



# HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

Members,

Congratulations on a successful session. From the first committee meeting to the close of session, we worked tirelessly to accomplish an ambitious and principled agenda.

We started our journey by passing sweeping ethics reforms, including the longest lobbying ban in the nation and the most open and transparent budget rules in the history of the state. We know that public office is a public trust and if we lose that trust, nothing else we do will matter.

We can look back with pride on our many accomplishments. These include fulfilling our constitutional responsibility to pass a balanced budget, cutting taxes, putting a constitutional amendment on the 2018 ballot to increase the homestead exemption on property taxes, increasing the amount the state has in reserves and maintaining our state's AAA credit rating, which is a higher credit rating than the United States federal government.

Together, we sent a clear message about fiscal responsibility: Florida will no longer waste taxpayer dollars on corporate welfare. Economic development in our state will be grounded in broad-based tax relief, cutting job-killing regulations, and making smart investments and policy decisions in education, infrastructure, and public safety.

We also fought the status quo and special interests to finally put an end to failure factories. Our education reform bill - HB 7069 - makes a record investment in preK-12 education and at last implements policies focused on helping *students*, not institutions. From giving kids in failing schools a chance to succeed with our investment in "Schools of Hope" to helping schools attract and retain the best and brightest teachers, the bill will create the opportunity for transformational change in the state's preK-12 education system.

Over the last several years, the Florida Legislature, under the leadership of Governor Rick Scott, has made historic investments in the protection and restoration of Florida's Everglades. The state of Florida has hit the mark and all water within the entirety of Everglades National Park meets today's stringent water quality standards.

The 2017 Legislative Session was no different with the bi-partisan passage of SB 10. SB 10 continued the legislature's fiscally responsible water quality and conservation efforts by approving the construction of a Southern Reservoir on state owned lands and protected the communities around Lake Okeechobee by funding the expedited construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike. The passage of this legislation was supported by the environmental, landowner, coastal and lake communities.



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REPRESENTATIVE RAY RODRIGUES, MAJORITY LEADER

These are just a few of our many legislative successes this past session. While I am proud of our work so far, I look forward to accomplishing even more. Until then, I hope this Session Highlights book will be a helpful resource as you talk about the great work we did this year on behalf of Floridians.

If my office can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ray Rodrigues  
Majority Leader

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# 2017-18 Conference Report Breakdown

***(AS OF 5/8/2017)***

***We fulfilled our constitutional requirement by passing a balanced budget that meets the state’s critical needs, provides tax relief for Floridians, and sets aside over \$3 billion in reserves.***

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## **Budget by the Numbers**

- **Total Conference Report on the GAA: \$ 82.4 billion**
  - General Revenue Funds: \$30.9 billion
  - State Trust Funds: \$22.9 billion
  - Federal Funds: \$28.6 billion
  
- **Compared to the FY 2016-17 Budget: Up by \$133.2 million (0.2 %)**
  - General Revenue Funds: Up by \$606.9 million (2.0%)
  - State Trust Funds: Down by \$1,050.1 million (-4.4%)
  - Federal Funds: Up by \$576.4 million (2.1%)
  
- **FTE's:**
  - FY 2017-18: 112,807
  - FY 2016-17 FTE: 113,431
  - Reduction of 624 FTE (0.6%)
  
- **Reserves: \$3.2 billion**
  - General Revenue Fund: \$1.2 billion
  - Budget Stabilization Fund: \$1,416.5 million
  - Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund: \$677.4 million
  
- **Trust Fund Sweeps: \$542.3 million**
  - Agriculture & Natural Resources: \$97.4 million
  - Government Operations & Technology: \$100.5 million
  - Health Care: \$53.0 million
  - Justice: \$35 million
  - Transportation & Tourism: \$256.4 million

## Budget Highlights

### Overview:

- **FULFILLS CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT:** The Legislature fulfilled its constitutional requirement to pass a balanced budget. The budget totals **\$82.4 billion** – an increase of **\$133.2 million (0.2 %)** from the current year budget.
- **NOT BINDING FUTURE LEGISLATURES:** The budget takes the first step to curtail the practice of binding future legislatures with recurring dollar commitments to particular projects. Although some are worthwhile, projects are not a core function of government. Therefore, projects should be reviewed and reconsidered on an annual basis.
- **TAX RELIEF FOR FLORIDIANS:** The Legislature not only cut over \$180 million in taxes, it also prevented a half billion dollar tax increase by rolling back the RLE, and ensured voters will decide if they want a \$25,000 increase in the homestead exemption.
- **STICKING TO OUR PRINCIPLES:** Thanks to leadership by the Florida House, the budget ends state funded corporate welfare. In conforming legislation, comprehensive transparency and accountability provisions were instituted for both Enterprise Florida, Inc., and VISIT Florida, which have both been breeding grounds for unscrupulous spending practices. Recurring funding remains in place for underserved areas or populations, as well as military or space activities unique to Florida.
- **SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY:** Just like Florida families, government must responsibly plan for the future. The House budget maintains \$3.2 billion in General Revenue reserves to prepare for any future economic uncertainty.

### Tax Relief:

- **This year, the Legislature passed measures to return \$1.3 billion to Floridians. This means more money in the pockets of students, families, business owners, homeowners, and many other Floridians.**
- **Tax cuts:** The Florida Legislature passed \$180.3 million in tax cuts that will result in savings for millions of Floridians. The tax cuts included a back-to-school holiday tax cut, a reduction of the business rent tax, a disaster preparedness sales tax holiday, and several others.
- **Increase in Homestead Exemption:**
  - The Florida Constitution requires all property to be assessed at just value (i.e., market value) on January 1 of each year for purposes of ad valorem taxation, subject to assessment limitations and exemptions in certain circumstances.
  - One such exemption, known as the homestead exemption, is on the first \$25,000 of assessed value of a homestead property. A second homestead exemption is currently on the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000, with the exception of school district taxes.

- Under HJR 7105, the homestead exemption from non-school property taxes is increased by up to \$25,000 on the assessed value between \$100,000 and up to \$125,000.
- Voters deserve to decide to implement the extension and give homeowners this tax relief.
- **Required Local Effort (RLE) roll back:**
  - The RLE is the amount of funds each school district must provide annually toward its cost of the Florida Educational Finance Program (FEFP) for grades K-12. The Legislature determines the total amount of revenue that must be generated from the RLE, and each local school district generates, collects and retains its RLE by levying millage rates on ad valorem property in the district.
  - As Florida's economy has rebounded, property values have increased, along with property tax collections. So even though property tax (millage) rates have stayed the same, the increased property values have resulted in additional tax burdens on homeowners.
  - The Florida House put a stop to backdoor increases to the RLE by keeping the aggregated amount of the RLE at the same level as 2016, at \$7.6 billion.
  - Keeping the RLE at the same level as 2016 will prevent a half billion dollar tax hike for Florida homeowners.
  - The Florida House believes increasing home values should not create an unnecessary burden on homeowners.

## Education:

- **The budget makes record investments in our state's education system.**
- The PreK-12 Education budget proposes an overall budget totaling \$15.1 billion which is a \$560.3 million (or 3.85%) increase over the current year appropriation.
  - **CS/HB 7069 - Conforming bill that includes policy and budgetary provisions related to PreK-12 education:**
    - Adds an additional \$413 million to total education spending.
    - Mandates 20 minutes of recess for K-5 public school kids.
    - Rewards teacher excellence, not longevity, with \$233 million in bonuses.
      - ❖ Rewards Best and Brightest teachers with a \$6,000 bonus.
      - ❖ New program includes GPA as a usable criteria beginning with 2020-21 school year.
      - ❖ Rewards our highly effective teachers with a \$1,200 bonus.
      - ❖ Rewards all effective teachers with a bonus of up to \$800.
    - Creates Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program.
      - ❖ Provides an award of \$5,000 for Best and Brightest principals at Title I schools.
      - ❖ Provides an award of \$4,000 for Best and Brightest principals at all other schools.
    - Provides \$140 million for *Schools of Hope*.
      - ❖ Charter operators **with a proven track record** in low income and low performing school districts throughout the country will be given the opportunity to come to Florida and serve students from failing schools.

- ❖ Traditional public schools that must submit a turnaround plan, including specific criteria such as wraparound services, may qualify for funds.
    - Creates the Schools of Excellence Program to provide administrative flexibility to the state’s highest performing schools.
      - ❖ The top 20% of schools in the state will receive charter school-like deregulation.
    - Includes \$30 million in Gardiner scholarships to ensure kids with special needs maintain their scholarships.
    - Revises Title I funds to provide more funds directly to schools.
  - **FEFP** includes \$20.4 billion in total funding, an increase of \$241.4 million in total funds.
  - **Early Learning Services budget increased by \$39.5 million.**
- The Higher Education budget proposes an overall budget of \$7.9 billion, which is a \$522.4 million or 7.1% increase from the current year appropriation.
  - **State University System:** Total funding for the State University System is \$5 billion - a \$232.2 million increase in funding over the current year appropriation.
  - **Florida College System:** Total funding for the Florida College System is \$1.2 billion - a \$24.7 million decrease from the current year appropriation.
  - **Workforce Education:** Total funding for Workforce Education is \$477 million - an overall \$11.7 million decrease from the current year budget. (\$5 million decrease in unfunded federal budget authority, \$4.3 million decrease in projects, \$2.4 million decrease in information system funding completed in 2016-17).
  - **Student Financial Assistance:** Total state funding for Student Financial Assistance is \$715.4 million, an increase in funding for Student Financial Aid Programs of \$307.5 million over the current year budget.
  - **Vocational Rehabilitation:** Total state funding for Vocational Rehabilitation is \$219.1 million, an increase of \$2 million over the current year.
  - **Blind Services:** Total state funding for the Division of Blind Services is \$57.1 million, an increase of \$1.8 million over the current year.
  - **Private Colleges & Universities:** Total state funding for the Private Colleges and Universities is \$167.3 million, an increase of \$10.5 million from the current year budget.

### Education Fixed Capital Outlay:

- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) was funded at \$500 million including the following issues:
  - Regular Maintenance Funding (\$183.6 million total) for the following:
    - Public Schools - \$50 million
    - Charter Schools - \$50 million
    - Florida Colleges Regular Maintenance - \$38.1 million
    - State Universities Regular Maintenance - \$45.6 million
  - New Construction & Renovation Funding:
    - Florida Colleges - \$77.2 million
    - Universities - \$160.7 million
    - Special Facilities Construction - \$ 57.0 million

## Health Care and Protecting Florida's Vulnerable:

- The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee overall proposed budget totals \$34.2 billion (\$9.4 billion GR and \$24.8 billion TF).
  - Includes funding for 31,437 authorized positions.
- There is a 0.48% decrease in total spending and a 0.81% decrease in general revenue funds from the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Appropriation.
  - Includes a 1.08% reduction in state FTE or a reduction of 342.75 FTE.
- **The Legislature Cares:**
  - **Florida Kid Care Enrollment: \$62.7 million, \$712,286 GR** - Fully funds the KidCare program for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year to serve to serve approximately 224,431 children.
- **No Child Should Go Hungry:**
  - **Childcare Nutrition Program: \$44.9 million TF Recurring** - Provides additional budget authority to provide available resources for childcare food services and to continue expansion of the Afterschool Meals Program. Total program funding is \$269 million.
- **Taking Care of Our Grandmothers and Grandfathers:**
  - **Alzheimer's Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives: \$9.0 million GR** - Funding to reduce the waitlist by 249 individuals for Alzheimer's respite services, by 497 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 434 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program; provides \$1 million for a differential unit rate increase of up to 30 percent for individuals receiving services by specialized Alzheimer's services adult day care centers.
- **Helping Florida's Vulnerable:**
  - **Community Initiatives for the Developmentally Disabled: \$7.1 million** - Direct services and facility renovations/repairs for community providers.
  - **Additional Staffing Resources at APD: 24.0 FTE, \$1.0 million Total, \$0.5 million GR** - Additional contract staff to mitigate increased workload from bringing clients off the HCBS Medicaid Waiver waitlist (Waiver liaisons, quality assurance staff, forensic liaisons, administrative support, abuse investigations, provider violations).
  - **APD Medicaid Waiver Waiting List: \$3.7 million, \$1.4 million GR** - Provides additional state matching funding and associated federal trust fund authority to serve an additional 341 "critical needs" clients with services provided through the APD Medicaid Waiver program.
- **Stopping Domestic Violence:**
  - **Domestic Violence Services: \$6.8 million Total** - Additional authority for an increase of federal grant award and state trust funds for services in support of, and preventing, victims of domestic violence and rape.
- **Addressing Mental Health and Substance Abuse:**
  - **Substance Abuse and Mental Health: \$28.4 million Total.**

- **Program Expansions: \$10.0 million** - Provides funding for additional community-based, team-supported behavioral health programs in areas with the greatest need and lacking in sufficient resources.
    - **Community Initiatives: \$18.4 million** - Funding for local service providers including behavioral health treatment, residential services, crisis stabilization units, and facility repairs.
    - In total, Substance Abuse and Mental Health funding is increased \$18.4 million over Fiscal Year 2016-17 appropriations.
  - **Additional Staff at State Mental Health Facilities: 65.0 FTE, \$7.3 million GR Total** - Funding for additional staff resources at the Mental Health Treatment Facilities based upon an analysis showing Florida's therapist-to-resident ratio are lower than comparable states. This includes restoring \$2.7 million of nonrecurring funds provided in FY 2016-17 for the same purpose.
  - **Cost of Living Increase for Contracted Mental Health Facilities: \$3.1 million GR** - Additional funding to the facilities under contract with DCF to house clients receiving civil forensic mental health services.
  - **Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Grant: \$27.2 million Total** - Additional federal grant authority for opioid drug abuse prevention and treatment services available through community service providers.
- **Getting Ahead of Outbreaks:**
  - **Epidemiologists for Outbreak Control: \$889,000 GR Recurring, \$60,000 GR Nonrecurring, 950,000 TF Recurring** - Provides funding for 15 new epidemiologists, spread across the state's county health departments, to serve their community by assisting with investigations and outbreak control related to Zika, West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Measles, Meningitis, and other diseases.
- **Serving Those Who Served:**
  - **Veterans' Claims Examiners: \$430 TF Recurring** - Provides funding for 5 new FTE Veterans' Claims Examiners to assist with claims, issue resolutions, and outreach activities.
  - **Veterans' Homes Equipment: \$1.3 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for upgrades of non-medical and medical equipment, furniture, and vehicles to adequately maintain veterans' homes and serve residents.
  - **New State Veterans' Nursing Homes: \$3 million GR Nonrecurring, \$44.4 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for the final phase of construction of a seventh new skilled nursing home in St. Lucie County. Also provides funding for the renovation and retrofit of the Lake Baldwin facility in Orange County into a State Veterans' Home.
  - **Workforce Training Grants and Veteran Support Programs: \$1.5 million GR Nonrecurring** - Provides for the Workforce Training Grant for grants to target industry businesses of up to \$8,000 per veteran trainee and the Veteran's Entrepreneur Training Grant to create a network of Florida universities to offer entrepreneurial training opportunities to veterans.
  - **State Veterans Nursing Homes: Fixed Capital Outlay: \$2 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for maintenance, repair, and replacement of fixed capital outlay at numerous State Veterans' Homes.

## Protecting the Environment:

- The Florida House is committed to protecting our state’s beautiful natural resources.
- The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Subcommittee overall proposed budget totals \$3.6 billion (\$395.2 million GR and \$3.2 billion TF) and includes funding for 8,712 authorized positions.
- There is a 6.9% decrease in the total spending and an 8.2% increase in general revenue funds from the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Appropriation, including a 0.3% reduction in state FTE or a reduction of 26 FTE.
- **Florida’s Treasures:**
  - **Everglades Restoration: \$213.2 million (\$23.9 million GR)** - \$135.7 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; \$32 million for Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan; \$35 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection; \$5 million for dispersed water storage; and \$5.5 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. Does not include any funding provided in CS/SB 10.
  - **Springs Restoration Projects: \$50 million LATF** - Continues recurring base funding for springs restoration, protection and preservation around the state.
  - **Beach Projects: \$63.3 million (\$33.8 GR)** - Provides \$50 million for financial assistance to local and state governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management. Also provides an additional \$13.3 million for beach recovery projects resulting from damages caused by Hurricane Matthew.
- **Water Projects: \$55.6 million GR** - Provides nonrecurring funds for various stormwater, wastewater and water supply projects in local communities.
- **Hazardous Waste Cleanup: \$132 million TF** - Provides \$115 million for the clean-up of contaminated petroleum sites, \$8.5 million for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup and \$8.5 million for cleanup of a variety of hazardous substances.

## Transportation and Infrastructure:

- The Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Conference Committee produced a \$12.5 billion (\$168.3 million GR and \$12.3 billion TF) and includes funding for 13,009 positions. The overall TTA budget is 1.5 percent larger than FY 2016-17.
- **Keeping Our Word and Defending the Free Market:**
  - Thanks to leadership by the Florida House, the budget ends state funded corporate welfare.
  - In conforming legislation, Enterprise Florida was provided \$16 million, VISIT Florida was provided \$25 million and comprehensive transparency and accountability provisions were instituted for both public-private partnerships.

- Recurring funding remains in place for underserved areas or populations, as well as military or space activities unique to Florida. These programs include: the black business loan program at \$2.2 million; the Hispanic business initiative at \$775,000; military base protection at \$1 million; the Florida Defense Support Task Force at \$2 million; and Rural/Defense Infrastructure at \$3.2 million.
- Space Florida maintained its current year level of funding of \$19.5 million to further bolster the space and aerospace industry in our state.
- **Investing in Safety and Citizen Protections:**
  - The budget has fully funded all the key aspects of the Dept. of Military Affairs' budget request. This includes \$6 million in funds for Armory Renovations, approximately \$933,000 for new equipment, and an additional \$4.8 million for various training and support facility needs. The armory funding will conclude a near decade-long plan to renovate 52 armories around the state, leading the nation in this regard.
  - \$4.9 million for technological upgrades for the Highway Patrol like digital in-car cameras, and replacing the computer-aided dispatch system; aerial crime scene mapping technology, approximately \$352,000 for emergency aid trauma kits and \$2 million for automatic external defibrillators. This will help the FHP stay well equipped for tasks they confront every day.
  - \$1.5 million was also provided for a statewide public safety educational campaign.
- **Investing in Florida's Infrastructure:**
  - This budget fully funds the Transportation Work Program at \$9.9 billion, a 1.5% increase over the current year.

**Justice:**

- **Department of Corrections:**
  - **\$6.5 million nonrecurring GR** for fixed capital outlay (FCO) maintenance and repair projects at various correctional facilities.
  - **\$1 million recurring GR** to enhance inmate workforce education and training programs.
- **Department of Juvenile Justice:**
  - **\$5.2 million recurring GR** to increase residential commitment capacity.
  - **\$5.3 million recurring TF** to increase evidence based services provided in residential programs.
  - **\$4.2 million nonrecurring GR** for FCO maintenance and repair projects at state-owned facilities.
  - **\$1.1 million nonrecurring TF** to enhance evidence-based prevention services, such as "Stop Now and Plan."
- **Florida Department of Law Enforcement:**
  - **\$5.9 million TF and 46 FTE** to enhance counterterrorism resources.
  - **\$5.0 million nonrecurring TF** to continue the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system replacement project.
  - **\$1.2 million recurring funds** to address increases for facility rent costs and fees paid to credit card companies (\$347,188 recurring GR; \$799,178 recurring TF).



- **Five positions and \$1.2 million (\$426,520 recurring GR; \$365,830 nonrecurring GR; \$355,000 nonrecurring TF)** to continue the department’s three-year plan to eliminate the backlog of unprocessed sexual assault kits.
- **\$2.1 million (\$207,160 nonrecurring GR; \$1.9 million nonrecurring TF)** to improve the sexual offender and predator registry database and an unsolved cases website.
- **Nine positions and \$653,108 TF** to enhance missing children response and investigations.
- **\$2.2 million recurring TF** to increase resources for law enforcement officer training.
- **Attorney General:**
  - **Ten positions and \$770,504 GR (\$732,744 recurring; \$37,760 nonrecurring)** to address criminal appeals workload increases.
  - **\$343,000 recurring TF** to fund increased statewide prosecution costs.

**Government Operations:**

- **Doing more with less:** The Florida Legislature is committed to making government as efficient as possible.
  - Overall, there is a \$7.8 million decrease (.4%) under the current year (9.3% reductions in general revenue and 1.3% increase in trust funds).
  - **Trust Fund Transfers to General Revenue:** \$100.5 million has been identified as excess cash balances in various trust funds and is transferred to the General Revenue Fund.
- **Fiscally Constrained Counties: \$26.2 million** - Provides funding for counties to off-set the reductions in ad valorem tax revenue as a result of State Constitutional Amendments approved by voters in 2008.
- **MyFloridaMarketPlace:** Continues the reduction of the transaction fee from 1% to .7% for purchases made by agencies through the state’s on-line purchasing system. The reduction will save businesses that do business with the state millions in fees. The savings are estimated to be \$8.4 million in FY 2017-18 and over \$25.2 million the following three years through FY 2020-21.

