. This will help the FHP stay well-equipped for the difficult tasks they confront every day.
- This budget allocation requires \$184.8 million of trust fund transfers to General Revenue. These come largely from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund as well as the State Housing Trust Fund. These transfers, however, do not preclude substantial investments made in our affordable housing programs.
- Economic development activities are funded at \$267.2 million.
 - Visit Florida's budget is maintained at \$76 million in an effort to promote our state's vital tourism industry through increased marketing and advertising.
 - Space Florida's budget is maintained at \$18.5 million to support the space and aerospace industry in our state.
 - Current year level funding for Enterprise Florida, \$16 million, has also been maintained.
 - As the Governor requested, \$85 million is provided for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund so that we might continue efforts to support public infrastructure and workforce training around the state.
- Affordable Housing programs are funded at \$123.6 million. This includes \$79.2 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan program (SAIL) and \$44.5 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP).
- The conference report provides funding for State Aid to Libraries at \$20.3 million and \$2 million for library cooperatives.
- This budget includes funding for the Restoration of Historic Properties grants at \$2.9 million, and \$3.2 million for the Historic Preservation Grant program, a 10% increase over FY 2017–18, and 1% over HB 5001. The conference report also includes \$8.7 million in funding for cultural and museum grants.

- This budget fully funds the Transportation Work Program at \$9.9 billion.
- Additionally, two recommendations from the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness are included in the Transportation and Tourism budget conference report. These provisions are outlined on the following chart:

HURRICANE SUMMARY PROVISIONS		
REC #	TRANSPORTATION RECOMMENDATIONS	FUNDING
4	Suncoast Parkway Extension Develop a proposal to extend the Suncoast Parkway north to the Georgia state line as a major hurricane evacuation route. The report should identify a recommended route alignment, costs and a projected timeline for completing the necessary phases of such project.	1,500,000
7	Contraflow Exercise Conduct exercises utilizing the contraflow model and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.	750,000
		2,250,000

**TRANSPORTATION & TOURISM APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
 AGENCY SUMMARIES
 CONFERENCE REPORT: \$12.7 Billion**

Department of Economic Opportunity

\$1.15 Billion Total Budget

- Community Development Block Grant Program \$126.5 million
- Weatherization Grant Program \$2.0 million
- Low Income Energy Assistance Grant Program \$16 million
- Community Services and Energy Assistance \$100 million
- Fully fund Local Workforce Boards \$281.9 million
- Incumbent Worker Training \$3.0 million
- Black Business Loan Program \$2.2 million
- Hispanic Business Initiative \$775,000
- Florida Job Growth Grant Fund \$85 million
- Space Florida \$18.5 million
- Visit Florida \$76.0 million
- Enterprise Florida \$16 million
- FL Sports Foundation \$4.7 million
- Supplemental Nutrition & Assistance Program \$2.0 million
- FL Housing Finance Corporation \$123.6 million
 - State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program \$79.2 million
 - State Housing Incentives Program (SHIP) \$44.5 million

Transfers to GR

\$182.0 million

- Local Government Housing Trust Fund \$127.4 million
- State Housing Trust Fund \$54.6 million

Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles

\$480 Million Total Budget

- Motorist Modernization Phase I \$7.5 million
- Motorist Modernization Phase II \$5.0 million
- Narcotics Analyzers \$0.9 million
- FDLIS and FRVIS Tax Collector Equipment \$4.0 million
- DL and TC Office Fingerprinting Equipment \$1.1 million
- LED Solar Flares \$0.4 million
- GPS–Enabled Pursuit Intervention Technology \$0.4 million
- Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) \$0.3 million
- Automated Vehicle Driver Education Initiative \$0.2 million
- Orlando Regional Communication Center \$1.3 million
- Maintenance and Repair \$3.8 million

Transfers to GR: Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund

\$2.8 million

Department of Military Affairs

\$63.4 million Total Budget

- National Guard Tuition Assistance \$4.2 million
- About Face Program \$1.25 million
- Forward March Program \$0.75 million
- Additional Equipment for the Guard \$610 K

Department of State

\$101.7 million Total Budget

- Cultural and Museum funding \$8.7 million
- Cultural Facilities Program \$0.5 million
- Historic Preservation Grants \$3.2 million
- Restoration of Historic Properties \$2.9 million
- Cyber Security Grants for Counties \$1.9 million
- County Reimbursement for Special Elections \$3.4 million
- Advertising for Constitutional Amendments \$3.0 million
- State Aid to Libraries \$20.3 million
- Library Cooperatives \$2.0 million
- Florida Humanities Council \$0.5 million

Department of Transportation

\$10.9 Billion Total Budget

- Fund 5–Year Work Program \$9.9 billion
- Fixed Capital Outlay for building repairs and code correction statewide \$1.7 million
- Work Program Integration Initiative (information technology) \$11 million

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Highlights:

Department of Corrections (FDC)

General Revenue: \$73.6 million above base budget (\$37.7 million recurring; \$40.0 million nonrecurring)
Trust Funds: \$4.0 million above base budget.

Reductions:

- Reduces \$15.5 million GR based on the December 2017 Criminal Justice Estimating Conference prison population projection.
- Reduces \$9.4 million GR from the department's operating budget.
- Reduces \$2.3 million GR for debt service/bond finance payments.
- Eliminates \$.5 million GR for an appropriations project.

Major Issues:

- Funds issues related to settlement agreements and ongoing litigation related to health services:
 - \$46.8 million GR (\$6.2 million nonrecurring) and 289 FTE to improve the treatment of inmates with mental health disorders (includes necessary renovations to correctional facilities).
 - \$14.6 million GR (\$9.1 recurring, \$5.5 nonrecurring) for Hepatitis C virus treatment costs.
 - \$6.4 million GR (\$4.3 million nonrecurring) and 12 FTE to address ADA compliance issues (includes ADA fixed capital outlay compliance improvements).
- \$10.5 million recurring GR to address increases for Contracted Inmate Health Services.
- \$10.0 million recurring GR to annualize operating costs at the Wakulla Mental Health Unit.
- \$2.5 million recurring GR for increased pharmaceutical costs.
- \$1.0 million recurring GR for vocational and post-secondary education for inmates through CareerSource.
- \$4.0 million TF (\$2.7 million nonrecurring) to upgrade computer workstations and implement virtual desktop infrastructure.
- Funds the following nonrecurring appropriations projects requests:
 - Continuum of Care for Enhanced Offender Rehabilitation: \$7.0 million GR
 - Children of Inmates: Family Strengthening and Reunification: \$500,000 GR
 - Ready4Work Re-Entry: \$500,000 GR
 - Home Builders Institute: \$500,000 GR
 - Prison Literacy Pilot Program: \$375,000 GR
 - RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program: \$250,000 GR
 - Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc.: \$200,000 GR
 - Bethel Ready4Work – Tallahassee Reentry Program: \$150,000 GR

Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR)

Continuation budget only.

Department of Juvenile Justice

General Revenue: \$10.7 million above base budget (-\$9.7 million recurring; \$20.4 million nonrecurring).
Trust Funds: \$28.2 million above base budget.

Reductions:

- Reduces \$700,000 GR for excess salaries and benefits and OPS funding.
- Eliminates \$0.3 million TF of unfunded budget authority.

Major Issues:

- \$6.1 million recurring GR and TF for 10 percent pay increase for juvenile detention officers and juvenile probation officers.
- \$6.1 million recurring TF authority for increased residential beds.
- \$5.3 million nonrecurring TF authority for fixed capital outlay (FCO) for state detention facilities.
- \$1.0 million nonrecurring GR for security cameras at residential facilities.
- \$0.8 million nonrecurring TF authority for Risk–Assessment instrument.
- \$3.7 million nonrecurring TF authority for Prevention and Intervention Programs.
- Funds the following nonrecurring appropriations project requests:
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Florida: \$1.5 million GR/TF
 - Prodigy Cultural Arts Program: \$1.5 million GR/TF
 - Youth Advocate Program: \$350,000 GR
 - Parenting with Love and Limits: \$750,000 GR
 - City of Riviera Beach Summer Youth Employment Program: \$150,000 GR
 - Broward County Nancy J. Cotterman Human Trafficking Project: \$100,000 GR
 - Peace Hubs: Inner City Gun Violence Prevention Initiative: \$1.0 million GR
 - Wayman Community Development At Risk Services Program: \$150,000 TF
 - Clay County Youth Alternative To Secured Detention (S.W.E.A.T.): \$250,000 TF
 - The Dan Marino Foundation – Juvenile Reentry Virtual Interviewing Program: \$175,000 GR
 - New Horizons After School and Weekend Rehabilitation Program: \$275,000 TF
 - Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center – Girl Matters: Continuity of Care Program: \$375,000 GR
 - Fresh Path – High Risk Intervention Youth Program – Fresh Ministries: \$500,000 TF
 - Northwest Jacksonville YMCA Teen Programming: \$250,000 GR
 - Safe Harbor Boys Home Dock Replacement: \$250,000 GR
 - Youth Directors Conference and Life After High School Program: \$100,000 GR
 - Fred G. Minmis Pilot Juvenile Offender Betterment Services (JOBS): \$100,000 GR
 - AMIkids Family Centric Program: \$3 million GR
 - AMIkids Credit Recovery Program: \$1 million GR
 - AMIkids Apprenticeship and Job Placement Program: \$2.65 million GR
 - PACE Center for Girls – Citrus County: \$1.4 million GR
 - PACE Center for Girls – Hernando County: \$1.4 million GR
 - PACE Center for Girls – Statewide: \$1.7 million GR
 - Outward Bound: \$200,000 TF
 - Retention Bonus for Contracted Direct Care Staff: \$2.0 million GR
 - Boys and Girls Clubs – Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach: \$5.0 million GR
 - \$4.0 million is contingent upon receipt of additional FEMA funds

Fund Shifts:

- \$6 million from GR to TF for Residential Services.
- \$3 million from GR to TF for PACE Centers for Girls.

Department of Legal Affairs/ Office of the Attorney General (DLA/AG)

General Revenue: \$9.1 million above base budget (\$2.9 million recurring; \$6.2 million nonrecurring).

Trust Funds: \$5.6 million above base budget.

Major Issues:

- \$7.4 million nonrecurring TF for Information Technology Modernization Project.
- \$1.5 million nonrecurring GR to match federal grant funds to purchase and install generators at Certified Domestic Violence Centers (recommendation of Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness).
- Funds the following nonrecurring appropriations project requests:
 - Cuban–American Bar Association Pro Bono Project, Inc.: \$200,000 GR
 - Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association: \$150,000 GR
 - Legal Services Clinic of the Puerto Rican Bar Association: \$750,000 GR
 - Selah Freedom – Sex Trafficking Services and Fixed Capital Outlay: \$1.15 million GR
 - Children’s Advocacy Centers Statewide: \$500,000 GR
 - Nancy J. Cotterman State Attorney Liaison Program: \$250,000 GR
 - Voices for Florida: Open Doors Outreach Network for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Young Adults: \$1.8 million GR

Reductions:

- Reduces \$0.8 million recurring GR and \$1.8 recurring TF authority for 44 positions vacant over 180 days.
- Reduces \$0.5 million GR based on prior year reversions.

Transfers:

- \$4.2 million GR transferred from the State Court System to the Department of Legal Affairs for funding Children’s Advocacy Centers statewide.

Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

General Revenue: \$2.7 million above base budget (\$–4.6 million recurring; \$7.3 million nonrecurring).

Trust Funds: \$11.7 million above base budget.

Reductions:

- Eliminates \$1 million TF of unfunded budget authority.

Major Issues:

- \$7.9 million recurring and nonrecurring TF authority and one position for information technology projects.
 - \$5.7 million (\$4.2 million nonrecurring + \$1.5 million recurring) to finalize the Computerized Criminal History database.
 - \$2.2 million nonrecurring TF authority for the Sexual Offender and Predator database.
- Funds the following nonrecurring appropriations project requests:
 - Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS): \$250,000 GR
 - Cape Coral Police Department Public Safety Mobile Command Vehicle: \$176,250 GR
 - West Palm Beach – Critical Incident Response Equipment: \$400,000 GR
 - Thomas Varnadoe Forensic Center for Research and Education: \$4.3 million GR

- Project Cold Case: \$75,000 GR
- FSU Panama City Underwater Crime Scene Investigation Program: \$650,000 GR
- Jackson County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center Refurbishment: \$300,000 GR
- City of Marianna Public Safety Administration Complex: \$500,000 GR
- Shoplifting Diversion Pilot Program: \$250,000 GR

Fund Shifts:

- \$4 million from GR to TF for Salaries and Benefits in Crime Labs and Investigative Services.
- \$0.6 million from GR to TF for Criminal Justice Standards and Training.

Justice Administration Entities

General Revenue: \$2.2 million above base budget (\$0.9 million recurring; \$1.3 million nonrecurring).
Trust Funds: \$5.3 million increase above the base budget.

Justice Administrative Commission & Guardian Ad Litem

Reductions:

- Reduces \$2.5 million for due process funding.

Major Issues:

- Provides \$113,100 nonrecurring GR for information technology issues.

State Attorneys

Major Issues:

- \$1.2 million nonrecurring SARTF to replace motor vehicles in multiple circuits.
- Provides \$691,137 GR (\$663,992 recurring, \$27,145 nonrecurring) for domestic violence court and human trafficking investigation workload in the 9th circuit.
- Provides \$575,000 nonrecurring GR for a crime data consolidation pilot project in the 11th circuit.
- Provides \$220,591 recurring SARTF and 2 FTE to the 5th circuit.
- \$195,307 nonrecurring SARTF for replacement and additional office equipment in multiple offices.

Public Defenders

Major Issues:

- Provides \$1.8 million TF and 17 FTE for workload issues in multiple circuits.
- \$582,518 nonrecurring ICDF for additional and replacement motor vehicles in multiple circuits.

Capital Collateral Regional Councils

Major Issues:

- \$41,615 recurring TF to address office space rent increases.
- \$136,879 recurring TF authority to maximize the use of trust funds for operating expenditures.

Regional Conflict Councils

Major Issues:

- \$2.7 million GR (\$0.2 million nonrecurring), and 64.5 FTE to convert OPS and contract attorney positions to full-time equivalent positions.
- Provides \$330,000 recurring GR to address office space rent increases.

State Courts System (SCS)

General Revenue: \$4.6 million increase above the base budget (\$0.5 million recurring; \$4.0 million nonrecurring).

Trust Funds: continuation budget.

Major Issues:

- Transfers \$4.2 million for Children’s Advocacy Centers to the Department of Legal Affairs.
- Provides \$2.5 million recurring GR for problem solving courts.
- Provides \$2.0 million recurring GR to restore the trial court salary reduction from FY 17–18.
- Provides \$750,000 nonrecurring GR to development or competitively procurement a text alert application for court appearances and court fees.
- Provides \$480,224 nonrecurring GR for Early Childhood Courts.
- Provides \$304,000 nonrecurring GR for senior judges in Citrus and Flagler counties.
- Provides \$209,930 recurring GR to reimburse Supreme Court Justices for travel expenses.
- Provides an additional \$2.5 million nonrecurring GR for Vivitrol drug treatment, for an overall total of \$7.5 million GR for Fiscal Year 2018–2019.

Proviso and Back-of-the-Bill Highlights

- Provides nonrecurring general revenue funds to cover projected deficits in the current year, as follows:
 - \$21.7 million GR to treat inmates infected with the Hepatitis C Virus.
 - \$3.3 million GR for conflict case and due process payments.
 - \$1.7 million GR for operational deficits in the Regional Conflict Counsel offices.
- Reverts and reappropriates funds for the Martin County Sheriff’s Office Crisis Response Unit.
- Reverts and reappropriates funds for the Vincent Academy of the Adventure Coast, Inc.

Trust Fund Sweeps

- FDLE Operating Trust Fund: \$10 million
- Legal Affairs Revolving Trust Fund: \$10 million
- State Attorney Revenue Trust Fund: \$4.2 million
- DJJ Grants and Donations Trust Fund: \$8.0 million
- Motor Vehicle Warranty Trust Fund: \$3.0 million
- Indigent Criminal Defense Trust Fund: \$1.5 million
- Elections Commission Trust Fund: \$1.5 million
- Juvenile Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Trust Fund: \$1.0 million

Implementing Bill Provisions

Redirects the revenues currently deposited in the Public Defenders Revenue Trust Fund to the Indigent Criminal Defense Trust Fund in order to streamline operations by eliminating the use of the Public Defenders Revenue Trust Fund.

Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview:

The Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee's budget is \$2.06 billion (\$317.1 million in general revenue funds and \$1.74 billion in trust funds) and includes funding for 11,209 positions.

Overall, there is a \$75.4 million increase (3.8%) over the current year (9.8% increase in general revenue and 2.5% in trust funds).

