

NW Council of Mayors 2024 Regular Legislative Session Pass/Fail

The Legislature adjourned Sine Die on March 8th 2024, concluding an incredibly active Legislative Session. It was made all the more intense by lack of activity during interim committee weeks and a backup in bill drafting - forcing bills through committees at a rapid pace and a significant increase in the number of bills referenced to only two committees. This session was heavy on health care, transportation, and public safety. Unfortunately, it was also heavy on proposals for preemptions, unfunded mandates, and local revenue restrictions/reductions.

Overall, the Senate President scored the most wins. She successfully passed several priorities, including: her Live Healthy initiative, her Learn Local initiative, her Live Local 2.0 bill, Vacation Rentals, Local Government Actions, and more. The Speaker passed several priorities as well, including: his number one priority - Online Protections for Minors (which bans kids under age 14 from having social media accounts); Special District Accountability; Energy Resources; and HOA reforms. While the Governor did get several priorities passed, this is the first Session since his initial election that he didn't walk away with nearly everything he requested or recommended.

Below is a list of the majority of bills highlighted in this report. The links will bring you to that section.

BUDGET

Intergovernmental Relations & Community Affairs

PASSED:

[Live Local 2.0](#)
[Local Government Actions](#)
[Employment Regulations](#)
[Vacation Rentals](#)
[Identification Documents](#)
[Special Districts](#)
[Public Employees](#)
[Unauthorized Public Camping & Sleeping](#)
[Public Works Projects](#)
[Ethics](#)
[Artificial intelligence Use in Political Advertising](#)
[Condo Reform 3.0](#)
[HOAs](#)
[Expedited Approval of Residential Building](#)

[Permits](#)

[Building Regulations](#)

[Local Regulation of Nonconforming or Unsafe Structures](#)

[Occupational Licensing](#)

[Low-voltage Alarm System Projects](#)

[DBPR Package](#)

FAILED:

[Sovereign Immunity](#)
[Government Accountability](#)
[County Commission Term Limits](#)
[Development Permits and Orders](#)
[Land Use and Development Regulations](#)
[Protection of Historical Monuments and Memorials](#)

Finance & Tax

PASSED:

[Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value](#)

[Tax Package](#)
[Workers' Compensation](#)
[Unsolicited Proposals for Public-private Partnerships](#)
[Continuing Contracts](#)

FAILED:

[Homestead Exemption](#)
[Local Business Tax](#)
[Millage Rates](#)
[FRS COLA](#)
[Property Taxes](#)

Health & Human Resources

PASSED:

[Live Healthy Initiative](#)
[Health Care Innovation](#)
[Department of Health Package](#)
[Payments for Health Care Services](#)
[Background Screening Requirements for Health Care Practitioners](#)
[Aftercare Services Under Road-To-Independence Program](#)
[Revive Awareness Day](#)
[Substance Abuse Treatment](#)
[Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Baker Act](#)
[Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals](#)

FAILED:

[Community Mobile Support Teams](#)
[Medicaid Managed Care Plan Performance](#)
[Independent Hospital Districts](#)
[Protection from Surgical Smoke](#)
[Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services](#)

Education

PASSED:

[New Worlds Learning Initiative](#)
[School Safety](#)

[Scholarship Programs](#)
[Education Package](#)
[Career and Technical Education](#)
[Learn Local](#)
[Deregulation of Public Schools \(Learn Local\); Budget](#)

FAILED:

[Educator Certifications and Training](#)
[Coordinated Systems of Care for Children](#)
[Early Learning](#)

Public Safety & Law Enforcement

PASSED:

[Treatment by a Medical Specialist](#)
[Investigations of Complaints Against Law Enforcement](#)
[Peer Support for First Responders](#)
[Cybersecurity Incident Liability](#)
[Lights Displayed on Police Equipment and Fire Department Vehicles](#)
[Offenses Involving Critical Infrastructure Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders](#)
[Reclassification of Criminal Penalties](#)
[Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs](#)
[Return of Weapons and Arms Following an Arrest](#)
[Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia](#)
[Training for Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers](#)
[Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence](#)
[Tracking Devices and Applications](#)
["Squatters"](#)
[Pub. Rec./Suicide Victims](#)
[Safe Exchange of Minor Children](#)
[Antisemitism](#)
[Surrendered Infants](#)
[Hot Car Death Prevention](#)
[Theft](#)
[Artificial Intelligence Transparency](#)
[Cybersecurity](#)

FAILED:

[Autism Spectrum Disorder Training for Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers](#)
[Child Water Safety Requirements](#)
[Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer](#)

Environment, Natural Resources & Utilities

PASSED:

[FDACS Package](#)
[Energy Resources](#)
[Easements Affecting Real Property Owned by Same Owner](#)
[Safe Waterways Act](#)
[Mitigation](#)
[DEP Package](#)
[Funding for Environmental Resource Management](#)

FAILED:

[Municipal Utilities](#)
[Preventing Contaminants of Emerging Concern from Discharging into Wastewater Facilities and Waters of the State](#)
[Everglades Protection Area](#)
[Dredging and Beach Restoration](#)
[Mangrove Replanting and Restoration](#)

Transportation, Infrastructure & Economic Development

PASSED:

[FDOT Package](#)

[Transportation Package \(Industry Package\)](#)

[Towing & Storage](#)
[United States-produced Iron and Steel](#)
[Student Transportation Safety](#)
[Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities](#)
[Vulnerable Road Users](#)
[Interstate Safety](#)
[Motor Vehicle Racing Penalties](#)
[Traffic Enforcement](#)
[Vehicles for Hire](#)
[Alternative Mobility Funding Systems](#)

FAILED:

[MPO Reform](#)
[EV Taxes](#)
[Aviation](#)
[Office of the Blue Economy](#)
[Motor Vehicle Insurance](#)

Insurance

PASSED:

[My Safe Florida Home Program](#)
[My Safe Florida Condominium Programs](#)
[Citizens Property Insurance Corporation Insurance](#)
[PACE Program](#)
[Consumer Protection](#)

FAILED:

[Policy Cancellations and Nonrenewals by Property Insurers](#)

BUDGET

FY 24-25 Budget:

The Legislature passed a [\\$117 billion budget](#), including \$10 billion in reserves and a 3% salary increase for all state employees.

Education - [FEFP](#) [School Readiness Program Reimbursement Rates](#)

- The budget appropriates \$28.4 billion in total funding for the FEFP (over \$2 billion increase), which includes the following:
 - 3.72% increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA)
 - \$20 million increase in the Mental Health Allocation (for a total of \$180 million)
 - \$40 million, for a total of \$290 million for safe school initiatives;
- \$230.8 million for Public Charter School Maintenance/ Capital Outlay
- \$6.5 million Coach Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program
- \$200 million School Recognition Program
- \$12.2 million Mentoring Programs
- \$5 million District Threat Management Coordinators
- \$5 million Regional Literacy Teams - \$5 million
- \$6.4 million Menstrual Hygiene Products Grant Program
- \$24 million New Worlds Scholarship Accounts
- \$3.8 million School Safety Inspection Bonus Program
- Workforce:
 - \$20 million Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships
 - \$5 million increase for the Grow Your Own Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program
 - \$5 million - GATE
 - \$20 million Nursing Education Initiatives

Health Care

- Live Healthy Initiative
 - Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - \$245.7 million
 - Maternal Care for Moms and Babies - \$134.6 million
 - Preventative Dental Care Services - \$35 million
 - Private Duty Nursing Services - \$29 million
 - Occupational, Physical, and Speech Therapy Services - \$34.2 million
 - Behavioral Analysis - \$13 million
 - iBudget Provider Rate Increase - \$195.8 million
 - Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program - \$10 million
 - Mobile Response Team Expansion - \$11.5 million
 - Statewide Expansion of the Telehealth Minority Maternity Care Program - \$23.4 million
 - Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical and Dental Education - \$38 million
 - Medical - \$30 million
 - Dental - \$8 million
 - Training, Education, and Clinicals in Healthcare (TEACH) Funding Program - \$25 million
 - Expansion of Lab Schools with University Affiliations - \$2 million
 - Linking Industry Education to Nursing Education (LINE) Expansion - \$5 million
 - Increasing Graduate Medical Education Residence Slots - \$150 million
 - Slots for Doctors - \$50 million
 - High Tertiary/Statutory Teaching Hospitals - \$100 million
 - Health Care Innovation Council and Revolving Loan Program - \$51.3 million

- Creates the designation of behavioral health teaching hospitals to advance Florida's behavioral health systems of care by creating a new integrated care and education model - \$321 million
- AHCA
 - Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program - \$38.4 million
 - Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - \$333.1 million
 - Air and Ground Ambulance Emergency Services - \$5.9 million
 - Assistive Care Services - \$1.3 million
 - Early Intervention Services - \$1.2 million
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics - \$19 million
 - Maternal Fetal Medicine - \$3.5 million
 - Medical Foster Care - \$0.5 million
 - Nursing Homes - \$247.9 million
 - Pediatric Behavioral Health Services - \$43.1 million
 - Pediatric Physicians - \$43.1 million
 - Behavioral Health Collaborative Care - \$8.3 million
 - Graduate Medical Education - \$10.5 million
 - Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly - \$29.7 million
- DCF
 - Independent Living Programs Eligibility Expansion - \$8.1 million
 - Adoption Incentive Benefit Increase and Eligibility Expansion - \$9.4 million
 - Adoption, Guardianship and Foster Care Subsidies - \$26.4 million
 - Homeless Housing Opportunities - \$10 million • Domestic Violence Services - \$10 million
 - Human Trafficking Emergency Bed Expansion - \$5 million
 - Optional State Supplementation Personal Needs Allowance Increase - \$6.7 million
 - Opioid Settlement - Treatment, Prevention, and Recovery Services - \$83.9 million
 - State Mental Health Treatment Facilities - \$88.8 million
 - Integrated Behavioral Health Clinics - \$7 million
 - Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Program - \$5.7 million
 - Community-Based Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services - \$21.5 million
- Florida Cancer Innovation Fund - \$40 million

Environment

- Land Acquisition - \$100 million
- Land Management - \$100 million
- Resilient Florida Grant Program - \$100 million
- Water Quality Grant Program - \$79 million
- Local Water Projects - \$410.4 million
- Everglades Restoration - \$574.6 million
- Water Quality Improvements - \$1.7 billion
 - Wastewater Grant Program - \$135 million
 - C-51 Reservoir - \$100 million
 - Everglades \$50 million
 - Alternative Water Supply- \$55 million

- Flood and Sea-Level Rise Program - \$125 million
- Florida Forever Programs and Land Acquisition - \$528.6 million
 - Florida Recreational Development Assistance Grants - \$14.3.million
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program - \$508.9 million

Transportation, Infrastructure & Economic Development

- Local Government Cybersecurity Grants - \$40 million
- Transportation Work Program - \$13.98 billion
- Transportation Disadvantaged - \$3 million
- Fully funds Live Local:
 - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program - \$174 million
 - Affordable Housing (SAIL) Program - \$84 million
- Small Business Credit Initiatives - \$170.9 million
- Job Growth Grant Fund - \$75 million
- VISIT Florida - \$80 million
- Economic Development Toolkit - \$24 million
- Housing and Community Development Projects - \$29.8 million
- Cultural and Museum Program Support Grants and Initiatives - \$60.8 million

Public Safety

- State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) In Florida Program - \$8.5 million
- Purchase of Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement - \$2 million
- Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grants - \$2.5 million
- Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program - \$17 million
- Local Government Fire and Firefighter Services - \$85.5 million

Budget Conforming Bills:

Education [HB 5101](#) Among other things, the bill:

- Requires DOE to have a database system to track all school bond referendums and debt incurred by a school district via referendum for capital outlay or operational purposes
- Authorizes charter schools sponsored by a state university or FCS institution to receive the state-funded discretionary contribution. The bill also requires an annual appropriation to the educational enrollment stabilization program to maintain a minimum balance of \$250 million, funds from which may be carried forward for up to 10 years.
- Removes a provision to hold harmless a charter school sponsor for FTE students not included in projections due to approval of a charter school application and a reporting requirement of charter school applications. The bill modifies reporting requirements for charter schools from student membership to FTE. The bill also modifies the methodology to calculate state funds and capital outlay funds for charter schools sponsored by a state university or FCS institution, and designates that the university or FCS institution is the fiscal agent for sponsored charter schools
- Requires each district school board to establish a threat management coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact regarding the district's coordination, communication, and implementation of the threat management program and to report quantitative data on its activities to the Office of Safe Schools.
- Expands the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to include emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters, and specify eligibility criteria and authorized

uses of funds. Accordingly, the bill changes the name to the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program.