## Summary of Each Appropriations Subcommittee's Budget

### **PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### **Overview:**

- The PreK-12 Education budget proposes an overall budget totaling \$15.1 billion which is a \$560.3 million (or 3.85%) increase over the current year appropriation.
  - General Revenue is increased by \$215 million (1.9%) for a total General Revenue allocation of \$11.5 billion.
  - Combined State funds (General Revenue, Enhanced Education Trust Fund, and State School Trust Fund) increased by \$353.4 million (2.95%) for a total allocation of \$12.3 billion.
  - Total includes \$418.95 million from CS/HB 7069.

#### **Highlights:**

- **CS/HB 7069: Conforming bill that includes policy and budgetary provisions related to PreK-12 education:**
  - Adds an additional \$418.95 million to total education spending.
  - Mandates 20 minutes of recess for K-5 public school kids.
  - Rewards teacher excellence, not longevity, with \$233 million in bonuses.
    - Rewards Best and Brightest teachers with a \$6,000 bonus.
    - New program includes GPA as a usable criteria beginning with 2020-21 school year.
    - Rewards our highly effective teachers with a \$1,200 bonus.
    - Rewards all effective teachers with a bonus of up to \$800.
  - Creates Best and Brightest Principal Scholarship Program.
    - Provides an award of \$5,000 for Best and Brightest principals at Title I schools.
    - Provides an award of \$4,000 for Best and Brightest principals at all other schools.
  - Provides \$140 million for *Schools of Hope*.
    - Charter operators **with a proven track record** in low income and low performing school districts throughout the country will be given the opportunity to come to Florida and serve students from failing schools.
    - Traditional public schools that must submit a turnaround plan, including specific criteria such as wraparound services, may qualify for funds.
  - Creates the Schools of Excellence Program to provide administrative flexibility to the state's highest performing schools.
    - The top 20% of schools in the state will receive charter school-like deregulation.
  - Includes \$30 million in Gardiner scholarships to ensure kids with special needs maintain their scholarships.
  - Prioritizes civics education.
  - Streamlines the temporary certificate application process and establishes a mentorship certification pathway.
  - Testing
    - Eliminates the Algebra II EOC assessment requirement.

- Requires paper-based state assessments for grades 3-6.
    - Requires the majority of assessments to begin after May 1 (3rd grade and writing provided after April 1).
    - Requires district assessment results to be provided to the teacher within one week.
    - Requires the result of statewide assessments to be timely provided to parents and teachers in an easy-to-read and understandable format.
    - Promotes transparency in the state assessment program by requiring publication of state assessments.
  - Reforms school improvement and turnaround requirements.
    - Reduces delay in selecting and implementing turnaround plans.
      - ❖ Deletes the hybrid turnaround option and adds a district-managed charter school as a turnaround option.
  - Revises Title I funds to provide more funds directly to schools.
- **Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP):**
  - FEFP includes \$20.4 billion in total funding, an increase of \$241.4 million in total funds.
  - Total number of FTE students: 2.8 million
  - Statewide average funds per student: \$7,221
  - The FEFP level funds the Required Local Effort (RLE) which results in a \$509.8 million tax reduction to Florida property owners.
  - Also funds the \$54 million in workload increase for the Florida Retirement System.
- **Early Learning Services:**
  - Budget includes an increase of \$39.5 million in General Revenue and trust funds. Funds are provided for:
    - Recurring Base Appropriations Project: Help Me Grow Florida Network - \$1,808,957
    - Nonrecurring Appropriations Projects to include:
      - ❖ Business & Leadership Institute for Early Learning - \$200,000
      - ❖ Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) - \$1.4 million
      - ❖ Literacy Jump Start - \$110,000
      - ❖ Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers Child Care Program - \$57,080
      - ❖ Mount Zion Early Learning Education Pilot - \$1 million
      - ❖ Help Me Grow Florida Network - \$42,810
    - School Readiness Provider Performance Funding - \$15.5 million
    - Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Program (T.E.A.C.H.) - \$3 million
    - Office of Early Learning - total budget of \$12.7 million and 99 FTE - 1 FTE vacant over 180 days was reduced
- **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK):**
  - The VPK program total budget is \$396.8 million and funds an estimated enrollment increase of 549 students.

- **School Readiness:**
  - The School Readiness program total budget is \$608 million and includes an additional \$25 million from federal awards for additional childcare slots.
  
- **Non-FEFP<sup>1</sup>:**
  - The Non-FEFP Budget Entity proposes total funding of \$234.4 million; with program reductions totaling \$4.2 million. Funds are provided for:
    - Gardiner Scholarship Program - \$73.3 million
    - Standard Student Attire Program - \$14 million
    - Recurring Base Appropriation Project funds of:
      - ❖ Academic Tourney - \$132,738
      - ❖ Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) - \$700,000
      - ❖ African American Task Force - \$100,000
      - ❖ AMI Kids - \$1,100,000
      - ❖ Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education - \$110,952
      - ❖ Auditory-Oral Education Grant Funding - \$750,000
      - ❖ Best Buddies - \$700,000
      - ❖ Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$2.98 million
      - ❖ Black Male Explorers - \$164,701
      - ❖ Family Café - \$350,000
      - ❖ Florida Afterschool Network/Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida - \$200,000
      - ❖ Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs - \$3.65 million
      - ❖ Florida Holocaust Museum - \$300,000
      - ❖ Girl Scouts of Florida - \$267,635
      - ❖ Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach - \$66,501
      - ❖ Holocaust Task Force - \$100,000
      - ❖ Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Jacksonville - \$500,000
      - ❖ Learning for Life - \$1.9 million
      - ❖ Learning through Listening - \$1.1 million
      - ❖ Pasco Regional STEM School/Tampa Bay Region Aeronautics - \$750,000
      - ❖ Project to Advance School Success (PASS) - \$508,983
      - ❖ Public Broadcasting/13 Public Radio Stations - \$1.3 million
      - ❖ Special Olympics - \$250,000
      - ❖ State Science Fair - \$72,032
      - ❖ Teen Trendsetters - \$300,000
      - ❖ Very Special Arts - \$334,000
      - ❖ YMCA State Alliance/YMCA Reads - \$764,972
      - ❖ YMCA Youth in Government - \$300,000
    - Nonrecurring Appropriation Projects originally funded in the House Budget include:
      - ❖ Academy at the Farm Agriculture Facility - \$300,000
      - ❖ All Pro Dad's Fatherhood Involvement in Literacy Campaign - \$500,000
      - ❖ Alternative Education Development Program - \$400,000

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<sup>1</sup> \$413.95 million originally funded in the House budget was moved to the Education Conforming Bill – Conference Amendment to HB 7069.

- ❖ Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$500,000
- ❖ Breakthrough Miami - \$500,000
- ❖ Brevard Public Schools Construction Vocational Training Program - \$500,000
- ❖ Broward Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training - \$200,000
- ❖ Central Fla Zoo & Botanical Gardens Education and Conservation Campus - \$854,677
- ❖ Communities in Schools - \$2.2 million
- ❖ Early Childhood Education and Therapeutic Intervention - \$373,600
- ❖ Evans Community School at UCF - \$1 million
- ❖ First Tee Foundation Comprehensive Health and Mentoring Program for Disabled and At Risk Youth (CHAMP) - \$200,000
- ❖ Florida Children's Initiatives - \$600,000
- ❖ Florida High-Demand Career Act - \$2.9 million
- ❖ Grow Your Own Teacher - \$100,000
- ❖ High Growth Capital Outlay Assistance Grant Program - \$3 million
- ❖ Innovation and Engineering Pipeline - \$1 million
- ❖ Jesus Christ Arch Angels Liberty Square Sports, Education & Wellness Program - \$200,000
- ❖ Jobs for Florida's Graduates - \$100,000
- ❖ Kindness Matters - \$142,500
- ❖ Lauren's Kids - \$1.5 million
- ❖ Life Changing Experiences - \$142,700
- ❖ Lil Abner Foundation Community Programs - \$100,000
- ❖ Mourning Family Foundation - \$500,000
- ❖ National Flight Academy - \$421,495
- ❖ Next Generation Agricultural Education: Student - \$1 million
- ❖ Next Generation Agriculture Education Programs in Florida - \$2.3 million
- ❖ North Florida School of Special Education - \$500,000
- ❖ Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds Florida Youth Program - \$170,000
- ❖ Orlando-Orange County Starbase Mentoring and STEM Academy - \$155,517
- ❖ Performing Arts Auditorium at Zelda Glazer - \$142,700
- ❖ RISE Summer Math Academy - \$90,531
- ❖ Security Funding for Jewish Day Schools - \$654,491
- ❖ Seminole County Public Schools Aviation Program - \$285,400
- ❖ Small Isolated Schools - Steinhatchee School of \$400,000
- ❖ Specialty Children's Hospital Academics Program - \$425,000
- ❖ Teach for America, Inc. Florida - \$1.4 million
- ❖ Volusia County Schools STEM/Blended Learning - \$14,270

- **State Board of Education (SBE):**

- Total budget for the SBE is \$236.8 million which is a reduction of \$4.3 million compared to Fiscal Year 2016-17 funding level.
- There are reductions related to vacancies over 180 days, which includes 13 FTE in the SBE.

- There are 34 positions transferred to the newly established State Board of Community Colleges.

## Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

### Overview:

- The Higher Education budget proposes an overall budget of \$7.9 billion which is an increase from the base budget of \$592.3 million, 8.2%, or an increase from the current year appropriation of \$522.4 million, 7.1%.

### Highlights:

- **State University System:**
  - Total funding for the State University System is \$5 billion, which is an increase in funding for the State University System of \$262.1 million over the base budget, or \$232.2 million over the current year appropriation.
  - Within the State University System:
    - Increase in Performance Based Funding - \$20,000,000
    - Increase Preeminence and Emerging Preeminence Funding - \$52,000,000
    - World Class Faculty and Scholar Program Funding - \$70,561,143
    - State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program - \$50,000,000
    - Florida Polytechnic University - Faculty Hiring - \$4,800,000
    - New College of Florida - Enrollment Growth Initiative - \$5,400,000
    - FAMU/FSU College of Engineering - Faculty Retention and Enhancement - \$1,000,000
    - UF/IFAS - Workload - \$1,000,000
    - Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program - Workload - \$1,000,000
    - Operational Support:
      - ❖ FIU - \$550,000
      - ❖ USF St. Petersburg - \$1,500,000
  - Within the State University System funding is eliminated for the following specific projects:
    - FAU-Florida Energy Consortium - \$2,187,500
    - FSU Medical School - Mental Health Early Screening - \$1,000,000
    - UF-Lastinger Center for Aviation and Space Algebra Initiative - \$250,000
    - UCF-Urban Teacher Institute - \$250,000
    - USF St. Pete-Greenhouse Project - \$72,500 (nonrecurring cut)
    - USF St. Pete-Center for Innovation - \$260,413 (nonrecurring cut)
    - UWF-FAA Certification - \$100,000
  - Within the State University System funding is reduced for the following specific projects:
    - FGCU-Academic and Career Attainment Funding - \$500,000 (nonrecurring cut)
    - FIU Medical School-Neuroscience Centers of Florida Foundation - \$200,000 (nonrecurring cut)
    - FSU-Charles Hilton Endowed Professorship by 50% - \$300,000 (nonrecurring cut)
    - FSU- Learning Systems Institute by 50% - \$250,000
    - UCF-Istation - \$1,500,000

- UF-Lastinger Center for Winning Reading Boost by 50% - \$200,000 (nonrecurring cut)
- USF Sarasota/Manatee - South Florida Museum Institute for STEAM teaching by 50% - \$50,000 (nonrecurring cut)
- UWF- Office of Economic Development and Engagement by 50% - \$2,500,000
- Within the SUS there are specific nonrecurring funding increases for:
  - FAMU
    - ❖ Increasing Online Course Offerings - \$1,000,000
  - FAU
    - ❖ Secondary Robotics Team Support - \$150,000
    - ❖ Drug Discovery and Translation Research Partnership with Scripps Florida - \$2,031,780
    - ❖ Honors College - \$1,000,000
  - FGCU
    - ❖ Target Existing Talent Gaps - \$1,750,000
    - ❖ Honors College - \$1,000,000
  - FIU
    - ❖ UP:LIFT (University Paradigm: Learn, Interact, Facilitate) - \$5,000,000
    - ❖ Hazardous Substance Mitigation - \$1,000,000
  - FSU
    - ❖ Health Equity Research Institute - \$750,000
    - ❖ Next Generation Ultra-High Field Magnets - \$300,000
    - ❖ Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative - \$200,000
  - FSU Medical School
    - ❖ Evaluation of Behavioral Health System of Care in Florida - \$489,619
  - UCF
    - ❖ Advanced Manufacturing Sensor Project (BRIDG) - \$2,500,000
    - ❖ Florida FIRST Robotics Team Grant - \$250,000
    - ❖ Incubator - \$750,000
    - ❖ PTSD Clinic for Florida Veterans and First Responders - \$1,500,000
  - UF
    - ❖ Lastinger Center for Learning Algebra Nation - \$1,000,000
    - ❖ Lastinger Center Ensuring Access to Abuse Prevention and Trauma Informed Care Techniques for Florida Child Care and School Instructional Personnel - \$2,000,000
    - ❖ St. Augustine Historic Building Roof Replacements - \$250,000
    - ❖ Infrastructure for Zika Research - \$1,500,000
  - IFAS
    - ❖ Water Quantity-Quality Best Management Practices - \$800,000
    - ❖ Tropical Research and Education Center - \$750,000
  - UF Health Center
    - ❖ Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease - \$1,500,000
    - ❖ Integrated Pediatric Research and Education - \$1,250,000
    - ❖ College of Pharmacy-Medical Cannabis Research - \$2,000,000
    - ❖ Program to Cure Dystonia and other Involuntary Muscle Disorders - \$500,000
    - ❖ Advanced Training of Pediatric Child Abuse Specialists - \$300,000



- ❖ Institute for Comparative Veterinary Diagnostics - \$1,500,000
  - UNF
    - ❖ Highly Effective Teacher Grant - \$700,000
    - ❖ The Jax Bridges Competitive Small Business Initiative - \$350,000
  - USF
    - ❖ Collaborative Problem-Based Learning Educational Enhancement Program - \$1,480,000
  - USF Sarasota/Manatee
    - ❖ Programs of Strategic Importance - \$1,300,000
  - USF St. Petersburg
    - ❖ Citizen Scholar Partnership - \$263,458
    - ❖ Midtown Early Care and Education Collaborative - \$700,000
  - UWF
    - ❖ Intelligent Systems and Robotics Ph.D. Program - \$1,000,000
    - ❖ Advanced Manufacturing Design Studio - \$351,000
  - Moffitt Cancer Center - Cannabis Research Coalition - \$370,000
  - Institute for Human and Machine Cognition increase - \$1,000,000
- **Florida College System:**
  - Total funding for the Florida College System is \$1.2 billion, which is an overall \$2.9 million decrease from the base budget, or \$24.7 million under the current year appropriation.
  - Within the Florida College System the following actions are taken with regard to Base funding:
    - Nonrecurring Lottery Funds from 2016-17 were restored.
    - Performance funding is continued at current levels (\$30 million state investment; \$30 million institutional investment).
    - \$30.2 million was reduced based on enrollment declines at Florida colleges.
  - Within the Florida College System, funding is eliminated the following projects:
    - Hillsborough CC - Firefighter Training Program - \$1,000,000
    - Tallahassee CC - Truck Driver Training School - \$181,132
  - Within the Florida College System funding is reduced, in 2017-18 only, for the following project:
    - Eastern Florida SC - Critical Evaluation Learning Management System - \$500,000 (nonrecurring cut)
  - Additional nonrecurring project funding provided to Florida College System institutions includes:
    - Tallahassee CC - Minority Males High School Retention and Progression Initiative - \$375,000
    - Daytona SC - 3D Manufacturing Workforce Training Equipment - \$300,000
    - St. Petersburg College - A Day On Service - \$500,000
  - Additional operational support is provided for the following colleges:
    - College of Central Florida - \$1,000,000
    - State College of Florida - Manatee Sarasota - \$1,674,011 (\$1,381,510 is nonrecurring)
    - Miami- Dade College - \$900,000
    - Pensacola State College - \$1,000,000

- **Workforce Education:**
  - Total funding for Workforce Education is \$477 million, which is an overall \$6.3 million decrease from the base budget. The funding includes the following adjustments:
    - Reduction of \$2.4 million due to the completion of the Workforce Student Information System.
    - Reduction of \$4.5 million for performance-based incentives.
    - Increase of \$3.7 million for Equity Funding for District Technical Centers.
  - Within Workforce Education, nonrecurring funds are provided for the following projects:
    - Clara White Mission - \$216,000
    - Creating Careers for Non-College Bound - Florida Automobile Dealers Association - \$200,000
    - Lotus House Women's Education and Employment Program for Special Needs Homeless Women and Youth - \$100,000 (in addition to current recurring base appropriations of \$100,000)
    - Okaloosa Technical College - Welding Program Expansion - \$150,000
    - Smart Horizons Career Online High School - \$750,000
    - South Apopka Adult Community Education Center - \$150,000
    - RiverOak Technical College Expansion Project - \$300,000
  
- **Student Financial Assistance:**
  - Total state funding for Student Financial Assistance is \$715.4 million, an increase in funding for Student Financial Aid Programs of \$309 million over the base budget. Increased funding will provide additional scholarships for students eligible for need-based aid, and provide increased scholarship awards for Florida Bright Futures Academic Scholars. The following adjustments were funded based on Student Financial Aid Estimating Conference Enrollment projections.
  - Increase of \$121 million in need-based aid for Florida Student Assistance Grants (FSAG) for public and private postsecondary students.
  - Increase of \$5.3 million in need-based aid for First Generation in College scholarships.
  - \$500,000 is provided for a new scholarship for Florida Farmworkers and children of Farmworkers.
  - Increase in funding for Children and Spouses of Deceased and Disabled Veterans of \$893,931.
  - Decrease in funding in the Bright Futures program of \$11.5 million, based on an estimated decline of 1,981 Bright Futures scholarship recipients.
  - Increase of \$191.4 million in Bright Futures funding for Florida Academic Scholars, including:
    - \$125.7 million to pay 100% of tuition and fees for Academic Scholars.
    - \$26.2 million to provide a \$300 textbook stipends in spring and fall terms for Academic Scholars.
    - \$39.5 million to provide summer-term funding for Academic Scholars.
  - Increase of \$1.4 million for the estimated increase in Benacquisto Scholars, including out-of-state eligible National Merit Scholars.
  
- **Vocational Rehabilitation:**
  - Total state funding for Vocational Rehabilitation is \$219.1 million, an increase of \$1.7 million over the base. The funding includes the following adjustments:

- Eliminate funding for the Jefferson Adults with Disabilities Program - \$50,000
  - Provides nonrecurring funding for Inclusive Transition and Employment Management Program (ITEM) - \$750,000
  - Provides nonrecurring funding for the Brevard Adults with Disabilities - \$199,714
  - Provides nonrecurring funding for the Pathway to Possibilities Program - \$90,000
  - Provides nonrecurring funding Manatee/Sarasota Adults with Disabilities Basic Education - \$137,000
  - Provides nonrecurring funding for the WOW Center - \$250,000
  - Provides nonrecurring funding for the Boca Raton Habilitation Center - \$200,000
  - Provides nonrecurring funding for Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living- Hospitality Demonstration Project - \$151,109
  
- **Blind Services:**
  - Total state funding for the Division of Blind Services is \$57.1 million, an increase of \$2.1 million over the base. The funding includes the following adjustments:
    - Provides nonrecurring funding for Equipment Replacement at the Braille Library - \$97,250
    - Provides nonrecurring funding for the Florida Association of Agencies Serving the Blind - \$500,000
    - Provides nonrecurring funding for a training facility for the Lighthouse for the Blind or Visually Impaired - Pasco/Hernando - \$1,500,000
  
- **Private Colleges & Universities:**
  - Total state funding for the Private Colleges and Universities is \$167.3 million, an increase of \$21.7 million from the base budget. The funding includes the following adjustments:
    - Historically Black Colleges and Universities receive an overall increase of \$1 million over the base.
    - Increased tuition assistance is provided for FRAG and ABLE Grant programs.
      - ❖ Awards are increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for ABLE Grant Recipients - \$1.8 million
      - ❖ Awards are increased from \$3,000 to \$3,300 for FRAG recipients - \$10.2 million
    - Tuition Scholarships are provided for students at the following private institutions:
      - ❖ Beacon College - \$250,000
      - ❖ Lake Erie College of Medicine (LECOM/FL) - \$808,990 for additional scholarships
      - ❖ Nova Southeastern Health Programs - \$2 million
  - Within Private Colleges and Universities, funding is reduced, or eliminated for the following projects:
    - Bethune-Cookman University - Project Child - \$500,000
    - Embry-Riddle Manufacturing Academy and Apprenticeship/Internship Program - \$2 million
  - Additional nonrecurring funds provided to Private Colleges and Universities include:
    - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Aerospace Academy, continued at \$3,000,000

- Jacksonville University - Entrepreneurship, Policy, Innovation and Commerce (EPIC) Program - continued at \$2 million
- Bethune-Cookman University - Small, Women and Minority Owned Businesses - continued at \$75,000
- Identity Fraud Institute at Hodges University - \$175,000
- University of Miami - Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies received \$400,000 for the following projects:
  - ❖ Impact of Cuban-Americans in Florida, An Interactive Exhibit - \$200,000
  - ❖ Study on the Challenges for Florida of the U.S. Normalization of Relations with Cuba - \$200,000
- Within Private College and Universities, funding is reduced for the following appropriations project:
  - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Manufacturing Academy and Apprenticeship Program by 85% (\$2,000,000)

## **Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee**

### **Overview:**

- The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee overall proposed budget totals \$34.2 billion (\$9.4 billion GR and \$24.8 billion TF).
  - Includes funding for 31,437 authorized positions.
- There is a 0.48% decrease in total spending and a 0.81% decrease in general revenue funds from the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Appropriation. Includes a 1.08% reduction in state FTE or a reduction of 342.75 FTE.