Highlights:

- **State-Owned Facilities – \$56.7 million** to address maintenance and repair needs of state-owned facilities. \$56.3 million is provided to the Department of Management Services to address the \$489.4 million backlog of repairs. \$385K is provided to the Department of Financial Services for repairs and maintenance for the State Arson Laboratory and State Fire College.
- **MyFloridaMarketPlace** – continues the reduction of the transaction fee from 1% to .7% for purchases made by agencies through the state's on-line purchasing system. The reduction will save businesses that do business with the state millions in fees. The savings are estimated to be \$7.7 million in FY 2018–19 and over \$15.4 million the following two years through FY 2020–21.
- **Florida Accounting Information Resource System (FLAIR) Replacement – \$32.5 million** for replacement of the state's accounting system (FLAIR). The new system is known as PALM – Planning, Accounting and Ledger Management.
- **Local Fire Station, Equipment, and Emergency Operations – \$14.4 million** for various fire station projects, fire station equipment, and emergency operations projects.
- **Fiscally Constrained Counties – \$28.6 million** – This issue provides funding for counties to offset the reductions in ad valorem tax revenue because of State Constitutional Amendments approved by voters in 2008.
- **Workload – \$5.6 million** to accommodate increased workload in the various state agencies within the Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee.
- **Reductions – \$12.5 million** in total reduction and 45.25 positions were eliminated within the agencies in the Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee.
- **Trust Fund Transfers to General Revenue – \$89.3 million** in identified excess cash balances in various trust funds is transferred to the General Revenue Fund.

Department of Management Services

Budget of \$651.2 million – 5.6% increase over the current year.

- **Repairs and maintenance of state facilities – \$56.3 million** to address the \$489.4 million backlog of repairs and other needed improvements to state facilities.

- **State Group Health Insurance – \$7.9 million** to implement the requirements of Ch. 2017–88, L.O.F., relating to the health insurance options in the marketplace.
- **MyFloridaMarketPlace** – continues the reduction of the transaction fee from 1% to .7% for purchases made by agencies through the state’s on–line purchasing system. The reduction will save businesses that do business with the state millions in fees. The savings are estimated to be \$7.7 million in FY 2018–19 and over \$15.4 million the following two years through FY 2020–21.
- **State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) – \$3.3 million** to ensure that law enforcement and emergency personnel throughout the state are able to communicate from multi–jurisdictional locations, especially during disasters. Also included is staff augmentation and IV & V services for the current SLERS procurement.
- **Reductions – \$5.8 million** in reductions throughout the department.

Department of Revenue

Budget of \$585.7 million – 1.0% increase over the current year.

- **Fiscally Constrained Counties – \$28.6 million** is provided for counties to off–set the reductions in ad valorem tax revenue as a result of State Constitutional Amendments approved by voters in 2008; based on January 29, 2018 Revenue Estimating Conference.
- **Aerial Photographs – \$1.1 million** for aerial photographs used by property appraisers in counties with a population of 50,000 or less.
- **Child Support – Federal Department of Commerce Grant Spending Authority – \$1.1 million** in budget to implement a new authentication process for Child Support eServices.
- **Reductions – \$1.3 million** in reductions and 21.00 positions.

Agency for State Technology

Budget of \$64.7 million – 3.2% decrease from the current year.

- **Transfers** – Transfers 5.00 budget positions from AST to the Department of Management Services. Conforms to HB 5003, which provides that DMS will handle budget responsibilities for AST beginning in FY 2018–19.
- **Transfers** – Transfers 2.00 Geographic Information Services positions to the Department of Environmental Protection. Conforms to HB 5003, which designates DEP as the GIS coordinating agency for state government.
- **Security Training** – \$200,000 recurring budget to procure security–training services for the customer agencies of the Agency for State Technology.
- **Reductions** – \$2.2 million in excess budget is reduced.

Department of Financial Services

Budget of \$395.2 million – 5.9% increase over the current year.

- **Florida Accounting Information Resource System (FLAIR) Replacement – \$32.5 million** for FLAIR replacement project known as PALM – Planning, Accounting and Ledger Management.
- **FLAIR Staff Augmentation – Additional \$1.5 million for a total of \$3.5 million** to acquire staff augmentation to keep the current accounting system (FLAIR) operational until the new accounting system is completed.
- **Local Fire Stations, Equipment, and Emergency Operations – \$14.4 million** for fire station projects, fire station equipment, and emergency operations projects.
- **State Fire Marshal / Firefighter Cancer Research – \$2.0 million** for firefighter cancer research at the University of Miami – Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- **Law Enforcement – \$300,000** for Law Enforcement equipment.

- **Fixed Capital Outlay – \$385,000** for maintenance and repair at the State Arson Laboratory and State Fire College.
- **Reductions – \$367,000** and 22.00 vacant positions.

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Budget of \$155.0 million – 1.0% increase over the current year.

- **Compulsive and addictive gambling prevention – maintained at current level of \$1.25 million.**
- **Testing & Licensure of professions – \$830,000** funding for licensure testing and processing of licenses.

Department of Lottery

Budget of \$182.1 million – 8.4% increase over the current year.

- **Lottery Gaming Contract – \$5.6 million** for a new lottery gaming contract.
- **Information Technology Improvements: \$636,000**
 - Florida Lottery Statewide Document Management System: \$381,000
 - Website Content Management System: \$165,000
 - Phone System Replacement: \$90,000
- **Improvements to Disaster Recovery Capabilities – \$392,000** for hardware and software for full disaster recovery capabilities at the department's Orlando Data Center.
- **Banking Services Contract – \$155,000** for a new department banking services contract.
- **Reductions – \$412,000** in various department reductions.

Public Service Commission

Budget of \$25 million – 0.0% decrease/increase from the current year.

- Continuation Budget

Education Fixed Capital Outlay

Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) was funded at \$454.1 million including the following issues:

Regular Maintenance Funding (\$ 277.9 million total) for the following:

- Public Schools: \$50 million
- Charter Schools: \$145.3 million (an additional \$5.0 million is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
- Florida Colleges Regular Maintenance: \$35.4 million
- State Universities Regular Maintenance: \$47.2 million

New Construction & Renovation Funding:

- Florida Colleges: \$30.9 million (an additional \$11.2 million is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
- Universities: \$101.4 million (an additional \$12.2 million is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
- Special Facilities Construction: \$ 31.4 million
 - Taylor County (3rd and Final Year): \$6.3 million
 - Liberty (2nd Year of 3): \$6.1 million
 - Jackson (2nd Year of 3): \$19.1 million
 - Gilchrist (1st of 3 Years): \$2 million (Included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)

Other Issues:

- Developmental Research Labs Schools: \$6.2 million
- Florida School for the Deaf and Blind: \$3.4 million
- Public Broadcasting Stations Maintenance: \$2.4 million
- Capital Improvement Fee Trust Funded Projects: \$40 million
- Edward W. Bok Academy Hurricane Relief Initiative: \$.5 million (an additional \$700,000 is included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)
- Florida State University Schools – Hurricane Special Needs Shelter: \$2 million (Included in Section 98 contingent on receipt of hurricane reimbursements)

CS/SB 7026: Public Safety [HB 7101 – Oliva]*Signed into Law*

CS/SB 7026 ensures the horrendous acts of violence committed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School never occur again. This comprehensive bill was the result of examining how this tragedy could have been prevented, and provides the necessary reforms, tools, and protocols to protect Florida's children. No student should ever feel unsafe at school.

Highlights

- The bill establishes new restrictions on purchase and ownership of all types of firearms by:
 - Increasing the minimum age for purchasing a firearm to 21 years except for law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and active service members purchasing rifles or shotguns.
 - Establishing a 3-day waiting period for purchase of firearms except for concealed weapons permit holders, persons who hold a valid hunting license from the Fish and Wildlife Commission, law enforcement or correctional officers, or servicemembers.
 - Banning bump stocks.
- The bill creates a process for risk protection orders that allow seizure of a person's firearms under certain circumstances:
 - A petition is filed with the court by law enforcement alleging the person poses a significant danger to himself or others.
 - The court finds clear and convincing evidence that a significant danger exists.
 - The court establishes the order for no more than one year, but allows the order to be terminated earlier or extended longer after hearing evidence to evaluate the status of the potential danger.
- The bill supports school safety by providing:
 - Funding for additional school resource officers. Currently there are 1500 SROs covering 2400 schools.
 - Funding for school hardening through grants for improvements in facilities, surveillance systems, and other technical or security resources.
 - Funding for the "Aaron Feis School Guardian Program" to enhance safety and security in schools.
 - Guardians are school personnel who do not exclusively perform classroom duties and who, in addition to holding concealed weapons permits, undergo a background check, drug screening, psychological evaluation, and receive specialized law enforcement training.
 - Guardians are sworn law enforcement officers who function as part of school security teams. The guardians will work under the direction of the sheriff and in coordination with the school superintendents to enhance capabilities for immediate response to active assailant incidents on school premises.
 - Funding for the DOE Office of School Safety to establish safe school and security standards, review school safety and security plans, implement a school safety specialist training program, and update risk assessment procedures.
 - Funding for active shooter training for school safety specialists as well as students and faculty.
 - Required emergency drills for active shooter and hostage situations.

- The bill improves responses to students presenting a danger to themselves or others by:
 - Codifying and enhancing the activities of the multiagency network for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities (SEDNET).
 - Requiring each school district to designate a school safety specialist and each school to establish a threat assessment team to provide a coordinated approach to evaluating and responding to students who pose a threat of violence.
 - Amending the state policy for zero tolerance for crime and victimization statute (s. 1006.13, F.S.) to clarify direction to schools to refer students appropriately to mental health services or law enforcement.

- The bill looks to fix the communication breakdowns that contributed to the Parkland tragedy by:
 - Creating an affirmative obligation for personnel in schools, law enforcement, and service agencies to communicate and work together when serving the same at-risk youth.
 - Establishing a statewide commission with a special counsel to investigate system failures in the Parkland school shooting and prior mass shooting events and make recommendations for system improvements. Their mandate is to:
 - Analyze evidence from the Parkland shooting and other mass shooting events in Florida to determine the extent to which failures in communication or coordination contributed to an inability to prevent deaths and injuries.
 - Identify available tools, such as the Fusion Center or the Judicial Inquiry System, and recommend ways these resources can be used more effectively to identify risks and threats.
 - Recommend changes in procedures or policies necessary to enhance communication among schools, law enforcement, and social service agencies.
 - Funding the Office of School Safety to develop resources for data analytics that can facilitate monitoring of social media activities indicating a risk of cyberbullying, suicide threats, or criminal activity.
 - Allowing law enforcement to better respond to threatening behavior by amending the crime of written threats to include a threat to conduct a mass shooting or commit an act of terrorism.

- The bill increases funding for mental health training, screening, and counseling in schools by:
 - Increasing community action teams (CATs) to provide therapeutic and support services to children, adolescents and young adults with serious mental health needs.
 - CAT programs use multi-disciplinary teams that include mental health clinicians, various medical professionals, case managers, therapeutic mentors, and support staff. The team works collaboratively to deliver behavioral health services and assist families and other caregivers to obtain additional services and supports.
 - Providing mental health first aid training for all school district personnel.
 - This training helps people to identify, understand, and respond to the first signs of mental health illness or addictions.
 - Also, require crisis intervention (CIT) training for school resource officers to provide skills necessary to react to and de-escalate crisis situations.

- Increasing funding for mobile crisis teams. These teams respond to specific incidents that may escalate into Baker Act events. The team provides immediate intervention leading to a transition to other types of behavioral services.
- Increasing funding for prevention and early intervention services as well as outpatient treatment.

- The bill honors the lives that were lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School by:
 - Creating a memorial to honor the victims.
 - Providing financial assistance for victims' families.
 - Providing funds to replace the 9th grade building.

Commerce Legislative Highlights

CS/HB 29: Military and Veterans Affairs – Ponder and Renner

Signed into Law

CS/HB 29 creates the “Don Hahnfeldt Veteran and Military Family Opportunity Act” and continues our efforts to make Florida the most military-friendly state in the nation.

Highlights

- A military and veteran presence will forever be important to our state. These brave men and women not only place themselves in harm’s way to protect our freedom and liberty, they are also a stable and significant force in Florida’s growing economy.
- The bill expands some of the current initial licensing fee waivers for Department of Business and Professional Regulation licensees.
- The bill expands some of the current initial licensing fee waivers and grants a renewal fee waiver for Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services licensees.
- The bill creates an initial licensing fee waiver and a renewal fee waiver for Office of Financial Regulation licensees.
- The bill provides relief from pre-licensure insurance coursework requirements and expands initial licensure fee waivers for Department of Financial Services licensees.
- The bill expands the expedited licensure application process and waives certain fees for spouses who practice dentistry and are licensed by the Department of Health.
- The bill waives certain educator initial licensing fees and establishes a pathway for veteran officers to obtain certification as a school principal by the Department of Education.
- The bill requires Department of Education to educate veterans about apprenticeship and career opportunities.
- The bill allows Junior Reserve Officer Training instructors to participate in the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program.
- The bill gives priority for attendance in Florida Virtual School to children of an out of state active duty member of the armed services whose legal residence is Florida.
- The bill designates March 25 every year as “Medal of Honor Day” in Florida schools and encourages related classroom discussion.
- The bill expands eligibility for receiving training grants and administering entrepreneurship programs under Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.

CS/HB 539: Alarm Confirmation – Cortes, B.

Signed into Law

CS/HB 539 modernizes the two-call verification protocol to allow alarm monitoring companies to call the customer's cell phone to verify an alarm signal and provides the flexibility to confirm an alarm signal via text message.

Highlights

- The bill requires that attempts by monitoring personnel to confirm an alarm signal be made to the owner, occupant, or his or her authorized designee of the premises generating the signal instead of to a telephone number associated with the premises.
- The bill expands the modes of confirming an alarm signal to include:
 - sending a text message, or
 - communicating through other electronic means.
- The bill also changes terminology for authenticating an alarm signal from “verification” to “confirmation,” and for who verifies an alarm from “central monitoring station” to “alarm monitoring company.”

Background

- Florida requires alarm systems to be installed and monitored by licensed alarm system contractors. Monitored intrusion or burglar alarms trigger a signal alerting the alarm monitoring company of an emergency. Prior to contacting a law enforcement agency for dispatch, the monitoring company must make two verification calls to the premises, and an alternate number, to confirm that it is not a false alarm.
- Currently, the alarm monitoring company is only permitted to communicate with the premises via telephone call to confirm the alarm.

CS/CS/HB 1011: Homeowners' Insurance Policy Disclosures – Cruz

Signed into Law

CS/CS/HB 1011 revises homeowner's insurance policy notices to clearly state hurricane coverage does not include flood insurance coverage and urges customers to speak with their insurance agent about obtaining flood insurance coverage.

Highlights

- The bill expands the required notice in a homeowner's property insurance policy to include a separate notice that the purchase of hurricane coverage does not include flood insurance coverage.
- The bills requires the insurer to include the notice with the policy documents upon the initial issuance and at each renewal of the homeowner's insurance policy.
- The notice will read:

"LAW AND ORDINANCE: LAW AND ORDINANCE COVERAGE IS AN IMPORTANT COVERAGE THAT YOU MAY WISH TO PURCHASE. PLEASE DISCUSS WITH YOUR INSURANCE AGENT."

"FLOOD INSURANCE: YOU MAY ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF FLOOD INSURANCE. YOUR HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE POLICY DOES NOT INCLUDE COVERAGE FOR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM FLOOD EVEN IF HURRICANE WINDS AND RAIN CAUSED THE FLOOD TO OCCUR. WITHOUT SEPARATE FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE, YOU MAY HAVE UNCOVERED LOSSES CAUSED BY FLOOD. PLEASE DISCUSS THE NEED TO PURCHASE SEPARATE FLOOD INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH YOUR INSURANCE AGENT."

- The new notice requirements will apply to policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2019.

Background

- Flood insurance is a separate line of insurance from homeowner's property insurance and is not included in the base coverage of such a policy. In the case of flood damage occurring during the course of a hurricane, the windstorm portion of the homeowner's property insurance policy does not cover the flood damage. If the homeowner does not specifically purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program or an authorized Florida flood insurer, such losses will be uninsured.

CS/CS/HB 3: Economic Development and Tourism Promotion Accountability – Grant, M.

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 3 would have dramatically increased transparency and accountability to local tourism promotion agencies (TPA) and economic development agencies (EDA). In doing so, the bill would have helped ensure TPAs and EDA's track records of using very poor judgement with taxpayer dollars came to an end.

Highlights

- The bill would have extended the same safeguards for public funds being spent by TPAs and EDAs as the ones passed last year for Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida.
- The bill would have required that officers and board members disclose conflicts of interest and TPAs and EDAs avoid or mitigate any significant conflicts of interest before the award of a contract.
- The bill would have required all contracts valued over \$5,000 be published on the TPA's or EDA's website.
- The bill would have required all contracts valued over \$250,000 be submitted to the governing board of the county before execution and published on the county's website 14 days in advance.
- The bill would have required the Department of Economic Opportunity compile, and publish on their website, a list of all TPA and EDA websites.
- The bill would have required the Auditor General to audit:
 - All TPAs within a county if that county in total received \$30 million or more in tourist development taxes in the preceding year (audit to occur every other year); and
 - At least two EDAs and at least two of all the remaining TPAs, selected at random (audit to occur every year).
- The bill would have prohibited publicly-funded salaries that exceed the salary and benefits authorized to be paid to the chief administrative officer of the local government they work for.
- The bill would have prohibited the expenditure of funds for the direct benefit of a single corporation or business entity. (TPAs only)
- The bill would have made it a criminal offense (first-degree misdemeanor) to intentionally give false or misleading information, fail to provide certain information, or intentionally structure an organization or agreement in order to avoid the transparency and accountability requirements of the bill.
- The bill would have authorized the Governor or Chief Financial Officer to suspend or prohibit the distribution of tourist development tax revenues to a TPA when it fails to comply with the transparency and accountability requirements of the bill. (TPAs only)

HB 15: Deregulation of Professions and Occupations – Beshears

Passed House Only

HB 15 would have deregulated certain professions to remove unnecessary government barriers, allow businesses to grow without overregulation, and create more job opportunities for Floridians.