- Modifies VPK students demonstrating a substantial deficiency on the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system, which requires students to be referred to a local school district and specifies that such students are eligible for participation in a 100-hour summer bridge program consisting of 4 hours of daily instruction to be provided by the school district.
- Establishes the AMIkids, Inc., program, subject to funding appropriated in the GAA, to provide alternatives to institutionalization or commitment for youth by providing services, such as, education, behavior modification, skills development, mental health, workforce development, family functioning, and advocacy.
- Modifies the school readiness program allocation to use unweighted full-time equivalent children instead of eligible population, and use of a “rate index” to account for differences in geographic location. [School Readiness Program Reimbursement Rates](#)
- Requires each early learning coalition to implement a parent sliding fee scale that increases in relation to family income adopted in rule by the DOE for the school readiness program.
- Increases the percentage of funds from the VPK program that each early learning coalition may retain for administrative expenses from 4 % to 5 %
- Creates a transportation stipend from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for public school students enrolled in K- 8th for transportation to a Florida public school that is different from the school to which the student is assigned or to a lab school. The scholarship is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Florida Retirement System- The Senate rejected the House’s COLA, which would have added significant cost to FRS employers. The final product:

- Closes the FRS Preservation of Benefits Plan to new members effective July 1, 2026.
- Allows FRS retirees to receive both compensation from an employer that participates in the FRS and retirement benefits, provided the retiree is not reemployed within the six months immediately following the date of retirement.
- Adjusts the employer contribution rates for the FRS:

Regular Class: (Normal) 6.73% (UAL) 4.78% to 4.84% (Combined) 11.51% to 11.57%

Special Risk Class (Normal) 18.66% (UAL) 11.95% to 12.07% (Combined) 30.61% to 30.73%

Special Risk Administrative Class (Normal) 11.54% (UAL) 26.22% (Combined) 37.76%

Elected Officer Class (Normal) 10.45% to 10.70% (UAL) 50.21% (Combined) 60.66% to 60.91%

Judges (Normal) 14.90% (UAL) 27.93% to 28.49% (Combined) 42.83% to 43.39%

County Officers (Normal) 12.39% (UAL) 44.23% (Combined) 56.62%

Senior Management (Normal) 8.56% (UAL) 23.90% (Combined) 32.46%

DROP (Normal) 8.49% (UAL) 10.64% (Combined) 19.13%

PASSED

Intergovernmental Relations & Community Affairs

General

Live Local 2.0

Enrolled: [SB 328](#) **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

The House and Senate passed SB 328. The bill originally began as a “glitch bill” for both local governments and developers. Many of the provisions that would have benefitted local governments were removed from the bill after a county moved forward with filing a lawsuit despite the legislative offer to correct their specific issue (live local developments in industrial zones.) Originally, the bill would have allowed local governments to reject developments in industrial zones and would have gone farther in ensuring developments were better conformed to adjacent development. The final product:

FAR: Preempts local government on restricting Floor Area Ratio (FAR), entitling Live Local developments to the highest floor-area ratio currently allowed in the jurisdiction.

TODs: Requires Live Local developments in Transit Oriented Development (TOD) zones to be mixed-use. Allows local governments to impose regulations on the developments so long as they do not restrict the height, use, density, and FAR. Requires local governments to reduce parking requirements for Live Local developments with safe multi-modal access to a major transportation hub or if parking is available for residents within 600 ft.

Height: If the development is adjacent, on at least two sides, to a single-family residential development with at least 25 contiguous homes, the bill allows local governments to restrict height to 150% of the highest development within .5 miles or 3 stories, whichever is greater. (Originally, this had broader application but the language was narrowed when other local government friendly sections were removed.)

The bill also: appropriates \$100 million to the Hometown Hero program; addresses airport-impacted zones; and clarifies that the ad valorem exemption applies to individual units and how the value should be calculated.

Local Government Actions

Enrolled: [SB 1628](#) **House** 84 - 30 **Senate:** 30-1 **Governor:** TBD

The bill would expand the types of ordinances for which local governments must prepare a business impact statement prior to adoption as required by SB 170 (2023). You may recall local governments negotiated several exemptions in SB 170, one of which exempted ordinances related to Chapter 163 (Growth Management). This bill narrows the exemption to only apply to development permits, orders, or agreements. Originally, the bill would have also mirrored this expansion for legal challenges which would trigger an automatic stay on ordinances. Thankfully, however, the Legislature did eventually agree to maintain current law as it applied to legal challenges, and the end product only narrowed the exemption for business impact statements.

Employment Regulations

Enrolled: [HB 433](#) **House** 74 - 36 **Senate:** 24-15 **Governor:** TBD

This bill was the main priority of the Florida Chamber of Commerce this Session. The bill preempts local government from requiring employers to meet or provide heat exposure requirements beyond those required in law; and prohibits local governments from imposing living wage and predictive scheduling requirements on government contractors. HB 433 originally would have broadly preempted all regulations related to employment and labor to the state, with one minor exemption negotiated by FLC related to benefits of direct employees. The Senate bill, however, only contained the preemption on heat ordinances. Despite the Senate bill advancing through committees as only the heat exposure preemption, the Legislature pulled a last-minute bait-and-switch before final passage (that wasn't entirely unexpected and was still improved from the original proposal) adding in the living wage and predictive scheduling preemptions.

Vacation Rentals

Enrolled: [SB 280](#);– Passed **House:** 60-51 **Senate:** 23-16 **Governor:** TBD

SB 280 was a Senate President Priority that ultimately passed due to a trade of priorities with the House Speaker, which prompted the House Majority to whip votes and enabled it to narrowly pass the House. Before final passage, however, the House did take the Senate language, which is much preferred to the House as it allows for “reasonable” fees and higher fines (as opposed to capped fees). The House also added a grandfather for Flagler County, the Speaker’s county, which only further drives home the unpopularity of this policy. There was some confusion on the House and Senate floor due to staff making an error and stating the grandfather also covered Broward County. We made sure our Delegation members knew the grandfather did not cover their municipal ordinances back home. Our Delegation was lockstep with local control on this issue and actively worked against the bill- all voted no, asked questions, debated, kept vote tallies- whether during committees or on the floor. Our efforts are now focused on the Governor’s office - to ask for a veto of the Legislation.

SB 280 preempts proactive, targeted local ordinances and replaces them with a one-size-fits-all regulatory scheme that is limited and prescribed by the State. It does not allow local governments to adopt regulations on noise, parking, trash, occupancy, or safety requirements that are specific to Short Term Rentals (STR). Prior versions of this bill required the STRs to first obtain a local registration before applying to DBPR for a state license. However, SB 280 has STRs first applying to DPBR, which then issues a temporary license and “unique identifier” which obscures the physical address of the rental. Note: It does not preempt condo, co-ops, HOA restrictive covenants. Below is a breakdown of relevant portions.

- **Before a local registration is adopted** local governments must prepare a business impact statement.
- **Local Registration may only require:**
 - Identifying information
 - Proof of licensure
 - Obtain all tax certificates, etc.
 - Pay in full all code liens
 - Update of required information on a continual basis to ensure it is current
 - Designate and maintain a point of contact capable of responding to complaints and emergencies - including 24/7 telephone availability and receiving legal notifications
 - State and comply with the maximum overnight occupancy of the vacation rental which do not exceed whichever is greater of either: a) 2 ppl/ bedroom + 2 in one common area or b) more than 2 ppl/bedroom if at least 50 sq ft/person + 2 in one common area.
- **Fees/Fines**
 - May charge "reasonable" inspection fees for building code and fire code compliance prior to application
 - May charge "reasonable" application and renewal fees
 - Allows for enforcement fines up to \$500 for:
 - Failing to register
 - Failing to comply with registration requirements
 - All registration requirements except for occupancy must be given a 15-day cure period before the fine can be issued.
- **Application Process**
 - Local government has 15 business days to review for completeness and accept or deny
 - Automatic approval after 15 days

- Denials - must provide written notice of denial, specifically citing ordinance, rules, etc.
 - Must allow applicant to reapply if issues are cured
- Upon acceptance, local gov must provide a unique registration number (or similar)
- **Enforcement**
 - Liens: Imposed fines may be recorded and constitute a lien
 - Suspension: If code enforcement or special magistrate finds STR materially violated code/law/ordinance that does not apply solely to STRs:
 - Local Gov must provide written notice of violation
 - Code enforcement or special magistrate must make recommendation to local government on whether to suspend STR license
 - Must recommend suspension if -
 - One or more violations on five separate days in 60-day period (up to 30 days suspension)
 - One or more violations on five separate days in 30-day period (up to 60 days suspension)
 - One or more violations after two previous suspensions (up to 90 days suspension)
 - May not suspend for violations not related to STR premises
 - Must provide notice of suspension to STR and Division within 5 days
 - Notice must include start date of suspension (at least 21 days after notice)
 - Beginning Jan 2026- must use state system to report suspension
 - Revocation: Local gov may revoke or refuse to renew license if-
 - 3 suspensions
 - Unsatisfied lien (after providing 60 days to satisfy prior to termination), OR
 - Premise and owner are subject of final order or judgement by a court lawfully directing termination of the premise use as a vacation rental
 - Must provide notice of revocation to VR and Division within 5 days
 - Beginning Jan 2026- must use state system to report revocation
 - Appeal: STR may appeal denial, suspension, termination, etc. to circuit court
 - Appeal must be filed within 30 days
 - Court may award reasonable attorneys fees to the STR owner
- **DBPR**- May revoke or suspend a state license if local registration is suspended. Such suspension must be concurrent with the local suspension. DBPR may also fine up to \$1000 a property that is operating without a license
- **Funding** -Provides \$4.3 million for DBPR to fund additional 9 FTEs and stand up the statewide Vacation Rental portal.
- **Platforms**: In addition to the preemption, the final product also:
 - Placed responsibility for collecting and remitting individual vacation rental taxes onto the advertising platforms;
 - Removed requirements for advertising platforms to verify registration and license status prior to publishing and notify DBPR for failures to display license/registration

Identification Documents

Enrolled: [HB 1451](#) Passed **Senate:** 28 - 9 **House:** 81 - 32 **Governor:** Approved 03/15/24

The bill prohibits a county or a municipality from accepting as identification any identification card or document that is issued by any person, entity, or organization that knowingly issues identification cards or

documents to individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States. This prohibition does not extend to any documentation that is issued by or on behalf of the Federal Government.

Special Districts

Enrolled: [HB 7013](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 7013 is a Speaker priority that would impose reporting and accountability requirements for all Special Districts. The bill requires Special Districts to publish annual reports by December 1 each year. It requires OPPAGA study on safe neighborhood improvement districts to be submitted no later than 9/30/25. Finally, it requires sworn affidavits attesting that the majority of acreage of community development districts be used for residential development.

Originally, this legislation would have required every independent special district to go for a reauthorization vote every 10 years- potentially causing significant harm to the long term financing of projects. In Broward, this would have impacted, at least, both Broward hospital districts, the Broward CSC, and numerous drainage districts. Thankfully, we were ultimately successful in helping remove the reauthorization language.

Public Employees

Enrolled: [SB 1746](#) – Passed **Senate:** 21 - 14 **House:** 77 - 36 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1746 is intended as a “glitch bill” resolving issues from SB 265 (2023) related to public employee unions. It specifies PERC's authority on dues deductions, emphasizing that such deductions are allowed only for certain occupations, including newly added 911 public safety telecommunicators, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics, provided there's an authorization form submitted by employees. The bill adjusts the requirements for public employees wishing to join a bargaining unit and modifies the criteria for employee organizations in maintaining their registration, particularly easing the financial reporting requirements from needing an "audited" to a "prepared" financial statement by a certified public accountant. Furthermore, it sets forth conditions under which an employee organization must seek recertification if it doesn't meet the threshold of 60 percent dues-paying members, alongside detailing the instances leading to the revocation of registration or certification by PERC. Additionally, the bill exempts certain law enforcement and emergency service bargaining units from membership authorization form requirements. .

Unauthorized Public Camping & Sleeping

Enrolled: [HB 1365](#)– Passed **Senate:** 27 - 12 **House:** 82 - 26 **Governor:** Approved 03/20/24

HB 1365 was a Leadership priority that would prohibit counties and municipalities from allowing sleeping or camping on public property, in public buildings, or on public rights of way without a permit. It would also authorize counties and municipalities to designate temporary, permitted areas -subject to DCF approval and inspection- for public sleeping, so long as the location: provides access to clean restrooms and running water; has 24-hour security; provides coordination to behavioral health services; and enforces a zero drugs/alcohol policy. A county cannot designate a location within a municipality without municipal approval. The bill provides no funding for local governments to absorb the cost of the designated areas or the costs of enforcement of unauthorized public sleeping. The bill creates a private cause of action for residents, business owners, or the AG to bring suit against a local government from not doing everything in its power to block property for public sleeping without designating an area following the process laid forth in the bill. There is a five-day cure period for the local government to avoid a lawsuit beginning after the potential plaintiff provides written notice. Prevailing plaintiffs may recover costs. The bill goes into effect October 1, 2024 and applies to causes of action arising on or after January 1, 2025. Successful implementation of HB 1365 will require regional collaboration. FLC and FAC are both planning on hosting discussions at their respective conferences on this topic.

Public Works Projects

Enrolled: [HB 705](#) **Senate:** 28 - 12 **House:** 80-32 **Governor:** TBD

HB 705 essentially preempts prevailing wage requirements for construction workers on government contracts no matter how the project is funded (even if locally). The bill also clarifies that if a project solely funded with local dollars, the local government may prevent bids based on geographic preference.

Ethics & Elections:

Ethics

Enrolled: [SB 7014](#) **Senate:** 26 - 4 **House:** 79-34 - 2 **Governor:** TBD

The bill enacts several amendments to the Code of Ethics, including the establishment of statutory deadlines for the Commission to complete investigations into alleged ethics violations. It standardizes the maximum civil penalties for lobbying violations by public officers with those for other breaches of ethics laws. Additionally, it revises the tenure of Commission members to a limit of two total terms and extends the provision for the recovery of costs and attorney fees to candidates for public office who defend against maliciously filed ethics complaints. Furthermore, the bill requires a minimum of six Commission members' votes to override or alter a recommendation made by the Commission's counsel and implements clarifications and the removal of outdated terms.