### **Highlights:**

- **Medicaid Price Level and Workload Adjustment: \$568.1 million, \$181.9 million GR** - Funding for Medicaid caseloads and price level adjustments as agreed upon by the March 2017 Social Service Estimating Conference for an anticipated 4,140,290 Medicaid beneficiaries.
- **Florida Kid Care Enrollment: \$62.7 million, \$712,286 GR** - Fully funds the KidCare program for the 2017- 2018 Fiscal Year to serve to serve approximately 224,431 children.
- **Medicaid Rate Increases: \$5.2 million, \$2.0 million GR** - Funding to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for Pediatric Cardiology services, Portable X-ray services, and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled.
- **Emergency Medical Services: \$10.0 million TF** - Additional budget authority to expand the certified public expenditure program for emergency medical services.
- **Hospital Rate Adjustors: \$31.0 million, \$11.9 million GR** - Provides DRG Rate adjustor to increase Hospital Inpatient reimbursement for children’s stand-alone hospitals (\$24.5 million, \$9.4 million GR) and funding to increase hospital inpatient reimbursement for rural hospitals that meet the statutory definition of a sole community hospital (\$6.5 million, \$2.5 million GR).
- **Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Grouping (EAPG) Implementation** - Fully implements EAPGs for Medicaid outpatient reimbursement, effective July 1, 2017.
- **Personal Needs Allowance** - Eliminates proposed reduction from the proposed House Budget for 2017-18 related to the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid individuals in institutional care. Maintains the monthly allowance at \$105 per month.
- **Hospital Reductions: (\$651.4) million GR, (\$250.0) million GR**
  - Hospital Inpatient DRG base rate reduction of 7% - \$151.9 million Total, \$58.3 million GR.
  - Hospital Inpatient Exemption Reduction - \$417.8 million Total, \$160.3 million GR.
  - Hospital Outpatient Exemption Reduction - \$81.7 million Total, \$31.4 million GR.
  - Exemption Reductions are based on the following four tiers:

- Tier 1 Hospitals - maintains 70.27% of the current value of their exemption payments and must have Medicaid utilization between 50%-90% or hospitals that have more than 105,000 Medicaid days and are a public hospital.
  - Tier 2 Hospitals - maintain 58.77% of the current value of their exemptions payments and must have Medicaid Utilization between 32%-49% and between 25%-49% if they are a statutory teaching or public hospital.
  - Tier 3 Hospitals - maintains 9.00% of the current value of their exemption payments and must have Medicaid Utilization between 25%-32% and are not included in Tier 1 or Tier 2.
  - Tier 4 Hospitals - will receive no exemption payments and have Medicaid utilization below 25%.
- **Restoration of Hospital Reductions: \$130.3M, \$50.0 million GR** - provides nonrecurring funding to:
  - Offset Hospital Inpatient DRG base rate reduction by lowering reduction from a 7% reduction to a 5% reduction a reduction of \$43.4 million.
  - Adds back nonrecurring funding to mitigate the reductions to Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient exemptions based on the same percent of the reduction - \$86.9 million.
    - Hospitals in all tiers receive add-back funds based on the percent of the reduction applied to the exemptions.
- **Alzheimer’s Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives: \$9.0 million GR** - Funding to reduce the waitlist by 249 individuals for Alzheimer’s respite services, by 497 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 434 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program; provides \$1 million for a differential unit rate increase of up to 30% for individuals receiving services by specialized Alzheimer’s services adult day care centers.
- **Public Guardianship Program: \$750,000 GR** - Provides public guardianship services to 285 additional incapacitated and indigent persons from the public guardian program waitlists.
- **Local Community Initiatives and Alzheimer’s Disease Community Projects: \$6.9 million GR** - Provides nonrecurring funding for elder meal programs, local community initiatives, and Alzheimer’s Disease projects that provide needed services to vulnerable seniors in a home and community based setting.
- **Epidemiologists for Outbreak Control: \$889,000 GR Recurring, \$60,000 GR Nonrecurring, 950,000 TF Recurring** - Provides funding for 15 new epidemiologists, spread across the state’s county health departments, to serve their community by assisting with investigations and outbreak control related to Zika, West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Measles, Meningitis, and other diseases.
- **Child Protection Teams: \$1.4 million GR Recurring, \$357,000 GR Nonrecurring** - Provides additional funding for 7 ARNPs and 9 Case Coordinators and the purchase of 17 iRecord System sites to increase the capacity for follow-up activities referred to Child Protection Teams in the assessment of serious cases of child abuse and neglect. Total program funding is \$22.7 million.

- **Newborn Screening: \$3.1 million TF Recurring** - Provides funding for the addition of Adrenoleukodystrophy (a rare genetic disorder) to the list of disorders screened by the Newborn Screening Program. Also provides funding to the Newborn Screening Diagnostic Centers for increased workload.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers: \$6 million GR Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers to serve underserved areas and populations.
- **Early Steps: \$641,000 TF Recurring, \$5.4 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding to support additional workload in the Early Steps Program and additional federal grant awards for the Early Steps Program.
- **Tobacco Education and Use Prevention: \$880,000 TF Nonrecurring** - Increases the Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Program funding based on the Consumer Price Index as required by the Florida Constitution. Total program funding is \$68.6 million.
- **Florida Poison Information Centers: \$3.7 million GR Nonrecurring** - Provides additional funding for the operation of the three Florida Poison Control Centers, where advice related to toxic or suspected toxic exposures is offered 24/7/365 to Floridians through the use of a toll-free hotline. Total program funding is \$5.3 million.
- **Childcare Nutrition Program: \$44.9 million TF Recurring** - Provides additional budget authority to provide available resources for childcare food services and to continue expansion of the Afterschool Meals Program. Total program funding is \$269 million.
- **Community Public Health Initiatives: \$17.3 million GR Nonrecurring, \$2.7 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for community initiatives related to cancer research, children with disabilities, rural health access, minority health access, wellness outreach, and hospital expansions.
- **Public Assistance Eligibility Determination System: \$27.5 million Total** - Modernization and enhancements to the technology system used to process eligibility for Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF.
- **Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) Growth: \$6.3 million Total, \$3.4 million GR** - Provides additional funding to support approximately 3,000 additional finalized adoptions.
- **Community-based Care Lead Agencies (CBC): \$32.5 million Total, \$7.6 million GR** - Additional funding to support CBC core service functions (case management, in-home and out-of-home services, adoption placement, etc.). This includes \$9.5 million in the back-of-the-bill to mitigate current year operating deficits and \$5.0 million for the risk pool that's available to lead agencies experiencing unforeseen financial obligations.
- **Sheriff Protective Investigators: \$1.0 million GR** - Increase of operational funding to the six county sheriffs who conduct child protective investigations in lieu of the Department of Children and Families.

- **Domestic Violence Services: \$6.8 million Total** - Additional authority for an increase of federal grant award and state trust funds for services in support of, and preventing, victims of domestic violence and rape.
- **Foster Parent Cost-of-Living Increase: \$0.8 million Total, \$0.5 million GR** - Provides additional support to foster parents to assist with the inflationary increases of goods and services for children in care.
- **Additional Staff at State Mental Health Facilities: 65.0 FTE, \$7.3 million GR Total** - Funding for additional staff resources at the Mental Health Treatment Facilities based upon an analysis showing Florida's therapist-to-resident ratio are lower than comparable states. This includes restoring \$2.7 million of nonrecurring funds provided in FY 2016-17 for the same purpose.
- **Cost of Living Increase for Contracted Mental Health Facilities: \$3.1 million GR** - Additional funding to the facilities under contract with DCF to house clients receiving civil forensic mental health services.
- **Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Grant: \$27.2 million Total** - Additional federal grant authority for opioid drug abuse prevention and treatment services available through community service providers.
- **Nonrelative Caregiver Growth: \$3.9 million GR Total** - Additional funding to support the growth in placement of children removed from unsafe home environments into nonrelative care.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health: \$28.4 million Total**
  - **Program Expansions: \$10.0 million** - Provides funding for additional community-based, team-supported behavioral health programs in areas with the greatest need and lacking in sufficient resources.
  - **Community Initiatives: \$18.4 million** - Funding for local service providers including behavioral health treatment, residential services, crisis stabilization units, and facility repairs.
  - In total, Substance Abuse and Mental Health funding is increased \$18.4 million over Fiscal Year 2016-17 appropriations.
- **Additional Staffing Resources: APD 24.0 FTE, \$1.0 million Total, \$0.5 million GR** - Additional contract staff to mitigate increased workload from bringing clients off the HCBS Medicaid Waiver waitlist (Waiver liaisons, quality assurance staff, forensic liaisons, administrative support, abuse investigations, provider violations).
- **APD Medicaid Waiver Waiting List: \$3.7 million, \$1.4 million GR** - Provides additional state matching funding and associated federal trust fund authority to serve an additional 341 "critical needs" clients with services provided through the APD Medicaid Waiver program.
- **Supported Employment and Internships: \$0.8 million TF** - Provides supported employment and internship services to individuals on the Developmentally Disabled Medicaid waiver waitlist. Expected to serve up to 175 clients.



- **Community Initiatives for the Developmentally Disabled: \$7.1 million** - Direct services and facility renovations/repairs for community providers.
- **Provider Rate Increase for Nurses: \$3.4 million Total, \$1.3 million GR** - Increases the rate for Waiver nursing services to a level equal to that paid by the Medicaid State Plan. The 2016-17 GAA provides an increase to the Medicaid State Plan nursing rates; consequently, some nursing providers have discontinued providing Waiver services and increased Medicaid State Plan services.
- **U.S. Department of Labor Home Care Rule: \$41.0 million Total, 15.7 million GR** - Nonrecurring funding to address implications from the U.S. DOL Fair Standards Labor Act. The Act requires overtime pay for most home care workers who were previously exempt, and prescribes the rate increase for certain service providers affected by this requirement. This includes specific rate increases for care providers.
- **Veterans' Claims Examiners: \$430 TF Recurring** - Provides funding for 5 new FTE Veterans' Claims Examiners to assist with claims, issue resolutions, and outreach activities.
- **Veterans' Homes Equipment: \$1.3 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for upgrades of non-medical and medical equipment, furniture, and vehicles to adequately maintain veterans' homes and serve residents.
- **New State Veterans' Nursing Homes: \$3 million GR Nonrecurring, \$44.4 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for the final phase of construction of a seventh new skilled nursing home in St. Lucie County. Also provides funding for the renovation and retrofit of the Lake Baldwin facility in Orange County into a State Veterans' Home.
- **Workforce Training Grants and Veteran Support Programs: \$1.5 million GR Nonrecurring** - Provides for the Workforce Training Grant for grants to target industry businesses of up to \$8,000 per veteran trainee and the Veteran's Entrepreneur Training Grant to create a network of Florida universities to offer entrepreneurial training opportunities to veterans.
- **State Veterans Nursing Homes-Fixed Capital Outlay: \$2 million TF Nonrecurring** - Provides funding for maintenance, repair, and replacement of fixed capital outlay at State Veterans' Homes:
  - Lake City State Veterans' Home - \$470,000
  - Panama City State Veterans' Home - \$370,000
  - Port Charlotte State Veterans' Home - \$270,000
  - Daytona Beach State Veterans' Home - \$350,000
  - Land O' Lakes State Veterans' Home - \$250,000
  - Pembroke Pines State Veterans' Home - \$90,000
  - St. Augustine State Veterans' Home - \$200,00
- **State Facility Maintenance and Repair: \$3.9 million GR NR, \$6.8 million TF NR** - Provides nonrecurring funding for maintenance and repair for state owned facilities.

- **Vacant Position Reductions: \$3.8 million GR Recurring, \$20.4 million Recurring TF** - Eliminates 436.75 positions that have been vacant for more than 180 days.

## ***Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee***

### **Overview:**

- The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Subcommittee overall proposed budget totals \$3.6 billion (\$395.2 million GR and \$3.2 billion TF) and includes funding for 8,712 authorized positions.
- There is a 6.9% decrease in the total spending and a 8.2% increase in general revenue funds from the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Appropriation, including a 0.3% reduction in state FTE or a reduction of 26 FTE.

### **Highlights:**

- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs: \$240.3 million (\$13.4 million GR)** - Provides financial assistance to local governments for the construction of drinking water systems and critical environmental infrastructure.
- **Everglades Restoration: \$213.2 million (\$23.9 million GR)** - \$135.7 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; \$32 million for Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan; \$35 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection; \$5 million for dispersed water storage; and \$5.5 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed. Does not include any funding provided in CS/SB 10.
- **Hazardous Waste Cleanup: \$132 million TF** - Provides \$115 million for the clean-up of contaminated petroleum sites, \$8.5 million for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup and \$8.5 million for cleanup of a variety of hazardous substances.
- **Beach Projects: \$63.3 million (\$33.8 GR)** - Provides \$50 million for financial assistance to local and state governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management. Also provides an additional \$13.3 million for beach recovery projects resulting from damages caused by Hurricane Matthew.
- **Water Projects: \$55.6 million GR** - Provides nonrecurring funds for various stormwater, wastewater and water supply projects in local communities.
- **Springs Restoration Projects: \$50 million LATF** - Continues recurring base funding for springs restoration, protection and preservation around the state.
- **Citrus Canker Eradication Claim Final Judgment: \$37.4 million GR** - Provides funds for the payment in the final judgement for Broward County (\$20.9 million) and Lee County (\$16.5 million).
- **State Park Improvements: \$25.6 million TF** - Provides \$10.5 million for state park facility improvements, \$4.0 million for ADA projects, \$4.0 million in grant spending authority for state park improvements, \$3.6 million for the Lovers Key State Park Environmental Education Center,

\$1.9 million for state park road repairs, \$1.3 for Fakahatchee Strand State Park Visitors Center, and \$295,000 for maintenance and repairs for coastal and aquatic managed areas.

- **Citrus Greening Response/Agricultural Research: \$19.4 million (\$4.3 million GR)** - Provides \$8 million for citrus research; \$7.1 million for Citrus Health Response program; \$2.5 million for citrus crop decline supplemental funding; \$1 million for a transfer to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) for the Expansion of Biological Citrus Greening Reduction Trials; and \$750,000 for Florida beef research.
- **Citrus Greening Response: \$18.6 million (\$3.5 million GR)** - Provides \$8 million for citrus research; \$7.1 million for Citrus Health Response program; \$2.5 million for citrus crop decline supplemental funding; and \$1 million for a transfer to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) for the Expansion of Biological Citrus Greening Reduction Trials.
- **Rural and Family Lands Protection Program: \$10 million GR** - Provides funding for the acquisition of permanent agricultural land conservation easements.
- **Replacement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Equipment: \$9.4 million (\$75,000 GR)** - Provides funding for the replacement of vehicles, vessels, and equipment that exceeds replacement criteria.
- **Concealed Firearms Licensure: \$7.9 million TF** - Provides funds for increased workload due to the increased volume of concealed weapons licenses and 47 new positions.
- **Boating Infrastructure and Improvements: \$5.7 million** - Provides funding to local governments for various boating access and maintenance and repair projects.
- **Wildfire Equipment Replacement: \$4.9 million TF** - Provides nonrecurring funding for the replacement of critical firefighting equipment.
- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: \$1.8 billion (\$179.3 million GR)**
  - Increase of \$45.9 million from the current year - 2.6% increase.
  - **National School Lunch Program: \$99.2 million TF** - Provides federal funds to reimburse the cost of additional schools meals.
  - **Citrus Canker Eradication Claim: Final Judgment: \$37.4 million GR** - Provides funds for the payment in the final judgement for Broward County (\$20.9 million) and Lee County (\$16.5 million).
  - **Agricultural Non-point Source Best Management Practices: \$25.6 million TF** - Provides \$18.7 million for **continuation** of recurring base funding and an additional \$1.4 million in recurring TF for the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs), addressing both water quality and water conservation on a site specific, regional, and watershed basis; and \$5.5 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in the Lake Okeechobee Watershed.
  - **Citrus Greening Response/Agricultural Research: \$19.4 million (\$4.3 million GR)** - Provides \$8 million for citrus research; \$7.1 million for Citrus Health Response program; \$2.5 million for citrus crop decline supplemental funding; \$1 million for a transfer to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) for the Expansion of Biological Citrus Greening Reduction Trials; and \$750,000 for Florida beef research.

- **Agricultural Water Quantity/Quality Programs: \$15.4 million (\$10.4 million GR)** - Provides \$1.5 million for water supply planning, technical assistance and implementation of cost shared programs and irrigation system efficiency conversions for statewide water conservation. Provides funding for operations and maintenance for the newest Hybrid Wetlands (\$8.8 million) and Floating Aquatic Vegetative Tilling (\$5.1 million) projects.
- **Rural and Family Lands Protection Program: \$10 million GR** - Provides funding for the acquisition of permanent agricultural land conservation easements.
- **Concealed Firearms Licensure: \$7.9 million TF** - Provides funds for increased workload due to the increased volume of concealed weapons licenses and 47 new positions.
- **Food Distribution: \$6.1 million GR** - Provides funds for Farm Share (\$3.0 million), Feeding Florida formerly known as Florida Association of Food Banks (\$2.5 million), Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida (\$400,000), and Healthy Plate Healthy Living (\$224,000), which collect and distribute surplus food and grocery items to people in poverty or times of crisis.
- **Wildfire Equipment Replacement: \$4.9 million TF** - Provides nonrecurring funding for the replacement of critical firefighting equipment.
- **Agricultural Promotion and Education Facilities: \$2.6 million GR** - Provides funds for Santa Rosa County, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS); Hardee County Fair Association; Suwannee Board of County Commissioners; Lee Board of County Commissioners, UF/IFAS; Hendry County Fair & Livestock Show; Northeast Florida Fair Association; and Manatee River Fair Association, pursuant to section 288.1175, Florida Statutes. Also provides funds for the Arcadia Rodeo Equestrian Facility and the Pasco County Fair Association.
- **Vehicle Replacement: \$2.0 million TF** - Provides funding for the replacement of motor vehicles in various programs that exceed replacement criteria.
- **Fixed Capital Outlay: Maintenance and Repairs - \$12.2 million (\$6.8 million GR)**
  - **Bronson Animal Disease Lab: \$4.1 million GR** - Provides funds to complete renovations to the lab in Kissimmee, FL.
  - **Florida State Fair Fairgrounds: \$2.1 million GR** - Provides funds to address safety and security issues at the fairgrounds in Tampa, FL, pursuant to section 616.251(2), Florida Statutes.
  - **Facility Improvements: \$1.9 million** - Provides funds for facility renovations, including roof replacement and replacement of the HVAC system.
  - **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Grant: \$1.2 million TF** - Grant to purchase 12 acres of private land in Lake County, Florida.
  - **State Farmers' Markets: \$941,000 TF** - Provides funds for repairs and renovations to State Farmers' Markets.
  - **U.S. Department of Energy Grants: \$850,000 TF** - Provides spending authority for U.S. Department of Energy grants.
  - **Forestry Facility Improvements: \$614,000 GR** - Provides funds for maintenance and repairs to facilities and structures that serve wildland fire protection, state forest land management and emergency response activities.
  - **Forestry Roads and Bridges Maintenance: \$500,000 LATF** - Provides funds for repair and maintenance of roads in the state forest, including the replacement of bridges and culverts.
- **Department of Citrus: \$33.1 million (\$4.7 million GR)**
  - Decrease of \$16.0 million from the current year - 32.7% decrease.