Highlights

- The bill would have removed the following professions and entities from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) regulation:
 - Hair braiders, hair wrappers, body wrappers, boxing announcers, and boxing timekeepers.
- The bill would have removed the following professions and entities from DBPR regulation, but generally retained each profession’s standards of operation and civil and criminal causes of action:
 - Labor organizations and business agents.
- The bill would have reduced the hours of training required to obtain the following licenses:
 - Barbers, restricted barbers, nail specialists, facial specialists, and full specialists.
- The bill would have clarified the definition and scope of practice for the following professions:
 - Restricted barbers, nail specialists, full specialists, facial specialists, and hair braiders.
- The bill would have eliminated the requirement that the following licensees obtain a certificate of authorization for their businesses, and would have allowed such licensees to continue to operate if they applied to be the qualifying agent for their business entity:
 - Asbestos abatement consultant and contractors, architects, landscape architects, and geologists.
- The bill would have eliminated the requirement that yacht and ship brokers obtain a separate license for each branch office, but would have retained the requirement that a primary office location be maintained.
- The Florida House is focused on protecting the free market with legislation aimed at deregulating certain professions. In doing so, we fought to provide more job opportunities for Floridians while protecting their health and safety.

CS/HB 19: Motor Vehicle Insurance – Grall

Passed House Only

CS/HB 19 would have brought accountability and responsibility to auto insurance by repealing mandatory Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and replacing it with mandatory Bodily Injury (BI) coverage, which would have helped decrease premiums for Florida drivers.

Highlights

- PIP has been the required insurance coverage for Florida drivers for far too long. Even with multiple revisions to PIP since its inception, rampant fraud and abuse are driving up premiums.
- The bill would have ended mandatory PIP coverage and required mandatory BI coverage.
- The bill would have increased the minimum BI coverage limits, required Florida drivers to obtain BI coverage at \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 for two or more persons, and maintained the \$10,000 requirement for property damage coverage.
- The bill would have required that BI coverage be obtained prior to registering a vehicle.

Background

- Since 1971, PIP, also known as Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Insurance, has been the required insurance coverage for all Florida drivers . In addition, the Financial Responsibility Law requires all Florida drivers at fault in an accident to be accountable for bodily injuries or deaths (BI) up to \$10,000 for one person, \$20,000 for two or more persons, and \$10,000 for damage to property (PD). While PIP and PD coverage is required at the time of registration, BI coverage may be secured through insurance or other means following an accident.
- PIP has gone through multiple revisions since its inception, but went through a major overhaul in 2012 due to rampant fraud and abuse driving up premiums. While there was an initial decrease in premiums after the 2012 reform, premiums have risen once again.

CS/HB 585: Tourist Development Tax – Fine and Jacquet

Passed House Only

CS/HB 585 would have made it clear that tourist development tax revenues can be spent on infrastructure so local governments cannot hide behind ambiguity in current law.

Highlights

- It should be an easy choice when faced with handing out money to vanity projects or spending on critical infrastructure project that will improve tourism and the city as a whole. Cities and counties should be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars – without calls to action from legislators or state regulators.
- The bill would have expanded the permissible uses of tourist development tax revenues by authorizing counties to use such revenues in connection with the building or improving of certain infrastructure.
 - The bill would have required that the expenditure be deemed in writing by a qualified, independent expert as likely to increase tourist-related business activities.
 - The bill would have required the expenditure be recommended by the county’s tourist development council.
- For all other authorized uses, the bill would have required an objective analysis regarding the return on investment for the proposed expenditure of tourist development tax revenues.
- The bill would have extended the current authorization to use tourist development tax revenues on such things as restoration and maintenance of beaches, inland lakes and rivers, to expressly include the same types of expenditures for estuaries, lagoons, and channels.

Background

- According to Florida Statute, the following is an approved use of Tourist Development Taxes: “To finance... beach park facilities or beach improvement, maintenance, renourishment, restoration, and erosion control, including shoreline protection, enhancement, cleanup, or restoration of inland lakes and rivers to which there is public access as those uses relate to the physical preservation of the beach, shoreline, or inland lake or river.”
- Some local governments have interpreted this language to not include certain infrastructure projects, even though said projects would have been vital to the well-being of their citizens and would help tourism.

CS/CS/CS/HB 681: Protection for Vulnerable Investors – Donalds

Passed House Only

CS/CS/CS/HB 681 would have protected our seniors and vulnerable adults from financial exploitation and investment fraud by authorizing certain persons to delay a financial transaction or disbursement if they believed a senior or vulnerable adult was being exploited.

Highlights

- With the aging of the U.S. population, financial exploitation of seniors is a serious and growing problem.
- The bill would have authorized a dealer, investment adviser, or associated person to place a delay on a financial transaction or disbursement when there was a reasonable belief that exploitation of a vulnerable investor had occurred, was occurring, or had been attempted. Such delay would have expired after 15 business days.
- The bill would have required dealers and investment advisers to:
 - Report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults to the Department of Children and Families through the Florida Abuse Hotline;
 - Report specified information, on a quarterly basis, to the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) regarding any delays placed and the outcome of such delays;
 - Provide written notice to specified parties associated with the account;
 - Make all records relating to a delay or report available to the OFR upon request; and
 - Develop and implement a training policy or program that educates associated persons on the recognition, reporting, and prevention of exploitation.
- The bill would have required the OFR to annually report information related to delays placed by dealers and investment advisers.

HB 7009: Workers' Compensation – Burgess

Passed House Only

HB 7009 would have ensured the quick and efficient delivery of disability and medical benefits to injured workers and facilitated their return to gainful reemployment at a reasonable cost to the employer.

Highlights

- The Florida House was committed to passing a comprehensive workers' compensation bill after recent court rulings found parts of the law unconstitutional.
- The bill would have implemented recent case law by:
 - Removing the prohibition on injured workers from paying for their own attorney,
 - Increasing temporary wage replacement benefits from 104 weeks to 260 weeks combined, and filling the gap between temporary and permanent wage replacement benefits for certain injured workers, and
 - Allowing hourly attorney fees only in certain instances, ensuring injured workers could find an attorney while limiting the cost impact on the system.
- The bill would have allowed insurers to decrease premiums by a uniform percentage not to exceed five percent, which would have created competition that benefits the consumer.
- The bill would have addressed numerous system cost drivers.
- This bill was expected to result in significant savings in overall workers' compensation system costs, which would have led to reduced premiums.

Background

- Workers' compensation is the injured employee's remedy for "compensable" workplace injuries. Florida courts have recently found multiple parts of Florida's workers' compensation laws unconstitutional in the areas of attorney fees, time limits on temporary wage replacement benefits, and the right of an injured worker to pay for their own attorney. Subsequently, the Office of Insurance Regulation ordered a workers' compensation premium rate increase of 14.5 percent effective December 1, 2016.

HB 7067: Gaming – La Rosa

Passed House Only

HB 7067 would have struck a reasonable balance between controlling gambling and establishing long-term certainty and predictability for existing gambling entities in our state, while providing much needed funding for education.

Highlights

- The bill would have approved a new Seminole Compact that is based on the current 2010 Compact, with certain changes, and amended current state gambling laws to limit gambling.
- The bill would have guaranteed approval from the Legislature if a signed compact was identical to the compact in the bill.
- The bill would not have allowed for new gambling authorized anywhere.
- The bill would have allowed tribes to keep blackjack for 20 years at five existing facilities.
- The bill would have limited the Florida Lottery from expanding game types.
- The Seminole Tribe would have continued paying \$19.5 million a month until the new Compact was finalized.
- The bill would have guaranteed \$3 billion paid to the state over the first 7 years of the new Compact term.
- The bill would have increased revenue sharing from about \$250 million a year to an average of over \$400 million a year.
- The bill would have required all state Compact Revenue to go towards education.
- The bill would have limited slot machines to current location and made designated player/player banked games illegal.
- The bill would have revoked permits from those who have not operated or paid taxes in two years.
- The bill would have prohibited new permits of relocating gambling facilities.
- The bill would have added language to the definition of “slot machine or device” in the gambling statutes to more clearly prohibit pre-reveal machines and games.

Education Legislative Highlights

CS/SB 4: Higher Education [CS/CS/HB 423 – Rodrigues]

Signed into Law

Parts of CS/CS/HB 909 was incorporated into CS/CS/HB 423 during the committee process.

CS/SB 4 establishes the “Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018” and ensures a bright future for our state and generations to come.

Highlights

- The Florida House is continuing our efforts to strengthen our state university system, hold them accountable to the students and the taxpayer, and continue to give opportunities to all students.
- The bill returns the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards to their pre-recession levels and will help even more Floridians in their pursuit of higher education.
- The bill requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to study the State University System performance based funding system. The intent is to find a more effective way to distribute performance dollars and create a system that does not pick winners and losers, but rewards universities for their excellence.
- The right to speak and express oneself freely in public is a fundamental American right which must be closely guarded. Perhaps nowhere is freedom of speech more important than on college campuses, where the free market of ideas is crucial to introducing students to a wide range of viewpoints. This is something we have addressed in this bill with the creation of the Campus Free Expression Act.
- The bill enhances accountability measures for State University Direct-Support Organizations that will help ensure that they are spending your tax dollars responsibly.
- **Florida Bright Futures Scholarship**
 - The bill expands the Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholars (FAS) award to cover the full cost of tuition and fees, plus a stipend of \$300 for books.
 - The bill expands the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award to cover 75% of the full cost of tuition and fees.
 - The bill authorizes the use of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship awards for the summer term.
- **Scholarships and Programs**
 - The bill increases funding for the First Generation Matching Grant Program to provide financial assistance for students who are first in their family to go to college.
 - The bill expands the Benacquisto Scholarship to include qualified out-of-state students.
 - The bill creates the Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship Program.
 - The bill changes the name of the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) to the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant.
 - The bill establishes the World Class Faculty and Scholar Program and the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program.

- **Preeminent State Research Universities Program**
 - The bill revises the graduation rate metric from 6-year to 4-year, while decreasing the preeminent threshold from 70% to 60% (allows use of the 2017 6-year (70%) rate to meet the 2018 standard).
 - The bill decreases funding for institutions that are designated as emerging preeminent state research universities from one-half of the total increase in funding for preeminent institutions to one-quarter.
 - The bill eliminates approval for a preeminent university to require first-time-in-college (FTIC) students to take a 6-credit set of unique courses.
 - The bill requires the BOG to establish standards and measures to identify undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs that reflect national excellence and make recommendations to the Legislature for enhancement and promotion.

- **State University System Performance Based Funding**
 - The bill revises the 6-year graduation rate metric to a 4-year metric for full-time FTIC students and requires that the access metric include benchmarks that reflect varying access rates among universities.
 - The bill requires the BOG to provide the Legislature with recommendations for future consideration on the most efficient process to achieve a complete performance-based continuous improvement funding model.
 - The model should be focused on outcomes and provide for the equitable distribution of performance funds.
 - The Legislature will also review recommendations from an independent entity that must consult with the BOG to receive input on behalf of the state university system.
 - No recommendation may be implemented unless affirmatively enacted by the Legislature.

- **Freedom of Expression on Campus (CS/CS/HB 909 – Rommel)**
 - The bill creates the "Campus Free Expression Act", which addresses the issue of free speech on the campuses of public postsecondary institutions.
 - The bill clarifies that an individual's expressive rights may not be infringed upon, and that an institution is prohibited from restricting expressive activities to a particular area of campus and prohibited from designating free speech zones.
 - The bill allows reasonable limits on expressive activities; however, students, faculty, or staff may not materially and substantially disrupt activities on campus.
 - The bill allows an individual to seek declaratory and injunctive relief, including reasonable court costs and attorneys' fees, if his or her expressive rights are violated by a postsecondary institution.

- **State University Direct Support Organizations (DSOs)**
 - The bill requires that personal services for DSOs must comply with requirements for other state employees.
 - The bill requires thresholds for approval of purchases, acquisitions, projects, and issuance of debt.
 - The bill requires that, no later than July 1, 2019, university transfers of any state appropriation to DSOs by a board of trustees may include only funds pledged for capital projects.
 - Requires each UBOT to annually report to Legislature on amount of state funds transferred, purpose for transfer, and any remaining balance.

- The bill prohibits the use of state funds for travel expenses for any DSO.
- The bill revises the appointment and approval process for members of a DSO board of directors.
- The bill requires public access to records related to the expenditure of state funds and any records related to the expenditure of private funds for travel for DSOs.
- **4-year Graduation Rates**
 - The bill requires that each university board of trustees adopt a plan to improve the 4-year graduation rates of undergraduate students. Plans must include financial assistance that helps students take at least 15 credit hours in both the fall and spring terms.
- **University of South Florida**
 - The bill requires the USF Board of Trustees, no later than January 15, 2019, to adopt and submit an implementation plan to the BOG to phase-out the separate SACSCOC accreditation of the USF St. Petersburg and USF Manatee/Sarasota campuses.
 - The separate accreditation must be terminated by June 30, 2020, with no lapse in accreditation for any USF campus.
 - The bill requires that, on or before July 1, 2020, the entirety of USF, including all campuses and other component units of the university, shall operate under a single institutional accreditation.
 - The bill requires consolidation of data for all campuses for purposes of reporting data to IPEDS and BOG (including for performance funding).
 - The bill holds USF harmless for students who enroll in a branch campus prior to consolidation or who drop out of all USF campuses before the separation.
 - The bill specifies that Partnership for Arts Integrated Teaching (PAInT) is physically headquartered at the Sarasota/Manatee location of USF.

HB 75: Postsecondary Fee Waivers – Ponder

Signed into Law

HB 75 continues our efforts to make Florida the most veteran-friendly state in the nation by making postsecondary education more affordable for active duty service members.

Highlights

- The bill authorizes Florida College System (FCS) institutions to waive any portion of specified fees that are not covered under the Department of Defense (DOD) Military Tuition Assistance (MTA) program.
- The bill requires each FCS institution to report to the State Board of Education the number and value of all fee waivers granted annually.

Background

- The DOD MTA program is a benefit paid to eligible service members for tuition and fees at postsecondary education institutions.
- In 2014, the DOD MTA program instructions were modified to limit coverage of the benefit to tuition only. The payment of other mandatory fees using federal dollars is expressly prohibited. The guidance further defined fees to include any charge not directly related to course instruction, including but not limited to, costs associated with room, board, distance learning, equipment, supplies, books/materials, exams, insurance, parking, transportation, admissions, registration, or fines. Florida's current tuition funding model authorizes tuition and fee charges.

CS/HB 495: Education – Diaz and Bileca

Signed into Law

CS/HB 495 makes changes to the various areas of the Florida education system including retirement program, computer science instruction, school safety, and standardized assessment programs.

Highlights

- **Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**
 - The bill provides that effective July 1, 2018, instructional personnel who are authorized to extend Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) participation beyond the 60-month period must have a termination date that is the last day of the last calendar month of the school year within the DROP extension granted by the employee.
 - The bill states that administrative personnel in grades K-12 who have a DROP termination date on or after July 1, 2018, may be authorized to extend DROP participation beyond the initial 60 calendar month period if the administrative personnel's termination date is before the end of the school year.
 - The bill increases student access to computer science instruction by requiring middle and high schools to offer computer science courses.

- **Computer Science Instruction**
 - The bill increases student access to computer science instruction by requiring middle and high schools to offer computer science courses.
 - The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to identify computer science courses in the course code directory and on its website.
 - The bill requires the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) to offer computer science courses identified by the DOE.
 - The bill requires school districts that do not offer a computer science course to provide students access to computer science courses offered by the FLVS or by other means.
 - The bill establishes a grant program to provide training to teachers to earn computer science educator certificates and industry certifications.
 - The bill provides a yearly bonus to teachers with a computer science educator certificate or industry certification who complete an authorized course, for up to 3 years.

- **School Safety**
 - The bill creates a second-degree felony for an authority figure who solicits or engages in sexual, romantic or lewd conduct with a student enrolled at a school, regardless of the student's age.
 - The bill revises the definition of school trespassing to include school buses and strengthens the reporting and investigation requirements for school employee misconduct.

- **Florida Statewide Standardized Assessment Program**
 - The bill also specifies that students who are enrolled in an Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Advanced International Certificate Education course and earn the minimum score necessary to earn college credit are not required to take the state end-of-course assessment for that subject.

CS/HB 565: Excess Credit Hour Surcharges – Mariano

Signed into Law

CS/HB 565 eliminates penalizing students who graduate on time by refunding some of their excess credit hour surcharges.

Highlights

- For a typical student, a bachelor's degree requires 120 credit hours to complete. Students are allowed to take up to 132 credit hours, or 10 percent more credit hours, before being penalized. Students are assessed an excess credit hour surcharge for any credits attempted in excess 110 percent of the credits required for degree completion.
- The bill requires a state university to refund the assessed excess credit hour surcharge, for up to 12 credit hours, to any first-time-in-college (FTIC) student who completes a baccalaureate degree program within 4 years after initial enrollment in a state university.
- Accordingly, a student enrolled in a 120 credit hour baccalaureate degree program could take up to 144 credit hours, 12 credit hours more than allowed by current law. The student would be assessed the excess credit hour surcharge for the additional 12 credit hours, but would receive a refund for the surcharge if he or she graduates in 4 years after initial enrollment.
- The bill may result in a cost savings, in the form of refunds, for FTIC students who generate excess credit hours, but graduate with a baccalaureate degree within 4 years of initial enrollment.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1279: School District Accountability – Sullivan

Signed into Law

CS/CS/CS/HB 1279 increases fiscal accountability and transparency of school districts by requiring budget and spending information to be provided in a manner that allows the public to see how and where school districts spend tax dollars.