Artificial intelligence Use in Political Advertising

Enrolled: [HB 919](#) – Passed **Senate:** 32 - 0 **House:** 104 - 8 **Governor:** TBD

HB 919 require a political advertisement, electioneering communication, or other miscellaneous advertisements of a political nature that contains an image, a video, audio, graphic, or other digital content, created in whole or in part, with the use of generative AI that appears to depict a real person performing an action that did not occur in reality, and was created with intent to injure a candidate or to deceive regarding a ballot issue, to include a certain disclaimer, in addition to all other applicable disclaimers. The bill creates specific requirements for the disclaimer that are dependent upon the media used. The bill defines “generative artificial intelligence” as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, emulate the structure and characteristics of input data in order to generate derived synthetic content including images, videos, audio, text, and other digital content. The bill permits a complaint to be filed with the Commission if such disclaimer is not included on the advertisement or communication. In addition to any civil penalties, a person in violation commits a first-degree misdemeanor.

Community Affairs

Condo Reform 3.0

Enrolled: [SB 942](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 111 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1021 focuses mostly on ethics reform. It imposes reforms and create criminal penalties for Community Association Managers (CAMs) and directors related to: disclosure of conflicts of interest; recordkeeping, access of records, transparency; kickbacks; elections; annual educational requirements; and enforcement. It would prohibit condo boards from engaging in SLAPP suits and retaliatory actions against unit owners, including libel, slander, fines, etc. It would also require boards of buildings with 10 or more units to meet at least once per quarter and allow association members to opt-in to electronic voting. It clarifies the obligation of the association and owners regarding hurricane protection and requires sliding glass doors be

designed to prevent water intrusion. It allows associations to pause reserve funding if the building is unsafe and uninhabitable. It provides for the appointment of the condominium ombudsman by the Secretary of DBPR.

Originally, it contained language that would have set up a unique financing system intended to help those on fixed income make assessment payments. It would have allowed associations to take out loans contingent on assessments. The unit owners could then pay their assessment in full when it is due or in smaller payments over time. Unfortunately, this was removed from the final product.

Development/Growth Management/ Building Code:

Expedited Approval of Residential Building Permits

Enrolled: [SB 812](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 89 - 25 **Governor:** TBD

The bill exempts local governments that have only 25 acres or less of contiguous land to capture high-density cities that are completely built out and will never be able to utilize the program. The bill is being pushed by large developers, such as Lennar, and is intended to allow builders to start building homes in a newly approved subdivision during the lag time between preliminary approval of the plat and the final approval of the plat.

Plats: The bill also requires all local governments to create: a master building permit process; and a two-step application process for preliminary plat and final plat approval in order to expedite building permits.

Residential Subdivisions/Planned Communities: By August 15, 2024, the bill requires counties above 75,000 residents and municipalities above 30,000 residents to create an expedited program for residential subdivisions or planned communities before a final plat is recorded. The program must require local governments to identify the percentage of units or building permits that must be issued not to exceed 50% of the subdivision or planned community. By December 31, 2027- the number must not exceed 75%. The program created must allow a builder to build up to 50% of the permitted homes if the builder requests it.

Building Regulations

Enrolled: [HB 267](#) – Passed **Senate:** 36 - 0 **House:** 83 - 29 **Governor:** TBD

We were involved in negotiations on this bill from the start. Efforts with the House sponsor did not get far, but thankfully the Senate sponsor was open to working with local governments and was not open to taking orders from the House. While the bill wasn't perfect, the Senate version (which prevailed) was significantly better than the House version.

The final product essentially halves timelines for local government review. Some of the unresolved issues include timeframes for multi-family residential under 50 units and further eroding oversight of private providers. Local governments did win multiple concessions, however. We were able to remove statutory limits on back-and-forth requests between building officials and applicants. We also got language authorizing local governments to use building code enforcement fee revenue to upgrade technology hardware and software systems used to enforce the Building Code.

Timelines:

- 30 business days for the following permits for structures that are less than 7,500 square feet: single-family residential unit or dwelling, accessory structure, alarm, electrical, irrigation, landscaping, mechanism, plumbing, or roofing.

- 60 business days for the above-mentioned permits for structures more than 7,500 square feet.
- 60 business days for signs and nonresidential buildings less than 25,000 square feet.
- 60 business days for multifamily residential not exceeding 50 units, certain site-plan approvals and subdivision plats, and lot grading and site alteration.
- 15 business days for master building permits for site-specific building permit.
- 10 business days for single-family dwellings utilizing the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program.

Private Providers: It provides that for permit applications with the seal of a private provider who is a licensed engineer or architect, the local government must issue the permit or provide written notice of plan deficiencies within 10 business days after receipt of the permit application (from 20 days). If the local building official does not provide written notice of deficiencies within the 10-day timeframe, the permit application is deemed approved. The bill also defines “private provider firm” for purposes of allowing local governments to establish a registration system to verify private provider licensure requirements. It also allows for the use of an internship program on the base for an inspector’s license.

Local Regulation of Nonconforming or Unsafe Structures

Enrolled: [SB 1526](#) – Passed **Senate:** 36 - 2 **House:** 86 - 29 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1526 creates the Resiliency and Safe Structures Act (Act), providing that a local government may not prohibit, restrict, or prevent the demolition of the following structures for any reason other than public safety. Nonconforming structures located within one-half mile of the coastline which are also within zones V, VE, AO, or AE, as identified in the Flood Insurance Rate Map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Any structure determined to be unsafe by a local building official; Any structure ordered to be demolished by a local government that has proper jurisdiction. The bill provides that a local government must authorize replacement structures to be developed to the maximum height and overall building size authorized by local development regulations. The bill prohibits a local government from imposing certain restrictions and limitations on a replacement structure to be built on the property where a structure was demolished. The bill provides that a local government may review an application for a demolition permit only administratively for compliance with applicable building and safety codes. The provisions of the bill do not apply to single-family homes or structures individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Supporters contend the bill is necessary to remove unsafe structures, improve public safety, clean up blight, and allow smart development. Opponents were concerned the bill will make it easier for developers and owners to demolish structures that have historical or community significance but that aren’t in the National Register.

Occupational Licensing

Enrolled: [SB 1142](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1142 provides a procedure for construction industry licensing board to issue a license to a registered contractor in good standing who is registered locally during calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023 in circumstances where the local jurisdiction no longer issues local licenses. This is limited to trade categories in current law including local residential HVAC, roofing, and plumbing contractors who are not required to have a state license. Eligible applicants must meet the insurance and financial responsibility requirements for contractors in current law, these licenses are subject to disciplinary control and oversight by the construction industry licensing board.

Low-voltage Alarm System Projects

Enrolled: [HB 535](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 119 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

The bill revises existing law concerning low-voltage alarm system installation permitting. The bill mandates that a non-electric fence or wall must enclose the outside perimeter of a low-voltage electric fence. It further states that areas within multiple zoning categories are not considered exclusively for single-family or multifamily residential use, allowing low-voltage electric fences in these areas. The bill prohibits local governments from enacting additional requirements for the installation or maintenance of low-voltage alarm systems.

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Enrolled: [HB 1335](#): – Passed **Senate:** 29 - 11 **House:** 102 - 9 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1335 mostly focuses on licensure reform for various sectors, including the tobacco and nicotine product industry, alcohol industry, CPAs, elevator industry, construction, harbor pilots, cosmetologists, etc. Among other things, the bill allows specialty electrical contractors to perform maintenance on nonelectrical signs. It also enhances the caps on claims and lifetime limits for the Florida Homeowners' Construction Recovery Fund. Controversially, it also repealed diversity and inclusion requirements for certain licensure and mentorship programs.

Intergovernmental Affairs Additional Enrolled Bills:

[HB 1203](#) - HOAs

[HB 818](#) Military Leave

[SB 676](#) Food Delivery Platforms

Finance & Tax

Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value

Enrolled: [HB 7017](#) **House:** 110 - 0 **Senate:** 38- 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 7017 places a Constitutional Amendment on the 2024 November ballot that would require annual CPI adjustment by January 1st each year for the \$25,000 of assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000 (not including school ad-valorem taxes). The intent is to ensure that exempted amounts increase in periods of high inflation. The REC estimated the impact on non-school local government property taxes in FY 2025-26 would be approximately -\$22.8 million statewide, growing to approximately -\$111.8 million in FY 2028-29, assuming current tax rates.

Tax Package

Enrolled: [HB 7073](#) **House:** 110 - 0 **Senate:** 38- 0 **Governor:** TBD

The Legislature unanimously passed a \$900 million tax package with \$235 million in recurring tax relief. The package includes:

- **Temporary Sales Tax Relief:**
 - **Sales Tax Holidays:**
 - **Back-to-School:** 14-day tax holiday from July 29th - August 11th for clothing under \$100, school supplies under \$50, learning aids and puzzles under \$30, and personal computers under \$1,500.

- **Freedom Month:** A month-long tax holiday from July 1st -31st for purchases of admissions to music, sporting, and cultural events; tickets to movies and museums; single admission or season tickets to theatre and dance performances; state park admission and annual passes; and use of fitness facilities
 - **Disaster Preparedness:** Two separate holidays on June 1st -14th and August 24-Sept 6 for specified disaster preparedness items, supplies necessary for the evacuation of pets, and disaster clean up supplies.
 - **Skilled Worker Tools:** Sept 1st-7th for certain tools used by skilled trade workers. Hand and power tools, work boots, safety equipment, shop lights, toolboxes and belts, and plumbing and electrical equipment.
- **Insurance Premium Taxes:**
 - The bill requires insurers to provide a deduction of 1.75 % of the total premium charged on residential property policies and on personal or commercial flood policies. The bill also requires insurers to provide a deduction on the total premium charged on residential properties in an amount equal to the State Fire Marshal regulatory assessment charged for such policy under s. 624.515, F.S. These deductions apply only to policies with coverage for a 12-month period and with an effective date between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025. The state will reimburse insurers with a tax credit.
- **Property Taxes:**
 - Expands the ad valorem tax benefits for renewable energy source devices to include facilities used to capture and convert biogas to RNG
 - Extends the time, from 3 to 5 years, for a homestead owner to start the repair of a homestead property damaged by misfortune or calamity, in order for the homestead owner to continue to claim the homestead exemption and maintain a pre-damage assessment.
- **Business Taxes:**
 - **Individuals with Unique Abilities Tax Credit:** Creates a new corporate income tax credit for corporations that employ individuals with disabilities. The credit is for \$1/hour worked, up to \$1,000 per employee per year. The maximum amount of credit that can be earned by a corporation in any year is \$10,000, and unused credits may be carried forward for up to five taxable years. The maximum credit amount that can be awarded statewide is \$5 million per state fiscal year. The credit is available for three fiscal years: FY 2024-25, 25-26, and 26-27.
 - **Strong Families Tax Credit:** increases the annual cap for the Strong Families Tax Credit Program from \$20 million per state fiscal year to \$40 million per state fiscal year, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024-25.
 - **Child Care Tax Credit:** Creates a new child care tax credit for: 50% of the startup costs of an eligible child care facility; Operating an eligible child care facility for the taxpayer's employees; or Making payments to an eligible child care facility on behalf of an employee. The tax credit is available for Fiscal Years 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27. The maximum amount of tax credits that may be approved is \$5 million for each of these fiscal years
 - Reduces the scheduled natural gas fuel tax rates for a one-year period beginning on January 1, 2026, to half of the rates currently scheduled
 - Exempts certain notes by alarm system contractors from documentary stamp tax
- **Live Local Ad Valorem Exemption:**
 - Upon becoming law:
 - Modifies the definition of “newly constructed” to remove a requirement that substantial completion must be the earlier of within 5 yrs of applying for the exemption or the first submission of a request for certification

- Outlines the method for property appraisers to determine values of exempted units in a manner that is similar to other exemptions in statute.
- Clarifies that units used as a transient public lodging establishment as defined in s. 509.013, F.S., 196 are is not eligible for certain affordable housing exemptions.
- Beginning with 2025 tax roll:
 - Allows a taxing authority to elect, upon adoption of an ordinance or resolution approved by a two-thirds vote of the governing body, to opt out of the state law that exempts certain affordable housing properties, if in metro area where inventory exceeds renters or if 0-120 AMI.
- Beginning with 2026 tax roll:
 - Provides for an affordable housing tax exemption on certain new, low-income housing projects for the first 15 years of the project. A multifamily project must meet the following conditions to receive the exemption:
 - Must be an improvement of land where an improvement did not previously exist or the construction of a new improvement where an old improvement was removed, which was substantially completed within 2 years before the first submission of an application for exemption.
 - Contain more than 70 units that are used to provide affordable housing to extremely-low-income, very-low-income, or low-income.
 - Be subject to a land use restriction agreement to provide affordable housing for at least 99 years .
 - Provides a penalty of 50 % of the unpaid taxes for each year and interest at a rate of 15 %, if the above exemption was improperly claimed.