- **“Florida Forward” Marketing Program: \$4.0 million GR** - Provides funding for citrus marketing.
- **New Varieties Development: \$650,000 GR - Continues recurring base funding** to support in-state citrus breeding programs and to develop and acquire new citrus varieties to progress with an evolving marketplace and consumer preferences.
- **HVAC Replacement: \$350,000 TF** - Provides funds for the replacement of the water chiller, chilled water pumps and HVAC controls system at the Bob Crawford Building in Bartow, FL.
- **Department of Environmental Protection: \$1.4 billion (\$175.7 million GR)**
  - Decrease of \$290.0 million from the current year - 16.8% decrease.
  - **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan programs: \$240.3 million (\$13.4 million GR)** - Provides financial assistance to local governments for the construction of drinking and waste water systems; and critical environmental infrastructure.
  - **Everglades Restoration: \$207.7 million (18.4 million GR)** - \$135.7 million for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan; \$32 million for Restoration Strategies Regional Water Quality Plan; \$35 million for Northern Everglades & Estuaries Protection; and \$5 million for dispersed water storage. Does not include any funding provided in CS/SB 10.
  - **Hazardous Waste Cleanup: \$132 million TF** - Provides \$115 million for the clean-up of contaminated petroleum sites, \$8.5 million for dry-cleaning solvent contaminated site cleanup and \$8.5 million for cleanup of a variety of hazardous substances.
  - **Water Projects: \$55.6 million GR** - Provides funding for various stormwater and wastewater treatment and various water supply projects in local communities that were heard and reported favorably by the subcommittee.
  - **Springs Restoration: \$50 million LATF** - Continues recurring base funding for springs restoration, protection and preservation around the state.
  - **Beach Projects: \$63.3 million (\$33.8 GR)** - Provides \$50 million for financial assistance to local and state governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management. Also provides an additional \$13.3 million for beach recovery projects resulting from damages caused by Hurricane Matthew.
  - **State Park Improvements: \$25.6 million TF** - Provides \$10.5 million for state park facility improvements, \$4.0 million for ADA projects, \$4.0 million in grant spending authority for state park improvements, \$3.6 million for the Lovers Key State Park Environmental Education Center, \$1.9 million for state park road repairs, \$1.3 for Fakahatchee Strand State Park Visitors Center, and \$295,000 for maintenance and repairs for coastal and aquatic managed areas.
  - **Nonpoint Source Grants: \$17.5 million (\$5 million GR)** - Provides funding for projects that help control nonpoint sources of pollution.
  - **Federal Grant Budget Authority: \$16.6 million TF** - Deepwater Horizon projects (\$6.0 million), Federal Land & Water Conservation Grants (\$4 million), Clean Marina Program (\$3.3 million), National Recreation Trail Grants (\$2.5 million), and Florida Coastal Zone Management Program (\$0.8 million).
  - **St. Johns River/Keystone Heights: \$13.3 million (\$7.8 million GR)** - Provides funding to the St. Johns Water Management District for St. Johns River and/or Keystone Heights Lake Region restoration, public access, and recreation projects.

- **Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern: \$13.3 million (\$13.0 million GR)** - Provides funding for environmental projects in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern.
- **Small County Wastewater Grants: \$13 million TF** - Provides grant funding for disadvantaged small communities to assist with meeting their needs for adequate sewer facilities. Includes proviso language dedicating \$2 million for sand and grit removal for financially disadvantaged communities.
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads: \$7.4 million GR** - Provides funding for grants to local governments for storm water quality restoration projects and nonpoint source best management practices.
- **Replacement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Equipment: \$3.7 million (\$75,000 GR)** - \$2.7 million for fire equipment, \$500,000 for motor vehicles, \$450,000 for fire engines, and \$75,000 for vessels that exceed replacement criteria.
- **Lake Apopka: \$2.0 million GR** - Provides funding for Lake Apopka restoration projects.
- **Water Management Districts (WMD) Minimum Flows and Levels: \$1.9 million TF** - Provides \$0.3 million to the Northwest Florida WMD and \$1.6 million to the Suwannee River WMD for minimum flows and levels.
- **Waste Tire Abatement: \$1.75 million TF** - \$1 million for the removal of tires around Osborne Reef and \$750,000 for the waste tire abatement program to reduce the number of waste tire sites around the state.
- **Local Parks: \$1.7 million GR** - Provides funding for four local park projects: Columbia County Rum Island Restoration, Clay County Camp Chowenwaw Park Improvements, Historic Spring Park Public Access St. Johns River, and Pahokee Commissioners Park.
- **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: \$370.5 million (\$35.5 million GR)**
  - Decrease of \$9.7 million from the current year - 2.6% decrease.
  - **Boating Infrastructure and Improvements: \$5.7 million TF** - Provides funding to local governments for various boating access and maintenance and repair projects.
  - **Apollo Beach Marine Fish Hatchery: \$3.5 million TF** - Provide funding for the construction of a marine fish hatchery at the Florida Conservation and Technology Center in Apollo Beach.
  - **Replacement of Vehicles, Vessels, and Equipment: \$1.9 million TF** - \$500,000 for motor vehicles and \$1.4 million for boats, motors, and trailers that exceed replacement criteria.
  - **Derelict Vessel Removal Program: \$1.5 million TF** - Provides funding for a cost-sharing grant program for the removal of derelict vessels from Florida waterways.
  - **Deepwater Horizon Projects: \$1.1 million TF** - Provides funding for restoration projects using Deepwater Horizon funds.
  - **FCO Repairs to FWC Facilities: \$1.1 million (\$462,000 GR)** - Provides funding for FWC facilities that are in need of maintenance and repair.
  - **Nonnative Species Management: \$727,000 GR** - Provides funding for the management of nonnative species, including pythons, lionfish, and tegu.
- **Trust Fund Sweeps: \$97.4 million**
  - **Department of Environmental Protection:**
    - Air Pollution Control Trust Fund - \$5,000,000
    - Inland Protection Trust Fund - \$85,000,000
    - Solid Waste Trust Fund - \$3,000,000
    - Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund - \$400,000

- **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:**
  - Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund - \$4,000,000
- **Back of the Bill Sections:**
  - The unexpended balance of funds provided to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for storm damages associated with Tropical Storm Debby pursuant to budget amendment EOG #B2013-0213, and subsequently distributed to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to budget amendment EOG #B2017-0005, shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to the department for the same purpose.
  - The unexpended balance of funds provided to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for domestic security issues in Specific Appropriation 1961C of chapter 2016-66, Laws of Florida, and subsequently distributed to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to budget amendment EOG #B2017-0004, shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to the department for the same purpose.
  - The unexpended balance of funds provided to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from the Federal Grants Trust Fund for the Bio-fuel Infrastructure Partnership Program in Specific Appropriation 1366A of chapter 2016-66, Laws of Florida, shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to the department for the same purpose.
  - The unexpended balance of funds provided to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services from the General Revenue Fund for the removal of abandoned citrus groves in Specific Appropriation 1467 of chapter 2016-66, Laws of Florida, shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the same purpose.
  - From the unexpended balance of funds provided to the Department of Environmental Protection in Specific Appropriation 1535B of chapter 2016-66, Laws of Florida, for the Howell Branch Preserve, the sum of \$525,000 shall revert and is appropriated to the City of Winter Park for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 for the clean up, mitigation, and reconstruction of Howell Branch Creek Preserve (HB 3621).
  - The nonrecurring sum of \$26,659,787 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection shall be transferred by non-operating budget authority to the Save Our Everglades Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding Specific Appropriation 1594 for Everglades Restoration Projects.
  - The unexpended balance of funds provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Specific Appropriation 1758 of chapter 2016-66, Laws of Florida, for the Niceville Public Landing and Bayou Restoration Access Facility (HB 3841) shall revert and is appropriated for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the same purpose.



## ***Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee***

### **Overview:**

- The Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Conference Committee produced a \$12.5 billion (\$168.3 million GR and \$12.3 billion TF) and includes funding for 13,009 positions. The overall TTA budget is 1.5% larger than FY 2016-17.

### **Highlights:**

- The Conference Committee continued to invest in safety and citizen protections:
  - The budget has fully funded all the key aspects of the Dept. of Military Affairs' budget request. This includes \$6 million in funds for Armory Renovations, approximately \$933,000 for new equipment, and an additional \$4.8 million for various training and support facility needs. The armory funding will conclude a near decade-long plan to renovate 52 armories around the state, leading the nation in this regard.
  - \$4.9 million for technological upgrades for the Highway Patrol like digital in-car cameras, and replacing the computer-aided dispatch system; aerial crime scene mapping technology, approximately \$352,000 for emergency aid trauma kits and \$2 million for automatic external defibrillators. This will help the FHP stay well equipped for tasks they confront every day.
  - \$1.5 million was also provided for a statewide public safety educational campaign.
- This budget allocation requires \$251.4 million of trust fund transfers to General Revenue. These come largely from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund as well as the Local Government Housing Trust Fund. These transfers, however, do not preclude substantial investments made in our affordable housing programs.
- Affordable Housing programs are funded at \$250 million. This includes \$150 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan program (SAIL) and \$100 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP). This will also include a \$5.2 million set aside for homeless issues.
- Recurring funding remains in place for underserved areas or populations, as well as military or space activities unique to Florida. These programs include: the black business loan program at \$2.2 million, the Hispanic business initiative at \$775,000, military base protection at \$1 million, the Florida Defense Support Task Force at \$2 million, and Rural/Defense Infrastructure at \$3.2 million. Space Florida maintained its current year level of funding of \$19.5 million to further bolster the space and aerospace industry in our state.
  - In conforming legislation, VISIT Florida was appropriated \$25 million to continue promoting our tourism industry through marketing and advertising. Enterprise Florida was also provided \$16 million. Comprehensive transparency and accountability provisions were instituted for both public-private partnerships.
- The budget maintains full funding for State Aid to Libraries at \$23.1 million, \$2 million for library cooperatives, and \$3 million is provided for a new library technology grant program within the Department of State.

- Fully funding many of the Department of State’s grant lists, this budget includes \$17.4 million in funding for cultural and museum grants, a 19% increase from the HB 5001. The Cultural Facilities program is funded at \$11.9 million.
- The Historic Preservation Grant program is fully funded at \$4.6 million, a 36% increase from the house bill. Restoration of historic properties is funded at \$7.2 million.
- This budget fully funds the Transportation Work Program at \$9.9 billion, a 1.5% increase over the current year.
- **Department of Economic Opportunity: \$925.6 Million Total Budget**
  - Community Development Block Grant Program - \$36.5 million
  - Weatherization Grant Program - \$2 million
  - Low Income Energy Assistance Grant Program - \$16 million
  - Community Services and Energy Assistance - \$100 million
  - Skills Assessment and Training - \$2.5 million
  - Quick Response Training - \$15 million
  - Regional Workforce Boards - \$281.9 million
  - Incumbent Worker Training - \$3 million
  - Black Business Loan Program - \$2.2 million
  - Hispanic Business Initiative - \$775,000
  - Enterprise Florida - \$16 million
  - FL Sports Foundation - \$4.7 million
  - Supplemental Nutrition & Assistance Program - \$6.2 million
  - FL Housing Finance Corporation - \$250 million
    - SAIL - \$150 million
    - SHIP - \$100 million
  - Position Reductions: -\$475,200 (10 FTE)
    - Workforce Development: -\$475,200 (10 FTE)
  - Vacant Positions in Excess of 180 Days Reductions: -\$2.9 million (53.5 FTE)
    - Executive Leadership: -\$143,800 (2 FTE)
    - Finance and Administration: -\$213,400 (4 FTE)
    - Information Systems and Support Services: -\$596,300 (10 FTE)
    - Workforce Development: -\$1.2 million (27 FTE)
    - Reemployment Assistance: -\$332,400 (6.5 FTE)
    - Housing and Community Development: -\$364,500 (4 FTE)
  - Transfers to GR - \$231.4 million
    - Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund - \$4.9 million
    - Local Government Housing Trust Fund - \$95.1 million
    - State Housing Trust Fund - \$59.3 million
    - State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund - \$72.1 million
- **HB 5501 Displaced Homemaker Program**
  - The Florida Displaced Homemaker Program is a state program designed to assist displaced homemakers - individuals who are not adequately employed and have been dependent on the income of another family member, but are no longer supported by such income. The services provided by the Displaced Homemaker Program are also provided through 106 CareerSource career centers statewide.

- The bill eliminates the Displaced Homemaker Program and terminates the Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund. The PCB further eliminates a portion of the fees that provided revenue for the program by reducing the surcharge on marriage license applications by \$7.50. The fee for the issuance of a marriage license will be reduced from \$59.50 to \$52.00.
- After going into conference, the bill also became a vehicle for policy and budgetary changes to Enterprise Florida, Inc., and VISIT Florida. (As a conference bill related to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), other DEO issues could be included in the bill.)
  - Specifically, the bill took on many provisions of CS/CS/HB 7005 (Economic Programs by Representative Renner) and HB 9 (VISIT Florida by Rep. Renner).
  - The bill institutes comprehensive transparency and accountability measures on both VISIT Florida and Enterprise Florida. It redirects \$75 million of revenue from the SEED Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund, and provides recurring appropriations to VISIT Florida and Enterprise Florida of \$25 million and \$16 million respectively.
  - Recurring funding remains in place for underserved areas or populations, as well as military or space activities unique to Florida. These programs include: the black business loan program at \$2.2 million, the Hispanic business initiative at \$775,000, military base protection at \$1 million, the Florida Defense Support Task Force at \$2 million, and Rural/Defense Infrastructure at \$3.2 million. Space Florida maintained its current year level of funding of \$19.5 million to further bolster the space and aerospace industry in our state.
- **Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles: \$468.6 Million Total Budget**
  - Motorist Modernization Phase I - \$9.9 million
  - Motorist Modernization Phase II - \$4.1 million
  - Enterprise Data Infrastructure - \$3.5 million
  - Digital In-Car Cameras for the Highway Patrol - \$3.6 million
  - Computer Aided-Dispatch System - \$0.4 million
  - Emergency Aid Trauma Kits for Highway Patrol - \$1.2 million
  - Automatic Defibrillators - \$1.9 million
  - Safety Education Campaigns - \$1.5 million
  - Additional FHP Technology Upgrades - \$0.9 million
  - Motorcycle Safety Campaigns - \$0.3 million
  - Real-Time Fog Monitoring - \$0.3 million
  - Maintenance and Repair of State-Owned Facilities - \$1.2 million
  - Vacant Position Reductions: -\$1.5 million
  - Operational Efficiencies: -\$4.1 million
  - Transfers to GR: Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund - \$20.0 M
- **Department of Military Affairs: \$72.1 million Total Budget**
  - National Guard Tuition Assistance - \$3.2 million
  - About Face Program - \$1.03 million
  - Forward March Program - \$0.62 million
  - Armory Renovations - \$6 million
  - Security Enhancements at Armories/Facilities - \$2 million
  - Additional Equipment for the Guard - \$933,000

- Construction of Counter Drug Training Facility - \$930,000
  
- **Department of State: \$124.6 Million Total Budget**
  - Cultural and Museum funding - \$17.4 million
  - Cultural Facilities Program - \$11.9 million
  - Historic Preservation Grants - \$4.6 million
  - Restoration of Historic Properties - \$7.2 million
  - County Reimbursement for Special Elections - \$0.5 million
  - State Aid to Libraries - \$23.1 million
  - Library Technology Grants - \$3.0 million
  - Library Cooperatives - \$2.0 million
  - Florida Humanities Council - \$0.5 million
  
- **Department of Transportation: \$10.9 Billion Total Budget**
  - Fund 5-Year Work Program - \$9.9 billion
  - Fixed Capital Outlay for building repairs and code correction statewide - \$7.1 million
  - Work Program Integration Initiative(Information Technology) - \$15 million

## ***Justice Appropriations Subcommittee***

### **Overview:**

- Total appropriation for the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee is \$4.9 billion, which is a -0.2% decrease from current year, and a 1.2% increase from base budget

### **Highlights:**

- **Department of Corrections: Total appropriation is \$2.42 billion, which is a 0.5% increase from current year, and a 1.1% increase over base budget.**
  - **Funding Issues include:**
    - **\$18 million GR (\$9 million recurring; \$9 million nonrecurring)** to cover anticipated health services contract expenses.
    - **\$14.4 million GR (\$5.7 million recurring; \$8.7 million nonrecurring) and 104 FTE** to establish a new residential mental health continuum of care facility at Wakulla Correctional Institution.
    - **\$6.5 million nonrecurring GR** for fixed capital outlay (FCO) maintenance and repair projects at various correctional facilities.
    - **\$1 million recurring GR** to replace motor vehicles.
    - **\$1 million recurring GR** to enhance inmate workforce education and training programs.
    - **Approximately \$6.3 million of nonrecurring GR** for appropriations projects, specifically:
      - ❖ Home Builders Institute (HBI): Building Careers for Returning Citizens (HB 2281) - \$750,000
      - ❖ Children of Inmates: Enhanced Learning Experiences (HB 2685) - \$300,000
      - ❖ Children of Inmates: South Dade (Senate Form 2200) - \$250,000
      - ❖ Children of Inmates: Statewide (Senate Form 2199) - \$350,000
      - ❖ Bethel Ready4Work Tallahassee Reentry Program (HB 2527) - \$150,000
      - ❖ Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc. (REAP) (HB 4007) - \$200,000
      - ❖ Restore Ex-Offender Re-entry Program (HB 3415) - \$500,000
      - ❖ Enhanced Offender Rehabilitation Program (HB 4199) - \$2,962,578
      - ❖ Gadsden County Sheriff's Office Second Chance Reentry Program (HB 2873) - \$200,000
      - ❖ Operation New Hope Ready4Work - Jacksonville (Senate Form 1804) - \$200,000
      - ❖ Broward County Sheriff's Inmate Portal (HB 2335) - \$400,000
- **Florida Commission on Offender Review: Total appropriation is \$10.5 million, which is a 5% increase over current year, and a 4% increase over base budget.**
  - **\$145,327 recurring GR** to cover the costs of technology services provided by the Department of Corrections.
  - **\$250,000 nonrecurring GR** to address clemency investigations workload.