Highlights

- Florida’s taxpayers deserve to know how their money is spent. We owe it to the parents and students of our state to ensure that taxpayer money dedicated to fund education is used in a responsible and efficient way.
- To increase fiscal transparency of educational spending, the bill:
 - Directs the Department of Education (DOE) to create an online tool to identify efficient schools and school districts with a high level of academic success relative to per-pupil expenditures.
 - Requires school districts to post summary financial information, which includes detailed information regarding the amount spent per student for instructional staff and administrative staff.
 - Requires school boards to fully explain budget amendments at the board’s next public meeting.
 - Requires out-of-state travel expenses to be approved in public meetings.
- To increase fiscal accountability of school districts, the bill:
 - Requires school districts with low-ending general fund balances to reduce administrative costs and other expenditures.
 - Requires school districts that fail to timely pay current debts or liabilities to have their accounts and records investigated.
 - Requires districts in a financial emergency to withhold the salaries of superintendents and school board members until the financial emergency is addressed, unless such individual was elected or appointed within 1 year of the emergency and did not participate in the final school district budget.
 - Requires school districts with revenues over \$500 million to employ an internal auditor.
 - Clarifies that the DOE’s Office of Inspector General must investigate allegations or reports of fraud and abuse from certain government officials.
- The bill requires the Auditor General to perform certain follow-up procedures to determine a school board’s progress in addressing audit findings.
- The bill prohibits appointed and elected superintendents from lobbying school districts for a period of two years after vacating the position.
- The bill requires school boards to withhold a portion of an employee’s salary who owes a public financial disclosure fine until the fine is paid.
- The bill insures that school board member salaries align with that of first-year teacher salaries.

- The bill requires prior school board approval for reimbursement of out-of-district travel expenses if the travel exceeds \$500.
- The bill prohibits superintendents and district school board members from employing or appointing a relative to work under their supervision.

CS/HB 7055: Education – Bileca and Diaz

Signed into Law

Provisions from bills included in this legislation that also passed the House include the following: CS/CS/HB 1; CS/HB 25; CS/CS/HB 731; HB 839; HB 887; CS/HB 1035; CS/HB 1175 and CS/CS/HB 1391. Provisions from bills that passed at least one committee include the following: CS/CS/HB 827

CS/HB 7055 is a comprehensive package of reforms and new initiatives that will create the opportunity for transformational change in Florida's educational system.

Highlights

- Our education system is of the utmost importance to the future of our state. The Florida House is committed to giving all students the necessary resources to excel and reach their full academic potential.
- The Hope Scholarship Program creates a pathway for students who are subjected to an act of physical or emotional harm at school or during a school-related activity to pursue their education free from hostility.
- The Florida House is committed to increasing educational opportunities for children with unique abilities to help them achieve more successful outcomes. Expanding allowable expenditures in the Gardiner Scholarship program gives parents more flexibility and freedom to provide their children with a high-quality, individualized education.
- The Florida House is committed to providing parental choice over their child's education. Through reforms in this bill, charter schools will have increased flexibility and high-performing charter schools will be able to replicate more easily.
- The bill gives more administrative flexibility for school districts by expanding the Principal Autonomy pilot programs to a statewide initiative, allowing for more flexibility with facilities and giving them more discretion on the spending of Title I funds.
- The bill helps homeschooled students who participate in dual enrollment by covering their out of pocket of instructional materials.
- The bill makes a positive step in increasing transparency and holding public employee unions accountable to the teachers they represent.
- As Reagan put it, "If we forget we are one nation under God, then we will be one nation gone under." That is why we are requiring schools to display our state motto throughout their campuses.
- **Education Scholarship Programs**
 - The bill creates the Hope Scholarship Program to provide students subjected to bullying and other similar incidents options to enroll in another public or a private school. (CS/CS/HB 1 – Donalds)
 - The bill establishes reading scholarship accounts for certain students to increase reading performance through specified services. (CS/HB 1035 – Sullivan)

- The bill expands allowable uses of Gardiner Scholarship funds. (CS/HB 1035 – Sullivan)
- The bill establishes the Florida Sales Tax Credit Scholarship Program to provide additional revenue for certain scholarship programs.
- The bill streamlines and strengthens oversight provisions for private schools participating in state school choice scholarship programs. (CS/CS/HB 1 – Donalds)
- **Charter Schools and School Choice**
 - The bill allows a charter school applicant to determine when to open a charter school.
 - The bill revises procedures for resolving disputes related to termination and service contracts.
 - The bill authorizes charter schools to establish school administrator and principal preparation programs that lead to certification.
 - The bill requires surplus tangible personal property to be provided for a charter school's use on the same basis it is made available to other public schools in the district.
 - The bill revises eligibility requirements for high-performing charter schools and allows replication of up to two schools.
 - The bill allows home education, charter school, and Florida Virtual School students to participate in an extracurricular activities at a public school after the season begins. (home education portion in CS/CS/HB 731 – Sullivan)
 - The bill revises requirements to home school and private school students' dual enrollment costs. (CS/CS/HB 827 – Donalds)
 - The bill authorizes Early Learning Coalitions to refuse to contract with, or revoke the eligibility of a school readiness or VPK program provider if the provider has been cited for a Class I violation. (CS/HB 1175 – Sullivan)
- **Capital Outlay**
 - The bill clarifies when a school district must share revenue generated from the discretionary 1.5 millage to eligible charter schools within the district.
 - The bill requires school districts to annually certify their debt service obligation incurred as of March 1, 2017, which has not been subsequently retired.
 - The bill allows school districts to use certain funds for capital outlay projects without an educational plant survey recommendation.
 - The bill prohibiting a school district from withholding charter school administrative fees when payments for lease-purchase agreements in the aggregate exceed three-fourths of the proceeds from the discretionary 1.5 millage.
- **Administrative Flexibility for School Districts**
 - The bill expands the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative to a statewide program and allows highly-effective trained principals to manage multiple schools.
 - The bill allows school boards to waive the State Requirements for Educational Facilities so that public schools can operate in a facility on the same basis as a charter school in certain circumstances.
 - The bill increases flexibility in the use of Title I funds.
 - The bill requires each school district and the collective bargaining agent to negotiate a memorandum of understanding before the start of the 2019-2020 school year on assignment of educational personnel and provides school principals with certain decision-making authority.

- **School District Funding**
 - The bill specifies that supplemental academic instruction (SAI) funds must be used for “D” and “F” schools to implement turnaround plans and other academic support activities.
 - The bill requires school districts to use SAI and research-based reading allocation funds to provide an extra hour of reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest performing elementary schools based on a 3-year average of statewide, standardized English language arts assessment scores.
 - The bill specifies that the extra hour may be provided within the school day and making the extra hour optional for students who scored a Level 4 or 5.

- **Professional Development and State Assessments**
 - The bill requires the integration of social studies content into reading and writing prompts.
 - The bill requires published assessment items to be in a sharable format.
 - The bill requires the Department of Education to provide templates district may use to develop curriculum.
 - The bill requires school districts to provide FLVS students with access to district facilities for certain tests.
 - The bill prohibits a teacher from receiving an industry certification bonus if the teacher violates the exam security or administration protocol. (CS/CS/HB 1391 – Rodrigues)

- **Other Provisions**
 - The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to coordinate resources during an emergency.
 - The bill specifies that a classroom teacher may receive a Best and Brightest scholarship award if he or she is assigned to another position in the district before the award is disbursed.
 - The bill requires a collective bargaining agent for instructional personnel to recertify if its dues-paying membership is less than 50 percent. (CS/HB 25 – Plakon)
 - The bill specifies requirements for CPR instruction that schools may provide.
 - The bill requires district school boards to adopt rules to display the state motto. (HB 839 – Daniels and Ponder)
 - The bill provides certain exemptions from assessment and graduation requirements for students in the graduating class at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and maintains the school’s 2016-17 “A” grade, eligibility for school recognition funds, and designation as a School of Excellence for the 2017-18 school year.

CS/HB 1: The Hope Scholarship Program – Donalds

CS/HB 1 was incorporated into CS/HB 7055

CS/HB 1 created a pathway for students to pursue their education with hope, dignity and an opportunity for success.

Highlights

- The Hope Scholarship Program created a pathway for students who are subjected to an act of physical or emotional harm at school or during a school-related activity to pursue their education free from hostility.
- Every student deserves access to a safe environment. In the 2016-17 school year, over 47,000 Florida public school students were victims of incidents such as battery, bullying, harassment, hazing, physical attacks, and sexual assault, battery and harassment.
- Studies show that students who are exposed to traumatic events have increased absences and decreased academic performance. For these students, just being at school interferes with their learning.
- We know that incidents are often unreported. For example, in 2015, .1% of the total student population reported a bullying incident; however, in a self-reported survey 15% of students stated they were bullied. We also know that not all injuries are visible. Depression, anxiety, and many other psychological problems, including fear, can result from school violence.
- The bill provided the parent of a public school student who was subject to an incident of battery, harassment, hazing, bullying, kidnapping, physical attack, robbery, sexual offense, harassment, assault, battery, threat, intimidation or fighting at school with the opportunity to transfer the student to another public school or to receive a scholarship for the student to attend a private school.
- The bill required the district to notify the parent of a student who was victimized about the scholarship program within 15 days of the report of an incident occurring.
- The bill provided a \$750 scholarship for transportation if the student enrolls in a public school outside the district.
- The bill established the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Education, the Commissioner of Education, scholarship funding organizations, parents, students, and the Auditor General.
- The bill established guidelines for scholarship amounts and payments to private schools.
- The bill allowed taxpayers to receive tax credits for eligible contributions to fund the Hope Scholarship Program.

CS/HB 63: Students with Disabilities in Public Schools – Edwards-Walpole and Rodrigues

Passed House Only

CS/HB 63 would have amended standards and procedures for the use, monitoring, documentation, and reporting of seclusion restraint on students with disabilities.

Highlights

- The bill would have provided that physical restraint may be used only to protect students, school personnel or others, but not for disciplining a student.
- The bill would have clarified that restraints should be used only when all other strategies and techniques have been exhausted.
- The bill would have clarified that a student may only be physically restrained for the time necessary for protection.
- The bill would have prohibited many physical restraint techniques.
- The bill would have prohibited student from being placed in seclusion.
- The bill would have required the school to review a student’s functional behavioral assessment and individualized behavior intervention plan when a student is placed in time-out, physically restrained or secluded more than twice in a semester.
- The bill would have included emotional and behavioral disabilities in the list of disabilities for which certain school personnel must be trained to identify for early intervention.
- The bill would have added to staff training effective classroom behavior management strategies such as differential reinforcement, precision commands, minimizing attention or access to other reinforcers, and time-out methods.
- The bill would have required school districts to develop policies and procedures to ensure the physical safety and security of all students and school personnel; and requires that students be treated with dignity and respect.
- The bill would have directed DOE to publish data and analysis relating to incidents of seclusion and restraint on its website.

**Government
Accountability
Legislative
Highlights**

SB 100: Taxes and Fees for Veterans and Low-income Persons [CS/HB 603 – Gonzalez]

Signed into Law

SB 100 will reduce taxes and fees for veterans and low-income persons and expand the forms of identification a veteran may present to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV).

Highlights

- The bill creates an exemption from local business taxes for honorably discharged veterans and their spouses, unremarried surviving spouses of such veterans, spouses of certain active duty military servicemembers, and low-income persons who engage in or manage a business, profession, or occupation.
- The bill eliminates the \$1 or \$2 fee a veteran must pay to have the word “Veteran” displayed on an identification card or driver license issued by the DHSMV.
- The bill also expands the forms of identification that a veteran may present to the DHSMV as proof of veteran status for the purpose of receiving the “Veteran” designation on an identification card or driver license to include the following:
 - A veteran health identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - A veteran identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015.
- The bill prohibits tax collectors from charging a veteran the \$6.25 service fee for driver license services upon presentation of specified documentation proving that the individual is a veteran.

HB 359: State Investments – Nuñez and Diaz

Signed into Law

HB 359 prohibits state agencies from doing business with the repressive government of Venezuela in violation of federal law.

Highlights

- The bill requires the State Board of Administration (SBA) to divest any investment in stocks, securities, or other obligations of any institution or company domiciled in the United States, or foreign subsidiary of a company domiciled in the United States, from doing business in or with the government of Venezuela, or with any agency or instrumentality thereof, in violation of federal law.
- The bill also prohibits the SBA from investing in such stocks, securities, or other obligations with the government of Venezuela, or any affiliated entity.
- The bill prohibits a state agency from investing with any financial institution or company that extends credit of any kind, advances funds in any manner, or purchases or trades any goods or services with the government of Venezuela, or any company doing business in or with the government of Venezuela, in violation of federal law.

Background

- The SBA has responsibility for overseeing the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Pension Plan investments and the FRS Investment Plan, which represent approximately \$168.8 billion, or 86.3 percent, of the \$195.7 billion in assets managed by the SBA as of October 26, 2017.
- In recent years, the federal government has imposed various sanctions on the government of Venezuela. On August 24, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13808 to prohibit United States persons and entities from engaging in certain financial transactions with the government of Venezuela.

CS/CS/SB 376: Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders
[CS/CS/CS/HB 227 – Willhite and Plasencia]

Signed into Law

CS/CS/SB 376 will ensure we take care of our first responders by providing workers' compensation benefits to our first responders who suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder.

Highlights

- The bill revises the standards for determining compensability of employment-related posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) under workers' compensation laws for first responders, which includes volunteers or employees engaged as law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics.
- The bill allows first responders that meet certain conditions to receive indemnity and medical benefits for PTSD without an accompanying physical injury.
- The bill requires an employing agency of a first responder, including volunteer first responders, to provide educational training related to mental health awareness, prevention, mitigation, and treatment.

SB 472: National Statuary Hall [CS/CS/HB 139 – Henry and Leek]

Signed into Law

SB 472 requests the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of the statue of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Highlights

- The bill requests the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of the statue of General Edmund Kirby Smith in the National Statuary Hall with a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune.

Background

- In 1864, Congress created the National Statuary Hall, which permits the display of two statues from each state within the Capitol of the United States.
- Mary McLeod Bethune was born July 10, 1875, in Mayesville, South Carolina. In the early 1900's, Ms. Bethune moved to Daytona (now Daytona Beach), Florida and founded a boarding school for girls. Eventually, the school grew and merged with the all-male Cookman Institute of Jacksonville to form Bethune-Cookman College in 1929. Ms. Bethune was also active in civil rights and gender equality movements, appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Harry S. Truman to positions in government, and served as the vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

HB 545: Prohibition Against Contracting with Scrutinized Companies – Fine and Moskowitz

Signed into Law

HB 545 will prohibit a company that is engaged in the boycott of Israel from contracting with Florida's state or local governments.

Highlights

- The bill amends current law prohibiting agencies and local governmental entities from contracting with companies on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List (Israel List) or that boycott Israel to apply the prohibition to contracts for goods or services of ***any amount***, rather than only contracts of \$1 million or more.
- The bill requires a contract with an agency or local governmental entity for goods or services of any amount entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2018, to contain a provision that allows for the termination of the contract at the option of the awarding body if the company has been placed on the Israel List or is engaged in a boycott of Israel.

HB 1013: Daylight Saving Time – Nuñez and Fitzenhagen

Signed into Law

HB 1013 addresses Daylight Saving Time by bringing more sunshine year-round to our state if federal law is amended to permit Florida to take such action.

Highlights

- The bill creates the “Sunshine Protection Act” and declares the Legislature’s intent to observe Daylight Saving Time year-round throughout the entire state of Florida if the federal government permits it.
- This will benefit Floridians by providing more daylight during peak hours, which will boost the economy by increasing tourism, as well as allowing for leisure activities in which individuals and families participate.
- Studies have shown that having more daylight will improve public safety on our roads and can improve mental health.

Background

- The United States Congress established a uniform standard of time under the Uniform Time Act of 1966. The act created standard time zones across the United States and adopted a national standard for Daylight Saving Time. Federal law permits states to be exempt from observing Daylight Saving Time, but does not permit states to observe Daylight Saving Time year round.

CS/HB 11: Government Accountability – Metz

Passed House Only

CS/HB 11 would have made government more transparent, efficient, and accountable to the taxpayers.

Highlights

- The bill would have ensured state agencies and other government entities had internal controls in place to curb waste, fraud, and abuse and promote efficiency in their operations.
- The bill would have increased transparency by extending the amount of time budget documents for cities and counties must be available online so citizens know how their tax dollars are being spent.
- The bill would have limited the amount of money that state agency and judiciary branch employees can be reimbursed for lodging expenses while they are traveling for certain work events.
- The bill would have reformed public testimony laws so people would have had the opportunity to speak at local board and commission meetings without having to submit their comments in advance.

HB 13: Sports Franchise Facilities – Avila and Diaz

Passed House Only

HB 13 would have ended the practice of wasting taxpayer dollars to subsidize sports franchises on public lands, while also ensuring that these organizations were held accountable by requiring them to pay outstanding debts if they no longer use their stadiums.