Workers' Compensation

Enrolled: [SB 362](#): – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 113 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 362 increases the max reimbursement allowance of worker’s compensation physician services to 175% of Medicare for all services (up from the current 110%) and for surgical procedures to 210% (up from 140%). It also increases reimbursement for expert witness fees for medical experts from \$200 to \$300 an hour. This change would align the hourly rate to that which is paid by the division of workers’ compensation for their own medical experts

Unsolicited Proposals for Public-Private Partnerships

Enrolled: [HB 781](#): – Passed **Senate:** 37 - 2 **House:** 114 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 781 authorizes local governments to proceed with an unsolicited proposal for a qualifying project without engaging in a public bidding process. To do so, an RPE (Responsible Public Entity) must hold an initial duly noticed public meeting at which the proposal is presented and affected public entities and members of the public are able to provide comment. The RPE then must hold a second duly noticed public meeting at which the RPE determines that the proposal is in the public’s interest based on specified factors. The bill provides that an RPE is authorized, but no longer required, to publish notice in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) and a newspaper of general circulation and mail a copy to each affected local government in the affected area if the RPE intends to execute a comprehensive agreement for a project arising from an unsolicited proposal. If the RPE decides to proceed with an unsolicited proposal without engaging in the public bidding process, the RPE must publish a report that provides the public interest determination, and specifically detailed information, in the FAR for at least 7 days. The bill no longer requires the RPE to determine that an unsolicited proposed project will be owned by the

RPE. The RPE will only be required to determine the proposed project is in the public's best interest or will be conveyed to the RPE upon completion and payment if the proposal was solicited.

Continuing Contracts

Enrolled: [HB 149](#): – Passed **Senate:** 31 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 149 raises the maximum limit for continuing contracts from \$4 million to \$7.5 million per construction project, with future adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index starting from 2026.

Health & Human Resources

Live Healthy Initiative

Enrolled: [SB 7016](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 117 - 1 **Governor:** Approved 03/21/24

SB 7016 is the flagship package of the Senate President's number one priority- the Live Healthy Initiative. The main goal of expanding the availability of efficiency and quality of healthcare for all Floridians. The bill appropriates over \$714 million towards its initiatives.

Among other things, the legislation seeks to grow Florida's healthcare workforce by focusing on renewing opportunities for education, training, and retention, removing regulatory barriers to increase workforce mobility. The bill increases access to screenings and preventative care. It addresses interstate medical licensure compacts for audiology, speech pathology, and physical therapy- and expedites licensure. It expands telehealth for minority maternity care patients. It increases the eligibility threshold for Charitable Care at Free Clinics to allow more low-income Floridians from 200% to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. It creates Advanced Birth Centers. It expands Mobile Response Teams. It adopts and enforces federal standards for hospital estimates, personal estimates for insurance cost sharing, estimates and publication of facility charges, and protects providers who communicate cash price patients. It adds dental residents and dental hygiene students to the TEACH program and authorizes eligible facilities to reimburse at \$50 and \$15 per hour respectively. It requires that the Medicaid dental care services rate increase goes to preventative dental care. It also amends the FRAME dental program to allow volunteering at pro-bono opportunities. It requires the Department of Health (DOH) to implement the Dr. and Mrs. Alfonse and Kathleen Cinotti Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program (Cinotti Program). The purpose of the Cinotti Program is to fund the provision of no-cost health care screenings or services for the general public by nonprofit entities. It requires DOH to establish and maintain a Statewide Health Care Screenings and Services Portal intended to direct the general public to services and events where screenings are available. Finally, the bill improves safeguards in order to ensure residents are accessing appropriate care, rather than relying on expensive emergency visits by requiring hospitals to adopt a Non-Emergent Care Access Plan that involves collaboration with urgent care and insurance. The requirement to have a NCAP does not affect the hospital's duty to take care of all patients that come in.

Health Care Innovation

Enrolled: [SB 7018](#): – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 117 - 1 **Governor:** Approved 03/21/24

This bill proposes the creation of a 15-member panel consisting of leaders from our healthcare agencies, workforce, private sector, technology, and finance from across the state. This panel would be required to hold at least four public forums across the state to recognize innovative ideas for changing the workforce and the system. They would also establish a loan fund to help fund innovation and creativity in the

workforce- specifically, innovative technologies, workforce pathways, and service delivery models. The loan fund is funded at \$50 million each year for the next 10 years.

Department of Health Package

Enrolled: [SB 1582](#): – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 114 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

Among other things, SB 1582 standardizes hearing screening practices for newborns born in licensed birth facilities and requires screening results for children up to 36 months of age be reported to DOH. It also creates the Andrew John Anderson Rare Disease Grant Program within DOH with the purpose of advancing the progress of research and cures for rare pediatric diseases through the award of grants by a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

Payments for Health Care Services

Enrolled: [HB 7089](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40-0 - 1 **House:** 109 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 7089 is a consumer protection package that requires hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and urgent care centers owned by hospitals to post actual charges, or at least 300 shoppable services on the website. It requires hospitals, related facilities, and insurers provide advanced cost estimates for scheduled nonemergency services. Prohibits insurers from preventing a provider from disclosing to an insurer the option to pay the providers discounted cash price and requires health insurers to offer shared savings programs that allow better market management for policy holders. The bill provides increased rights and protections for consumer related hospital medical debt and debt collection by establishing a 3-year statute of limitations and shifting some of the process. Finally, the bill expands healthcare providers that may participate in the direct healthcare agreement. It is exempt from the insurance code to include a healthcare provider license under chapter 490.

Background Screening Requirements for Health Care Practitioners

Enrolled: [HB 975](#): – Passed **Senate:** 40-0 - 1 **House:** 109 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 975 expands current background screening requirements for health care professionals to apply to the majority of health care workers licensed by DOH. It adds disqualifying offenses for Level 2 screenings. The bill directs that all healthcare practitioners already licensed without a background screening to submit to background screening by January 1st, 2025. It also extends the deadline for independent youth athletic team coaches to Jan 1. 2025. Finally, the bill would create a pathway for “persons with lived experience” to undergo modified background checks that would allow these individuals to work at homelessness CoCs and contribute their experience despite criminal histories. This last portion was the substance of a bill sponsored by a Broward Delegation member.

Aftercare Services Under Road-To-Independence Program

Enrolled: [SB 564](#):– Passed **Senate:** 32 - 0 **House:** 113 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 564 expands aftercare eligibility to those aged 18-22 who expands to those who were in and out of home care for at least 6 months after their 14th birthday and did not achieve reunification before turning 18. Additionally, it allows those in other independent living programs to access Aftercare if necessary services are unavailable. In emergencies, the bill permits the distribution of federal funds to eligible young adults, regardless of their usual eligibility for certain programs.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Revive Awareness Day

Enrolled: [SB 66](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 110 - 1 **Governor:** TBD

The bill creates “Victoria’s Law” and designates June 6 of each year as “Revive Awareness Day.” The bill allows the Governor to issue an annual proclamation for the designation and encourages the Department of Health (DOH) to hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid overdose and the availability and safe use of Naloxone.

Substance Abuse Treatment

Enrolled: [HB 1065](#) – Passed **Senate:** 35 - 0 **House:** 116 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1065 is the Task Force bill. It modifies the definition of certified recovery residence to provide for different levels of care, ranging from Level 1 (individuals with 9 months of sobriety living democratically with other members) to Level 4 (inpatient care, increased supervision, intensive outpatient care and is staffed 24/7.) Finally, it expands the make-up of the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement by 7 members representing providers and clinicians providing behavioral health services. At one point, the bill would have exempted certified recovery residences from transient taxes and prohibits local governments from regulating duration or frequency of stay. However, this language was removed due to the fiscal impact (according to the sponsor).

Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Baker Act

Enrolled: [HB 7021](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 111 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 7021 significantly revises the Baker Act and the Marchman Act, which govern involuntary mental health and substance abuse treatments. It streamlines the process for courts to order involuntary outpatient and inpatient services under the Baker Act, giving more flexibility to address individual treatment needs and allowing law enforcement officers discretion in initiating involuntary examinations. The bill also overhauls the Marchman Act by introducing a new consolidated involuntary treatment process, while prohibiting involuntary inpatient placement in state mental health facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities without co-occurring mental illness. Additionally, it revises the Baker Act to simplify voluntary admission for minors and permits remote witness appearances in court. The bill further impacts both acts by enhancing discharge planning, mandating the publication of specific reports by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), expanding the roles of certain healthcare professionals in psychiatric care, and removing bed limitations for crisis stabilization units.

Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals

Enrolled: [SB 330](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 114 - 0 **Governor:** Approved 03/21/24

SB 330 creates a statutory recognized behavioral health teaching hospital. It designates specific med school and hospital partnerships as pilot locations. It establishes a center for behavioral workforce within. It requires detailed study on the statewide involuntary commitment program bed capacity and potential cost of integrating those beds into the new teaching hospital model with recommendations to build capacity for safety net services that will mitigate involuntary admissions. It provides \$112 m

appropriations, including 6 million recurring to AHCA for 10 guaranteed slots for doctor residency programs and 100 million recurring to DCF to be placed in reserve that can be released to pilot hospitals.

Health Care Additional Enrolled Bills:

[HB 73](#): **Supported Decision Making Authority**

[SB 168](#): **Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screenings**

[HB 885](#): **Coverage for Biomarker Testing**

[HB 201](#) **Emergency Refills of Insulin and Insulin-related Supplies or Equipment**

[HB 73](#) **Supported Decisionmaking Authority**

[HB 241](#) **Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings**

Education

New Worlds Learning Initiative

Enrolled: [HB 1361](#) – Passed **Senate:** 38 - 0 **House:** 113 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1361 expands the eligibility of the new worlds scholarship program to students enrolled into the voluntary Pre-K program who exhibit a substantial deficit or deficiency in early literacy or mathematics as identified through the program monitoring assessments they take. It expands the credentials for eligible part-time tutors. It renames the New World's Reading Initiative to the New World's Learning Initiative and renames the micro credential to the New World's Learning Micro Credential Program.. Also creates the New World's Tutoring Program with New World's Learning initiative to support school districts and schools. It requires the program administrator to establish agreements with every school district to provide additional literacy of mathematics and support to pre-kindergarten to grade 12 students enrolled in public schools who have a substantial deficiency. Finally, it allows the use of AI platform for mathematics tutoring and requires the platform to require districts and school level reporting and parental access to the AI interactions.

School Safety

Enrolled: [HB 1473](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1473 is the 2024 School Safety Package. The bill requires all schools, charter schools and private schools to report certain information relating to individuals serving as school guardians to FDLE. It clarifies that private schools participating in the guardian program must bear the cost of background screening and training, however Sheriffs conducting the training may waive associated costs. The bill also prohibits operation of a drone over a public or private school serving students in any grade from voluntary prekindergarten through grade 12, unless the person was granted permission by school personnel or the drone is operated by a law enforcement agency. It establishes new perimeter and door safety requirements that school districts and charter school governing boards must comply with by August 1, 2024. These requirements include keeping routes of ingress and egress securely closed and locked when students are on campus and requiring that these routes be actively staffed when open or unlocked, unless a specific exception applies. Each school district must develop a progressive discipline policy for instructional and administrative personnel who knowingly violate school safety requirements. It also requires the OSS by August 1, 2024, to develop and adopt a Florida school safety compliance inspection report. Finally, the bill creates, subject to appropriation, a grant program to support private schools' school safety efforts. Under the program, the FDLE shall provide grants to sheriff's offices and law enforcement agencies to conduct

physical site security assessments for and provide reports to private schools with recommendations on improving such schools' infrastructure safety and security.

Scholarship Programs

Enrolled: [HB 1403](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 89 - 18 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1403 establishes firm deadlines for Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO) and parents related to the application and renewal of the FTC, PEP, FES-UA, and FES-EO scholarship programs. The deadlines prioritize disbursing scholarship funds to renewal students prior to new students, and authorizes FTC funds to be used for full-time private school scholarships year-round, as long as funds remain. The bill repeals the Hope Scholarship Program, but maintains the tax credits for use by the FTC scholarship program. The bill clarifies that public school students receiving the New Worlds Scholarship remain eligible for transportation scholarships under the FES and FTC scholarship programs.

Education Package

Enrolled: [HB 1285](#)– Passed **Senate:** 28 - 11 **House:** 84 - 29 **Governor:** TBD

For K-12 schools, the bill streamlines the participation of virtual instruction program students in assessments, simplifies the exemption application process for charter school properties, and establishes the Purple Star School District program. It also provides for the assignment of disruptive students to disciplinary programs, mandates alternative communication methods for dropout prevention programs, and revises the criteria and planning for low performing schools, including a delayed implementation of changes to the school grades model. At the postsecondary level, the bill simplifies residency proof for tuition purposes, repeals the employment equity program, includes online courses in dual enrollment agreements, adjusts Florida Prepaid College Board payments, and introduces a specialized AA transfer degree for students transitioning to a baccalaureate program.