- **Department of Juvenile Justice:** Total appropriation is \$564.8 million, which is a **1.8% increase over current year, and a 4.5% increase over base budget.**
  - **Funding Issues Include:**
    - **\$5.2 million recurring GR** to increase residential commitment capacity.
    - **\$5.3 million recurring TF** to increase evidence based services provided in residential programs.
    - **\$2.5 million recurring GR** to cover the state’s share of detention costs.
    - **\$4.2 million nonrecurring GR** for FCO maintenance and repair projects at state-owned facilities.
    - **\$1.1 million nonrecurring TF** to enhance evidence-based prevention services, such as “Stop Now and Plan.”
    - **\$540,000 nonrecurring TF** to replace information technology infrastructure.
    - **\$200,000 recurring GR** to replace high mileage vehicles and transport vans.
  - **Approximately \$13.6 million (\$10.1 million nonrecurring GR; \$4.5 million nonrecurring TF)** for appropriations projects, specifically:
    - AMI Kids Family Centric Program (HB 2959) - \$3 million GR
    - AMI Kids Technology Match (HB 2963) - \$1.65 million GR
    - Girl Matters: Continuity of Care Model (HB 2165) - \$375,000 GR
    - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Florida (Senate Form 2180) - \$1 million (\$600,000 GR; \$400,000 TF)
    - Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Club (Senate Form 1472) - \$500,000 GR
    - Prodigy Cultural Arts Program (HB 4051) - \$800,000 TF
    - Prodigy Cultural Arts Program - Lacoochee and Trilby (Senate Form 2134) - \$200,000 TF
    - Pinellas County Youth Advocate Program (Senate Form 1302) - \$150,000 TF
    - Parenting With Love And Limits (Senate Form 1403) - \$750,000 GR
    - Outward Bound (Senate Form 1703) - \$200,000 TF
    - Leon County Sheriff’s Youth Adventure Camp (Senate Form 1047) - \$50,000 TF
    - Youth Crime Prevention - City of West Park (Senate Form 1601) - \$250,000 (\$50,000 GR; \$200,000 TF)
    - New Horizons Day Treatment Program (Senate Form 1603) - \$250,000 TF
    - City of Riviera Beach Summer Youth Employment Program (Senate Form 1768) - \$400,000 TF
    - Nehemiah Intervention Program (Senate Form 1632) - \$100,000 TF
    - Central Florida Mentoring Initiative (Senate Form 1817) - \$200,000 TF
    - Wayman Community Development Corp. - At Risk Youth Services (Senate Form 1701) - \$150,000 GR
    - Clay County Youth Alternative To Secured Detention (SWEAT Program) (HB 3103) - \$250,000 GR
    - Fresh Path - High Risk Intervention Youth Program - Fresh Ministries (HB 3453) - \$500,000 TF
    - Pace Center for Girls Program (Senate Form 1287) - \$1,400,000 GR
    - Pace Center for Girls - Hernando County (Senate Form 1286) - \$1,400,000 GR
  - **\$1.75 million nonrecurring GR** for fixed capital outlay appropriations projects, specifically:
    - Northwest Jacksonville YMCA Center (Senate Form 1100) - \$750,000
    - Seminole County Juvenile Detention Center Repair and Maintenance (HB 4223) - \$1,000,000

- **Department of Law Enforcement: Total appropriation is \$299.5 million, which is a 0.7% increase over current year, and an 8.5% increase over base budget.**
  - **Funding Issues Include:**
    - **\$5.9 million TF and 46 FTE** to enhance counterterrorism resources.
    - **\$5.0 million nonrecurring TF** to continue the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system replacement project.
    - **\$1.2 million recurring funds** to address increases for facility rent costs and fees paid to credit card companies (\$347,188 recurring GR; \$799,178 recurring TF).
    - **Five positions and \$1.2 million (\$426,520 recurring GR; \$365,830 nonrecurring GR; \$355,000 nonrecurring TF)** to continue the department’s three-year plan to eliminate the backlog of unprocessed sexual assault kits.
    - **\$2.1 million (\$207,160 nonrecurring GR; \$1.9 million nonrecurring TF)** to improve the sexual offender and predator registry database and an unsolved cases website.
    - **Nine positions and \$653,108 TF** to enhance missing children response and investigations.
    - **\$2.2 million recurring TF** to increase resources for law enforcement officer training.
    - **Approximately \$5 million nonrecurring GR** for appropriations projects, specifically:
      - ❖ Martin County Sheriff’s Office Crisis Response Team (HB 2293) - \$372,509
      - ❖ City of Lauderdale Lakes Crime Prevention Equipment (HB 3185) - \$300,000
      - ❖ City of Jacksonville - Shotspotter 2 year Pilot Program (HB 2703) - \$325,000
      - ❖ Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Pilot Program (HB 2933) - \$728,378
      - ❖ Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office COPS Matching Grant (HB 2781) - \$250,000
      - ❖ FSU - Panama City Underwater Crime Scene Investigation Program (HB 3633) - \$1,000,000
      - ❖ Project Cold Case (HB 4047) - \$75,000
      - ❖ Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Pilot Project (HB 3575) - \$150,000
      - ❖ Community Violence Reduction Initiative (HB 2555) - \$350,000
      - ❖ Miami-Dade - Citizens Crime Watch Programs (Senate Form 1001) - \$100,000
      - ❖ State of Florida Police Athletic/Activities League (Senate Form 1690) - \$300,000
      - ❖ Bomb Squad Rapid Response Vehicle - Sheriff's Foundation of Broward County, Inc. (Senate Form 1056) - \$163,000
      - ❖ City of Biscayne Park - CCTV Equipment (HB 3241) - \$20,000
      - ❖ City of Miami - Advanced Crime Reporting and Analytics Application (HB 3269) - \$700,000
      - ❖ Callahan Volunteer Fire Department Radios (Senate Form 1049) - \$40,000
      - ❖ Jackson County Computer Aided Dispatch Update (Senate Form 1046) - \$150,000

- **\$8.25 million nonrecurring GR** for fixed capital outlay appropriations projects, specifically:
  - Thomas Varnadoe Forensic Center for Education and Research (HB 3577) - \$4,300,000
  - Calhoun County Sheriff's Office Renovations (HB 2299) - \$145,000
  - Liberty County Jail Expansion and Equipment Upgrade (HB 2919) - \$145,000
  - Town of Bay Harbor Island Police Department Facility (HB 3401) - \$200,000
  - Vero Beach Police Department Firearms Facility (HB 4273) - \$410,000
  - Central Florida Multi-Jurisdictional Law Enforcement Training Facility (HB 3923) - \$700,000
  - Nassau County Public Safety Training Center Facility (HB 3091) - \$500,000
  - Desoto County Critical Facility Construction (HB 3565) - \$500,000
  - Clay County Public Safety Training Facility (HB 4321) - \$1,000,000
  - City of Marianna Public Safety Administration Building (HB 4195) - \$350,000
  
- **Attorney General/Department of Legal Affairs: Total appropriation is \$295.4 million, which is a -4.6% decrease from current year, and a -3.1% decrease from base budget.**
  - **Funding Issues Include:**
    - **Ten positions and \$770,504 GR (\$732,744 recurring; \$37,760 nonrecurring)** to address criminal appeals workload increases.
    - **Three positions and \$235,429 nonrecurring TF** to address information technology workload increases.
    - **\$343,000 recurring TF** to fund increased statewide prosecution costs.
    - **\$750,000 TF (\$100,000 recurring; \$650,000 nonrecurring)** to replace a case management system used in the Office of Statewide Prosecution.
    - **\$637,890 TF (\$126,000 recurring; \$511,890 nonrecurring)** to upgrade information technology infrastructure.
    - **\$503,519 (\$276,400 recurring GR; \$227,119 recurring TF)** to cover increases in lease costs.
    - **Approximately \$3.1 million nonrecurring GR** for appropriations projects, specifically:
      - ❖ Cuban American Bar Association Pro Bono Project, Inc. (HB 2749) - \$100,000
      - ❖ Open Doors / Voices for Florida (HB 2283) - \$1,140,000
      - ❖ Selah Freedom Sex Trafficking Programs and Services (HB 2463) - \$1,050,000
      - ❖ Haitian Lawyers Association (Senate Form 1042) - \$45,000
      - ❖ Spanish American League Against Discrimination Pro Bono Foreclosure and Legal Assistance Project (HB 2899) - \$75,000
  - **\$700,000 nonrecurring GR** for fixed capital outlay appropriations projects, specifically:
    - All Star Children's Foundation Campus of Caring (HB 2085) - \$500,000
    - Selah Freedom (HB 2463) - \$200,000
  
- **Justice Administration Entities: Total appropriation is \$884.2 million, which is a -1.3% decrease from current year, and a -1.4% decrease over base budget.**
  - **State Attorneys & Public Defenders**
    - **Redirected 21 positions and \$1.3 million of recurring GR** from the State Attorney's Office in the Ninth Judicial Circuit to the JAC to establish a reserve for





- **Department of Juvenile Justice:** Grants and Donations Trust Fund - \$2,000,000
- **Department of Law Enforcement:** Operating Trust Fund - \$5,000,000
- **Department of Legal Affairs:**
  - ❖ **Legal Affairs Revolving Trust Fund:** \$10,000,000
  - ❖ **Crime Stoppers Trust Fund:** \$5,000,000
  - ❖ **Motor Vehicle Warranty Trust Fund:** \$2,000,000
- **State Attorneys Revenue Trust Fund:** \$10,000,000
- **Indigent Criminal Defense Trust Fund:** \$1,000,000
- **\$7 million nonrecurring GR** provided to address projected current year deficits of the Clerks of the Court.
- **\$1.6 million nonrecurring GR** provided to address projected current year due process deficits in Justice Administration entities.

## ***Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee***

### **Overview:**

- The Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee’s proposed budget is \$1.97 billion (\$284.1 million GR and \$1.68 billion TF) and includes funding for 11,276.25 positions.
- Overall, there is a \$7.8 million decrease (.4%) under the current year (9.3% reductions in general revenue and 1.3% increase in trust funds).

### **Highlights:**

- **State-Owned Facilities:** \$32.1 million is provided to address maintenance and repair needs of state-owned facilities. \$31.0 million is provided to the Department of Management Services to address the \$368.9 million backlog of repairs. \$1.1 million is provided to the Department of Financial Services for repairs and maintenance for the Arson Lab and State Fire College.
- **MyFloridaMarketPlace:** Continues the reduction of the transaction fee from 1% to .7% for purchases made by agencies through the state’s on-line purchasing system. The reduction will save businesses that do business with the state millions in fees. The savings are estimated to be \$8.4 million in FY 2017-18 and over \$25.2 million the following three years through FY 2020-21.
- **Florida Accounting Information Resource System (FLAIR) Replacement:** \$24.9 million and 26.00 new positions for a total of 51.00 positions devoted to the replacement project known as PALM – Planning, Accounting and Ledger Management.
- **Fiscally Constrained Counties:** \$26.2 million. This issue provides funding for counties to off-set the reductions in ad valorem tax revenue as a result of State Constitutional Amendments approved by voters in 2008.
- **Workload:** \$2.9 million and 32.00 positions are provided to accommodate increased workload in the various state agencies within the Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.
- **Reductions:** \$25.1 million in total reductions and 129.50 positions were eliminated.
- **Trust Fund Transfers to General Revenue:** \$100.5 million has been identified as excess cash balances in various trust funds and is transferred to the General Revenue Fund.
- **Department of Management Services:**
  - Proposed Budget of \$613.7 million: 2.6% decrease from the current year.
  - **Repairs and Maintenance of State Facilities:** \$31.0 million to address the \$369.0 million backlog of repairs and other needed improvements to state facilities.
  - **Division of Retirement:** \$2.1 million is provided for the operations and maintenance of the Division of Retirement’s Integrated Retirement Information System (IRIS).
  - **Dependent Eligibility Verification Services:** \$1.2 million is provided to review the eligibility of dependents of state employees for the state health insurance plan.

- **MyFloridaMarketPlace:** Continues the reduction of the transaction fee from 1% to .7% for purchases made by agencies through the state's on-line purchasing system. The reduction will save businesses that do business with the state millions in fees. The savings are estimated to be \$8.4 million in FY 2017-18 and over \$25.2 million the following three years through FY 2020-21.
- **State Law Enforcement Radio System:** \$3.6 million is provided to ensure that law enforcement and emergency personnel throughout the state are able to communicate from multi-jurisdictional locations, especially during disasters. Also included in this figure is staff augmentation and IV & V services for the SLERS procurement.
- **Reductions:** \$5.9 million in reductions throughout the department; includes 5.00 FTE.
- **Department of Revenue:**
  - Proposed Budget of \$572.6 million: 1.1% decrease from the current year.
  - **Fiscally Constrained Counties:** \$26.2 million is provided for counties to off-set the reductions in ad valorem tax revenue as a result of State Constitutional Amendments approved by voters in 2008; based on March 2017 Revenue Estimating Conference.
  - **Aerial Photographs for Small Counties:** \$167,000 is provided for aerial photographs used by property appraisers in counties with a population of 50,000 or less.
  - **Child Support - Federal Department of Commerce Grant Spending Authority:** \$1.3 million in budget is provided to implement a new authentication process for Child Support eServices.
  - **Employment Income and Verification Service:** \$800,000 is provided to competitively procure employment income and verification services for the Child Support Enforcement program.
  - **Reductions:** \$12.0 million in reductions throughout the department; includes 74.00 vacant FTE.
- **Public Service Commission:**
  - Proposed Budget of \$24.6 million: 2.2% decrease from the current year.
  - Reductions: \$499,000 in reductions including 10.00 vacant FTE.
- **Agency for State Technology:**
  - Proposed Budget of \$66.1 million: 6.9% decrease from the current year.
  - **Reductions:** \$4.9 million in reductions and 21.00 FTE (14.00 Vacant) to conform to HB 5301.
  - **Security Training:** Provides \$220,000 in nonrecurring TF to provide security training to the state agencies information technology staff.
- **Department of Financial Services:**
  - Proposed budget of \$370.0 million: 6.9% increase over the current year.
  - **Florida Accounting Information Resource System (FLAIR) Replacement:** \$24.9 million and 26.00 new positions for a total of 51.00 positions devoted to the replacement project know as PALM – Planning, Accounting and Ledger Management.
  - **FLAIR Staff Augmentation:** \$2.0 million to acquire staff augmentation to keep the current accounting (FLAIR) system running and operational until the new accounting system can be completed.
  - **Local Fire Departments Grants:** \$7.2 million for various local fire department grants.

- **State Fire Marshall Grant Programs:** \$1.9 million for firefighter equipment to mitigate exposure to cancer-causing chemicals.
  - **State Fire Marshal / Firefighter Cancer Research:** \$1.0 million in general revenue is provided for University of Miami - Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center for firefighter cancer research.
  - **Fixed Capital Outlay:** \$1.1 million for maintenance and repair at the State Arson Laboratory and State Fire College.
  - **Reductions:** \$630,000 and 10.00 vacant FTE.
- **Department of Business and Professional Regulation:**
    - Proposed Budget of \$151.6 million: 2.6% decrease from the current year.
    - **Compulsive and Addictive Gambling Prevention:** maintained at current level of \$1.25 million.
    - **Unlicensed Activity:** \$100,000 for increased funding to combat unlicensed activity of certified public accounting. Total unlicensed activity program funding of \$2.2 million is provided.
    - **Reductions:** \$588,000 and 2.00 vacant FTE.
- **Department of Lottery:**
    - Proposed Budget of \$167.4 million: .21% increase from the current year.
    - **Florida Independent Security Audit:** \$225,000 is provided for an independent security audit required by statute every two years.
    - **IT Infrastructure:** \$822,000 for various IT infrastructure improvements.
    - **Reductions:** \$185,000 in reductions including 1.5 vacant FTE.

### ***Education Fixed Capital Outlay***

- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) was funded at 500 million including the following issues:
  - Regular Maintenance Funding (\$183.6 million total) for the following:
    - Public Schools - \$50 million
    - Charter Schools - \$50 million
    - Florida Colleges Regular Maintenance - \$38.1 million
    - State Universities Regular Maintenance - \$45.6 million
  
- New Construction & Renovation Funding:
  - Florida Colleges - \$77.2 million
  - Universities - \$160.7 million
  - Special Facilities Construction - \$ 57.0 million
    - Dixie County - \$8.9 million
    - Hamilton County (3rd of 3) - \$10.1 million
    - Taylor County (2nd Year of 3) - \$6.7 million
    - Liberty (1st Year of 3) - \$6.1 million
    - Jackson (1st Year of 3) - \$19.1 million
    - Bradford (1st Year of 3) - \$6.2 million
  
- Other Issues:
  - Developmental Research Labs Schools - \$5.8 million
  - FSU Lab School - Arts & Sciences Building - \$7.5 million
  - City of Hialeah Education Academy - \$1.8 million
  - Flagler College Hotel Ponce de Leon Restoration, Molly Wiley Art Building - \$1.0 million
  - Florida School for the Deaf and Blind - \$2.2 million
  - Public Broadcasting Projects - \$3.2 million
  - Capital Improvement Fee Trust Funded Projects - \$45 million

# **Commerce Legislative Highlights**

## **CS/SB 90: Renewable Energy Source Devices [CS/CS/CS/HB 1351 – Rodrigues]**

*Signed into Law*

*CS/SB 90 expands the renewable energy source device tax break to commercial and industrial properties after voters overwhelmingly supported Amendment 4 to expand the solar market in Florida last year.*

### **Highlights**

- The bill provides property tax relief for owners of renewable energy source devices installed on residential or nonresidential property.
- The bill expands the prohibition against considering the value of a renewable energy source device in determining the assessed value of property used for residential purposes to all property.
- The bill exempts renewable energy source devices from the tangible personal property tax.
- The bill takes effect January 1, 2018 and expires December 31, 2037.
- The Florida House is dedicated to expanding renewable-energy options in the sunshine state.

### **Background**

- In 2016, the Legislature passed CS/HJR 193, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Florida Constitution to establish a certain tax treatment for renewable energy source devices installed on nonresidential real property. The amendment was placed on the ballot on August 30, 2016, as Amendment 4, which was approved by 73% of the voters in the election. The amendment will take effect on January 1, 2018, and expire on December 31, 2037.



## **CS/CS/HB 615: Professional Regulation – Renner**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/HB 615 continues efforts to make Florida the most military-friendly state in the nation by allowing reciprocity for licensure to active duty, veterans, spouses, and surviving spouses.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill expands the applicability of exceptions certain active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces and certain spouses are granted from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) licensing application fees and requirements in ch. 455, F.S.
- The bill creates an initial licensing fee waiver for:
  - Members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty;
  - Spouses of members of the Armed Forces;
  - Surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces; and
  - Low-income individuals whose income is below 130 percent of the poverty level.
- The bill requires DBPR to issue a professional license to an application without an initial licensing fee, and without meeting other statutory requirements and qualifications, if applicants provide certain documentation.
- The bill extends the period of time that active duty members remain in good standing with certain boards or programs after discharge from active duty from six months to two years.
- The bill allows spouses and surviving spouses of active duty members to remain in good standing with certain boards or programs when they are absent from the state due to their spouse's Armed Forces duties.

## **CS/CS/HB 937: Warnings for Lottery Games – Sullivan**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/HB 937 includes warning labels on Lottery tickets to better inform Floridians of the dangers of playing the lottery.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill amends current law by requiring one of the following warnings to appear prominently on the front of all lottery tickets and in all lottery advertisements:
  - “WARNING: GAMBLING CAN BE ADDICTIVE”;
  - “WARNING: LOTTERY GAMES MAY BE ADDICTIVE”;
  - “WARNING: LOTTERY GAMES ARE A FORM OF GAMBLING”;
  - “WARNING: YOUR ODDS OF WINNING THE TOP PRIZE ARE EXTREMELY LOW”;
  - “WARNING: GAMBLING CAN CAUSE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS”; or
  - “WARNING: PLAYING THE LOTTERY CONSTITUTES GAMBLING.”
  
- Given the knowledge that the Lottery can create addictive behavior, the Florida House believes it is our responsibility to put standards in place to protect Floridians.

## **CS/CS/CS/HB 1007: Insurer Anti-Fraud Efforts – Raschein and Diamond**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/CS/HB 1007 furthers our commitment to finding better solutions to fight fraud. In doing so, the bill creates uniform anti-fraud standards for all insurance companies doing business in our state and provides the Department of Financial Services with better tools to track trends related to fraud.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill establishes uniform fraud prevention standards applicable to all insurers.
- The bill requires all insurers, regardless of size, to establish and maintain a fraud investigation unit, or contract for such services, and to submit an anti-fraud plan.
- An insurer must submit the plan and the description of the unit, together with the name of the employee designated to oversee fraud investigation activities, to the Division of Investigative Forensic Services (DIFS) within the Department of Financial Services beginning December 31, 2017, and annually thereafter.
- The bill specifies required elements of the plan, which include:
  - Acknowledgements related to implementation of fraud detection and investigation procedures, mandatory reporting procedures, and anti-fraud education and training;
  - Descriptions of the anti-fraud unit and required education training; and
  - The rationale for the anti-fraud unit staffing.
- The bill creates requirement for insurers to submit fraud-related data on an annual basis.
- The bill modifies the additional requirements applicable to workers' compensation insurers to require reporting of the number of cases referred to DIFS.
- The bill requires DIFS to report the caseload data annually to the Governor and the Legislature beginning September 1, 2018.

## **HB 1233: Cottage Food Operations – White**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 1233 opens the path for small food entrepreneurs to offer consumer choice while still providing protections to consumers.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill increases the maximum annual gross sales limit of cottage foods from \$15,000 to \$50,000 in order for cottage operations to maintain an exemption from food and building permits.
- The bill allows cottage food operations to sell, offer to sell, and accept payment for cottage foods over the internet, as long as the cottage foods are delivered in person directly to the consumer or to a specific event venue.
- The goal of HB 1233 is to protect the free market while striking a balance between providing consumer choice, removing unnecessary regulation, and keeping consumers safe.

### **Background**

- State and local governments have primary authority over food production. Therefore, states, and not the federal government, have the ability to decide whether or not in-home food productions are allowed in that state and what foods qualify for such in-home productions. Florida allows such operations under certain circumstances.
  - In Florida, such foods, or “cottage food products” (cottage foods), are food products that the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has determined are “non-potentially hazardous” and which are sold in accordance with cottage food operating requirements.
- “Cottage food operators” are natural persons who produce or package cottage foods at his or her residence and are exempt from food and building permitting requirements if he or she sells such products in accordance with the cottage food operating requirements.

## **HB 5501: Economic Programs – Ingram**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***HB 5001 ends the state's current practice of picking winners and losers in the market place by dramatically increasing transparency and accountability for VISIT Florida and Enterprise Florida, Inc.***

### **Highlights**

- The Florida House is committed to improving the state's economic development efforts and ending the state's current practice of picking winners and losers. To do so, the House fought to fundamentally change our state's approach to economic development by transforming the way VISIT Florida and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) operate.
- The bill cuts waste in both EFI and VISIT Florida by reducing their budgets to appropriate levels. The bill provides EFI with a \$16 million recurring appropriation and VISIT Florida with a \$25 million recurring appropriation.
- The bill dramatically increases transparency and accountability in both entities. In doing so, the bill will help ensure EFI's and VISIT Florida's track records of using very poor judgement with taxpayer dollars come to an end.
- The Florida House believes poor performing economic development programs and offices reward a select few at the expense of many, and we believe that is wrong. That's why the Florida House is focused on eliminating such programs and offices so that we can focus more state resources on implementing policies that help all businesses, like lowering taxes, cutting burdensome regulations, and making smart investments in education and infrastructure.
- HB 5501 redirects \$75 million of revenue from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund.