Highlights

- The bill would have prohibited a sports franchise from constructing, reconstructing, renovating, or improving a facility on public land leased from the state or a local government.
- The bill would have required a lease of a facility on public land by the state or a local government to a sports franchise to be at fair market value. Currently, cities and counties can offer below-market rate leases or deeds for real property for stadiums.
- The bill would have required a sale of public land by the state or a local government for a sports franchise to construct, reconstruct, renovate, or improve a facility on such land to be at fair market value.
- The bill would have required a contract or agreement between a sports franchise and the state or a local government for the construction, reconstruction, renovation, or improvement of a facility to include a provision that requires the sports franchise to pay any outstanding debt incurred by the state or local government to fund such construction, reconstruction, renovation, or improvement if the sports franchise permanently discontinues use of the facility.

Background

- In Florida, 80 percent of professional sports franchises have facilities on public land that taxpayers subsidize to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. These deals have been financial disasters for taxpayers. For example, public dollars have financed as much as 125 percent of total stadium costs in four Florida cities alone.
- Nationally, taxpayers have shelled out an estimated \$6.7 billion dollars to build or renovate NFL stadiums since 1997.

CS/HB 17: Community Redevelopment Agencies – Raburn

Passed House Only

CS/HB 17 would have provided much needed transparency and accountability for community redevelopment agencies (CRAs).

Highlights

- Reports have found that several CRAs have misused taxpayer money and that all CRAs need better reporting and oversight.
- The bill would have required CRA board members to undergo four hours of ethics training each year.
- The bill would have required the Department of Economic Opportunity to post a list of inactive CRAs online.
- The bill would have required more oversight of each CRA’s budget process.
- The bill would have expanded the annual reporting requirements for CRAs to include audit information and performance data and required the information and data to be posted on the agency website.
- The bill would have required all new CRAs to be created by a special act of the Legislature.
- The bill would have required existing CRAs to receive support from a super majority of the local governing board that created the agency to continue operating. Without support from a super majority, the CRA would have ended on the expiration date in its charter or on September 30, 2037, whichever was earliest.

CS/HB 25: Labor Organizations – Plakon

Passed House Only

CS/HB 25 would have reformed the annual public employee union registration renewal process to increase transparency and accountability and held unions accountable to the workers they represent.

Highlights

- When a majority of eligible members of a union opt not to pay dues, those members should not be forced to be represented by that union or have it collectively bargain on their behalf.
- The bill would have required each public employee union to report in its annual registration renewal application the number of employees eligible to be in the union and the number of employees who did and did not pay dues to the union.
- If 50 percent or more of eligible union members did not pay dues, the union would have had to reapply for certification.
- The certification of a union that did not comply with these requirements would have been revoked.
- Unions that represent law enforcement officers, firefighters, and corrections officers would not have been included in these changes, except for the reporting requirement.

Background

- Each year, public employee unions must renew their registration to the Public Employees Relations Commission to continue representing their workers. Renewal applications require a financial report, which includes information on union salaries, receipts, and other information.
- Renewal applications do not currently require unions to include a roster of members who are eligible to be represented by the union and those who do and do not pay dues to the union.

CS/CS/HB 33: Texting While Driving – Toledo and Slosberg

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 33 would have struck the appropriate balance between roadway safety and protecting our individual civil liberties by making the existing ban on texting, emailing, or instant messaging while driving a primary offense.

Highlights

- By making the existing ban on those activities a primary offense, law enforcement officers would have been able to detain a motor vehicle operator solely for texting while driving.
- The bill would have maintained the current penalties and exceptions to the ban and maintained that the ban does not apply to stationary motor vehicles.
- The bill would have included safeguards to protect an individual's privacy rights by ensuring law enforcement officers follow certain protocols before they can access a driver's wireless communications device during a traffic stop for a violation of the ban.
- The bill would have required law enforcement officers to record the race and ethnicity of persons cited for violating the ban on texting while driving and directed the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to compile this information and annually report the data to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Background

- Every person deserves access to a safe driving environment. According to the National Highway Safety Administration, 385 fatal crashes, which lead to 404 deaths, involved the use of cell phones as distractions in 2014. It also reported that text messaging creates a crash risk 23 times greater than driving while not distracted.
- Currently, 47 states plus the District of Columbia have passed bans on texting while driving for all drivers. Of those 47 states, Florida is one of only four states where enforcement of the ban is a secondary offense.
- Driving on our roads is a privilege that comes with the responsibility to do so in a safe manner. By cutting down on the distraction of texting while driving, this bill would have made our roads safer for the millions of Floridians and visitors travelling on them every day.

CS/HM 381: Venezuela – Stark

Passed House Only

CS/HM 381 was a memorial that requested Congress to urge delivery of humanitarian assistance to the country of Venezuela.

Highlights

- The memorial would have requested the United States Congress to urge the regime of President Maduro to allow delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela.
- The memorial would have requested the United States Congress to continue and intensify financial sanctions against the regime of President Maduro.
- The memorial would have requested the United States Congress to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold the regime of President Maduro accountable for violations of the law and humanitarian principles.

Background

- After becoming president of Venezuela in 2013, Nicolás Maduro continues to suppress opposition protests and restricts freedom of speech and assembly. President Maduro imprisoned hundreds of political opponents. Many of those detained have been subject to torture and other human rights abuses.
- Venezuela is also in the midst of a crippling economic crisis, resulting in food and medicine shortages, which has led to a humanitarian crisis. Despite the crisis, President Maduro has refused international aid. Consequently, the United States has criticized President Maduro and imposed numerous sanctions on his regime.

CS/CS/HB 459: Public Records – Massullo

CS/CS/HB 461: Pub. Rec./Trade Secrets Held by an Agency – Massullo

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 459 and CS/CS/HB 461 aimed to bring clarity when handling trade secrets by creating a uniform definition of the term “trade secret” and a uniform process for handling public record requests for records marked as trade secrets.

Highlights for CS/CS/HB 459

- The bill specified that any contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, to which an agency or an entity subject to public records requirements is a party, is a public record, except that confidential or exempt information may be redacted prior to release of the contract or agreement, or an addendum thereto, if the specific statutory exemption is identified.
- The bill specified that notwithstanding any other law, the parties to the contract or agreement; the amount of money paid, any payment structure or plan, expenditures, incentives, bonuses, fees, or penalties; the nature or type of commodities or services purchased; and the applicable contract unit prices and deliverables are public records.
- The bill would have repealed most public record exemptions for trade secrets in current law, all associated processes for designating a trade secret, and most references to trade secrets contained in definitions for proprietary business information.

Highlights for CS/CS/HB 461

- The bill created a public records exemption for trade secrets that applied to most agencies subject to public records requirements.
- The bill defined the term “trade secret” and specifically excluded from the definition the following information related to any contract or agreement with an agency:
 - The parties to the contract or agreement.
 - The amount of money paid, any payment structure or plan, expenditures, incentives, bonuses, fees or penalties associated with the contract.
 - The nature or type of commodities or services purchased.
 - Applicable contract unit prices and deliverables.
- The bill required a person who submits to an agency records that contain a trade secret to mark the record with the words “trade secret” and attach a written verification under penalty of perjury that the marked information is a trade secret.

CS/CS/CS/HB 725: Permit Fees – Williamson

Passed House Only

CS/CS/CS/HB 725 would have brought more transparency to governing bodies of counties and municipalities by requiring them to post certain permit and building information on their websites.

Highlights

- The bill would have required the governing bodies of counties and municipalities to post permit and inspection fee schedules and building permit and inspection utilization reports on their websites by December 31, 2019.
- After December 31, 2019, the governing body of a local government that provides a schedule of fees would have been required to update its building permit and inspection utilization report before making any adjustments to the fee schedule.
- The bill would have established reporting requirements when updating a building permit and inspection utilization report.

CS/CS/CS/HB 815: County and Municipal Public Officer Transparency – Avila

Passed House Only

CS/CS/CS/HB 815 would have increased transparency between local governments and their citizens relating to travel expenses for local officials.

Highlights

- The bill would have required any out-of-state or foreign travel by a county or municipal public officer, with the exception of elected county constitutional officers, to be approved by the governing body of the county or municipality at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- The bill would have further required all county and municipal public officer out-of-state or foreign travel approvals be posted on the website of the county or municipality no later than 10 days after approval, and required such travel approvals to remain on the applicable website until the end of the next fiscal year.
- The bill would have required each county, county constitutional officer, and municipality to adopt a uniform travel policy consistent with s. 112.061, F.S., applicable to all of its public officers and employees.

HR 1027: Capital of Israel – Moskowitz and Fine

Adopted by the House

HR 1027 supports the federal government's actions to officially recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel.

Highlights

- The resolution recognizes the historical, religious, and cultural importance of Jerusalem.
- The resolution supports recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel.
- The resolution supports relocating the United States Embassy to Jerusalem.

Background

- In 1950, the State of Israel declared Jerusalem as its national capital. The United States was the first country to recognize the State of Israel as a nation. The United States Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, directing the United States Embassy to the State of Israel to be moved to Jerusalem. Furthermore, on December 6, 2017, President Trump issued a Presidential Proclamation recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel and stating the United States Embassy would be relocated to Jerusalem as soon as practicable.

HB 6001: Traffic Infraction Detectors – Avila and Ingoglia

Passed House Only

HB 6001 would have repealed the authority for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and local governments to install and maintain red light cameras and maintained that the regulation of the use of red light cameras is preempted to the state.

Highlights

- Red light cameras have failed to keep Floridians safe. In fact, data shows that total crashes and injuries actually *increased* at intersections with red light cameras.
- The bill would have removed the authorization for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and local governments to install and maintain red light cameras.
 - Local governments would no longer have had the authority to implement red light camera programs by local ordinance.

CS/CS/HB 7057: Budget Transparency – Rommel

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 7057 would have provided needed transparency and access to the operating budgets of certain state entities.

Highlights

- This bill would have required any statewide entity created by law or the State Constitution and that is controlled or operated by the Governor or the Governor and members of the Cabinet, or is related to a department of state government, to follow specific steps that provide transparency if the entity receives its operating income through a funding source other than through the state budget, to better align such entities with others funded through the state budget.
- The bill would have required the operating budget be approved at a publicly noticed meeting and be available on the entity's website at the time the meeting was noticed.
- The bill would have required the operating budget, once approved, to be submitted to the chairs of the legislative appropriation committees and the Executive Office of the Governor by July 1 of each year.
- The bill would have also required operating budget information to be posted to the state entity's website.

CS/HB 7083: Emergency Management – Raschein

Passed House Only

CS/HB 7083 would have revised various provisions relating to the state’s comprehensive emergency management plan and emergency management readiness and response in Florida that would have helped our state greatly during the next storm.

Highlights

- The bill would have extended the number of days state employees can be authorized leave during an emergency from 15 to 20 days.
- The bill would have required county emergency management plans to include a fuel contingency plan and provide detailed information on shelters online.
- The bill would have prohibited a public entity from holding a public meeting during a declared state of emergency during a curfew to discuss or vote on its budget.
- The bill would have directed the Florida Department of Transportation, railroad industries, and fuel industries to collaborate and create a study examining options to use railroads as a means to transport and store fuel to areas impacted by a hurricane.
- The bill would have ensured our state is better prepared for emergencies and any minor, major, or catastrophic disaster.

**Health & Human
Services
Legislative
Highlights**

CS/CS/HB 21: Controlled Substances – Boyd

Signed into Law

CS/CS/HB 21 is an important step in providing much-needed solutions to the opioid crisis that will help protect our families and communities.

Highlights

- The bill limits prescriptions for Schedule II opioids to alleviate acute pain to a three-day supply, or a seven-day supply if deemed medically necessary by the prescriber.
 - The act provides exceptions to the prescribing limits for cancer, terminal illness, palliative care, and serious traumatic injury, and requires co-prescribing of emergency opioid antagonists for the latter.
 - These acute pain prescribing limits do not apply to chronic pain.
- The bill requires prescribers to check the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data system before prescribing controlled substances. Failure to do so results in a non-disciplinary citation the first time and potential licensure action each time thereafter.
- The bill allows Florida to share its PDMP data with other states. Increased access to PDMP data furthers the state’s goal of safer prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances and reduction of drug abuse and diversion.
- The bill updates the Florida Controlled Substances Act by adding 27 drugs listed in the federal controlled substance act. This authorizes state-level law enforcement actions related to those drugs.
- The bill criminalizes possession or use of encapsulating or tableting machines and controlled substance counterfeiting material, except for that by licensed drug manufacturers and dispensers.
- The bill requires a two-hour continuing education course on controlled substance prescribing for all health care practitioners authorized to prescribe controlled substances – physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice nurses.
- The bill also requires pain management clinics to either be licensed or obtain a certificate of exemption from the Department of Health (DOH).
- The bill appropriates approximately \$54 million to combat the opioid epidemic.
 - \$42 million to the Department of Children and Families for community-based substance abuse services, including outreach, treatment, and recovery services.
 - \$6 million to the Office of State Courts Administrator for medication-assisted substance abuse treatment in the criminal justice system.
 - \$5 million to DOH to purchase emergency opioid antagonists for first responders.
 - Approximately \$1 million to DOH for upgrades to the PDMP.

Background

- Substance abuse affects millions of people in the U.S. each year. Opioid addiction has been recognized as a public health emergency on both federal and state level. Drug overdoses have steadily increased and now represent the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S., the majority of which involve an opioid. In our state, heroin caused 952 deaths, oxycodone caused 723 deaths, and hydrocodone caused 245 deaths in 2016.

HB 37: Direct Primary Care Agreements – Burgess and Miller

Signed into Law

HB 37 expands the use of direct primary care (DPC) to increase access to affordable and quality health care for Floridians.

Highlights

- The bill makes clear that a DPC agreement and the act of entering into such an agreement are not insurance and not subject to regulation under the Florida Insurance Code (Code).
- The bill also exempts a primary care provider, which includes a primary care group practice, or his or her agent, from any certification or licensure requirements under the Code for marketing, selling, or offering to sell a DPC agreement.
- Preventing DPC practices from being regulated like insurance will help expand its use.
- The Florida House is dedicated to passing legislation that will increase access to quality and affordable health care for all Floridians.

Background

- DPC is a medical practice model that eliminates third party payers from the doctor-patient relationship. By contract, a patient or employer pays a monthly fee to the primary care provider for defined services. After paying the fee, a patient can utilize all services in the agreement at no extra charge.
- One of the most critical problems in health care is out of control and unjustifiable costs. High costs reduce access to medical services and coverage for all Floridians, especially the uninsured. Innovations like DPC cut costs by eliminating the administrative hassles of the third-party payer system and restoring the patient-physician relationship.

CS/HB 41: Pregnancy Support and Wellness Services – Toledo

Signed into Law

CS/HB 41 codifies the Pregnancy Support Services Program (FPSSP) in statute to ensure the program continues and to make the program more transparent.

Highlights

- The bill codifies the program in a new section of law and establishes program requirements.
- The bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to contract with Florida Pregnancy Care Network, Inc. (FPCN), the current contractor, to implement the program.
 - The FPCN oversees a network of crisis pregnancy centers across the state which provide pregnancy and wellness services these are the same services currently being provided under proviso.
- All the program requirements are consistent with proviso in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and the DOH contract, for example:
 - At least 90% of contract funds must be spent on pregnancy support and wellness services.
 - All the services paid for by state funds must be provided in a non-coercive manner and may not include any religious content.
- The bill requires the contract to include accountability measures, such as periodic reporting and sanctions for noncompliance.

Background

- The FPSSP was established in 2005 to provide supportive counseling and services to pregnant women and their families that promote and encourage childbirth. Under contract with the DOH, Florida Pregnancy Care Network, Inc. manages a network of pregnancy help centers that provide direct services to women and families who voluntarily come to these crisis pregnancy centers.
- FPSSP services may include free pregnancy testing; education and counseling on pregnancy, childbirth, parenting and adoption; referrals to state, community, and medical resources. The program also operates a hotline for women and families who want help in a crisis pregnancy. In Fiscal Year 2016-2017, the FPSSP served 45,722 clients, provided 143,206 services, and handled 6,064 phone calls to its helpline.
- The FPSSP was originally created in proviso and is in the GAA every year, but is not in any statutory law.
- Last year, the DOH monitored the program for administrative, financial, and programmatic compliance, and found it to be compliant with the terms and conditions of its contract. The Department of Financial Services last reviewed the contract in 2014 for statutory compliance and found no deficiencies with the contract and that DOH's contract management activities were sufficient.

CS/CS/HB 351 Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency – Santiago

Signed into Law

CS/CS/HB 351 prohibits certain practices that limit patient access to pricing information and requires pharmacists to disclose the lowest cost available for a customer's prescription. This will allow Floridians to make cost-effective choices for themselves and their families.

Highlights

- The bill ensures that Floridians are presented with all the facts about their prescription drug costs by prohibiting certain practices within Florida's pharmacy process that limit patient access to pricing information. The bill requires pharmacists to disclose the lowest cost available for a customer's prescription drug.
- The bill requires pharmacists to communicate to a patient the availability of a lower cost generically equivalent drug product if one exists and whether the patient's cost sharing obligation exceeds the retail price of a drug in the absence of prescription drug coverage. The bill also requires a contract between a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) and a health plan to limit patient cost sharing for a drug to the lesser of the applicable cost sharing amount, or the retail price.