Career and Technical Education

Enrolled: [HB 917](#)– Passed **Senate:** 32 - 0 **House:** 105 - 3 **Governor:** TBD

- HB 917 authorizes minors aged 16 or 17 to work in construction if the minor: has earned OSHA 10 certification; is under direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older with at least 2 years of related experience and OSHA 10 certification; is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet; and is not in violation of any OSHA rule or federal law related to minors in the workplace.
- It repeals the authority for counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in the electrical and alarm system trades.
- It requires DOE to convene, no later than December 1, 2024, a workgroup to identify best practices in career and technical education (CTE) pathways from middle school to high school and to identify the three math pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades.
- It expands the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) to include coordinating with the DOE, the Department of Commerce, and CareerSource Florida, Inc. to publish and disseminate a statewide CTE education asset map by March 1, 2025, informing workforce and industry partners of opportunities to partner and expand CTE in the state. The information disseminated must be in a user-friendly format detailing secondary CTE courses, funding, workforce alignment, and career dual enrollment programs. It repeals the Florida Talent Development Council and requires that the REACH Office assumes its responsibilities, including coordinating, facilitating, and communicating statewide efforts to meet supply and demand needs for the state's health care workforce.

- The bill authorizes a school district and Florida College System institution to exempt from postsecondary career education program basic skills requirements a student who possesses a high school diploma from an eligible private school, or, for a student in a home education program or a personalized education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal guardian.
- Finally, the bill authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required annual career fair, to consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost effective methods to provide other career and industry networking and exposure opportunities for secondary and elementary students.

Learn Local

*Enrolled: [SB 7004](#)– Passed **Senate:** 38 - 0 **House:** 117-0 **Governor:** TBD*

SB 7004 is part of the Senate President's Learn Local package - a deregulation package for traditional public schools intended to provide school districts greater authority over determining student progression, implementing school improvement programs, and providing instructional materials and early learning programs. It grants district school boards the flexibility to decide on the appropriate number of instructional materials in classrooms and gives superintendents more leeway in reporting on these materials. The bill revises elementary school student progression planning to identify students in k- 2nd grade with substantial deficiency in reading or math; requires parental notification and input if the student is retained; allows parents to request additional supports currently provided in statute and any additional services offered by the school district. The bill provides additional time for schools that pursue a community school as a turnaround option. It requires that changes made to the school grades model or scale may not go into effect until the following school year. It creates a streamlined process for districts to adopt state-required instructional materials, by creating timelines for the DOE to adopt instructional materials. It provides greater flexibility for districts in the provision of virtual instruction. It allows flexibility in offering VPK summer programs and reporting requirements. Finally, it repeals a number of reports and programs.

Deregulation of Public Schools (Learn Local); Budget

*Enrolled: [SB 7002](#)– Passed **Senate:** 38 - 0 **House:** 115 -0 **Governor:** TBD*

SB 7002 aims to streamline administrative processes, improve facilities management, and simplify financial requirements for school districts. The bill eases school board rulemaking and policy development. For teachers: It provides flexibility to districts in setting salaries for instructional personnel, including allowing for the use of advanced degrees in salary adjustments. It streamlines initial and renewal professional learning requirements for educator certification, including for VPK teachers, allowing for SAT/ACT/and CLT to satisfy the General Knowledge Test requirement. It provides fee waivers for educators seeking the second certification required to be an infield elementary ESE teacher. It expands eligibility for the teacher apprenticeship program, a new pathway for individuals to work in education and ultimately become teachers. It authorizes teachers who are temporarily leaving the profession, or moving to an educational setting that does not require a certificate, to shift their teaching certificate to "inactive." This change facilitates an easier return to public school teaching in the future. Finally, it provides additional opportunities for certified teachers at charter schools to add coverages to their certificate. For Districts: It simplifies financial requirements for school boards. It allows for greater flexibility in emergency situations and medical supply management in schools. Financially, it grants school boards more flexibility in using federal funds and alters the frequency of financial reporting, with specific guidelines for districts identified

with financial concerns. Additionally, the bill enhances school boards' autonomy in facilities planning, removing certain state-imposed limitations and requirements, expanding revenue use for facilities, removing plant survey requirements, and allowing flexibility in cost per student station and in SREF. It provides flexibility for school boards to delegate authority to superintendents for efficient district policies and allows online meeting notices and electronic notifications for student issues, with parental opt-in requirements. Finally, it provides support for schools that are emergency shelters under a local emergency plan.

Education Additional Enrolled Bills:

- [HB 1](#) **Online Protections for Minors**
- [HB 883](#) **Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools**

Public Safety & Law Enforcement

Treatment by a Medical Specialist

Enrolled: [SB 808](#): – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

The bill permits firefighters and law enforcement to seek treatment from a medical specialist, such as a cardiologist, in a timely manner. Gives employers the opportunity to approve the selected specialist or to provide an alternate specialist that can provide care in a timely manner.

Investigations of Complaints Against Law Enforcement

Enrolled: [HB 601](#):– Passed **Senate:** 32 - 0 **House:** 81- 28 **Governor:** TBD

This bill creates uniformity throughout the state when it comes to the processing of complaints against law enforcement and correctional officers. Specifically, it says the civilian review boards are no longer allowed in the state of Florida. It allows police chiefs and county sheriffs to utilize civilian oversight when it comes to policies and procedures, not necessarily specific incidents.

Peer Support for First Responders

Enrolled: [HB 1415](#) – Passed **Senate:** 35 - 0 **House:** 115 - 0 **Governor:** Approved 03/22/24

HB 1415 revises the definition of the term “first responder” to include correctional officers and correctional probation officers for the provision of peer support.

Cybersecurity Incident Liability

Enrolled: [HB 473](#) – Passed **Senate:** 32 - 8 **House:** 81 - 28 **Governor:** TBD

HB 473 provides liability protections in cybersecurity negligence lawsuits to: local governments that comply with recently enacted cyber-standards and to businesses that align with updated cybersecurity frameworks and follow incident reporting requirements. The bill is a proactive attempt to incentivize businesses and local governments to do everything they can to prevent cyber-attacks and data breaches. It is also intended to reduce insurance costs.

Lights Displayed on Police Equipment and Fire Department Vehicles

Enrolled: [HB 463](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 118 - 0 **Governor:** Approved 03/22/24

HB 463 allows government-owned fire department vehicles, excluding those of fire patrols or volunteer fire departments, to use blue lights. These blue lights can be used on vehicles weighing over 24,000 pounds, with written authorization from the fire chief, and must be displayed only on the rear.

Offenses Involving Critical Infrastructure

Enrolled: HB 275: – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 110 - 5 **Governor:** TBD

HB 275 defines "critical infrastructure" as any protected asset through security measures and specifies "improper tampering" as unauthorized actions causing significant damage or disruption. Felonies range from second-degree for direct tampering causing over \$200 in damage or disruption costs, to third-degree for unauthorized access or trespassing on such infrastructures, including unauthorized computer access or tampering. Additionally, it holds individuals civilly liable for damages to infrastructure owners if convicted of these offenses.

Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders

Enrolled: [SB 184](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 1 **House:** 85 - 27 **Governor:** TBD

SB 184 provides that it is a first-degree misdemeanor for any person, after receiving a warning not to approach from a first responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, to violate the warning and approach or remain within 14 feet of the first responder, with the intent to:

- Interrupt, disrupt, hinder, impede, or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform such duty;
- Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or
- Harass the first responder by interfering with the first responder performing such duty.

Reclassification of Criminal Penalties

Enrolled: [SB 1036](#) – Passed **Senate:** 32 - 0 **House:** 83 - 30 **Governor:** Approved 03/15/24

SB 1036 escalates certain felony offenses for individuals who have been deported from the United States due to felony charges and have unlawfully reentered and commit a new felony. It also introduces measures against those committing crimes in support of transnational crime organizations, defining such groups as those facilitating international trafficking or smuggling of drugs, humans, or weapons.

Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs

Enrolled: [SB 718](#) – Passed **Senate:** 30 - 0 **House:** 100 - 12 **Governor:** TBD

SB 718 creates a felony if a person 18 years or older who is unlawfully in possession of Fentanyl and exposes a first responder (with willful and wanton disregard to their safety) resulting in an overdose or serious bodily injury. It provides an affirmative defense if the first responder acted so far outside of the scope of ordinary care in his or her profession that he or she caused or substantially contributed to the exposure.

Return of Weapons and Arms Following an Arrest

Enrolled: [SB 1286](#) – Passed **Senate:** 32 - 8 **House:** 110 - 1 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1286 requires a law enforcement agency to return any weapons or firearms that are seized from a person following an arrest that are not seized as evidence upon request of such person has been released from detention, has provided a form of government issue ID, and is requesting the return of the firearm. It authorizes the Sheriff or Chief of Police to develop reasonable procedures to ensure the timely return of

weapons and prohibits them from requiring a court order to return them. They would have 30 days to return the firearms under the bill.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Training for Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers

Enrolled: [HB 801](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 117 - 0 **Governor:** Approved 04/02/24

HB 801 provides a 4-hour voluntary continuing education component for law enforcement that will be created through FDLE and the Department of Elder Affairs for training on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia.

Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence

Enrolled: [SB 764](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 112 - 1 **Governor:** TBD

The House and Senate both passed SB 764. The bill outlines the retention and storage procedures for sexual assault evidence kits (SAKs) when victims choose not to report the offense during the forensic exam and opt out of evidence testing. The SAK evidence will be kept until a prosecuting agency authorizes its disposal and requires kits collected from nonreporting victims to be retained for 50 years. It requires any facility or crisis center collecting a kit from a nonreporting victim to transfer it to FDLE within 30 days of collection.

Tracking Devices and Applications

Enrolled: [SB 758](#) – Passed **Senate:** 37 - 0 **House:** 113 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 758 prohibits a person from knowingly: Placing, in addition to installing, a tracking device or tracking application on another person's property without that person's consent; or Using a tracking device or tracking application to determine the location or movement of another person or another person's property without that person's consent. The bill increases the penalty for a violation from a second-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine. It exempts a person who lawfully places a tracking device with consent, caretakers for elderly, and vehicle manufacturers.

"Squatters"

Enrolled: [HB 621](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 108 - 0 **Governor:** Approved 03/27/24

HB 621 authorizes the owner to request law enforcement to remove squatters from their house immediately. The bill requires the sheriff to serve a notice immediately to vacate the property. It authorizes the owner to request the sheriff to stand by to ensure peace and safety. It adds provisions for wrongful removal and makes it a crime to detain and cause damage to the property. It makes it a crime to provide false documentation of a lease and provides protections for renters.

Pub. Rec./Suicide Victims

Enrolled: [HB 529](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 113 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 474 makes confidential and exempt photographs, audio, or video recordings of the suicide of a person -except to a surviving spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, it would be available to the surviving parents. If there are no surviving parents, then the adult children or siblings of an individual would have

access. The bill will also make the autopsy report of a person whose manner of death was suicide confidential and exempt in the same manner.

Safe Exchange of Minor Children

Enrolled: [HB 385](#) – Passed **Senate:** 37 - 1 **House:** 115 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 385 authorizes safe custody exchange locations in every county as decided by the Sheriff. Typically, these locations include a sheriff's station or substation parking lot and are designated with a purple light. The locations must be well-lit and monitored 24/7 with video surveillance. The courts will decide where, when, and how it is appropriate to use these locations. When someone is petitioning for protection from domestic violence, there is now a box on the form they can check which will request the court to mandate custody exchanges in this location. There is immunity from liability for Sheriffs and Counties.

Antisemitism

Enrolled: [HB 187](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 115 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 187 codifies the definition of Antisemitism adopted in 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in state statute and provides guardrails for what is antisemitic hate speech.

Surrendered Infants

Enrolled: [HB 775](#) – Passed **Senate:** 35 - 0 **House:** 117 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 775 authorizes a parent to surrender an infant with medical staff or licensed healthcare professional at hospital after delivery. It allows parents to surrender infants by dialing 911 to request that EMS providers meet surrendering parents at a specified location. It requires the parent to stay with the infant until an EMS provider arrives to take custody of the infant. It extends the age that a newborn can be surrendered from 7 days to 30 days.

Hot Car Death Prevention

Enrolled: [HB 591](#) – Passed **Senate:** 38 - 0 **House:** 118 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 591 designates April as “Hot Car Prevention Month” to raise awareness of the dangers of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles and educate the public on how to prevent hot car deaths. The bill encourages the Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Health, local governments, and other agencies to sponsor events on specific topics that promote public awareness and education on the dangers of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles and how to prevent hot car deaths.

Theft

Enrolled: [HB 549](#) – Passed **Senate:** 36 - 3 **House:** 83 - 27 **Governor:** TBD

HB 549 makes retail theft a third-degree felony if with 5 or more people, a second-degree felony if that same group encourages others to join through social media, and a first-degree felony for offenders who have committed the same crime two or more times in a one-year period. Currently, “porch pirating” is a felony if the product stolen is worth over \$100, and this bill lowers that price to \$40.

Artificial Intelligence Transparency

Enrolled: [SB 1680](#) – Passed **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 114 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1680 creates an advisory council within DMS called the government technology modernization council to study and monitor the development and deployment of AI systems. The bill criminalizes AI generated Child Pornography. Makes it illegal to create, control, posses, or intentionally view generated child pornography.

Cybersecurity

Enrolled: [HB 1555](#) – Passed **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1555 was originally a much larger cybersecurity package, however the final product mostly focuses on the mission and goals of the Florida Center for Cybersecurity at the University of South Florida (“Cyber Florida”)- including advising on local government training, evaluating best practices, and funding/conducting research into technological advancements.