### **Background**

- VISIT Florida was intended to be a public-private partnership, but taxpayers pay 86% of VISIT Florida's budget.
- VISIT Florida lacks transparency and accountability and has used poor judgement in spending public funds:
  - VISIT Florida paid the rapper Pitbull millions of dollars to promote the state as a tourist destination. VISIT Florida refused to release the details of its contract with Pitbull. Pitbull later released the contract after Speaker Corcoran filed a lawsuit. In wake of the Pitbull debacle, VISIT Florida paid the outgoing President/CEO a \$73,000 bonus.
  - VISIT Florida paid \$11.6 million for a cooking show.
  - VISIT Florida paid \$9.1 million to Brand USA, an entity led by Christopher L. Thompson, for international advertising. Mr. Thompson once ran VISIT Florida and previously hired the VISIT Florida executive who later awarded Mr. Thompson and Brand USA the \$9.1 million contract.

- EFI lacks accountability and has used poor judgement in spending public funds:
  - EFI was originally designed to receive 50% funding from private businesses. Unfortunately, that number is closer to 10%, leaving taxpayers to foot the rest.
  - A former executive director hired a speech writer for over \$150,000, purchased custom furniture for \$92,000, and received a severance package of at least \$132,000.
  - EFI increased their executive payroll by \$600,000 over six years, but added only two employees.
  - A vast majority of EFI programs lose taxpayer money.
  - Notable bad EFI-lead deals include the following:
    - The state paid Digital Domain \$20 million and it went out of business.
    - The state paid Sanford Burnham over \$150 million and they are preparing to leave.
    - The state paid the Intl. Game Fish Association World Center Facility almost \$15 million and they left almost immediately after receiving the last state incentive payment.
    - State paid Torrey Pines almost \$25 million and they did not meet their employment goal.

**CS/SB 8: Gaming [HB 7037 – La Rosa]**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/SB 8 would have struck a reasonable balance between controlling gambling and establishing long-term certainty and predictability for existing gambling entities in our state, while providing much needed funding for education.***

**Highlights**

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

## **CS/HB 425: Vacation Rentals – La Rosa**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 425 would have protected property rights by ensuring local governments treat properties used for vacation rentals the same as other residential properties.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have authorized local laws, ordinances, or regulations to regulate activities that arise when a property is used as a vacation rental. Such regulations would have applied uniformly to all residential properties.
- The bill would have required a vacation rental owner to submit, for information purposes only and without charge, a copy of the vacation rental license, certificate of registration, and emergency contact information to the local jurisdiction.
- The bill would have retained the current preemption that local governments cannot prohibit vacation rentals or regulate the duration or frequency of vacations rentals, and the current grandfather provision that exempts any local law, ordinance, or regulation that was enacted by a local government on or before June 1, 2011.
- The bill would have authorized a local government to amend a law, ordinance or regulation that was adopted on or before June 1, 2011, to be less restrictive or to reduce the regulatory burden on active duty and temporary duty armed forces personnel, and veterans with a 30 percent or more disability rating.
- The bill would have preempted any local regulation adopted after June 1, 2011, that prohibits or regulates vacation rentals, including those adopted pursuant to the standards under the 2014 law, and would have been void and unenforceable, if the regulation did not apply uniformly to all residential properties.
- Far too many local governments have unfairly regulated vacation rentals, at the expense of property owners and renters.
- The Florida House is committed to ensuring property rights are not violated by local ordinances.



## **CS/CS/HB 1063: Motor Vehicle Insurance – Grall**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 1063 would have brought accountability and responsibility to auto insurance by repealing mandatory Personal Injury Protection (PIP) and replacing it with mandatory Bodily Injury (BI) coverage, which would have helped decrease premiums for Florida drivers.***

### **Highlights**

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

### **Background**

- Since 1971, PIP, also known as Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Insurance, has been the required insurance coverage for all drivers in the state of Florida. In addition, the Financial Responsibility Law requires all Florida drivers at fault in an accident to be accountable for bodily injuries or deaths (BI) up to \$10,000 for one person, \$20,000 for two or more persons, and \$10,000 for damage to property (PD). While PIP and PD coverage is required at the time of registration, BI coverage may be secured through insurance or other means following an accident.
- PIP has gone through multiple revisions since its inception, but went through a major overhaul in 2012 due to rampant fraud and abuse driving up premiums. While there was an initial decrease in premiums after the 2012 reform, premiums have risen once again and are approximately 9 percent higher than they were before the 2012 reform.

**CS/HB 1421: Property Insurance Assignment Agreements – Grant, J.**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 1421 would have reformed assignment of benefits (AOB) to prevent higher payouts and higher litigation costs so consumers don't have to pay the price in the form of higher premiums.***

**Highlights**

- The bill would have provided that AOBs must:
  - Be executed in writing by a named insured and the assignee;
  - Allow the policyholder to rescind the agreement within seven days of execution, without penalty (the policyholder will be responsible to pay for work performed before the agreement is rescinded);
  - Require the vendor to provide the insurance company with a copy of the assignment agreement within three days after the agreement is executed or work has begun, whichever is earlier;
  - Include a written, itemized, per-unit cost estimate of services and, if the estimate includes water restoration services, provide proof that the vendor is certified by an entity that requires services to be performed according to a nationally-recognized standard;
  - Relate only to the work to be performed by the vendor; and
  - Contain notice of the right to rescind the agreement and that, by executing the assignment agreement, the policyholder is giving up certain rights that could result in litigation by the vendor against the insurance company.
  
- The bill would have established requirements to enforce an AOB.
  - Vendors would have been required to give insurance companies at least 10 business days' notice before filing suit on a claim, but may not be served before the insurance company has made a determination of coverage according to the timeframes allowed by current law.
  - The notice would have to have specified the damages in dispute, amount claimed, and any pre-suit settlement demand and include an itemized bill.
  - The insurance company would have to have responded in writing within the 10 days by making a settlement offer or requiring the vendor to participate in alternative dispute resolution as allowed under the policy.
  - If the vendor and insurance company fail to settle and litigation results, the bill would have provided the exclusive means for either party to recover attorney fees.
    - If the difference between the judgment and the settlement offer was less than 25 percent of the disputed amount, then the insurer would have been entitled to attorney fees.
    - If the difference between the judgment and the settlement offer was at least 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the disputed amount, neither party would have been entitled to fees.
    - If the difference between the judgment and settlement offer was at least 50 percent of the disputed amount, the vendor would have been entitled to attorney fees.

## Background

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

## **CS/CS/HB 7005: Economic Programs – Renner**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 7005 would have eliminated Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), a seriously troubled public-private partnership tasked with the state’s economic development efforts. The bill also would have eliminated over 20 programs and offices offering taxpayer dollars to certain businesses to incentivize them to create jobs.***

### **Highlights**

- The Florida House is committed to fundamentally changing our state’s approach to economic development.
- Many poor performing economic development programs and offices reward a select few at the expense of many, and we believe that is wrong.
- We are committed to eliminating these programs and offices so that we can focus more state resources on implementing policies that help all businesses, like lowering taxes, cutting burdensome regulations, and making smart investments in education, infrastructure, and public safety.
- Taxpayers know how to spend their money far better than government does. Economic success and failure are best governed by the free market.
- Economic incentives go to the businesses that need them the least: most incentives are doled out to existing Florida businesses that have over 1,000 employees.

### **Background**

- EFI lacks accountability and has used poor judgement in spending public funds:
  - EFI was originally designed to receive 50% funding from private businesses. Unfortunately, that number is closer to 10%, leaving taxpayers to foot the rest.
  - Former executive director hired a speech writer for over \$150,000, purchased custom furniture for \$92,000, and received a severance package of at least \$132,000.
  - EFI increased their executive payroll by \$600,000 over six years, but added only two employees.
  - A vast majority of EFI programs lose taxpayer money.
  - Notable bad EFI-lead deals:
    - The state paid Digital Domain \$20 million and it went out of business.
    - The State paid Sanford Burnham over \$150 million and they are preparing to leave.
    - The state paid the Intl. Game Fish Association World Center Facility almost \$15 million and they left almost immediately after receiving the last state incentive payment.
    - The state paid Torrey Pines almost \$25 million and they did not meet their employment goal.

## **CS/HB 7047: Deregulation of Professions and Occupations – Beshears**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 7047 would have deregulated certain professions to remove unnecessary government barriers, allow businesses to grow more easily, and create more job opportunities for Floridians.***

### **Highlights**

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

## **CS/HB 7085: Workers' Compensation – Burgess**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/HB 7085 would have ensured the quick and efficient delivery of disability and medical benefits to injured workers and facilitated their return to gainful reemployment at a reasonable cost to the employer.*

### **Highlights**

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

### **Background**

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

# **Education Legislative Highlights**

## **CS/CS/CS/HB 15: Educational Options – Sullivan**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/CS/HB 15 will improve scholarship programs to help disabled and low-income children attend a school of their choice.***

### **Highlights**

- **Gardiner Scholarship Program (GSP)**
  - The bill expands access to the GSP by:
    - Including rare diseases and disorders affecting less than 200,000 individuals in the U.S.;
    - Including Anaphylaxis;
    - Including students who are identified as orthopedically impaired, deaf, visually impaired, hospitalizes or homebound, dual sensory impaired and those with traumatic brain injuries or other health impairments;
    - Removing the requirement that a student be 3 or 4 years of age by September 1, before applying to the GSP;
    - Removing the requirement to reevaluate a child who entered the program with a disability of high-risk when they reach age six;
    - Allowing for the use of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that has not been reviewed or revised within the last 12 months and/or is from another state; and
    - Allowing for the use of a diagnosis from a licensed physician in another state.
  - The bill expands services and authorizes uses of program funds to include music or art therapies and equine therapy services at certain centers.
  - The bill states a private school may be deemed ineligible if they have consecutive years not meeting expectations identified in their annual agreed upon procedures report.
  - The Florida House is committed to increasing educational opportunities for children with unique abilities to help them achieve more successful outcomes. Expanding the GSP gives more parents the flexibility and freedom to provide their children with a high-quality, individualized education.
- **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (FTC)**
  - The bill increases the base annual scholarship amount, differentiated by grade level, for students enrolled in eligible private schools. This is necessary due to the increased cost of high school compared to elementary and middle school.
  - The bill increases the amount of a transportation scholarship for a student who chooses a public school outside their district from \$500 to \$750.
  - The bill allows a dependent child of a parent who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces to apply for a scholarship at any time to allow for immediate access to the program.
  - The bill authorizes a Scholarship Funding Organization (SFO) to make scholarship payments on behalf of a parent only if the SFO receives prior approval from the parent each time to make it easier for parents to make payments to schools.
  - The bill states a private school may be deemed ineligible if they have consecutive years not meeting expectations identified in their annual agreed upon procedures report.



- The Florida House is committed to increasing opportunity for low-income children. The FTC helps to ensure that all students, no matter their background, have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.

### **Background**

- In 2014, Florida created the GSP (formerly “Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts Program”) to provide the parents of students with certain disabilities with more flexibility to customize their child’s education. Under the program, funds are distributed to qualified Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO) to establish accounts for eligible students. Parents can use funds from their account to choose from a variety of approved items for their student including, but not limited to: specialized services, curriculum, instructional materials, tuition, and contracted services.
- In 2001, Florida created the FTC to provide an income tax credit for corporations that contribute money to nonprofit SFOs that award scholarships to students from families with limited financial resources. The program has since been expanded to include credits against the insurance premium tax for contributions to eligible non-profit SFOs, credits against severance taxes on oil and gas production, self-accrued sales tax liabilities of direct pay permit holders, and alcoholic beverage taxes on beer, wine, and spirits.

**CS/SB 396: Student Loan Debt [CS/CS/HB 867 – Leek]**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/SB 396 encourages colleges to spend time with students explaining the impact of the debt they are about to undertake and show them how to responsibly borrow money for tuition and fees.***

**Highlights**

- The bill defines “student loans” to mean federal loans disbursed to a student to pay for education related expenses.
- The bill establishes the requirement that a postsecondary education institution that disburses state financial aid provide the following up-to-date information annually to each student receiving student loans:
  - An estimate of the student’s total amount of borrowed student loans;
  - An estimate of the student’s total potential loan repayment amount associated with the total amount of student loans borrowed by the student;
  - An estimate of the student’s monthly loan repayment amount for the student’s total amount of borrowed student loans; and
  - The percentage of the borrowing limit that the student has reached at the time the information is provided.
- The bill provides that an institution does not incur liability for providing the specified information.
- The Florida House believes college students who require student loans for their post-secondary education should be as informed as possible about the debt they are incurring.

## **SB 436: Religious Expression in Public Schools [CS/HB 303 – Daniels and Williams]**

*Signed into Law*

***SB 436 supports the rights of students, their parents, and teachers to freely express their religious beliefs without fear of discrimination.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill creates the “Florida Student and School Personnel Religious Liberties Act,” protecting K-12 public school students, their parents, and school personnel from discrimination based on their religious belief and expression.
- The bill authorizes students to express themselves in a religious manner, and to engage in and organize religious activities to the same extent as secular expressions and activities are permitted.
- The bill protects school personnel by prohibiting school districts from discrimination against their employees on religious grounds.
- The bill protects religious groups from discrimination by requiring school districts to permit these groups access to the same facilities for assembly that it permits such access to secular groups.
- The bill requires school districts to adopt a policy establishing a “limited public forum” for student speakers at certain school events.

## **CS/HB 7069: Education – Diaz, M.**

*Signed into Law*

Bills included in this legislation that also passed the House include the following: CS/HB 127; CS/CS/HB 293; HB 373; CS/CS/CS/HB 549; HB 655; CS/HB 827; CS/HB 833; CS/HB 1111; HB 1139; CS/CS/HB 1331; CS/CS/HB 7057; CS/CS/HB 7101; and portions of CS/CS/CS/HB 15 and CS/CS/HB 989.

***CS/HB 7069 is a comprehensive package of reforms and new initiatives that will create the opportunity for transformational change in Florida’s educational system.***

### **Highlights**

- **Best and Brightest:** The bill rewards teachers and principals who have proven they are effective at educating our students. We believe this will help recruit and retain the highest quality teachers and administrators to our schools.
- **Schools of Hope:** Too many children in Florida languish in chronically underperforming schools. To fix this problem, the bill revises turnaround options for low-performing schools, creates the Schools of Hope program, and provides additional funding for wraparound services so that all children, no matter their background, have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.
- **Schools of Excellence:** The Schools of Excellence program rewards schools who have proven track records of academic success by giving them more administrative flexibility to continue to innovate and educate our students at a high level.
- **School Choice:** The Florida House is committed to providing parental choice over their child’s education. Through reforms in this bill, high-performing charter schools will be able to replicate more easily in low performing area and more students with disabilities will have access to the Gardiner Scholarship.
- **Testing:** It’s time to bring common sense reform to our statewide testing structure. The bill eliminates the Algebra II end-of-course exam, requires paper-based assessments for grades 3-6, moves the majority of statewide assessments to the last 4 weeks of a district’s school year, and provides parents and teachers with timely and useful assessment results to inform instruction.
- **Expanding Civics Education:** Strengthening civics education in our K-12 public schools and post-secondary institutions will help students become civically engaged adults who make positive contributions to their communities.
- **Recess:** Kids need time to play and be kids. That’s why we brought bringing back recess to traditional public schools.
- **Charter Schools**
  - The bill clarifies when open enrollment procedures apply to a charter school.

- The bill requires sponsors to use the standard charter contract developed by Department of Education (DOE) and any term or condition differing from the standard contract shall be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility.
  - The bill clarifies that charter schools do not have to obtain any additional special exception, rezoning, or a land use change to allow for expansion of their facilities.
  - The bill clarifies that occupant load shall determine student capacity.
  - The bill specifies that a not-for-profit or municipal entity operating a charter school may use unrestricted current and capital assets of their charter school(s) for other charter schools operated by the same entity.
  - The bill clarifies reporting requirements for funding virtual charter school students.
  - The bill includes the charter school in the waiver of sovereign immunity in cases of tort liability as any other public school.
  - The bill clarifies that charter school cooperatives may form to further educational, operational, and administrative initiatives.
  - The bill requires DOE to develop and administer a satisfaction survey to charter schools on sponsors. The DOE must then compile the results and provide a report to the Legislature annually.
  - The bill removes the requirement that the online learning portion of a blended learning model be in a classroom setting at the charter school.
- **High-Performing Charter Schools** (HB 7101 – Cortes, B.)
    - The bill authorizes a high-performing charter school to establish more than one charter school in any year if it operates in an area of a persistently low-performing school and serves students from that school.
    - The bill allows a high-performing charter school system to replicate its schools in any school district in the state and specifies application requirements.
- **School Improvement** (HB 5105 – Latvala)
    - The bill expands early warning system requirements to include grades K-8 to reach student at an earlier age.
    - The bill provides that educational emergency exists when a school district has one or more schools with grade of “D” or “F” and requires a school district to enter memorandum of understanding addressing instructional personnel and principal autonomy in an educational emergency.
    - The bill prohibits district school board from awarding an annual employment contract under specified circumstances. (HB 373 – Grant, M.)
    - The bill requires that, unless the State Board of Education (SBE) grants the school district an additional year of implementation because it determines the school is likely to improve to a “C” or higher, a school that does not earn a “C” or higher after implementation, must select a turnaround option.
    - The bill limits the turnaround options for “D” and “F” schools to be able to add more focus on failing schools.
- **Title I Funding Distribution** (HB 7101 – Cortes, B.)
    - The bill specifies that after providing Title I funds to schools above the 75 percent poverty threshold, a school district must distribute remaining Title I funds directly to all eligible schools so the money goes to students that need it the most.

- **Schools of Hope** (HB 5105 – Latvala)
  - The bill authorizes the establishment of “schools of hope” and designation of “hope operators” to provide students in areas of persistently-low performing schools with a high-quality education option.
  
- **Schools of Excellence Program** (HB 1331 – Grall)
  - The bill creates the Schools of Excellence Program to provide administrative flexibility to the state’s highest performing schools.
  - The bill establishes administrative flexibilities including:
    - Autonomy over personnel and budgetary decisions;
    - Exemption from district-set starting and stopping times for the school day; and
    - Calculation for class-size compliance at the school level rather than classroom level
  - The bill requires the SBE to designate a school as a School of Excellence if it has a school grade score in the top 20% or higher for 2 of the last 3 school years.
  - The bill permits a school to renew its designation for another 3 years if it remains in the top 20% or higher for 2 of the 3 years and does not receive a grade lower than a "B" in any of the years.
  - The bill allows a teacher to substitute 1 school year of employment at a School of Excellence for 20 in-service points toward the renewal of their professional certificate (up to 60 in-service points).
  
- **K-12 Student Assessments** (HB 549 – Fine)
  - The bill eliminates Algebra II end-of-course (EOC) assessment requirement to ease the burden of over testing.
  - The bill allows completion of blended learning course to satisfy online course requirement to allow student to more easily complete the requirement.
  - The bill exempts certain students from personal fitness competency exam.
  - The bill requires paper-pencil English Language Arts (ELA) and Math assessments for grades 3-6, no later than the 2018-2019 school year.
  - The bill moves assessments to end of year- April 1 for 3rd grade ELA and all writing assessments and May 1 for all other paper based within a two week window and CBT within a four week window. All assessments after May 1 must be within the last four weeks of a district's school year.
  - The bill specifies reporting of assessment results to students, parents, and teachers to get it into their hands more quickly and in an easy to understand format.
  - The bill requires DOE to publish statewide assessments online so parents can see what their children are being tested on.
  
- **Independent Study**
  - The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to contract for an independent study of ACT/SAT as an alternative for grade 10 ELA assessments and Algebra I EOC assessment.
  
- **Virtual Instruction** (HB 833 – Sullivan)
  - The bill eliminates student eligibility requirements, including prior public year requirement, and clarifies that all students, including home education and private school students, are eligible to participate in virtual options throughout the state.