Background

- Health insurers increasingly rely on pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to provide a range of specified services related to the acquisition and distribution of prescription drugs. PBMs negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers in an effort to acquire drugs at the lowest possible price. PBMs also negotiate with pharmacies to develop reliable distribution networks for those drugs. These services are provided on behalf of a PBM's client.
- Under this bill, your local pharmacist has an affirmative duty to disclose your true prescription drug cost options. The bureaucracy surrounding pharmacy care and management would be prohibited from applying any mechanism preventing you from paying the lowest applicable price for a particular drug. Decrease red-tape, decrease health care costs.

SB 660: Florida Insurance Code Exemption for Nonprofit Religious Organizations **[CS/CS/HB 1021 – Altman]**

Signed into Law

SB 660 revises criteria under which a nonprofit religious organization that facilitates the sharing of contributions among its participants for financial, physical, or medical needs is exempt from requirements of the code.

Highlights

- The bill amends the participation requirements associated with nonprofit religious organizations and modifies disclaimers that must be provided to participants.
- The bill allows participation by individuals “who share a common set of ethical or religious beliefs” instead of those “of the same religion”, under current law. This aligns Florida law with federal law.
- The bill allows the nonprofit religious organizations to pool contributions from participants or direct payments from one participant to another, requires them to set contribution levels for participants, report monthly to participants on the needs funded, and conduct annual audits.
- The bill requires the nonprofit religious organization to issue a disclaimer to participants stating that the nonprofit religious organization is not subject to the Florida Insurance Code.

Background

- A health care sharing ministry is an organization that facilitates the sharing of health care expenses among individuals with similar and sincerely held beliefs. Some act as clearinghouses to allow one or more participants to directly pay the medical expenses of another participant. Other health care sharing ministries receive contributions from members, which are then pooled and held in trust for future reimbursements to eligible participants to pay authorized medical expenses.
- Health care sharing ministries are not subject to regulation under the Florida Insurance Code, and are exempt from the individual mandate and tax penalty under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

CS/CS/HB 1079: Child Welfare – Burton

Signed into Law

CS/CS/HB 1079 makes numerous changes to statutes concerning the welfare of children.

Highlights

- The bill makes numerous changes to statutes addressing the safety and well-being of children. Among many changes, the bill:
 - Creates the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) to provide additional support to kinship and nonrelative caregivers of children in the child welfare system and provide Florida a new means to earn federal revenue;
 - Modifies DCF’s extended foster care program to comply with federal Title IV-E requirements;
 - Revises the parameters of adoption assistance to include young adults aged 18 to 21, under certain circumstances, in compliance with federal Title IV-E requirements;
 - Requires parents to actively engage with dependency case managers and the court to consider engagement levels during certain dependency hearings;
 - Modifies child welfare background screening requirements applicable to both prospective child placements and personnel;
 - gives DCF ability to intervene in cases when substance abuse may compromise a parent’s ability to care for a substance exposed newborn child;
 - Adjusts the equity allocation formula for child welfare community-based care organizations (CBCs); and,
 - Requires DCF to develop additional transportation safety standards for child care facility licensure, and requires such facilities, family day care homes, and large family child care homes to give parents information on the dangers of leaving children in vehicles.

Background

- The child welfare system identifies families whose children suffer or are in danger of abuse, abandonment, or neglect and works with those families to address the problems that are endangering children, if possible. If the problems cannot be ameliorated, the child welfare system finds safe out-of-home placements for such children, such as relative and non-relative caregivers, foster families, or adoptive families.
- DCF contracts for case management, out-of-home care, and related services with CBCs. The model of using CBCs to provide child welfare services is designed to increase local community ownership of service delivery and design.
- Children often do better when placed with people they know, like grandparents or family friends, but caring for a loved one’s children can be a financial hardship.
- The end of the Title IV E waiver will reduce federal child welfare funding by over \$70 million annually, but this loss can be mitigated with new policies created by the bill.

CS/CS/HB 1165: Trauma Services – Trumbull

Signed into law

CS/CS/HB 1165 revises the state's trauma system.

Highlights

- The bill limits the number of trauma centers in the state to 35.
 - The bill provides a process for approving trauma centers in excess of the statewide cap based upon current population, trauma caseload, and expected population growth.
 - The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to analyze the trauma system every three years beginning August 2020 to determine if additional trauma centers are required.
- The bill restricts legal challenges to DOH trauma designation decisions to applicants and existing trauma centers in the same or contiguous Trauma Service Area (TSA).
- The bill deems currently verified and certain provisionally-approved trauma centers as having met the application and operational requirements for designation as a trauma center.
- The bill eliminates the state's trauma registry and requires trauma centers to participate in the National Trauma Data Bank. Trauma centers and acute care hospitals must still report all transfers and patient outcome data to DOH.
- The bill creates the Florida Trauma System Advisory Council (Council), to study the feasibility of using a national certification for stand-alone pediatric trauma centers and for Level I and Level II trauma centers that provide pediatric trauma. The Council must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and legislature by December 31, 2018. The Council may also submit recommendations to DOH on how to maximize existing resources to achieve an inclusive trauma system. .

Background

- DOH oversees the statewide trauma system. Currently, DOH designates trauma centers in regional trauma services areas to ensure access to trauma services, but may designate no more than 44 trauma centers in the state. Over the years, there has been extensive litigation related to DOH's apportionment of trauma centers needed in a particular trauma service area, as well as litigation related to the designation of specific hospitals as trauma centers.

CS/CS/HB 1337: Nursing – Pigman

Signed into Law

CS/CS/HB 1337 repeals the separate certification for a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and includes CNS as a category of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP).

Highlights

- The bill repeals the separate certification for a CNS and includes CNS as a category of ARNP.
 - A person who is currently certified as a CNS would have to meet all the same licensure requirements as an ARNP, including maintaining professional liability coverage.
 - The bill retains the current scope of practice of a CNS, but requires a CNS to practice pursuant to a written protocol with a physician.
- The bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to license, rather than the Board of Nursing certifying, ARNPs as such. An ARNP must still hold a license as a registered nurse to be licensed as an ARNP.
- The bill requires DOH and the Board of Nursing to develop a transition plan to convert the certifications that ARNPs and CNSs currently hold to licenses.
 - The bill authorizes currently certified ARNPs and CNSs to continue practicing under such certifications until DOH and the Board of Nursing complete the transition from certification to licensure.
- The bill changes the term “advanced registered nurse practitioner” to “advanced practice registered nurse” (APRN) throughout Florida Statutes. This conforms Florida laws to those in a majority of states.

Background

- ARNPs are licensed registered nurses with post-graduate education in nursing that prepares them to perform advanced or specialized nursing. ARNPs may perform nursing or medical acts that are authorized pursuant to a written protocol with a physician. A CNS is trained to be an expert clinician in a specialized area, such as a certain population, setting, or disease state. Both ARNPs and CNSs receive advanced training and practice advanced or specialized nursing; however, the two professions require separate certifications.

SB 7028: Ratification of Department of Elderly Affairs Rules – Rules

Signed into Law

SB 7028 ratifies an Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) rule relating to emergency environmental control for assisted living facilities (ALFs).

Highlights

- The bill ratifies Rule 58A-5.036, F.A.C., so that the rule may go into effect. The scope of the bill is limited to this rulemaking procedure and does not adopt the substance of the rule into statute.
- The rule requires ALFs to maintain an alternative power source, such as a generator, that can air-condition an area of no less than 20 net sq. ft. per resident at a temperature of 81 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for at least 96 hours.
- The rule requires the ALFs to keep fuel on-site or use piped natural gas. The rule allows ALFs under common control that are located on a single campus to share fuel, alternative power sources, and resident space.
- Licensed ALFs must comply with the rule by June 1, 2018; however, the rule also allows the AHCA to grant an extension to comply with the requirements until January 1, 2019, for ALFs that can show delays caused by necessary construction, delivery of ordered equipment, zoning or other regulatory approval processes.
- The AHCA Statement of Estimated Regulatory Cost estimates that the rule will create an adverse economic impact of \$243,912,720 over the first 5 years the rule is in effect. Because the rule has an adverse economic impact on the ALF industry exceeding \$1 million over the first 5 years it is in effect, it must be ratified by the Legislature to be effective.

Background

- In September 2017, Hurricane Irma posed an unprecedented threat to our state and a dramatic test of our preparedness and ability to respond to extreme weather events. Many health care facilities, including ALFs, lost power during and after this event. Some facilities were unprepared for power losses and, in one tragic case, nursing home residents lost their lives due to heat exposure.
- An agency rule requires legislative ratification if it will increase regulatory costs by more than \$1 million over a five-year period. Without ratification, such rules do not go into effect.

HB 7099: Ratification of Agency for Health Care Administration Rules – Magar

Signed into Law

HB 7099 ratifies an Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) rule relating to emergency environmental control for nursing homes.

Highlights

- The bill ratifies Rule 59A-4.1265, F.A.C., so that the rule may go into effect. The scope of the bill is limited to this rulemaking procedure and does not adopt the substance of the rule into statute.
- The rule requires nursing homes to maintain an alternative power source, such as a generator, that can air-condition an area of no less than 30 net sq. ft. per resident at a temperature of 81 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for at least 96 hours.
- The rule also requires the nursing home to keep 72 hours of fuel on-site. The rule allows facilities under common control that are located on a single campus to share fuel, alternative power sources, and resident space.
- Nursing homes must comply with the rule by July 1, 2018; however, the rule allows AHCA to grant extensions until January 1, 2019, for nursing homes that can show delays caused by necessary construction, delivery of order equipment, zoning or other regulatory approval processes.
- The AHCA Statement of Estimated Regulatory Cost estimates the rule will cost the nursing home industry \$121,380,545 to comply with the rule over the first five years the rule is in effect. The rule will cost the state Medicaid program \$66 million in the first year and \$1.5 million annually thereafter.

Background

- In September 2017, Hurricane Irma posed an unprecedented threat to our state and a dramatic test of our preparedness and ability to respond to extreme weather events. Many health care facilities, including nursing homes, lost power during and after this event. Some facilities were unprepared for power losses and, in one tragic case, nursing home residents lost their lives due to heat exposure.
- An agency rule requires legislative ratification if it will increase regulatory costs by more than \$1 million over a five-year period. Without ratification, such rules do not go into effect.

HB 23: Recovery Care Services – Renner and Fitzenhagen

Passed House Only

HB 23 would have expanded the use of ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) and allowed for recovery care centers (RCCs) to exist in the state. Doing so would have helped increase access to affordable and quality health care for Floridians.

Highlights

- The bill would have changed the allowable length of stay in an ASC from one working day to no more than 24 hours, which is the federal Medicare standard. This would help expand the use of ASCs.
- The bill would have created a new license for a RCC, defined as a facility with the primary purpose of providing recovery care services, to which a patient is admitted and discharged within 72 hours, and which is not part of a hospital. The bill defined recovery care services as:
 - Postsurgical and post-diagnostic medical and general nursing care to patients for whom acute hospitalization is not required and an uncomplicated recovery is reasonably expected; and
 - Postsurgical rehabilitation services.
- The Florida House is focused on increasing access to affordable and quality health care for all Floridians. To do so, we continuously look for ways to apply free market principles and practices to the health care arena. This means encouraging and supporting competition by eliminating unnecessary regulation and empowering patients with more information and more options whenever possible. This also means standing up to entrenched interests that benefit from maintaining the status quo.

Background

- Ambulatory surgical centers are non-hospital facilities that provide surgical care. In Florida, ASC patients must be admitted and discharged the same working day and are not permitted to stay overnight. ASCs have highly skilled staff and surgeons and are less expensive and more convenient than having surgery in a hospital.
- Recovery care centers provide post-surgical and post-diagnostic, short-term medical and general nursing care, support, and pain control for patients that do not require acute hospitalization. A RCC can be either freestanding or attached to an ASC or hospital, and often provide care to patients transferred from an ASC following surgery, which allows an ASC to perform more complex procedures. RCCs exist in some states, but not Florida.

HB 27: Certificates of Need for Hospitals – Fitzenhagen

Passed House Only

HB 27 would have removed hospitals from Florida’s Certificate of Need (CON) review program to increase competition, reduce costs, and increase quality of care.

Highlights

- The bill would have removed hospitals and hospital-based services from Florida’s CON review program. As a result, any person wishing to build or replace a hospital, or establish specialized services in a hospital, need only go through the AHCA licensure process. If an applicant can meet the licensure statutes and regulations, the applicant will be permitted to offer new or additional hospital facilities or services to patients in the state without first obtaining a CON from AHCA.
- The Florida House is focused on increasing access to affordable and quality health care for all Floridians. To do so, we continuously look for ways to apply free market principles and practices to the health care arena. This means encouraging and supporting competition by eliminating unnecessary regulation and empowering patients with more information and more options whenever possible. This also means standing up to entrenched interests that benefit from maintaining the status quo.

Background

- The CON program, administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration, requires certain health care providers to obtain state approval before entering the market or offering certain new or expanded services. The CON program currently applies to hospices, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled, hospitals and certain specialized hospital services.
- For these service areas, the CON program reduces eliminates competition in the health care market, causing unnecessary and unfair cost increases for consumers. This market-entry barrier prevents or delays innovation, and incentivizes competitors to push each other out of the market with lawsuits rather than competing based on quality.

HB 35: Patient Safety Culture Surveys – Grant, M.

Passed House Only

HB 35 would have required hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) to conduct and submit patient culture surveys, which would have been made publicly available. Requiring such surveys would have empowered patients and increased quality.

Highlights

- The bill would have required the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to develop patient safety culture surveys to measure patient safety culture in hospitals and ASCs. The surveys would measure the frequency of adverse events, quality of handoffs and transitions, staff comfort in reporting a potential problem or error, the level of teamwork within hospital units and the facility as a whole, staff compliance with patient safety regulations and guidelines, staff perception of facility support for patient safety, and staff opinions on whether they would undergo a health care service or procedure at the facility.
- The bill would have required facilities to annually conduct and submit the results of the patient safety culture survey to the Florida Center for Health Information and Transparency, as a condition of licensure.
- AHCA would have had to include the survey results in the health care quality measures available to the public.
- The surveys would have helped hospitals identify and fix problems. If published, the survey data could also help potential patients make decisions about which facilities are best for their own care and the care of their families.

Background

- A “patient safety culture survey” is a survey designed to measure the patient safety climate at a health care facility. The survey is completed by facility employees and asks about patient safety and quality of care at their place of employment.

CS/HB 693: Family Self-Sufficiency – White

Passed House Only

CS/HB 693 would have made changes to Florida’s Temporary Cash Assistance Program (TCA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to encourage families to be self-sufficient.

Highlights

- Under the bill, the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) would have had to seek federal approval to implement a resource limit of \$5,000 for families receiving food assistance through SNAP. The bill also would have required DCF to verify assets to prevent errors and fraud.
- The asset limit and verification would have helped to ensure that food assistance goes to those who are truly in need.
- The bill also would have created pilot programs at several regional workforce boards to increase employment opportunities for TCA recipients who face significant barriers to employment. Creating these pilot programs would have helped TCA recipients become “work ready” and support their families.

Background

- About 3.3 million Floridians currently receive food assistance through SNAP.
- The bill would have ended a change to SNAP made in 2010 during the devastating economic downturn, when Florida became one of forty states to expand eligibility for SNAP. This included waiving asset limits for SNAP in most cases.
- That change helped more people qualify for food assistance in that tough time. Fortunately, our economy has improved since then— for example, the state’s unemployment rate has fallen from 11.4% to 3.6%.

CS/CS/CS/HB 751: Public Assistance – Eagle

Passed House Only

CS/CS/CS/HB 751 would have revised requirements for receiving public assistance to deter fraud and abuse and encourage Floridians to be partners with the state in working toward self-sufficiency.

Highlights

- The bill would have directed the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek federal approval to impose work requirements in the Medicaid program, under new federal guidance allowing such requirements. The bill would have required legislative approval for the work requirements to be effective.
- The Medicaid work requirements – for working age, non-disabled adults - would have aligned with those for the food and cash assistance programs, to streamline the eligibility process and take advantage of federally-funded workforce assistance.
- The bill would have increased the penalties for the first three instances of noncompliance with work requirements in the Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program, to align with the food assistance program sanctions.
- The bill would have required better communication with TCA recipients about their responsibilities and possible sanctions for noncompliance, and more extensive reporting about the TCA and food assistance programs' activities and outcomes.
- The bill would have required electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cardholders to pay a fee for the fifth and every subsequent EBT card requested within a 12-month span, and would have allowed the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to deduct the fee from benefits, with a good cause exception.

Background

- The Florida Medicaid program covers approximately 4 million low-income individuals including approximately 2.2 million children—which is 58.4% of Florida's population under 18. Medicaid is the second largest single program in the state, behind public education, representing 32 percent of the entire FY 2018-2019 budget. Medicaid expenditures represent 20 percent of all state funds appropriated in FY 2018-2019. Florida's program is the 4th largest in the nation by enrollment, and the 6th largest in terms of expenditures
- Medicaid law does not require participation in work or work-related activities as a condition of program eligibility. However, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced new policy allowing states to test work and community engagement for non-elderly, non-pregnant, non-disabled adults. CMS such waivers in Kentucky and Indiana, and eight other states have submitted similar requests.

- The purpose of the TCA Program is to help families become self-supporting while allowing children to remain in their own homes. In October 2017, 11,757 adults and 65,133 children received TCA.
- Frequent requests for replacement EBT cards can be an indicator of fraud, such as selling EBT cards containing benefits. In FY 2016-17, DCF sent 27,649 letters to households in that had requested four or more replacement EBT cards in the previous 12 months notifying them of monitoring of their card replacement requests.