Public Safety Additional Enrolled Bills:

- [HB 1425](#) **Juvenile Justice**
- [HB 487](#) **Lost and Abandoned Property**
- [HB 305](#) **Offenses Involving Children**
- [HB 7063](#) **Human Trafficking**
- [SB 678](#) **Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Grant Program**
- [SB 1698](#) - **Food and Hemp Products**

Environment, Natural Resources & Utilities

FDACS Package

Enrolled: [SB 1084](#)– Passed **Senate:** 26 - 10 **House:** 86 - 27 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1084 expressly preempts all regulation of EV charging stations to the State. At this point, FDACS has given no indication as to what the plan may look like or if all aspects of this broad preemption have been fully contemplated. The Department was not open to attempts to negotiate more narrowly tailored language. We will be engaged with the Office of Energy during the interim to try to gain as much insight as we can as to what the State regulations will look like. The bill also introduces specific expiration and renewal requirements for pest control operator certificates, and sets forth rules against falsification in license applications and examination cheating in the pest control sector. Additionally, the bill extends the department's authority to include the appointment of tax collectors for handling license applications and renewals, mandates detailed street address requirements for charitable organizations and public solicitation, and revises regulations surrounding the collection of fees for concealed weapon licenses. It also addresses the manufacture and distribution of cultivated meat, updates the operational parameters for motor vehicle repair shops including written estimate thresholds, and enforces new penalties for unauthorized activities involving saw palmetto berries and trespassing on agricultural property. Finally, it also recognizes student participation in 4-H or FFA activities as an excused absence from school.

Energy Resources

Enrolled: [SB 1084](#)– Passed **Senate:** 28 - 12 **House:** 81 - 29 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1645 is a Speaker priority that brings comprehensive changes to Florida's energy policy landscape, including limiting local government control over natural gas infrastructure and revising energy guidelines. It repeals existing energy conservation and climate protection acts, signaling a shift towards utilizing

domestic energy resources and enhancing the state's energy infrastructure's security and resilience. It amends energy policy goals to emphasize the importance of reliable, cost-effective energy resources and the potential for technological innovations in energy generation and management. Key changes include increasing the certification requirement length for intrastate natural gas pipelines from 15 to 100 miles, establishing guidelines for natural gas resiliency facilities to be a permitted use in specific land use categories, and allowing for the recovery of certain natural gas utility relocation costs. It also mandates reports on various energy initiatives, including electric vehicle charging programs and grid security. It prohibits direct energy sales by utilities for EV charging without legislative approval. It restricts community and homeowner associations from banning specific energy types. It removes the duty of FDACS to establish goals for increasing use of renewable energy; prohibits the construction, expansion, or operation of offshore wind energy facilities in the state and prohibits the construction or expansion of wind on rural property within one mile of the coast line; and permits the department to bring an action of injunct relief against anyone who violates these prohibitions and requires DEP to review the applications for certain federal wind energy leases to signify that it's approved or an objection. Finally, it directs studies on the feasibility of advanced nuclear technologies and the development of hydrogen fueling infrastructure.

Opponents include environmental advocates who claim the bill is reversing years of progress on renewable energy and climate change. Supporters claim the bill is necessary to ensure affordable and reliable energy supply in Florida.

Easements Affecting Real Property Owned by Same Owner

Enrolled: [HB 799](#) – Passed **Senate:** 34 - 5 **House:** 113 - 1 **Governor:** TBD

HB 799 enables real property owners to create easements, servitudes, or similar interests in their property, valid even if they own all the affected property. The bill applies to various property rights, including easements and water management agreements, detailed in written instruments. However, it doesn't revive rights or interests previously adjudicated as invalid before the bill's effective date.

Safe Waterways Act

Enrolled: [HB 165](#) **House:** 113 - 0 **Senate:** 40 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 165 mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt and enforce rules ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of individuals at public beach waters and public bathing places. It requires rather than allows DOH to issue health advisories and, if necessary, closures, within 24 hours or the next business day, if these areas fail to meet DOH standards. The bill would preempt issuance of health advisories related to the results of bacteriological sampling of public bathing places. It would require local governments to report any incidents that may impact the water quality of public beaches or public bathing places to DOH within 24 hours or the next business day, whichever occurs first. It requires public docks, marinas, and piers to report incidents to local governments with jurisdiction within 24 hours or the next business day, whichever occurs first. It requires local governments to maintain health advisory signage around affected beach waters and public bathing places that they own. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is tasked with similar responsibilities for state-owned areas. Additionally, the DOH is to work in coordination with the DEP and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to ensure proper signage is posted and maintained as per the bill's requirements until advisories are lifted.

Mitigation

Enrolled: [SB 1532](#) **House:** 114 - 0 **Senate:** 39 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1532 makes significant changes to the water quality enhancement credit program, notably allowing private entities the ability to purchase credits, a privilege previously reserved exclusively for governmental bodies. This expansion aims to enable both private and governmental entities to fulfill requirements related to basin management action plans, reasonable assurance plans, or to meet net improvement performance standards for stormwater management. Additionally, it opens the door for private mitigation banks on local government lands in areas lacking in specific habitat type credits, under strict conditions that include the absence of acquisition encumbrances and the necessity of a use agreement between the local government and the private entity. The legislation stipulates that for these privately established mitigation banks, their proximity to local government conservation lands won't influence the assessment and scoring value of mitigation bank credits, ensuring that the conservation status improvement of such lands doesn't unfairly benefit the credit valuation.

DEP Package

Enrolled:[HB 1557](#) **House:** 119 - 0 **Senate:** 36 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1157, among other things, the underlying bill establishes a new aquatic preserve that encompasses the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Conservation Area to enhance protections for the northern portion of the coral reef. It ensures that reclaimed waters are treated to minimize the nutrients entering our waterways, while still promoting its use to eliminate surface water discharges and meet water supply challenges. It clarifies eligibility for the Resilient Florida grant program, including requiring the completion of local vulnerability assessments. It clarifies projects identified in a previously completed vulnerability assessment may be eligible for funding in the State Resiliency Plan and project applications may be submitted to the department any time prior to September 1st of each year. It requires facilities within BMAPs or other restoration areas to provide information to support the development of domestic wastewater treatment plants and septic remediation plans. It also creates a program within DEP to expeditiously review enhanced nutrient reducing technologies for septic systems. It also directs EDR to provide a publicly available data visualization tool related to statewide wastewater and stormwater needs analysis. Finally, it directs DEP to include projects funded under the water quality grant program on a user-friendly website or dashboard.

Funding for Environmental Resource Management

Enrolled:[SB 1638](#) **House:** 114 - 0 **Senate:** 37 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1638 allocates revenues from the 2021 Seminole Compact to conservation land acquisition and management, and clean water infrastructure projects. This bill does not affect the 3% allocated to impacted local governments under the Compact. The bill specifies that 32% of the compact revenues will go towards land acquisition focusing on the Florida wildlife corridor, another 32% for land management including the management of state-owned uplands and invasive species removal, and the remaining funds for water quality improvement initiatives. It also outlines specific appropriations for these purposes, such as \$128 million for conservation easements and land acquisitions, and significant funds for land management and water quality studies, including partnerships with Florida universities.

Environment & Utilities Additional Enrolled Bills:

- [SB 1350](#): **Damaged or Salvage Motor Vehicles, Mobile Homes, and Vessels**

Transportation, Infrastructure & Economic Development

Transportation

FDOT Package

Enrolled: [HB 1301](#): **House:** 79 - 32 **Senate:** 33 - 0 **Governor:** Approved 04/03/24

The Department's package, among other things, revises FDOT program responsibilities, adds restrictions and requirements on public transit providers, and imposes requirements for lane repurposing. The final product also created and enhanced penalties for railroad crossings.

Rail Crossing: Adds bicyclists to the vehicles required to adhere to rail crossings. Prohibits motorists from crossing railroads when signals are down or when not enough clearance, regardless of the presence of signals. First violation is \$500 (or community service) and 6 pts on DL. Subsequent violations are \$1000, 6 pts on DL, and DL suspension for 6 mos.

Public Transit Providers:

- Prohibit state funds for public transit providers, airports, and seaports that impose COVID mandates.
- Groups transit providers into Tier I and Tier II and requires each to certify their administrative costs are no more than 20% of the "statewide average" of their respective tier. Any proposed increase of 5% or more YoY to admin costs must first be approved by the Department prior to the budget being adopted. Unfortunately, the final language contained the House definition of "Administrative Costs," which includes uncertain costs, such as: injuries/damages, data processing, etc. Providers must also disclose salaries, benefits, and gifts.
- Restricts bus wrap tinting and advertisements on transit to only displaying the agency logo and give priority placement to FDOT.
- Requires New Starts Transit Program funding that is unallocated by June 30th to be applied to the Strategic Intermodal System.

Lane Repurposing: Adds requirements on local governments when repurposing a lane or using eminent domain for a transit project with regards to providing notice to impacted jurisdictions, holding public hearings, and performing analyses of congestion and public safety impacts.

FDOT Responsibilities: The bill also revises FDOT responsibilities to include emergency management, public safety, state corridors, technology, forecasting and performance. It changes the responsibility for public transportation to "modal development" and management/budget to "Work Program management." Additionally, the bill authorizes FDOT to enter into service contracts to finance projects (i.e. Moving FL Forward), acquire and preserve future rail corridors, and creates the Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program within the Department of Commerce.

MPOs: Originally, the House bill encompassed the Governor's recommended transportation conforming bill, which prohibited MPOs from considering ESG or non-pecuniary factors in developing transportation plans. However, the Senate had no appetite to incorporate this language and it did not make it into the final product.

Transportation Package (Industry Package)

Enrolled: [HB 287](#): **House:** 95-11 **Senate:** 38- 2 **Governor:** TBD

HB 287, among other things, would codify the LAP program within FDOT and contains liability protections for certain FDOT contractors. The package would also impose 20% cap on funding towards certain public transit projects with a third exemption added before final passage:

- Funding to provide Federal match
- Funding for specific projects included in the MPO's TIP that are approved by a supermajority of County Commissioners of the county the project is located in.
- Certain BRT and Rail projects.

Towing & Storage

Enrolled: [HB 179](#) **House:** 115-0 **Senate:** 33-0 **Governor:** TBD

Among other things, HB 179 requires FHP and counties and allows cities to set maximum rates for storage of hazardous and non-hazardous materials incidental to a tow. The municipal rates would apply if both the city and county set rates. Counties and cities must post maximum rates on their websites and develop a process to investigate complaints of being charged above the maximum rate. The bill additionally shortens the timeframe for third party services to send notification of lien. It increases the time storage operators must wait to sell an unclaimed vehicle and give consumers a chance to retrieve it. Finally, it ensures that individuals trying to retrieve their vehicles have options other than cash to pay for it. Towards the end of Session, the House amended in language that would have placed the responsibility for funding the removal of vehicles and hazardous waste from a crash scene solely on local governments instead of the vehicle owner or insurance policies. However, our coalition was successful in removing this language in favor of the compromise of establishing rates and the investigative process.

United States-produced Iron and Steel in Public Works Projects

Enrolled: [SB 674](#) **House:** 103 - 9 **Senate:** 38-1 **Governor:** TBD

The bill requires a government entity entering into a contract for a public works project or for the purchase of materials for a project include a requirement that any iron or steel product permanently incorporated in the project be produced in the United States. The bill waives the requirement if the government entity determines any of the following: Iron or steel products produced in the United States are not produced in sufficient quantities, reasonably available, or of satisfactory quality; It will increase the total cost of the project by more than 20 %; or compliance is inconsistent with the public interest. The bill specifies circumstances where the minimal use of foreign steel and iron materials are permitted and exempts certain electrical components.

Student Transportation Safety

Enrolled: [SB 994](#) - **Senate:** 25 - 9 **House:** 111 - 4 **Governor:** TBD

This bill permits a private vendor or manufacturer of a school bus infraction detection system to be compensated with a set portion of the fines collected for their services. It mandates updates to the signage on school buses equipped with these detection systems and directs that the fines collected be used by the corresponding school district to fund the detection program and further enhance student transportation safety. Furthermore, the legislation clarifies that gathering evidence through a school bus infraction detection system is not considered remote surveillance and restricts the usage of the obtained video and images to certain defined purposes, ensuring that any traffic penalties collected are allocated to the school district involved.

Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities

Enrolled: [SB 1380](#) - **Senate:** 40-0 **House:** 115-0 **Governor:** TBD

Originally (and up until the end of Session), this bill would have resulted in significant cost increases to TD services and transportation services for people with disabilities by imposing well-meaning but expensive technology requirements (on-demand, smart phone applications, camera systems, etc.) However, these requirements were removed from the final product. The bill, among other things, overhauls the Commission on Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD), requires FDOT to put in all paratransit grant contracts: performance standards, clear penalties for repeated violations, minimum liability insurance, and complaint/grievance processes. Beginning October 1, 2024, paratransit service contracts must require providers to provide training to each driver, establish reasonable wait times, allow for other providers to provide services if the provider exhibits a pattern of late pick-up times, and provide for transparency (i.e. timely data on wait times and complaint handling processes.) Finally, it requires three separate reports, due by January 1, 2025: 1) CUTR must report to FDOT on model paratransit policies and procedures for timely services. 2) I-STREET must report to Legislature and Governor on recommendations for technology upgrades. 3) FDOT must provide a thorough report to the Legislature on the Transportation Disadvantaged program, including: a review of each CTC's performance; transportation delivery models administered by the CTD; cost feasibility of adding on-demand/ pre-booking; funding breakdowns; leveraging coordination of health care services; emerging technologies for transportation services for persons with disabilities.