- **Personnel Evaluation**
  - The bill provides that use of the Value-Added Model for personnel evaluation is optional.
- **Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Programs (HB 7069 – Diaz, M.)**
  - The bill revised eligibility criteria of the Best & Brightest Teacher Program to begin in the 2020-21 school year and allow a qualifying assessment score at the 71st percentile or higher if the candidate graduated cum laude or higher with a baccalaureate degree in order for more teachers to be eligible.
  - The bill establishes the scholarship program and defines eligibility requirements to include:
    - Served as a principal at the school for at least the last 2 consecutive school years; and
    - Faculty at principal's school has a ratio of best and brightest teachers to other classroom teachers that is at the 80th percentile or higher, statewide, for that school type
- **Teacher Bonuses (HB 827 – Porter)**
  - The bill removes caps imposed on amounts of bonuses awarded to teachers based on student performance on AP, IB, AICE, and industry certification exams.
- **Teacher Certification (HB 1111 – Placencia)**
  - The bill streamlines the temporary certificate application process to allow for teachers to more easily obtain their certificate.
  - The bill revises college credit and in-service hour requirements for renewal of a professional certificate to focus on reading instruction.
  - The bill allows mentorship activities to count toward certification renewal and requires training in evidence-based reading strategies for renewal of certain certificates.
- **Minority Teacher Scholarship Program (HB 1139 – Davis)**
  - The bill revises eligibility criteria for participation in the program (based on credit hours rather than Junior year or later).
- **School Absence (HB 127 – Placencia)**
  - The bill authorizes school absence related to the treatment of autism spectrum disorder.
- **School Visitation**
  - The bill clarifies that an individual school board member may visit district operated schools and an individual charter school governing board member may visit any charter school governed by the charter school's governing board, at his or her pleasure.
- **Shared Use Facilities**
  - The bill establishes provisions related to promoting shared use agreements for public school playground facilities and creates a task force to make recommendations.

- **Early Learning**
  - The bill defines “public school prekindergarten provider” to include a traditional public school and a charter school.
  - The bill establishes the Committee on Early Grade Success to develop a proposal for establishing and implementing a coordinate child assessment system for the School Readiness Program, Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and specifies proposal requirements.
  
- **Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program**
  - The bill creates Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program within DOE for 3 years.
  - The bill requires a preeminent university to evaluate the effectiveness of program.
  
- **Reading Intervention**
  - The bill requires superintendent to certify that K-5 reading instruction and intervention materials comply with criteria identified by Just Read, Florida! beginning July 1, 2021
  
- **Civics Education (HB 7057 – Raburn)**
  - The bill bolsters civics instruction in K-12 and post-secondary institutions in Florida to prepare students to be civically engaged, knowledgeable adults.
  - The bill designates month of September as American Founders' Month and encourages public schools to coordinate certain instruction with American Founders' Month.
  - The bill requires postsecondary students to demonstrate competency in civic literacy by passing an assessment or course.
  - The bill appoints a faculty committee to revise and establish courses and course competencies.
  
- **Gardiner Scholarship (HB 15 – Sullivan)**
  - The bill modifies Gardiner Scholarship program to expand eligibility and the authorized use of funds so that more students have access to the scholarship.
  
- **Career and Education Planning Course (HB 293 – Burton)**
  - The bill eliminates the required middle grades career and education planning course.
  
- **Exceptional Student Instruction (HB 655 – Porter)**
  - The bill requires school districts to provide educational services to students in residential health care facilities
  
- **Instructional Materials (HB 989 – Donalds)**
  - The bill deletes requirement that 50 percent of instructional materials allocation be used to purchase digital or electronic instructional materials.
  
- **College-preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program**
  - The bill expands the definition of eligible student for purposes of the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program to include a student currently enrolled in grades 5-12, if it is determined by the operator that a seat is available.



- **Recess**
  - The bill requires 20 minutes of consecutive free-play recess per day for kindergarten through grade 5 students in traditional public schools, and exempts charter schools from the specified requirements to give students a break from sitting in their classrooms all day.
  
- **Sunscreen Use**
  - The bill allows students to possess and use sunscreen on school property without a prescription because it is being prohibited in some schools.
  
- **Funding**
  - The bill Provides \$413,950,000 in recurring General Revenue Funds and \$5 million in non-recurring General Revenue Funds.

## **CS/HB 509: Postsecondary Fee Waivers – Ponder**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 509 would have continued efforts to make Florida the most veteran-friendly state in the nation by making post-secondary education more affordable for active duty service members.***

### **Highlights**

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

### **Background**

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

**Government  
Accountability  
Legislative  
Highlights**

## **CS/SB 10: Water Storage South of Lake Okeechobee – Bradley**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/SB 10 provides a needed solution to clean and store water south of the Everglades and reduce harmful, polluted water discharges into nearby estuaries.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill establishes options for creating additional water storage south of Lake Okeechobee, including the:
  - Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir project with the goal of providing a minimum of 240,000 acre-feet of water storage.
  - C-51 reservoir project with the goal of providing 60,000 acre-feet of water storage.
- These projects are largely paid for by responsible bonding, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, and General Revenue.
- The bill requires the South Florida Water Management District to request that the Army Corps of Engineers (corps):
  - Jointly develop a post-authorization change report to revise certain project components in the Central Everglades Planning Project;
  - Initiate a project implementation report for the EAA reservoir project if the post-authorization change report is not approved by the corps or Congress; and
  - Pursue reevaluation of the Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule that considers repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike and implementation of projects designed to reduce high volume freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee.
- The bill also includes several components to help potentially displaced workers in the EAA find jobs and grow the local economy.

### **Background**

- Lake Okeechobee sustains many south Florida communities and the Everglades Agricultural Area south of the Lake, but large water discharges into nearby estuaries can pose significant environmental and public health concerns.
- In 2016, discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers were credited for algae blooms that posed serious health threats, caused severe environmental damage, and hurt the economies on the east and west coasts of Florida.

**CS/CS/CS/HB 185: State Park Discounts for Foster and Adoptive Families – Lee**

*Signed into Law*

*CS/CS/CS/HB 185 provides free entry or reduced entrance fees into State Parks for certain Florida foster and adoptive parents.*

**Highlights**

- The bill provides families operating a licensed family foster home free family annual passes to Florida State Parks and a 50 percent discount on base campsite fees at Florida State Parks.
- The bill provides families who adopt a special needs child a one-time family annual entrance pass to Florida State Parks at no charge.
- Florida’s foster and adoptive parents build strong families and they should be able to enjoy Florida’s wonderful State Parks for free or at a reduced cost.

## **HB 207: Agency Inspectors General – Plakon**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 207 ensures state agency inspectors general are independent watchdogs of taxpayer dollars by prohibiting them from receiving bonuses based on work performance.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill prohibits agencies from offering a bonus to an inspector general or deputy inspector general based on work performance.

### **Background**

- Among their many roles, inspectors general at state agencies supervise and coordinate audits, investigations, and reviews relating to the programs and operations of their agencies. They are also in charge of detecting fraud and abuse.
- A recent report found the Florida Housing Finance Corporation hosted a dinner that served filet mignon, lobster, and top shelf liquor costing over \$50,000 in taxpayer money.
  - The agency's inspector general, along with 60 other employees, later received bonuses.

## **CS/HB 221: Rideshare Companies – Sprowls**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/HB 221 provides a statewide regulatory framework for ridesharing companies that will create a more competitive and predictable marketplace to ultimately benefit consumers.***

### **Highlights**

- Some of the notable provisions of the bill include the following:
  - Minimum insurance requirements for drivers;
  - A zero-tolerance policy on drug and alcohol abuse by drivers;
  - Extensive background and driving history checks for drivers;
  - Nondiscrimination and disability access compliance; and
  - Requirements to maintain records on riders and drivers.

### **Background**

- Before the passage of this bill, the varied patchwork of local laws regulating ridesharing companies created unnecessary difficulty for consumers. It also slowed the proliferation of the flexible jobs ridesharing companies can provide.

## **CS/CS/HB 599: Public Works Projects – Williamson**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/CS/HB 599 strengthens the free market by prohibiting local governments and other entities from placing restrictions or burdensome mandates on companies when 50 percent or more of the cost of the project is paid for with state dollars.***

### **Highlights**

- Excessive regulations from local governments and other entities stifle competition and prevent construction projects with significant state funds from being done at the lowest possible cost.
- The bill prohibits the state or a political subdivision, except when required by state or federal law, from requiring a contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier engaged in a public works project to:
  - Pay employees a predetermined amount of wages or prescribe any wage rate;
  - Provide employees a specified type, amount, or rate of employee benefits;
  - Control, limit, or expand staffing; or
  - Recruit, train, or hire employees from a designated, restricted, or single source.
- The bill provides that the state or a political subdivision that contracts for a public works project may not prohibit a contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier from submitting a bid on the project if such individual is otherwise qualified to do the work described.
- The prohibitions in this bill only apply to public works projects of which 50 percent or more of the cost will be paid from state-appropriated funds that were appropriated at the time of the competitive solicitation.



## **HB 671: Reemployment Assistance Fraud – La Rosa**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 671 gives the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) additional tools to fight reemployment assistance fraud in Florida.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill permits the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to provide the image file and signature of licensees to DEO pursuant to an interagency agreement to validate reemployment assistance claims and identify fraudulent or false claims for benefits.

### **Background**

- Presently, DEO does not have access to the DHSMV records of driver's license images or signatures while other agencies do. Having access to these records will allow DEO to more effectively fight fraud.

**CS/CS/SB 1018: Pollution [CS/CS/CS/HB 753 – Stone]**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/CS/SB 1018 ensures Floridians will be made aware of pollution spills in their local waterways and environment in a timely manner. The bill also cracks down on polluters who do not report a case of pollution in a timely manner.***

**Highlights**

- The bill creates the Public Notice of Pollution Act, which requires operators to provide notice of a pollution release to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) within 24 hours after discovery. In addition, DEP must post the notice to the internet within 24 hours after receiving the notice.
- The bill provides for \$10,000 in civil fines for operators who do not follow this new requirement.
- The bill provides reforms to the ranking process and funding for the rehabilitation of contaminated sites.
- The bill increases expenditures from the Inland Protection Trust Fund by \$5 million annually.
- Floridians deserve to know when their local waterways and environment are being polluted.

## **HB 1239: School Bus Safety – Eagle**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***HB 1239 strengthens penalties for drivers who cause serious injury or death to a child when a school bus is stopped.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill provides that in addition to any other civil, criminal, or administrative penalty, a person who fails to stop for a school bus causing or resulting in the serious bodily injury or death of another person is required to:
  - Serve 120 hours of community service in a trauma center or hospital; and
  - Participate in a victim’s impact panel session in a judicial circuit or attend a driver improvement course approved by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles relating to the rights of vulnerable road users relative to vehicles on the roadway.
- The bill provides for a fine of \$1,500 and a one-year driver license suspension for failing to stop for a school bus resulting in the serious bodily injury or death of another person.
- The bill provides that additional points are added to a driver license record for passing a stopped school bus.

## **SB 7022: Public Employees [HB 5007 – Caldwell]**

*Signed into Law*

***SB 7022 invests in our state employees by enacting reforms to the State Group Health Insurance Program and the Florida Retirement System (FRS). The bill also provides for pay raises for state employees, including corrections officers and state law enforcement officers.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill reforms the State Group Health Insurance Program by requiring the Department of Management Services to offer four health insurance coverage levels of at least a certain value to employees.
  - These additional options give state employees more choices and allow them to select a plan that best fits their needs.
  
- The bill provides for reforms to the FRS.
  - The bill allows renewed membership in the investment plan or one of the optional annuity retirement plans for certain former participants of those plans.
  - The bill expands survivor benefits for investment plan members killed in the line of duty to include all members of the investment plan and made the provisions retroactive to 2002.
  - The bill closes the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program to new members.
    - Currently, there are fewer than 30 members participating in this program.
  - The bill changes the default from the pension plan to the investment plan.
    - However, the election period is increased by three months and Special Risk Class employees (cops, firefighters, etc.) are not subject to this change.
  
- The bill provides for pay raises for state employees, including corrections officers and state law enforcement officers.

## **HB 11: Public Employee Union Recertification – Plakon**

*Passed House Only*

***HB 11 would have reformed the annual public employee union recertification process to increase transparency and held the unions accountable to the workers they represent.***

### **Highlights**

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

### **Background**

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

## **CS/CS/CS/HB 13: Community Redevelopment Agencies – Raburn**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/CS/CS/HB 13 would have provided needed transparency and accountability for community redevelopment agencies (CRAs).*

### **Highlights**

- Reports have found that several CRAs have misused taxpayer money and that all CRAs need better reporting and oversight.
- The bill would have required CRA board members to undergo four hours of ethics training each year.
- The bill would have required the Department of Economic Opportunity to post a list of inactive CRAs online.
- The bill would have required more oversight of each CRA’s budget process.
- The bill would have expanded the annual reporting requirements for CRAs to include audit information and performance data and required the information and data to be posted on the agency website.
- The bill would have required all new CRAs to be created by a special act of the Legislature.
- The bill would have required existing CRAs to receive support from a super majority of their governing board to continue operating. If they did not get the super majority vote, the CRA would have ended on the expiration date in their charter or on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2037, whichever was earliest.

## **CS/CS/HB 179: Veterans ID Card – Combee**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 179 would have created a Florida veteran ID card that veterans could have used to enjoy the benefits they have earned.***

### **Highlights**

- We should do everything in our power to make Florida the most veteran friendly state in America.
- The bill would have created a new veteran's ID card that would have been available to any honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.
- The ID card could have been used as proof of veterans status for:
  - Waiving registration or license fees for many types of businesses and occupations;
  - Expedited processing of an application for a license to carry concealed weapons or firearms; and
  - Obtaining veterans discounts at stores across the state.

### **Background**

- Florida is home to 1.5 million veterans and currently there is no uniform veteran ID card that can be used as proof of military service for the purpose of obtaining discounts at stores or waivers from various license and registration fees.
- Such cards are already available in states like Virginia and Delaware.

**CS/CS/CS/HB 479: Government Accountability – Metz**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 479 would have made government more transparent, efficient, and accountable to taxpayers.***

**Highlights**

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



## **CS/CS/HB 1137: Use of State Funds – Edwards**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 1137 would have prevented state employees from wasting taxpayer money on expensive hotels and dinners.***

### **Highlights**

- We strive to be fiscally responsible and just like we proved with our budget, we are not afraid to crack down on wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars.
- The bill would have limited the amount of money that state agency and judiciary branch employees can be reimbursed for lodging expenses while they are traveling for certain work events.
- The bill would have prohibited the use of state funds for the purchase of alcoholic beverages and the purchase of food or beverages for events related to state agency employee, board member, or vendor appreciation or recognition.

## **HB 6007: Red Light Camera Repeal – Avila**

*Passed House Only*

***HB 6007 would have prohibited the use of red light cameras in Florida.***

### **Highlights**

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

## **HB 7119: Florida Forever – Caldwell**

*Passed House Only*

***HB 7119 would have modernized and streamlined funding under the Florida Forever program to focus on acquiring conservation lands.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have amended the distribution of funding under Florida Forever to focus on the acquisition of conservation lands and consolidate the acquisition of interests in land into three categories.
- The bill would not have established any new spending requirements, but merely amended and reprioritized current distribution formulas.

### **Background**

- Since its creation in 1999, the Florida Forever program has a primary vehicle for purchasing environmentally sensitive lands for conservation purposes.
- In 2014, voters passed Amendment 1 to the Florida Constitution, which requires 33% of doc stamp revenues to go directly to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to finance or refinance the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements and resources for conservation lands among many other purposes.
- Given the broad scope of Amendment 1, Florida Forever is no longer the primary vehicle for buying land. It is time to refocus and consolidate funds within Florida Forever to focus on purchasing lands for conservation.
- This bill *would not* have cut funding to Florida Forever; it simply would have reinforced the mission of purchasing lands for conservation.

**Health & Human  
Services  
Legislative  
Highlights**

## **CS/HB 211: Cosmetic Product Registration – Latvala**

*Signed into Law*

***The Florida House is always looking for ways to ease job creation by cutting burdensome and unnecessary regulations. To that end, CS/HB 211 eliminates a significant burden on cosmetic manufacturers in Florida.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill removes the requirement that Florida cosmetic manufacturers register cosmetic products with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Drugs, Devices, and Cosmetics. Florida cosmetic manufacturers' products would be treated the same as cosmetic products manufactured outside of Florida but distributed and sold into Florida.
- Importantly, Florida cosmetic manufacturers would continue to be regulated. They would still be required to have their facilities permitted and be subject to inspection and investigation of their cosmetic products.
- Under this bill, Florida cosmetic manufacturers' products would be treated the same as cosmetic products manufactured outside of Florida but distributed and sold into Florida.
- Requiring Florida cosmetic manufacturers to register their products is both unfair and unnecessary.
- Only two other states require cosmetic manufacturers to register their products.

## **CS/CS/HB 249: Drug Overdoses – Rommel and Lee**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/CS/HB 249 will help prevent overdoses and help improve the immediate care needed by overdose patients.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill allows EMTs and paramedics who provide basic and advanced life support services to report controlled substances overdoses to DOH. If a report is made, it must contain the date and time of the overdose, the address of where the patient was picked up or where the overdose took place, whether an emergency opioid antagonist was administered, and whether the overdose was fatal or non-fatal. Additionally, a report must include the gender and approximate age of the patient and the suspected controlled substances involved only if permitted by the reporting mechanism. Reporters must make best efforts to make the report within 120 hours.
- If a report is made, it must be filed with DOH using the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) or other appropriate method. Within 120 hours of receiving the report, DOH must make it available to law enforcement, public health, fire rescue, and EMS agencies in each county. Additionally, DOH must make quarterly reports that summarize the data it receives.
- The data may be used to maximize the utilization of funding programs for licensed basic and advanced life support service providers, and to disseminate available federal, state, and, private funds for local substance abuse treatment services.
- The bill requires a hospital with an emergency department to develop a best practices policy to promote the prevention of unintentional drug overdoses by connecting patients who have experienced unintentional overdoses with substance abuse treatment services. The bill allows hospitals to determine what should be included in the policy, but expressly authorizes several items.

### **Background**

- Currently, the DOH maintains EMSTARS to collect data on prehospital emergency care from emergency medical services (EMS) providers. Participation in EMSTARS, and the transmission of electronic incident level data from EMS providers to DOH, is voluntary. EMSTARS data includes demographic elements for the provider agency, situation and scene information, patient care information, and outcome and disposition information. Additionally, EMSTARS may collect data elements for overdoses if EMS administers an opioid antagonist.

## **CS/CS/HB 557: Controlled Substance Prescribing – Duran and Silvers**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***The bill will improve and expedite the transfer of information from dispensers of certain controlled substances to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). This way, the Department of Health can react quicker to irregular or concerning activity. When it comes to certain drugs, time is of the essence.***

### **Highlights**

- Beginning January 1, 2018, the bill reduces the amount of time a dispenser has to report the dispensing of a controlled substance to the PDMP database from seven days to the close of the next business day after the controlled substance is dispensed.
- The bill requires PDMP reporting to be completed via the DOH-approved electronic system, and eliminates DOH authority to approve other options for submission.
- The bill requires the patient to be present and receiving care for the reporting exemption for a rehabilitation hospital, assisted living facility, or nursing home to apply.
- The bill authorizes certain health care employees of the U.S. Veterans' Administration to access the PDMP database in manner established by DOH. Such access is limited to the authorized employee's review of his or her patient's controlled substance prescription history.

### **Background**

- In 2009, the Legislature created the PDMP within the DOH. The PDMP employs a database to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of certain controlled substances. Dispensers of controlled substances listed in Schedule II, III, or IV must report certain information to the PDMP database, including the name of the prescriber, the date the prescription is filled and dispensed, and the name, address, and date of birth of the person to whom the controlled substance is dispensed. Currently, dispensers must report dispensing controlled substances to the database within seven days of dispensing the controlled substances via the internet or other DOH-approved format, such as on a disc or regular mail.

## **HB 589: Prescription Drug Price Transparency – Yarborough**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 549 doubles the number of prescription drugs posted on Florida’s prescription drug pricing website. This will allow Floridians to make cost-effective choices for themselves and their families.***

### **Highlights**

- MyFloridaRx.com is Florida’s prescription drug pricing website. The website includes 150 of the most commonly prescribed brand name drugs and associated generic equivalents and allows patients to compare prices of the drugs by location. You can search the website by county, city, and drug.
- HB 589 doubles the number of prescription drugs that must be posted to MyFloridaRx.com, from 150 to 300. Additionally, the bill codifies the current practice by which prescription drug pricing information is reported to AHCA, from quarterly to monthly. As a result, patients who query MyFloridaRx.com will have access to pricing information for more prescription drugs.
- Ultimately, drug price transparency empowers patients and lowers the costs of drugs by encouraging competition.



## **CS/CS/HB 807: Practices of Substance Abuse Service Providers – Hager and Harrell**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/HB 807 addresses abusive practices in the substance abuse treatment industry.***

### **Highlights**

- CS/CS/HB 807 implements several task force recommendations to address abusive practices in the substance abuse treatment industry. The bill:
  - Expands current prohibitions on referrals between licensed treatment providers and certain recovery residences;
  - Prohibits service providers, recovery residence operators, and third parties that provide advertising or marketing services from engaging in deceptive marketing practices and provides criminal penalties for violations;
  - Prohibits materially false or misleading statements or information about the identity, products, goods, services, or geographical location of a licensed service provider made to induce a person to seek treatment with that provider;
  - Expands the items that may not be used to induce a patient referral to include any “benefit”;
  - Adds patient brokering to the offenses that constitute “racketeering activities”;
  - Allows the Office of Statewide Prosecution to investigate and prosecute patient brokering and enhances penalties for higher volumes of patient brokering;
  - Requires entities providing substance abuse marketing services to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) under the Florida Telemarketing Act; and
  - Creates a new provision for applications for disclosure of patient records for individuals receiving substance abuse services in an active criminal investigation, which authorizes disclosure without prior notice.
- The bill strengthens DCF’s substance abuse treatment provider licensure program and improves the regulation of service providers. DCF must draft rules on minimum licensure standards and require certain providers to be accredited.
- The bill also expands DCF’s authority to take action against a service provider for violations on a tier-based system and includes fining authority.