HB 973: Performance of Physician Assistants and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners – Daniels and Plasencia

Passed House Only

HB 973 would have allowed physician assistants (PAs) and advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs), if authorized by a physician, to sign, certify, stamp, verify, or endorse documents that require signature, certification, stamp, verification, or endorsement of physician.

Highlights

- The bill would have authorized allopathic and osteopathic physicians to delegate authority to ARNPs and PAs to sign, certify, stamp, verify, or endorse any document that requires the signature, certification, stamp, verification, or endorsement of a physician.
 - This includes, among other things, signing a disability certification, initiation of an involuntary examination of a person under the Baker Act, or a death certificate.
 - The bill specifically prohibited a PA or an ARNP who is not a psychiatric nurse from approving the release of an individual from a Baker Act receiving facility.

Background

- ARNPs are licensed registered nurses with post-graduate education in nursing that prepares them to perform advanced or specialized nursing. ARNPs may only sign those documents that are directly related to the performance of the nursing or medical acts authorized pursuant to a protocol, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
- PAs complete specialized education that prepares them to perform medical services and practice as a part of a health care team. A PA may sign only those documents that are directly related to the performance of medical services performed as delegated by a supervising physician and do not, by law, require a physician's signature.
- Currently, ARNPs and PAs are prohibited from signing various documents associated with the care that an ARNP or PA provides. Instead, a physician's signature is required on these documents even if the physician did not provide care to the patient.

HB 1429: Dismemberment Abortion – Grall

Passed House Only

HB 1429 would have maintained the Florida House’s commitment to life by prohibiting the brutal practice of dismemberment abortions on live fetuses.

Highlights

- The bill would have made it a crime and a licensure violation for a physician to dismember a living fetus as part of a dilation and evacuation (D&E) abortion. The bill fully defines this part of the procedure, known as a dismemberment abortion, but the details may be too graphic for some readers.
 - The bill would not have prohibited D&Es; only dismemberment of a living fetus as part of that procedure.
 - The bill would not have applied to a dismemberment abortion that is necessary to save the life of a mother, provided that no other medical procedure would suffice for that purpose.
 - The bill also would have prohibited the state from prosecuting a patient for conspiracy, when a dismemberment abortion is performed on her.
- The destruction of a living fetus by dismemberment runs contrary to the values we hold dear. This conversation – while difficult – is one from which Florida House should not shy away when innocent life is at stake.

Background

- A dilation and evacuation abortion is a two-step process consisting of the nonsurgical dilation of the woman’s cervix and the surgical evacuation of her uterus. D&Es commonly involve dismembering the fetus with forceps as part of the evacuation procedure. Usually, the fetus is alive when this dismemberment begins.

CS/HB 7085: Health Care Disaster Preparedness and Response – Massullo

Passed House Only

CS/HB 7085 would have addressed several health care related recommendations produced by the Select Committee on Hurricane Response & Preparedness.

Highlights

- The bill would have added required components to health care facility comprehensive emergency plans to address inadequacies.
- The bill also would have provided new enforcement authority to the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to ensure that facilities comply with the new plan requirements and follow their plans during an emergency.
- The bill would have directed the Department of Health (DOH) to recruit faculty and students from state university and college health care programs to staff special needs shelters, and required these entities and state agencies to allow employees who are health care practitioners to staff local special needs shelters if they have no other disaster-related duties for their employers.
- The bill would have required local emergency management agencies and hospitals to enter into mutual agreements for sheltering people with complex medical needs beyond the capabilities of the local special needs shelters.
- The bill would have required DOH, rather than the Department of Emergency Management, to establish a uniform statewide special needs shelter registry, and required local emergency management agencies to use it, rather than local registries, while preserving local control over special needs shelter eligibility criteria.
- The bill would have required local emergency management agencies to establish procedures to allow health care facility and group home staff to travel to and from work during declared curfews.

Background

- In September 2017, Hurricane Irma posed an unprecedented threat to our state and a dramatic test of our preparedness and ability to respond to extreme weather events.
- In the aftermath, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Richard Corcoran created the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness on September 19, 2017. Speaker Corcoran directed the committee to gather information, solicit ideas for improvement, and make recommendations to the executive branch and suggest legislative options to address hurricane preparedness and response for consideration during the 2018 Legislative Session. The Speaker appointed to the committee a diverse and bi-partisan group of representatives from across Florida and named Speaker pro tempore Jeanette Nuñez as chair.

- Testimony from the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness revealed instances in which nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies, nurse registries, special needs shelters and other entities caring for Florida’s vulnerable populations were insufficiently prepared for a disaster.
- Following four months of committee hearings, relying on their own experiences, conversations with their constituents and local emergency management officials, and over 16 hours of presentations and discussions with experts from numerous fields, the committee members agreed to a list of proposed recommendations for consideration and further development by the standing substantive and fiscal committees of the House. On January 16th, 2018, the Select Committee held its final meeting and unanimously voted to approve their final recommendations to help improve Florida’s hurricane response and preparedness.
- The fundamental themes addressed by the recommendations include: Vulnerable Populations Residing in Health Care and Residential Facilities, Shelters and Vulnerable Populations, Evacuations, Hardening and Restoring Florida’s Electric Grid, Restoring Our Communities, and Mitigating Future Damages.

**Judiciary
Legislative
Highlights**

CS/HB 55: Sale of Firearms – White

Signed into Law

CS/HB 55 will simplify the process for a firearm purchase background check for both the seller and the purchaser.

Highlights

- The bill requires the procedures established by the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for transmitting the criminal history check processing fees to FDLE to allow such fees to be paid or transmitted by electronic means, including, but not limited to, debit cards, credit cards, or electronic funds transfers.
- The bill also authorizes a licensee to request FDLE to conduct a criminal history check via electronic means other than a telephone call.

Background

- The fee a licensed dealer may collect from a potential firearm buyer for processing the criminal history check is established by FDLE and may not exceed \$8 per transaction.
- Currently, the procedures established by FDLE require a licensee to transmit the fees to FDLE each month using a business or personal check, a money order, or a cashier's check.

CS/CS/SB 140: Marriage Licenses [CS/HB 335 – Nuñez and White]

Signed into Law

CS/CS/SB 140 will help end the predatory practice of forced child marriages.

Highlights

- The bill will require both parties to a marriage be at least 18 years of age to marry or receive a marriage license. However, a person 17 years of age may marry with parental consent, provided the other party is no more than two years older.

Background

- According to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1,828 marriage licenses were issued in the last 5 years to a couple in which at least one party was a minor. Of this total, 132 licenses were issued to a couple in which both parties were minors.
- In that same time period, 1 license was issued in which one party was 13 years old, 7 licenses were issued in which one party was 14 years old, 29 licenses were issued in which one party was 15 years old, and 1,807 licenses were issued in which one party was 16 or 17 years old.

SB 146: Appointment of Attorneys for Dependent Children with Special Needs **[HB 57 – White and Williams]**

Signed into Law

SB 146 will increase pro bono participation in dependency cases by reducing the financial burden on an attorney representing a child with special needs for free by providing reimbursement for expert witnesses, depositions, and other due process costs.

Highlights

- The bill will require the Justice Administrative Commission to provide a pro bono attorney who agrees to represent dependent children with certain special needs access to funding for expert witnesses, depositions, and other due process costs of litigation.

Background

- Dependency court is the division of circuit court concerned with the care and custody of abused, abandoned, or neglected children. Most children in dependency court are not represented directly by an attorney, as the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program represents the best interest of the child. However, in certain instances, the court is required to appoint an attorney to represent a dependent child with specific special needs, such as when the child is taking a prescription for psychotropic medications or has a diagnosis of a developmental disability. Before appointing an attorney from a registry, the court must ask the GAL Program whether a pro bono attorney is willing to be appointed for the child.
- Current law requires the state to compensate an appointed attorney and provide access to funding for expert witnesses, depositions, and other costs of litigation; however, a pro bono attorney is not reimbursed for costs incurred.

CS/CS/CS/HB 165: Written Threats to Conduct Mass Shootings or Acts of Terrorism – McClain

Signed into Law

CS/CS/CS/HB 165 will make sure that people who make threats of violence will be held accountable by law enforcement.

Highlights

- The bill will prohibit a person from making a threat in a writing or other record, including an electronic record, to conduct a mass shooting or act of terrorism and posting or transmitting the threat in any manner that would allow another person to view the threat.
- The bill does not require that the written threat be sent to any particular person. Written threats to conduct a mass shooting or act of terrorism that are publicly posted online, even if not specifically sent to or received by the person who is the subject of the threat, are prohibited.
- The bill reenacts statutory provisions relating to the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund and the additional cost to fund rape crisis centers.

CS/HB 333: Minimum Officer Qualifications – Burgess

Signed into Law

CS/HB 333 will incentivize individuals who served in the special operations forces of the U.S. military to join law enforcement, further ensuring our law enforcement officers in Florida are the best trained.

Highlights

- The bill adds an exemption from the basic recruit training program to become a law enforcement officer for an applicant who has served in the special operations forces of the U.S. military for at least five years, provided there is no more than a 4-year break from the applicant's special operations forces experience at the time of application.

- The bill defines special operations forces to include:
 - Servicemembers of the Army 75th Ranger Regiment;
 - Navy SEALs and Special Warfare-Craft Crewman;
 - Air Force Combat Control, Pararescue, and Tactical Air Control Party Specialists;
 - Marine Corps Critical Skills Operators; and
 - Any other component of the Special Operations Command approved by the Criminal Justice Standard and Training Commission (Commission).

- The Commission may require an exempt applicant to complete additional training as it deems appropriate, based on the applicant's prior training and experience.

Background

- To become a law enforcement officer in Florida, a person must complete a basic recruit training program or qualify for an exemption from the training requirement. A person may be exempt from the basic recruit training requirement if he or she completed a comparable basic recruit training program in another state or for the Federal Government and served as a full-time sworn officer in another state or for the Federal Government for at least 1 year, provided no more than 8 years have passed since his or her most recent qualifying employment

CS/HB 581: Subpoenas in Investigations of Sexual Offenses – Latvala

Signed into Law

CS/HB 581 will help ensure that law enforcement officers are capable of preserving valuable information while investigating sexual offenses.

Highlights

- The bill authorizes an investigative or law enforcement officer to use a subpoena in an investigation into allegations of the sexual abuse of a child or an individual's suspected commission of certain sex offenses, to compel the production of records and the testimony of the subpoena recipient to authenticate such information.
- The bill authorizes an investigative or law enforcement officer to prohibit a subpoena recipient from disclosing the existence of the subpoena to any other person for 180 days, if the subpoena is accompanied by a written certification of a supervisory official that there is reason to believe that notification of the subpoena's existence may have an "adverse result."
- The bill also allows an investigative or law enforcement officer to delay the required subpoena notification for 180 days. A court may extend the nondisclosure period or the period of delayed notification.

Background

- In some cases, federal and state law authorizes investigating authorities to issue a subpoena and require the recipient of the subpoena to not disclose the existence or contents of the subpoena. Such authority is provided in limited circumstances where disclosure of the subpoena could result in the destruction of evidence or other harm to the investigation.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1059: Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult – Burton

Signed into Law

CS/CS/CS/HB 1059 will ensure that vulnerable adults are protected from fraudulent acts.

Highlights

- The bill creates a cause of action for an injunction for protection against the exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
- The bill requires the sworn petition, or a petition in substantially the same form, to allege the existence of exploitation and include the facts and circumstances for which relief is sought.
- The bill permits a court to issue a temporary injunction prior to a full hearing on the petition. The temporary injunction cannot exceed 15 days, and if one is issued, a full hearing is required prior to the injunction's expiration.
- The bill permits the court to grant any relief that it determines is proper for the protection and security of the vulnerable adult.
- The bill requires the clerk of court to perform duties and responsibilities in connection with assisting vulnerable adults and other parties seeking an injunction. Specifically, the bill requires the clerk of court in each county to:
 - Assist petitioners in seeking injunctions and enforcing violations;
 - Provide simplified petition forms for the injunction, any modifications, and the enforcement of an injunction or modification, including instructions for completion;
 - Ensure the petitioner's privacy to the extent practical while completing the forms;
 - Provide petitioners with a minimum of two certified copies of the order of injunction, one of which is serviceable and will inform the petitioner of the process for service and enforcement;
 - Participate in training in the effective assistance of petitioners as provided or approved by the Florida Association of Court Clerks;
 - Make available informational brochures on exploitation of vulnerable adults to local senior centers, local aging and disability resource centers, or other state or federal agencies related to the exploitation or protection of elders or vulnerable adults;
 - Distribute a statewide uniform informational brochure to petitioners at the time of filing for an injunction when such brochures become available. The brochure must include information about the effect of giving the court false information about exploitation; and
 - Furnish information to the sheriff on the respondent's or alleged victim's physical description and location as required by the Department of Law Enforcement to comply with the verification procedures of the bill.

CS/CS/HB 1217: Deployed Parent Custody and Visitation – Metz

Signed into Law

CS/CS/HB 1217 will ensure that those who serve our nation do not lose their parental rights because of their service.

Highlights

- The bill creates the "Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act" (Act). The Act contains definitions and provisions relating to general custody matters for service members, custody issues upon deployment, expedited resolution of custody issues, and termination of the temporary custody arrangement.
- The bill allows parents to enter into a temporary agreement granting custodial responsibility during deployment without a court order. An agreement must be written and signed by both parents and any nonparent granted custodial responsibility.
- The bill allows the parents of a child to modify a temporary agreement by mutual consent.
 - If an agreement is modified before deployment, the modification must be in writing and signed by both parents and any nonparent granted custodial responsibility under the modified agreement.
 - If the agreement is modified during deployment, the modification must be agreed to in some record by both parents and any nonparent granted custodial responsibility.
- The bill allows a court to issue a *temporary* order granting custodial responsibility, after a deploying parent receives notice of deployment. A court may not issue a *permanent* order granting custodial responsibility without the consent of the deploying parent.
- The bill allows a court, upon request of the deploying parent, to grant caretaking authority to a nonparent who is an adult family member of the child or an adult with whom the child has a close and substantial relationship if the court finds it in the best interests of the child.
- The bill prohibits a court from considering past deployment or possible future deployment when determining the best interest of the child.

CS/CS/SB 1392: Criminal Justice [CS/HB 7071 – Sprowls]

Signed into Law

CS/CS/SB 1392 will bring sweeping reforms to the criminal justice system including provisions that will bring Florida to the forefront of the nation in the collection of criminal justice data. By analyzing trends in crime and law enforcement, future crime prevention legislation will create a pathway to a safer Florida.

Highlights

- The bill centralizes criminal justice data by requiring the clerks of court, state attorneys, public defenders, county jail operators, and the Department of Corrections to collect specific data and transmit it weekly to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).
 - FDLE will maintain the data in a database and make it available on its website. The data will be freely accessible and allow users to determine the electronic format in which the information will be provided.
 - FDLE must establish a unique identifier for every person who is the subject of a criminal case. The unique identifier will allow data to track an individual's experience in the criminal justice system.
- The bill digitizes the Criminal Punishment Code scoresheet used in criminal sentencing and requires the information contained in the scoresheet to be reported to FDLE, which will then be included in the publicly available database.
- The bill requires pretrial release programs to annually report the number of defendants for whom a pretrial risk assessment tool was used, the number of defendants accepted into a pretrial release program who paid a surety or cash bond, and the types of criminal charges of defendants accepted into the programs.
- The bill requires Department of Corrections to report and publish, on a quarterly basis, inmate admissions by offense type and recidivism rates. Residential burglaries will be reported as a separate offense type from other property crimes. The recidivism rate will be based on an offender's rearrest, reconviction, reincarceration, or probation revocation within the state within a three-year period following his or her release from incarceration.
- The bill establishes a pilot project in the 6th Judicial Circuit to allow a clerk of court, state attorney, public defender, or a sheriff to enter into an agreement with a national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit entity to place a data fellow, funded by the entity, in the agency or office. The data fellow will assist with data extraction, validation, and quality and assist the office or agency in compiling and reporting data required by the bill.
- The bills establishes a model adult prearrest diversion program for non-violent misdemeanor crimes and requires each judicial circuit to establish a juvenile civil citation program or similar prearrest diversion program. Counties and local entities are not required to participate in either program.
- The bill expands eligibility criteria for expunging criminal records of a juvenile who successfully completes a diversion program.

HB 9: Federal Immigration Enforcement – Metz

Passed House Only

HB 9 would have helped the enforcement of federal immigration law.

Highlights

- The bill would have required state and local governmental entities and law enforcement agencies to comply with and support the enforcement of federal immigration law.
- The bill would have required any sanctuary policies currently in effect be repealed within 90 days of the effective date of the Act.
- The bill would have required officials or employees of state and local governmental entities or law enforcement agencies to report violations of the Act to the Attorney General or state attorney.
- The bill would have allowed a person injured by the conduct of an alien unlawfully present in the United States to sue a state or local governmental entity or law enforcement agency whose violation of the Act contributed to the person's injury.
- Florida is a beautifully diverse state, which we should always celebrate. However, our nation's immigration process is dependent on our ability to properly enforce our current immigration laws.

Background

- Although the federal government has broad powers over immigration enforcement, federal immigration agencies rely on state and local law enforcement agencies to assist and cooperate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.
- The existence of "sanctuary cities" in our state makes communities less safe and runs contrary to the rule of law.