Vulnerable Road Users

Enrolled: [HB 1133](#) - **Senate:** 40-0 **House:** 109 -0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1133 defines “vulnerable road user” to include certain pedestrians, persons riding animals, and persons lawfully operating bicycles and other specified equipment on the roadway or other specified locations. The bill creates and enhances penalties for a person who causes:

- Serious bodily injury to a vulnerable road user
 - Must pay a fine of not less than \$1,500, have his or her driver license suspended for 90 days, and complete a department approved driver improvement course relating to the rights of vulnerable road users.
- The death of a vulnerable road user
 - Must pay a fine of not less than \$5,000, have his or her driver license suspended for one year, and complete a department approved driver improvement course relating to the rights of vulnerable road users.

Interstate Safety

Enrolled: [HB 317](#) – Passed **Senate:** 37 - 0 **House:** 113 - 3 **Governor:** TBD

HB 317 restricts drivers from using the furthest left lane on multi-lane roads with speed limits of at least 65 mph, except for overtaking, exiting, or as directed by traffic signs. The rule exempts emergency and highway maintenance vehicles. Violating this law is a noncriminal offense, treated as a moving violation with a base fine of \$60, which can total up to \$158 with added fees. This bill would take effect January 1, 2025.

Motor Vehicle Racing Penalties

Enrolled: [SB 1764](#)— Passed **Senate:** 34 - 0 **House:** 106 - 2 **Governor:** TBD

SB 1764 increases fine for specified offenses; increases criminal penalty & revising applicability of criminal penalty for second offenses of specified violations occurring within specified time period; provides penalties for impeding, obstructing, or interfering with an emergency vehicle while participating in drag race, street takeover, stunt driving, competition, contest, test, or exhibition; increases penalty for third or subsequent offenses of specified violations occurring within specified time period; increases fine for such violations; increases fine for acting as spectator at specified violations.

Traffic Enforcement

Enrolled: [HB 1363](#) - **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 109 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1363 provides that exemptions from competitive bidding requirements do not apply for contracts for camera systems used for traffic enforcement, including: school bus infraction detection systems, speed detection systems, traffic infraction detectors, and other systems regulated. It prohibits the use of traffic enforcement cameras constructed by Chinese manufacturers or by manufacturers using materials imported from China. Counties or Municipalities must first enact an ordinance to authorize the placement or installation of new traffic infraction detectors and must consider traffic data or other evidence. It requires an annual report on the results of all traffic infraction detectors to be presented at a public meeting allowing for public comment. Renewing or extending contracts for detectors may not be put on a consent agenda and must be approved by the governing body.

Vehicles for Hire

Enrolled: [HB 377](#) - **Senate:** 38 - 0 **House:** 110 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 377 prohibits a county or municipality from requiring a person to obtain an additional license from such county or municipality when that person holds a valid active license or permit to operate a vehicle for hire in any other county or municipality, holds a valid active license or permit to operate a vehicle for hire in the county or municipality in which the person permanently resides and has not had a permit or license suspended or revoked within the previous 5 years. The final product exempts public use airports and seaports from the requirements of the bill.

Alternative Mobility Funding Systems

Enrolled: [HB 479](#) - **Senate:** 39 - 1 **House:** 115 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 479, among other things, requires data available in the last 4 years to be used when updating an impact fees. The underlying bill focuses on addressing disputes between cities that have adopted mobility fees and counties that have road impact fees occurring in Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast. The final product represented a compromise agreement between cities, counties, and developers. It provides that local governments must cooperatively enter into a local agreement to determine the handling of impact/mobility fees to ensure developments are not being charged twice for the same impacts. It describes the process and requirements for that interlocal agreement. If there is no agreement by October 2025, there is a default agreement and several penalty provisions occur. It exempts any local governments who already have interlocal agreements until it expires or is canceled.

Transportation & Economic Development Additional Enrolled Bills:

- [HB 271](#) **Motor Vehicle Parking in Private Property**

Insurance

My Safe Florida Home Program

Enrolled: [SB 7028](#) - **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 115 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

SB 7028 revises the My Safe Florida Home Program (funded at \$200 million) to allow subsequent applications for a mitigation inspection or mitigation grant under certain circumstances. Provides that an applicant meeting the requirements for a mitigation inspection may receive an inspection even if the applicant is not eligible for a mitigation grant or the applicant does not apply for such grant. Requires the homeowner to agree to provide information received from the homeowner's insurer identifying the premium discounts realized by the homeowner due to the mitigation improvements funded through the program. Revises the list grant eligible improvements to specify the inclusion of windows and skylights. Requires the DFS to prioritize applications from low-income and elderly households for the first 60 days it accepts inspection applications.

My Safe Florida Condominium Programs

Enrolled: [HB 1029](#) - **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 116 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1029 establishes the My Safe Florida Pilot Condominium Program within the Department of Financial Services. The pilot includes Broward County and is funded at \$30 million. The program aims to enhance the safety of condominiums through inspections and mitigation efforts. The proposed legislation is designed for condominium owners and associations to harden their buildings in order to reduce their insurance premiums. Limits the application of the pilot project to the area of the state within 15 miles inward of the coastline. It also clarifies the fingerprinting requirement to comport with the recommendation by FDLE.

Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

Enrolled: [HB 1503](#) - **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 113 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1503 updates the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation's policies, specifically targeting non-primary residences by excluding them from coverage if they receive any offer from adequately rated surplus lines insurers. This bill also restructures Citizens from a segmented account system into a unified account framework, aiming to simplify its operations. It mandates that Citizens' agents be backed by at least three active insurers in Florida and clarifies the executive director's role in procurement disputes. Moreover, it allows for improved data sharing with the National Insurance Crime Bureau and revises related statutes and requirements to reflect these changes, alongside implementing technical adjustments for greater legislative clarity and efficiency.

Originally, the bill authorized OIR to determine in certain zip codes the lack of a reasonable degree of competition- allowing personal lines, residential structures, and condominium units located in that zip code with a replacement cost of at least \$700,000 but less than \$1 million to be eligible for citizens coverage. However, this was removed from the bill.

Insurance

Enrolled: [HB 1611](#) - **Senate:** 40 - 0 **House:** 112 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 1611 mandates that insurers and insurance groups submit supplemental reports on a monthly basis, rather than quarterly, with data detailed by zip code, enhancing the granularity of insurance data reporting. It empowers the Financial Services Commission with rulemaking authority to enforce specific provisions of the bill, adjusts the financial prerequisites for public housing self-insurance funds, and introduces protective measures for policyholders in emergency situations by preventing surplus lines insurers from canceling or not renewing policies on hurricane-damaged properties for 90 days post-repair. Furthermore, it eliminates the allowance for insurers to use averaged hurricane loss projection models for residential property insurance rate filings and revokes certain exemptions from rate limitations for coverage under the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. Lastly, the bill delineates a fiduciary duty for the attorney in fact to the subscribers of a reciprocal insurer and significantly overhauls the regulatory framework for reciprocal insurers. Clarifies how insurers can use blended catastrophe models for the purpose of rate making. Clarifies that roofing contractors are authorized to perform inspections on home owners roofs.

PACE Program

Enrolled: [SB 770](#) - **Senate:** 34 - 2 **House:** 87 - 24 **Governor:** TBD

SB 770 recognizes the benefit of providing financing options to make it more affordable for a homeowner and commercial property owner to make qualifying improvements to their property and allows local governments to create a financing program to be able to make energy efficient improvements. It allows local governments to levy non-ad valorem assessments and partner with other local governments to provide financing for qualifying improvements. It sets out criteria for residential property owners to qualify for financing agreements, ensuring compliance with financial obligations and property conditions. The bill allows for local governments to contract a 3rd party administrator. Finally, the bill requires the program administrator to post the annual reports on its websites, with information about the authorized program including the number and types of improvements funded, average aggregate, and median dollar amounts of assessments collected, and summary of complaints received.

Consumer Protection

Enrolled: [HB 939](#) - **Senate:** 39 - 0 **House:** 111 - 0 **Governor:** TBD

HB 939 is a large consumer protection package which, among other things, establishes a rescission window for roofing contracts entered after a state of emergency. Ensures the customers are protected while incentivizing work to be done properly by roofers. It adds disclosures related to the sale of short-term health insurance. Helps Floridians comply with tax requirements by offering consumers the chance to categorize their payments as personal or business transactions. It ensures that there are no unintended consequences associated with requirements for third party payment applications.

FAILED

Intergovernmental Relations & Community Affairs

Sovereign Immunity [SB 472/](#) [HB 569](#)

For the past several years, the Legislature has attempted to increase the \$200,000/\$300,000 sovereign immunity caps, which were last increased 13 years ago. This year, the proposal began at increases to \$400k/\$600k with annual automatic CPI adjustments and language that would prohibit insurance policies condition payment on claims bills and allow political subdivisions to settle above caps without further

legislative action. The bill also attempted to strike a balance by narrowing timeframes for causes of action. As in years past, we worked with a coalition made up of local governments, hospital districts, school districts, the Sheriff's Trust and other impacted entities to try to stop or improve the bill. We were constantly educating members on the protections the caps afford to taxpayers. Throughout this process, we were repeatedly warned that next Session would be much worse if we killed the legislation this Session and that incoming Leadership plans to pursue extreme increases.

Early on, the House Judiciary Chair promised that he would not let the bill advance beyond his committee unless specific changes were made. True to his word, after progress stalled in our negotiations with the House sponsor, the Chair forced an amendment onto the bill dealing with litigation financing that was opposed by the trial lawyers- effectively stalling it in his committee. Recognizing that our side had leverage and that the Legislature would continue pursuing increases every Session until something passes, we attempted to strike a deal. The House indicated they would go along with what our coalition wanted- we just had to get the Senate to agree. The deal would have been 300k/500k and CPI adjustment every 5 years with a 3% cap on increases- however the sticking point for the coalition was allowing subdivisions to settle above the cap. Our coalition wrestled with this issue but ultimately determined we did not want this language in the bill. The Senate sponsor insisted on it. We worked through the final weeks of Session to attempt Senate Leadership to weigh in on the issue. Despite having the Senate Rules Chair and a future Senate President on our side, the Senate President unfortunately did not agree to tip the scales further. We expect this to be a major battle next Session.

Government Accountability [HB 735/ SB 734](#)

This bill would have prohibited local governments from negotiating, extending, or renewing the contracts of city and county managers and attorneys within 8 months of a general election. The bill is in response to the Senate sponsor taking issue with the contract renewal of his local school board superintendent taking place prior to an election which changed the board dynamics. The bill also prohibits local officials from taking gifts, services, rewards, or loans from certain countries of concern. Finally, it establishes a requirement for a lobbyist registration for local governments and special districts via the state ethics commission. Last Session, similar language exempted situations where managers or attorneys receive a competing offer from a private entity. We met early with the sponsor to discuss our concerns and he unfortunately dismissed them. He also said he felt the exemption wasn't needed and there were ways to set the contracts up to avoid them expiring at a time where it would be an issue. We continued raising concerns with our delegation members as the bill moved through committees.

County Commission Term Limits [HB 57](#)

The bill would have created 8-year term limits for county commissioners. The committee adopted an amendment that would require charter counties with 12-year term limits (Broward County) to place a ballot question on this year's ballot asking the voters if they want to adopt 8-year term limits. The amendment also moved the date the new term limit will apply to terms of office beginning on November 5, 2024 to November 8, 2022

Development Permits and Orders [HB 791](#)

The bill would have required counties & municipalities to meet specified requirements regarding minimum information necessary for certain zoning applications. It revises timeframes for processing applications for approvals of development permits or development orders. It defines "substantive change". It provides refund parameters in situations where county or municipality fails to meet certain timeframes.

Land Use and Development Regulations [HB 1221](#)

The bill would have revised the types of data that comprehensive plans & plan amendments must be based on. It revised means by which application of methodology used in data collection or whether particular methodology is professionally accepted & evaluated. It revised elements that must be included in a comprehensive plan. It revised criteria for adopting small scale development amendment; revised content requirements for local land development regulations. Finally, it revised mechanisms by which applications for infill development must be administratively approved.

Additional Failed Bills:

[SB 1122](#) **Protection of Historical Monuments and Memorials**

[SB 1120](#) **Display of Flags by Governmental Entities**

Finance & Tax

Homestead Exemption [HB 7015](#)

This bill would proposed an amendment to increase the homestead property tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for properties assessed over \$50,000

Local Business Tax [HB 609](#)

This bill would have originally repealed local business taxes but was subsequently amended along the way in a compromise with local governments. The amended bill would have instead froze LBT revenue in place and adjusted rates accordingly.

Millage Rates [HB 1195](#)

This bill would have applied the supermajority principle for passing tax increases, which the State Legislature has adopted, to millage increases by counties, municipalities, and special districts. The bill prohibits an increase in the millage rate from going into effect unless/until it has been approved by a 2/3 of the governing body authorizing the increase.

FRS COLA [HB 151](#)

Technically this bill passed but not with the restoration of the Cost-of-Living Adjustment for persons enrolled in FRS post 2011.

