



Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 8, 2014
12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
12 HOB

Meeting Packet

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Carlos Trujillo
Chair



The Florida House of Representatives

Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee

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Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 8, 2014
Room 12, House Office Building
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- IV. Workshop of Draft Proposed Committee Bills:**
 - a. Division of Emergency Management – 2014 Legislative Proposals**
 - b. Division of Emergency Management Public Records Exemptions**
 - c. General Economic Development**
- V. Adjournment**

Division of Emergency Management - 2014 Legislative Proposals

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statutes	Fiscal Impact
Travel Reimbursement for Division of Emergency Management Employees	Section 112.061, F.S., outlines travel policy for State of Florida employees including the reimbursable amount for meals under Class C travel. The total allowable cost is \$36.00 per day.	Travel expenses related to an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) mission will be agreed upon by the two participating states and will be outlined in The Interstate Mutual Aid Request for Assistance (Req-A). When Florida provides assistance to another state through the EMAC program the requesting state agrees to pay all expenses as outlined in the Req-A. Florida travel and finance is no more than a pass-through from the requesting state to the Florida employee deployed to assist.	s. 252.929, F.S., s. 112.061, F.S.	No fiscal impact to state revenues. EMAC is a federal program that assists states in lending aid to one another during disasters and emergencies.
Special Needs Database	Section 252.355, F.S., requires counties to maintain a registry for persons with special needs located within the jurisdiction of the local agency. While counties are instructed to maintain the registry, there is not a consistent format for the registry followed by each county.	Require the Division of Emergency Management to develop a statewide registry for persons with a disability. The Division will work with individual counties to provide information for local emergency planning purposes. A unified registry provides the State with access to view and monitor the overall registrants, to develop a marketing campaign to encourage individuals to register, and to provide resources before, during and after a disaster.	s. 252.355, F.S.	No fiscal impact to state revenues. Federal funds from the Emergency Management Performance Grant program can be expended to develop the database.

Division of Emergency Management - Public Records Exemption

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statutes	Fiscal Impact
Division of Emergency Management - Public Records Exemption for Emergency Planning	Section 119.071, F.S., provides a public records exemption for information furnished by a person to an agency for the purpose of being provided with emergency notification by the agency. Information collected through the Florida DEM website for a family, individual, or business building an emergency plan is subject to public records requests. An emergency plan is customized for the individual, family or business based on specific details provided and may include sensitive information. Information being subject to a public records request has served as a disincentive, especially to businesses, that may want to use DEM's website to help develop a disaster plan.	Information furnished by a person or business to an agency for the purpose of being provided with assistance in emergency planning, or business data used for development of an emergency plan, is exempt from s.119.071 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption would apply to information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of this exemption.	s. 119.071, F.S.	None

General Economic Development

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statutes	Fiscal Impact
Small Cities Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	The Small Cities CDBG program currently has limited flexibility and the current structure prevents grants for economic development projects.	Streamline applicable sections of ch. 290, F.S., to increase program flexibility by removing certain application requirements and competitive scoring criteria and allow grants to be used for economic development projects.	ss. 290.0401, 290.0411, 290.042, 290.044, 290.046, 209.047, 290.0475, 290.048, F.S.	No fiscal impact to state revenues but small municipalities and rural areas may see positive economic benefits that result from economic development-related CDBG projects.
Revolving Loan Programs	Current law does not provide the authority for DEO to evaluate the financial health of applicants for revolving loan programs nor does it require loan recipients to expend funds received in the same fiscal year in which they were allocated.	Authorizes DEO to evaluate a recipient's business practices, financial stability, and program performance in determining whether to certify or recertify a loan recipient. Entities that participate will be required to submit a business plan, provide a private match of 20%, and disclose conflicts of interest. DEO will be authorized to deny certification to recipients that are in material noncompliance with a program and require that at least 85% of funds received by a participating entity to be expended during the fiscal year in which they are received.	s. 288.005, F.S.	None
Reemployment Assistance Tax Payments	Current law allows employers to pay their reemployment assistance taxes in four equal installments during a single taxable year. This provision is set to expire at the conclusion of the 2014 tax year.	Extends through the 2018 tax year, the ability for an employer to remit their reemployment assistance tax payments in four equal installments.	s. 443.141, F.S.	None
Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC)	FL's rural areas face challenges in growing and diversifying their economies. Recruiting out-of-state businesses to relocate to FL location named an "area of critical economic concern" can be difficult.	Rebrand FL's Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern, as designated by the Governor, to Rural Areas of Opportunity.	Every statutory citation that includes the name "RACEC"	None

General Economic Development

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statutes	Fiscal Impact
Small Business Creation and Growth	Impact fees, proportionate share, and concurrency are tools local governments use to manage growth and provide adequate facilities like sewer, water, parks, roads and schools to citizens.	Exempt development of small businesses from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency, or proportionate share requirements for transportation impacts for three years.	s. 163.3180, F.S. and s. 163.31801, F.S.	May impact the ability of some local governments to collect impact fees and proportionate share contributions from developers but may have a positive economic impact on private sector businesses by lowering or eliminating certain fees imposed on some types of small business development for a three year period.
Space Florida	Current law requires Space Florida to consult with Enterprise Florida, Inc., in developing a space tourism marketing plan and develop an aerospace center of excellence.	Replace Enterprise Florida, Inc., with VISIT Florida as the entity that will assist Space Florida in developing a marketing plan. Remove the requirement that SF develop a center of excellence as this effort has yet to be funded by the legislature.	s. 331.3051, F.S.	None