CS/CS/HB 1391: Student Safety – Rodrigues

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 1391 would have protected our students from predatory actions by authority figures in the school system.

Highlights

- CS/CS/CS/HB 1391 would have prohibited an authority figure from soliciting or engaging in sexual or lewd conduct with a student, regardless of the student's age and whether or not the behavior was consensual.
- The bill would not have required that the authority figure use his or her position of authority over the student in order to procure the sexual conduct. It would have been enough that the person is an authority figure and engages in such conduct with a student to violate the prohibition.
- The bill would have revised the list of disqualifying criminal offenses to include the newly created prohibition on authority figures engaging or soliciting in sexual or lewd conduct with a student.
- The bill would have specified that any person is ineligible for educator certification or employment in any position that requires direct contact with students if he or she has been convicted of a disqualifying offense.
- The bill specified that soliciting or engaging in sexual contact with a student or minor is an act involving moral turpitude for purposes of certified educator discipline and expressly includes such behavior within the jurisdiction of the Education Practices Commission to suspend or revoke an educator certificate.
- The bill would have required that district school board policies include the duty to report misconduct of engaging in or soliciting sexual or lewd conduct with a student.
 - Further, district school board policy would have required the district school superintendent to report to law enforcement any misconduct by school district personnel that would result in disqualification from educator certification or employment.
- The bill would have provided that a school board member who knowingly fails to adopt a policy requiring the district school superintendent to report disqualifying misconduct forfeits his or her salary for 1 year. A district superintendent who fails to report disqualifying conduct to law enforcement would also have forfeited his or her salary for 1 year.
- The bill would have required that the resignation or termination of a public school employee before an investigation of misconduct by the employee affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student is concluded must be clearly indicated in the employee's personnel file.
- The bill also would have required school districts, charter schools, and private schools participating in a state scholarship program to notify the department immediately when a teacher or administrator resigns before an investigation of misconduct affecting the health, safety, or welfare of a student is concluded.

CS/HB 7015: Property Insurance Assignment Agreements – Trumbull

Passed House Only

CS/HB 7015 would have reformed assignment of benefits (AOB) to prevent higher payouts and higher litigation costs so consumers don't have to pay the price in the form of higher premiums.

Highlights

- The bill would have provided that AOBs must:
 - Be executed in writing by a named insured and the assignee;
 - Allow the policyholder to rescind the agreement within seven days of execution, without penalty (the policyholder will be responsible to pay for work performed before the agreement is rescinded);
 - Require the vendor to provide the insurance company with a copy of the assignment agreement within three days after the agreement is executed or work has begun, whichever is earlier;
 - Include a written, itemized, per-unit cost estimate of services and, if the estimate includes water restoration services, provide proof that the vendor is certified by an entity that requires services to be performed according to a nationally-recognized standard;
 - Relate only to the work to be performed by the vendor; and
 - Contain notice of the right to rescind the agreement and that, by executing the assignment agreement, the policyholder is giving up certain rights that could result in litigation by the vendor against the insurance company.

- The bill would have established requirements to enforce an AOB.
 - Vendors would have been required to give insurance companies at least 10 business days' notice before filing suit on a claim, but may not be served before the insurance company has made a determination of coverage according to the timeframes allowed by current law.
 - The notice would have to have specified the damages in dispute, amount claimed, and any pre-suit settlement demand and include an itemized bill.
 - The insurance company would have to have responded in writing within the 10 days by making a settlement offer or requiring the vendor to participate in alternative dispute resolution as allowed under the policy.
 - If the vendor and insurance company fail to settle and litigation results, the bill would have provided the exclusive means for either party to recover attorney fees.
 - If the difference between the judgment and the settlement offer was less than 25 percent of the disputed amount, then the insurer would have been entitled to attorney fees.
 - If the difference between the judgment and the settlement offer was at least 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the disputed amount, neither party would have been entitled to fees.
 - If the difference between the judgment and settlement offer was at least 50 percent of the disputed amount, the vendor would have been entitled to attorney fees.

Background

- A property insurance assignment agreement, or an assignment of benefits (AOB), is a legal tool that allows a third party to collect insurance proceeds owed to the policyholder. AOBs are commonly used when a homeowner experiences water damage – such as a leaky pipe, overflow from a sink, or damaged kitchen cabinets – and contacts a contractor or water remediation company for assistance.
- Insurers have been experiencing a higher percentage of litigated claims involving assignment of benefits (AOB), which generally result in higher payouts and higher litigation costs than claims not involving an AOB.

Public Integrity & Ethics
Legislative
Highlights

SB 186: Resign-to-run Law [CS/HB 105 – Santiago]

Signed into Law

SB 186 will save the taxpayers millions of dollars by ensuring that elected officials who want to run for federal office resign first, in order to avoid costly special elections.

Highlights

- The bill requires a state or local officer who seeks a federal public office to submit his or her resignation at least 10 days before the first day of qualifying for the federal office if the terms of the two offices overlap.
- A state officer's qualifying for a federal office while not submitting this resignation constitutes an automatic, immediately-effective resignation from his or her office.
- The bill provides an exemption for public officers if their term of office is scheduled to expire and be filled by election during the same election cycle as the federal office they have qualified for as a candidate.

HB 5: State Officer Post-service Lobbying Restrictions – Metz

Passed House Only

HB 5 would have extended the current lobby ban from two years to six years to close the revolving door of former elected officials becoming lobbyists.

Highlights

- The bill would have extended the current statutory lobby ban from two years to six years. Additionally, the bill would have prevented legislators and statewide elected officers from lobbying their former government body for six years after leaving office.
- The six-year ban would have been the longest in America.

CS/HB 707: Campaign Finance – Jenne

Passed House Only

CS/HB 707 would have provided uniformity for campaign contributions for elected officials in Tallahassee who are able to exert influence on the legislative process.

Highlights

- The bill would have prohibited the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or a Cabinet member from soliciting or accepting a contribution during the 60 days of the regular legislative session or during an extended or special session.
- The bill would have provided that a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or a Cabinet member that knowingly or willingly accepts one contribution during a legislative session commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, however, if the official accepts two such contributions he or she would commit a felony of the third degree.

HB 7003: Local Government Ethics Reform – Metz

Passed House Only

HB 7003 would have made significant ethics reforms at the local level by making numerous changes to Florida’s Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees as it relates to local government officers, employees, and lobbyists.

Highlights

- The bill would have required certain elected local officers to file a more detailed financial disclosure.
- The bill would have expanded annual ethics training requirements for local officers.
- The bill would have expanded restrictions when a conflict of interest exists.
- The bill would have required lobbyists to register with a statewide database before they could lobby local government bodies.
 - HB 7005 (Metz), which was linked to HB 7003, would have created the Local Government Lobbyist Registration Trust Fund within the Commission on Ethics.
- Ethics reforms should not stop at the state level. Local government officials, like state officials, should be held to the highest ethical standard.

CS/CS/HB 7007: Ethics Reforms – Sullivan and Jacobs

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 7007 would have amended laws related to conflicts of interest to help ensure government employees and elected officials serve the public and not use their positions for private gain. It also would have strengthened Florida's anti-sexual harassment policy to the toughest in the nation.

Highlights

- The bill would have prohibited state and local officers or employees from soliciting a conflicting job.
- The bill would have required disclosure and reporting on offers of conflicting employment.
- The bill would have required state legislators and statewide elected officers to disclose changes in employment and pay raises immediately when the employer has interests in the legislative process.
- The bill would have imposed a two-year ban on agency directors from lobbying any state agency.
- Some of the reforms related to sexual harassment in the bill included:
 - Prohibiting and preventing sexual harassment by establishing uniform policies and procedures.
 - Making a single unwelcome sexual advance an actionable offense.
 - Protecting victims who are legislative members, employees, agency employees, public officers and lobbyists.
 - Applying to state employees, legislative members, lobbyists, and other private 3rd parties engaged in public business.
 - Authorizing complaints to be filed with the Commission on Ethics, a fair and independent agency, as an alternative to reporting to the public agency having jurisdiction over the alleged harasser.
 - Requiring supervisors who observe or have direct knowledge of sexual harassment to respond promptly and initiate required actions.
 - Ensuring the confidentiality of witnesses and subjects of harassment.
 - Written findings of an investigator may omit information that discloses the identity of the complainant and witnesses or is unnecessarily embarrassing.
 - The written report, identities of complainant and witnesses, and all information in the record shall be confidential until probable cause is determined.
 - Requiring employees and public officer training.
 - Employees will be required to sign and acknowledge having received such training, which will then be included in the employee's personnel file.
 - Requires suspected criminal conduct be promptly reported to law enforcement.
 - Prohibiting false reporting and retaliation.
 - Providing access to victim advocate services and reasonable employment accommodations.
 - Requiring agencies to assess attitudes and behaviors at least every two years. Survey methods must include anonymous and survey results are required to be distributed to employees and made publicly available.

- Establishing a task force to review findings and make recommendations.

CS/CS/HB 7073: Government Integrity – Metz

Passed House Only

CS/CS/HB 7073 would have enhanced government integrity by implementing mechanisms to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in a crucial step to building public trust.

Highlights

- The bill would have ensured government integrity by:
 - Creating a permanent Florida Accountability Office within the Office of the Auditor General for the purpose of ensuring accountability and integrity in state and local government and identifying, investigating, and recommending the elimination of waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement and related misconduct in government.
 - Requiring the Chief Inspector General and agency inspectors general to conduct regular reasonable suspicion determinations when initiating investigations to uncover fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or misconduct in government and requires them to inform the Legislature and other specified entities when these abuses occur.
 - Requiring the Chief Financial Officer to provide copies of suggestions provided to Florida's 'Get Lean Hotline' to the Florida Accountability Office.
 - Broadening Florida's Whistle-Blower's Act to cover more government abuses while ensuring employees that report these abuses are protected from retaliatory action.
 - Ensuring state agencies reward employees when they report waste, fraud, abuse, etc., and their complaints and participation result in savings to the state.
 - Strengthening the state procurement law to provide greater protection to the public in connection with the expenditure of public money.
 - Broadening the competitive solicitation exemption for statewide broadcasting of public service announcements, currently benefiting one particularly described statewide non-profit organization.
 - Prohibiting a state employee who is registered to lobby the Legislature (other than an agency head) from also participating in the negotiation and awarding of any contract required or expressly funding under any specific legislative appropriation or proviso in an appropriation act.

**Ways & Means
Legislative
Highlights**

HJR 7001: Supermajority Vote for State Taxes or Fees – Leek

Filed with Secretary of State

HJR 7001 is a proposed constitutional amendment to protect taxpayers and Florida’s long-term economic future by requiring a supermajority vote to impose any new state tax or fee or to raise any existing state tax or fee.

Highlights

- HJR 7001 protects taxpayers and Florida’s long-term economic future by proposing an amendment to the state Constitution requiring a supermajority vote to raise any state tax or fee.
- The bill provides that no state tax or fee may be imposed, authorized, or raised, except through legislation approved by two-thirds of the membership of both the House and Senate.
- The bill defines “fee” as any charge or payment required by law, including any fee for service, fee or cost for licenses, and charge for service.
- The bill defines “raise” as:
 - To increase or authorize an increase in the rate of a state tax or fee imposed on a percentage or per mill basis;
 - To increase or authorize an increase in the amount of a state tax or fee imposed on a flat or fixed amount basis; or
 - To decrease or eliminate a state tax or fee exemption or credit.
- The bill requires that any proposed state tax or fee imposition, authorization or increase must be in its own bill that contains no other subject.
- The bill specifies that the proposed amendment does not apply to any tax or fee imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.
- If approved by 60 percent of the voters in the 2018 general election or earlier special election, the bill will take effect on January 8, 2019.
- The Florida Legislature is committed to preventing future tax hikes that would endanger our workforce and the livelihood of Florida families.

CS/HB 7087: Taxation – Renner

Signed into Law

CS/HB 7087 is a tax cut package that will return roughly \$170 million to Floridians. This means more money in the pockets of families and students, farmers, business owners, military and servicemembers, and many other Floridians.

Highlights

The bill provides tax relief as follows.

- **Florida Families and Students:**
 - Back-to-School Holiday
 - Provides a three-day sales tax holiday from August 3-5, 2018.
 - Clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$60 or less will be exempt.
 - School supplies costing \$15 or less per item will be exempt.
- **Florida Business Owners:**
 - Sales Tax on Rental of Commercial Real Estate (Business Rent Tax)
 - Reduces the state sales tax rate on the business rent tax from 5.8 percent to 5.7 percent, beginning January 1, 2019.
- **Florida Farmers:**
 - Hurricane Irma or Citrus Greening Property Tax Reduction
 - Equipment used in packing and processing facilities that are idle due to the effects of Hurricane Irma or citrus greening would be valued at salvage value for the 2018 tax year.
 - Fuel Tax Exemption
 - Exemption from state and local taxes on fuel used for transportation of agricultural products from September 2017 through June 2018.
 - Hurricane-Related Exemption
 - Sales Tax Exemption on agricultural fencing and building materials during a specified storm recovery period.
- **Hurricane Preparation:**
 - Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday
 - Provides for one seven-day sales tax holiday from June 1-7, 2018.
 - Items exempt from sales tax range from flash lights, radios, and food storage coolers to portable generators.
 - Generators for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities
 - Provides a temporary exemption from the sales and use tax for the purchase of generators used to generate emergency electric energy at nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
 - Homestead Property Relief
 - Provides a property tax credit for homesteads that were rendered uninhabitable for at least 30 days due to damage from hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, and Irma.

- **Military Families and Servicemembers:**
 - Ad Valorem Exemptions
 - Removes the requirement that the unremarried surviving spouse of a disabled exservicemember be married for at least 5 years on the date of the ex-servicemember's death in order to be entitled to the current \$5,000 property tax exemption.

HB 7093: Corporate Income Taxation – Renner

Signed into Law

HB 7093 updates the Florida corporate income tax code to reflect the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act passed by the federal government in 2017.

Highlights

- The bill updates the Florida corporate income tax code by adopting the federal Internal Revenue Code as in effect on January 1, 2018.
- The bill requires an automatic downward adjustment of the corporate income tax rate for one year if the actual net collections for fiscal year 2018-2019 exceed the forecasted net collections by seven percent, after which any tax rate adjustment would sunset for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020. The bill also requires any excess collections received during 2018-2019 to be refunded to eligible corporate taxpayers no later than March 1, 2020 according to a process set forth in the bill.
- Recognizing that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 will have significant effects on the state corporate income tax and on corporate taxpayers when it is fully implemented, the bill requires the following:
 - The Florida Department of Revenue shall examine how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 will affect the state corporate income tax as a result of the state's adoption of the Internal Revenue Code by this act.
 - The Florida Department of Revenue shall monitor guidance provided by the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities and advisory groups, and shall conduct at least two public workshops to gather public input. In addition, the department shall develop a process outside of the public workshops for receiving public input regarding the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and its potential effects on the state corporate income tax and the businesses that pay the tax.
 - By February 1, 2019, the Department of Revenue shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of appropriate legislative committees.

Background

- Florida imposes a 5.5 percent tax on the taxable income of corporations and financial institutions doing business in Florida. Florida uses federal taxable income as a beginning point to calculate corporate income tax owed to Florida. Florida updates its utilization of the Federal Internal Revenue Code by adopting the code as it exists on January 1 in any given year. Adopting the code on an annual basis ensures the Florida tax code reflects any relevant changes to the Internal Revenue Code that were made during the prior year.
- On December 22, 2017, the federal government passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and on February 9, 2018, passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 which contained tax extender legislation. The acts make numerous significant changes to the taxation of corporations, some of which will reduce federal taxable income for many Florida taxpayers, including granting accelerated

deductions for expensing and depreciation of capital assets put into service after September 27, 2017.

- Many of the other changes made by the acts are expected to increase federal taxable income of Florida taxpayers. By fiscal year 2020-21, the combined effect of the changes from the two federal acts are expected to result in higher federal taxable income for Florida corporate income taxpayers in the aggregate, though by an unknown amount.

HB 7: Local Government Fiscal Transparency – Burton

Passed House Only

HB 7 would have promoted and enhanced local government fiscal transparency.

Highlights

- The bill would have promoted and enhanced local government fiscal transparency as follows:
 - Required easy public access to local government governing boards' voting records related to tax increases and issuance of tax-supported debt (phased in over four years);
 - Required easy online access to property tax TRIM notices and a four-year history of property tax rates and amounts at the parcel level (phased in over three years);
 - Required additional public meetings and expanded public notice requirements for local option tax increases, other than property taxes, and new long-term, tax-supported debt issuances; and
 - Required local governments to conduct a debt affordability analysis prior to approving the issuance of new, long-term tax-supported debt.
- Under current law, local governments are required to have an annual financial audit.
 - The bill would have required the auditor to include an affidavit signed by the chair of the local government governing board stating that it is in compliance with the provisions of the new "Local Government Fiscal Transparency Act" contained in Part VIII of ch. 218, F.S., created by the bill.
 - The Auditor General would have been required to request evidence of corrective action from local governments found not to be in compliance with the Act.
 - Local governments would have been required to provide evidence that corrective action has been initiated within 45 days and evidence of completion within 180 days of such request.
 - The Auditor General must report to the Legislative Auditing Committee local governments that do not take corrective action.
- The Florida House is committed to local government fiscal transparency. Having access to important information allows citizens to be more engaged on important government decisions.
- Floridians deserve to know how their tax dollars are spent.

Appendix