Property Taxes [HB 1371](#)

This bill would have required an OPPAGA study to evaluate the impact of eliminating all property tax in favor of a consumption tax.

Health & Human Resources

Community Mobile Support Teams [SB 1394](#)

The bill would have mandated the Department of Children and Families to collaborate with managing entities to deploy community mobile support teams across Florida. The mobile support teams integrate crisis counselors from community mental health centers into local law enforcement agencies. These

counselors are tasked with providing follow-up care and contacts for individuals, including children, adolescents, and adults, who have been involuntarily committed under the Baker Act or identified by law enforcement as needing further mental health support. The legislation specified the services that these community mobile support teams must offer and outlines the obligations of community mental health centers involved in these contracts.

Medicaid Managed Care Plan Performance Metrics [HB 783](#)

This bill would have required AHCA to contract with a 3rd party vendor to analyze and generate a public facing dashboard and annual report in order to put data AHCA already collects in an easily digestible format for policymakers.

Independent Hospital Districts [HB 1421](#)

The bill would have required all independent hospital districts to go through the process of hiring an outside firm to produce a report that would determine that if the hospital were to be sold or converted to a non-profit, what would that look like, and if it would make sense from a public benefit, financial and economic standpoint. It did not require the districts to take any action beyond conducting the study within a tight timeframe. The bill was being driven by the House HHS Chair, however the Senate never entertained it.

Protection from Surgical Smoke [HB 63](#)

The bill would have required hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to adopt and implement policies by January 1, 2025, that require the use of a smoke evacuation system during any surgical procedure that is likely to generate surgical smoke. Smoke evacuation systems must effectively capture, filter, and eliminate surgical smoke at the site of origin before the smoke makes contact with the eyes or respiratory tract of occupants in the room.

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services [SB 1636](#)

This bill was filed by a rogue sober home provider but called it off for the Session at the Task Force's request. However, the lobbyist behind the bill expressed that if issues aren't resolved that a version of this bill will pass next Session. The bill would have created the Substance Use Disorder Housing Advisory Council, which has the primary function of conducting a study, with the aid of the University of South Florida College of Public Health, to evaluate the national best practice standards from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, with the goal of removing obstacles to therapeutic housing within this state to be in compliance with federal law. The bill also requires the Council to conduct a review of statewide zoning codes to determine what effect, if any, local laws have on the ability of private sector licensed service providers to provide modern, evidence-based, effective treatment and ancillary therapeutic housing to persons in this state.

Additional Failed Bills:

[HB 1269](#) - **Potency for Adult Personal Use of Marijuana**

[HB 1053](#) - **Location of Medical Marijuana Centers, Retail Vape Shops, and On-premises Consumption of Alcohol**

Education

Educator Certifications and Training [HB 903](#)

The bill would have provided additional requirements for the core curricula of educator preparation programs and EPI (Educator Preparation Institutes) competency-based certification programs. It would have required that the core curricula address strategies and practices related to mass casualty incidents. To be eligible to seek an educator certification, including a professional certificate, temporary certificate, temporary apprentice certificate, or adjunct educator certificate, the individual must have received training relating to mass casualty incidents. DOE was required to develop a list of approved trainings to prepare instructional personnel for mass casualty incidents. The training must be included in the requirements for continuing education or in-service training of instructional personnel.

Coordinated Systems of Care for Children [HB 1169](#)

This bill would have mandated that school districts providing mental health services to students under the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act adhere to certain guidelines and principles, performance outcome requirements under the DCF Child and Adolescent Mental Health Treatment and Support System, and also mandates annual reporting from each school district with the Dept. Of Education on the performance outcomes and financial allocation of the child and adolescent mental health treatment.

Early Learning [SB 1026](#)

The bill would have broadened the qualifications for VPK lead instructors in summer programs, establishes guidelines for progress monitoring and the use of electronic devices in VPK classrooms, and updates VPK performance standards and early learning standards domains. Additionally, it would have allowed Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) to include law enforcement representatives on their boards; revised the use of School Readiness funds; and established a summer bridge program for VPK students who show early literacy deficiencies, ensuring better preparation for kindergarten.

Computer Science Education [SB 1344](#)

This bill would have established the AI in Education Task Force within the Department of Education (DOE) to evaluate the potential applications of artificial intelligence in K-12 and higher education and to develop policy recommendations. Additionally, the bill requires the DOE to adopt and publish a strategic plan for a statewide computer science education program.

Child Care and Early Learning Providers [SB 820](#)

The bill would have extended the existing municipal special assessment exemptions to include licensed preschools, thereby reducing their financial burdens. Taxpayers operating child care facilities or contributing to child care for employees are eligible for tax credits against multiple state taxes, fostering support for child care services. The legislation also simplified the licensing process for child care providers by the Department of Children and Families, including revised requirements for inspections, background checks, and staff training, while certain entities solely serving employee's children can be exempt from licensing. It eliminated the mandate for child care facilities to annually inform parents about immunization and the dangers of leaving children in cars, and it mandated county commissions to annually confirm services for local child care facility licensing, alongside clarifying insurance provisions for large family child care homes.

Public Safety & Law Enforcement

Autism Spectrum Disorder Training for Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers [SB 864](#)

The bill would have mandated autism spectrum disorder (ASD) training for law enforcement and correctional officers, counting towards their required training hours. It aimed to equip officers with skills for better understanding and interacting with individuals with ASD, including recognizing ASD manifestations, employing effective communication techniques, and ensuring the safety of these individuals in various situations. The training, which included in-person instruction, covered interviewing, de-escalation, and differentiating ASD behaviors from other conduct.

Child Water Safety Requirements [SB 864](#)

The bill requires organizations like summer camps and schools that allow children under their care access to a pool/body of water to get written attestation on whether the child can swim or is at risk of injury or death. Ensures they will provide coast guard approved flotation devices to those at risk and make sure they are safely fastened.

There was one amendment which required the DOH to include information relevant to newborn and infant drowning prevention on its drowning prevention materials and make it available to certain healthcare facilities.

Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child [HB 651](#)

This bill would have expanded Florida's Wrongful Death Act to allow the parents of an unborn child to recover monetary damages from a person who is responsible for the unborn child's death. However, the PCS clarifies that such wrongful death action may not arise against the mother for the wrongful death of her own unborn child.

Criminal Offenses Against Law Enforcement Officers & Other Personnel [SB 1657](#)

The bill would have expanded law enforcement officers' protection from citizens' use or threatened use of force during an arrest or detention. The bill prohibits a person from using or threatening to use force to resist a lawful or an unlawful arrest or detention or resisting an officer acting in their legal performance of duties. It removes provisions stating that a law enforcement officer, or any person whom the officer has summoned or directed to assist him or her, is not justified in the use of force if the arrest or execution of a legal duty is unlawful and known to be unlawful. Provides a person must be sentenced to life imprisonment without the eligibility of release for certain offenses committed against specified officers who were acting in the performance their official duties. Specifies that such officer is acting in the performance of his or her official duties.

Lethality Assessments [SB 638](#)

This bill would have mandated that law enforcement officers conduct a lethality assessment in domestic violence cases involving intimate partners, regardless of arrest decisions. This initiative, developed in collaboration between the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and a domestic violence advocacy organization, required standardized questions for assessing risk. Officers must complete online training by July 1, 2025, to administer the assessment, inform victims about the results, and refer at-risk individuals to domestic violence centers.

Additional Failed Bills:

[HB 1223](#) **Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer** Reversed age limits set for purchase of a long gun back to age 18 from 21. It was not entertained by the Senate.

Environment, Natural Resources & Utilities

Municipal Utilities [HB 777](#) [HB 1277](#)

All municipal utilities legislation failed to pass this Session but got much farther than previous Sessions and can be expected to return. The bills prohibited municipalities that serve another municipality from imposing additional charges over what customers within their own boundaries pay to customers in the other jurisdiction. The bills were later amended to apply the prohibition only when the municipality is serving the other jurisdiction using a water or sewer treatment plant located within the boundaries of that separate municipality. If the area outside the jurisdiction does not have a water or sewer treatment plant within its boundaries, the municipal utility may impose charges up to 25% over what they charge customers within their boundaries. HB 1277 went further and required those municipalities to have a written agreement with each other that is vetted at a public hearing with public input. It required annual public meetings in conjunction with the governing bodies of the served areas. The bill also provided that no more than 10% of the revenue earned from customers outside of the municipal boundaries may be used to fund non-utility related general government functions. It also provided that after funding general government services, unexpended funds must be reinvested back into the utility.

Preventing Contaminants of Emerging Concern from Discharging into Wastewater Facilities and Waters of the State [SB 1692](#)

The bill would have established a PFAS and 1,4-dioxane Pre-treatment Initiative under DEP. It established interim discharge limits that take effect July 1, 2025 and allows a wastewater facility to develop and propose local limits for these contaminants to DEP. The bill may have incurred costs on local wastewater facilities. It required DEP to:

- By November 1, 2024, DEP must provide specific guidance to wastewater facilities with an industrial pretreatment program on the types of industrial users to be included in a required inventory of industrial users that are probable sources of 1,4-dioxane or certain types of PFAS;
- By July 1, 2025, each such wastewater facility must submit such an inventory to DEP, and DEP must develop its own inventory of major facilities that discharge directly into surface waters that are probable sources of these contaminants;
- DEP and wastewater facilities must provide written notice to all identified industrial users that they have been identified as a probable source of these contaminants and will be issued permits, orders, or other similar measures to enforce applicable pretreatment standards as early as one year after the written notice is sent;
- Such permits, orders, or other similar measures must be issued by July 1, 2027.

Everglades Protection Area [SB 1364](#).

The bill would have required any proposed comprehensive plan or plan amendment by a county, or any municipality located therein, applying to land within, or within 2 miles of, the Everglades Protection Area to be reviewed pursuant to the State Coordinated Review Process. It was amended to apply the bill to Miami-Dade only, removing its application to Monroe and Broward. The Department of Environmental

Protection (DEP) was tasked with determining whether the plan or plan amendment will adversely impact the Everglades Protection Area or the Everglades restoration and protection objectives in state law. It had 30 days after receipt of the plan or plan amendment to issue a written determination identifying any adverse impacts. Before adoption, DEP was required to coordinate with the Department of Commerce and the local government to identify any planning strategies or measures that the local government could include in the proposed plan or plan amendment to eliminate or mitigate any adverse impacts. If any portion of the proposed plan or plan amendment will result in adverse impacts, then the local government must either include planning strategies or measures to eliminate or mitigate the adverse impacts, or not adopt that portion of the proposed plan or plan amendment. The bill provided that the act may not be construed to limit the Right to Farm Act.

Transportation, Infrastructure & Economic Development

MPO Reform [HB 7049](#)

While the House bill made it through, the Senate bill hit a snag in its final committee stop. We expect this bill to return next Session. The bill, among other things, would have required FDOT to establish performance and accountability standards. It provided incentives for high-performing MPOs and penalties for low-performing MPOs- including evaluating the potential to consolidate. It eliminated the MPOAC. It also updated MPO's to focus on multi-modal transportation systems instead of just service transportation and to serve the mobility needs of people while balancing the conservation of natural resources.

EV Taxes

This legislation stalled in House and Senate committees after the Chambers refused to compromise on how to fairly fund infrastructure in light of increased EV adoption and associated impacts on the gas tax. [SB 28](#) would have imposed additional registration fees on EV and plug-in hybrid owners, which revenue would also partially be distributed to local governments. [HB 107](#) would have required a study that includes projecting the infrastructure costs of EVs and accounting for taxes on the sale of electricity. The House bill was changed to a study to address the concerns of some EV manufacturers and owners claiming they are already paying taxes on electricity. The House bill would have also shifted some revenues from electricity sales taxes to the Transportation Trust Fund in the meantime

Aviation [HB 981](#)

The bill would have implemented recommendations of FDOT's working group on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) related to VTOL (vertical take off and landing) transportation.

Additional Failed Bills:

[SB 714](#) **Seaports** Increased minimum distribution to Chapter 311 seaport programs

[HB 355](#) **Resale of Tickets** Required tickets to be treated as personal property rather than a license provided by the artist, team, or venue.

[SB 464](#) **Motor Vehicle Insurance** Repealed and replaced PIP

[SB 58](#) **Sales Tax Holiday for Items Related to Electric Transportation** Sales and use tax exemption for the retail sale of electric bicycles, electric scooters, and specific protective gear

Insurance

Policy Cancellations and Nonrenewals by Property Insurers [HB 1149](#):

The bill would have clarified existing law and applied safeguards to property insurance. It codified OIR's authority to apply statutes prohibiting insurers from cancelling or nonrenewing policies when the property is damaged by a hurricane to excess and surplus lines insurers. It clarified statutory ambiguity by adding flood damage to the definition of hurricane damage. It required insurers extensions and renewals when there is property damage to have similar terms and conditions as the existing policy. It also removed commercial property from the bill's provisions. Renewals only need to include similar, not identical, terms and conditions. It did not require the same rate on renewals.

Additional Failed Bills:

[HB 1213](#) **Windstorm Coverage by Citizens Property Insurance Corporation**

[HB 1293](#) **Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund and Reinsurance Assistance**

[HB 1661](#) **Property Insurer Financial Strength Ratings**