### **Background**

- The Department of Children and Families (DCF) regulates substance abuse treatment and licenses service components. Florida does not license recovery residences, but allows voluntary certification.
- The Legislature appropriated funds for FY 2016-17 to the State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit to study how to strengthen investigation and prosecution of criminal and regulatory violations in the substance abuse treatment industry. The task force identified patient brokering and fraudulent marketing as key problems in the industry.

## **CS/CS/HB 1121: Child Welfare – Stevenson and Harrell**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/HB 1121 makes multiple changes to Florida’s child welfare laws to protect vulnerable children in the child welfare system.***

### **Highlights**

- CS/CS/HB 1121 changes the process that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the courts use to assess and order services for substance exposed newborns and children who enter households already under investigation or under the dependency court’s jurisdiction to improve risk assessment.
- The bill expedites permanency for children by making changes to the procedures the dependency court and DCF use to identify and locate prospective parents to require inquiry and search much earlier in the dependency case.
- The bill facilitates more participation by a child in his or her case planning, streamlines processes for child protective investigators, and aligns statute with current practice including conditions for return and Family Functioning Assessments.
- The bill permits hospitals and physician offices to release patient records to DCF or its contracted entities for investigations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

### **Background**

- Chapter 39, F.S., creates Florida’s child welfare system to protect children and prevent abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) Office of Child Welfare works in partnership with local communities and the courts to ensure the safety, timely permanency and well-being of children.
- DCF’s child welfare practice model (model) standardizes the approach to risk assessment and decision making used to determine a child’s safety. The model seeks to achieve the goals of safety, permanency, and child and family well-being. The model emphasizes parent engagement and empowerment as well as the training and support of child welfare professionals to assess child safety and emphasizes a family-centered practice with the goal of keeping children in their homes whenever possible.

## **CS/CS/HB 7: Certificates of Need for Hospitals – Miller, A.**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 7 would have removed hospitals from Florida’s “Certificate of Need” review program to increase competition, reduce costs, and increase quality of care.***

### **Highlights**

- HB 7 would have removed hospitals and hospital-based services from Florida’s CON review program. As a result, any person wishing to build or replace a hospital, or establish specialized services in a hospital, including inpatient complex medical rehabilitation beds, would only have to go through the AHCA licensure process. If an applicant met the licensure statutes and regulations, the applicant would be permitted to offer new or additional hospital facilities or services to patients in the state without first obtaining a CON from AHCA.
- The Florida House is focused on increasing access to affordable and quality health care for all Floridians. To do so, we continuously look for ways to apply free market principles and practices to the health care arena. This means encouraging and supporting competition by eliminating unnecessary regulation and empowering patients with more information and more options whenever possible. This also means standing up to entrenched interests that benefit from maintaining the status quo.

### **Background**

- The CON program, administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration, requires certain health care providers to obtain state approval before entering the market or offering certain new or expanded services. The CON program currently regulates hospices, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled (ICF/DD), hospitals and certain specialized hospital services.
- For these service areas, the CON program nearly eliminates competition in the health care market, causing unnecessary and unfair cost increases for consumers. These market-entry barriers prevent or delay innovation, and they incentivize competitors to push each other out of the market with lawsuits rather than competing based on quality.

## **CS/CS/HB 23: Public Assistance – Eagle**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 23 is a pro-family bill that makes changes to Florida’s Temporary Cash Assistance Program (TCA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to encourage families to be self-sufficient.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have encouraged recipients to comply with TCA program requirements.
  - The bill would have required certain government agencies to work with recipients to make individual plans with clear expectations so that TCA recipients know what they need to do and how to overcome problems.
  - The bill would have increased sanctions for recipients who fail to meet program requirements.
  - The bill would have improved workforce programs so individuals on TCA are better able to find work to support their families. Under the bill, at least three regional workforce boards would have had to create workforce programs using new techniques that work well for cash assistance recipients to help them become “work ready”.
- The bill would have sought federal approval to reinstate the federal asset limit to the SNAP program, which limit was eliminated in 2010 during the economic downturn.
  - If reinstated the asset limit would not count assets like primary residences, retirement accounts or vehicles used for work (like boats used for a fishing business or taxis).
  - The asset limit would help ensure that assistance goes to those who are truly in need.

### **Background**

- Florida’s Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Program provides cash assistance to needy families with children that meet eligibility requirements. To be eligible for full-family TCA, applicants must participate in work activities unless they qualify for an exemption.
- The Department of Children and Families (DCF) may sanction TCA recipients who fail to meet work activity requirements by withholding cash assistance for a specified minimum time or until the participant complies, whichever is later. The sanctions are either full-family (where no members of the noncompliant recipient’s family may receive TCA) or allow child-only TCA (where any children under 16 may continue to receive TCA).
- The 2010 elimination of the asset limit for the SNAP program helped more people qualify for food assistance in that tough time. Now, about 3.3 million Floridians – 1 in 6 people - are on SNAP. Fortunately, our economy has improved since then — for example, the state’s unemployment rate fell from 11.4% to 5.0%. Under the bill, the state would have sought federal approval to reinstate the federal asset limit eliminated during the downturn.

## **HB 145: Recovery Care Services – Renner and Fitzenhagen**

*Passed House Only*

***HB 145 would have expanded the use of ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) and allowed for recovery care centers (RCCs) to exist in the state. Doing so would have helped increase access to affordable and quality health care for Floridians.***

### **Highlights**

- HB 145 would have changed the allowable length of stay in an ASC from less than one working day to no more than 24 hours, which is the federal Medicare length of stay standard. This would help expand the use of ASCs.
- HB 145 would have created a new license for a RCC, defined as a facility with the primary purpose of providing recovery care services, to which a patient is admitted and discharged within 72 hours, and which is not part of a hospital. The bill defined recovery care services as:
  - Postsurgical and post-diagnostic medical and general nursing care to patients for whom acute hospitalization is not required and an uncomplicated recovery is reasonably expected; and
  - Postsurgical rehabilitation services.
- The Florida House is focused on increasing access to affordable and quality health care for all Floridians. To do so, we continuously look for ways to apply free market principles and practices to the health care arena. This means encouraging and supporting competition by eliminating unnecessary regulation and empowering patients with more information and more options whenever possible. This also means standing up to entrenched interests that benefit from maintaining the status quo.

### **Background**

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

## **CS/HB 161: Direct Primary Care Agreements – Burgess and Miller, M.**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/HB 161 would have helped expand the use of direct primary care (DPC) to increase access to affordable and quality health care for Floridians.*

### **Highlights**

- CS/HB 161 would have made clear that a DPC agreement and the act of entering into such an agreement are not insurance (including workers' compensation insurance) and not subject to regulation under the Florida Insurance Code (Code), including chapter 636, F.S.
- The bill would have also exempted a primary care provider, which included a primary care group practice, or his or her agent, from any certification or licensure requirements under the Code for marketing, selling, or offering to sell a DPC agreement.
- Preventing DPC practices from being regulated like insurance will help expand its use.

### **Background**

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

## **CS/CS/HB 363: Temporary Care of a Child – White and Williams**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 363 would have authorized organizations to provide assistance to families in crisis by finding volunteer respite families to care for children not in the child welfare system.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have authorized the parent of a minor child to execute a contract for care to delegate certain powers regarding the care and custody of the child to a volunteer respite family that is screened and trained by certain nonprofit organizations. The delegation would not have changed parental rights, obligations, or authority regarding custody, visitation, or support unless determined by a court to be in the best interests of the child.
- The bill included various requirements to ensure child safety. It:
  - Prohibited a parent or agent from receiving compensation related to the delegation of care and custody;
  - Limited the contract for care to a period of 6 months with an option for an extension of one 6-month period;
  - Required that either both parents sign the contract for care or notice be provided to a noncustodial parent;
  - Specified requirements for the execution, form, and revocation of the contract for care;
  - Required nonprofit organizations that assist with the temporary placement of a child with a volunteer respite family to conduct background screenings, provide support services and training to the families, maintain certain records, and register with the Department of Children and Families (DCF); and
  - Authorized DCF to provide information regarding temporary care programs to parents during a child protective investigation, if appropriate.
- The bill also would have exempted the nonprofit organization assisting with the placement and the volunteer respite family from licensure and regulation by DCF.
- The bill would not have prevented DCF or law enforcement from investigating allegations of abandonment, abuse, neglect, unlawful desertion of a child, or human trafficking.

### **Background**

- Families are often confronted with circumstances, such as drug abuse, illness, unemployment, or homelessness, which, if not appropriately addressed, can lead to abuse, neglect, or abandonment of their children. Safe Families for Children works to support such families in crisis in three areas of Florida: Naples, Orlando, and Tampa Bay. The organization assists parents with finding safe temporary placements to ensure their children do not enter the child welfare system while parents work to reestablish a safe and stable living environment.

## **CS/HB 375: Patient Safety Culture Surveys – Grant, M.**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 375 would have required hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) to conduct and submit patient culture surveys, which would have been published and made publicly available. Requiring such surveys would have empowered patients and increased quality.***

### **Highlights**

- CS/HB 375 would have required the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to develop patient safety culture surveys to measure patient safety culture in hospitals and ASCs. The surveys would measure the frequency of adverse events, quality of handoffs and transitions, staff comfort in reporting a potential problem or error, the level of teamwork within hospital units and the facility as a whole, staff compliance with patient safety regulations and guidelines, staff's perception of facility support for patient safety, and staff's opinions on whether or not they would undergo a health care service or procedure at the facility.
- The bill would have required facilities to annually conduct and submit the results of the patient safety culture survey to the Florida Center for Health Information and Transparency, and authorizes AHCA to adopt rules for the survey and submission process. Submission of the culture survey would have been a condition of licensure.
- AHCA would have had to include the survey results in the health care quality measures available to the public.
- The surveys help hospitals identify and fix problems. If published, the survey data could also help potential patients make decisions about which facilities are best for their own care and the care of their families.

### **Background**

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



## **CS/CS/HB 969: Pregnancy Support and Wellness Services – Toledo**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 969 would have codified the Pregnancy Support Services Program (FPSSP) in statute to help ensure the program continues and to make the program more transparent.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have created a new section of law for the program and lay out the program requirements.
- The bill would have authorized the Department of Health (DOH) to contract with Florida Pregnancy Care Network, Inc., the current contractor, to implement the program.
  - The Network, as it does now, would have organized crisis pregnancy centers across the state to provide services, which would have been the same services provided now.
- All the program requirements would have been consistent with the GAA proviso and the DOH contract.
  - For example, at least 90% of the contract funds would have had to be spent on pregnancy support and wellness services.
  - Also, all the services paid for by state funds would have had to be provided in a non-coercive manner and could not have included any religious content.
- The bill would have required the contract to include accountability measures, such as the submission of periodic reports, as well as sanctions for noncompliance.

### **Background**

- The FPSSP was established in 2005, to provide supportive counseling and services to pregnant women and their families that promote and encourage childbirth. Under contract with the DOH, Florida Pregnancy Care Network, Inc. manages a network of pregnancy help centers that provide direct services to women and families who voluntarily come to these crisis pregnancy centers.
- The FPSSP was originally created in proviso and is in the GAA every year, but is not in any statutory law.
- FPSSP services may include: free pregnancy testing; education and counseling on pregnancy, childbirth, parenting and adoption; referrals to state, community, and medical resources.
- Last year, the Legislature authorized the program to also provide wellness services like flu vaccines, smoking cessation programs, and screenings for anemia, high blood pressure, thyroid functioning, cholesterol, and diabetes. Such services are provided either by health care practitioners at the centers or outside health care practitioners under a contract with a center.
- The program also operates a hotline for women and families who want help in a crisis pregnancy. In Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the program fielded 5,796 hotline calls, and provided 120,929 services to 24,184 women and families.

## **CS/CS/HB 1397: Medical Use of Marijuana – Rodrigues and Edwards**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/CS/HB 1397 would have responsibly implemented Amendment 2. The bill would have created a robust regulatory system to meet federal guidance while ensuring patient access and safety.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have created a regulatory framework for the following:
  - Licensing medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) and marijuana testing labs;
  - Growing, processing, testing, transporting and dispensing medical marijuana;
  - Registering qualified patients and caregivers;
  - Certifying patients for medical use of marijuana; and
  - Obtaining medical marijuana by a qualified patient or caregiver.

### **Background**

- On November 8, 2016, Florida voters passed Amendment 2 to legalize marijuana for Floridians with debilitating medical conditions. The amendment requires the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt rules for patient and caregiver identification cards, caregiver qualifications, medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) and patient supply limits by July 3, 2017. DOH must begin registering MMTCs and issuing identification cards by October 3, 2017.

**Judiciary  
Legislative  
Highlights**

**CS/SB 128: Self-Defense Immunity [CS/HB 245 – Payne and Fischer]**

*Signed into Law*

***CS/HB 128 follows the intent of Florida's Stand Your Ground law and puts the burden on state, not accused, to prove by clear and convincing evidence the accused did not act in self-defense.***

**Highlights**

- The bill amends the Stand Your Ground law to shift the burden of proof to the State when Stand Your Ground immunity is asserted.
- Once a defendant raises a prima facie case of self-defense immunity, the State must overcome the asserted immunity with clear and convincing evidence.

**Background**

- Florida's Stand Your Ground law has been the focal point for media misinformation and exaggeration. However, despite how it has been portrayed, the law simply allows for a pre-trial hearing for anyone who claims that he or she acted in self-defense. The purpose of the law is to support the constitutional right to self-defense and to allow individuals who act in self-defense to avoid the lengthy and costly burden of a full trial.
- Unfortunately, courts ruled that the burden of proof during the pre-trial Stand Your Ground hearing is on the person claiming they acted in self-defense. I believe this interpretation of the law has been destructive to its intent; individuals who claim they acted in self-defense under Stand Your Ground now have to essentially put forth the costly and time consuming case the law sought to avoid.

## **CS/CS/HB 151: Proceedings Involving Minors or Certain Other Persons – Brodeur and Moskowitz**

*Signed into Law*

*CS/CS/HB 151 can help children get through difficult court proceedings by allowing the use of service animals in proceedings involving child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.*

### **Highlights**

- The bill expands the list of proceedings in which support animals may be used to include any proceeding involving child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
- The bill allows a court to set any conditions it finds just and appropriate when taking the testimony of a person who has an intellectual disability, including the use of a therapy animal or facility dog.
- The bill replaces the requirement for evaluation and registration of an animal pursuant to national standards with a requirement that an animal be trained, evaluated, and certified according to industry standards.
- Even if a service animal helps a child get through these difficult proceedings just a little bit, it is worth it.

## **SB 280: Sentencing for Capital Felonies [HB 527 – Sprowls]**

*Signed into Law*

***SB 280 fixes Florida's death penalty law in accordance with recent court decisions.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill requires the jury's recommendation of a sentence of death to be unanimous.
- The bill requires the jury to recommend life imprisonment without possibility of parole if the jury does not unanimously recommend sentence of death.
- The death penalty remains an important deterrent of crime, and this bill ensures its continued existence in our state.

### **Background**

- On the first day of the 2016 Regular Session, the United States Supreme Court found Florida's death penalty sentencing process unconstitutional, holding that the Sixth Amendment requires a jury, not a judge, to find each fact necessary to impose a sentence of death because a jury's "mere recommendation is not enough."
- To address this decision, the Legislature during the 2016 Regular Session enacted HB 7101 (hereinafter "the 2016 Act"), which took effect on March 7, 2016. In relevant part, the 2016 Act required the sentencing jury in a death penalty case to unanimously find at least one aggravating factor before the defendant could be eligible for a sentence of death. The 2016 Act also required at least 10 of the 12 jurors to concur in a recommendation of a sentence of death to the court.
- On October 14, 2016, the Florida Supreme Court (FSC) held in *Hurst v. State* that all of the findings necessary for a jury to impose a sentence of death must be determined unanimously by the jury and that a jury's recommendation of a sentence of death must also be unanimous. On that same day, the FSC issued *Perry v. State*, in which the Court held the 2016 Act unconstitutional because it does not require the jury to unanimously recommend a sentence of death. The FSC stated, "while most of the Act can be construed constitutionally under our holding in *Hurst*, the Act's 10-2 jury recommendation requirement renders the Act unconstitutional."

## **CS/HB 305: Law Enforcement Body Cameras – Harrison**

*Signed into Law*

***To ensure our officers can provide the most accurate recounting of events, CS/HB 305 requires law enforcement agencies that permit the use of body cameras to allow their officers to review recorded footage before writing a report or providing a statement.***

### **Highlights**

- CS/HB 305 requires a law enforcement agency that permits the use of body cameras to have a provision permitting a law enforcement officer using a body camera to review the recorded footage from the body camera, upon his or her own initiative or request, before writing a report or providing a statement regarding any event arising within the scope of his or her official duties.
- The bill further provides that any such provision may not apply to an officer's inherent duty to immediately disclose information necessary to secure an active crime scene or to identify suspects or witnesses.

### **Background**

- A body camera is a portable electronic recording device that is worn on a law enforcement officer's person which records audio and video data of the law enforcement officer's law enforcement-related encounters and activities.
- Current law in Florida requires law enforcement agencies that permit law enforcement officers to wear body cameras to develop policies and procedures governing the proper use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras and recorded data.
- Florida's body camera laws do not address whether a law enforcement officer may or may not review body camera footage before writing a report or making a statement about an incident.

## **CS/HCR 631: Groveland Four – DuBose and Fischer**

*Signed by Officers and filed with the Secretary of State*

***In CS/HCR 631, the Legislature acknowledges and apologizes for the abhorrent treatment by the state's criminal justice system on Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd, and Ernest Thomas.***

### **Highlights**

- In HCR 631, the Legislature acknowledges that Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd, and Ernest Thomas, the Groveland Four, were the victims of gross injustices and that their abhorrent treatment by the criminal justice system is a shameful chapter in this state's history.
- The Legislature also extends a heartfelt apology to the families of Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd, and Ernest Thomas for the enduring sorrow caused by the criminal justice system's failure to protect their basic constitutional rights.
- Lastly, the Legislature urges the Governor and Cabinet to expedite review of the cases of Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin, Samuel Shephard, and Ernest Thomas as part of their constitutional authority to grant clemency, including granting full pardons.
- The concurrent resolution requires a copy of the resolution to be provided to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the families of the Groveland Four as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed therein.
- Although no apology will ever be sufficient for the pain these men and their families suffered, by acknowledging the past we can prevent similar injustice from occurring again.

### **Background**

- Charles Greenlee, Walter Irvin, Samuel Shepherd, and Ernest Thomas, who are known as "the Groveland Four" were victims of abhorrent racism after being falsely accused of rape. Their story is one of a complete failure of the justice system that can never happen again.



## **CS/CS/HB 1237: Condominiums – J. Diaz**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/HB 1237 addresses many pressing issues related to condominium associations, including fraud and rampant abuse of power.***

### **Highlights**

- CS/CS/HB 1237 makes comprehensive changes to the state’s condominium laws.
- The bill creates new standards for access to records of condo associations.
- The bill provides for more protections against fraud by strengthening rules against kickbacks and conflicts of interests.
- The bill expands the power of condo owners and renters in association elections.
- The bill provides for the immediate removal of any officer charged with a crime related to condominium associations.
- The measures in this bill will help limit the amount of fraud and abuse that has unfortunately plagued our state’s condominium industry.

### **Background**

- A condominium is a form of real property ownership comprised of units that are individually owned and have an undivided share of access to common areas and a corresponding duty to pay assessments to fund the maintenance and repair of the common areas. Condominium associations are regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).
- Fraud in the board election process has significantly impacted some associations. A grand jury report from Miami-Dade County cited to an association election fraught with fraudulent activity.
- The grand jury report suggested in response to stories of fraud in board member elections that fraudulent activity in connection with the election of board members for the association should be subject to criminal liability. The report also suggested that destruction of official records of the association and other violations should be subject to criminal liability.

## **CS/HR 1335: Arthur G. Dozier School and Florida School for Boys at Okeechobee** **– Davis**

*Adopted by the House*

*CS/HR 1335 apologizes on behalf of the Florida House of Representatives to the boys who were confined to the Dozier School and the Okeechobee School and their family members, for the wrongs committed against them by employees of the State of Florida.*

### **Highlights**

- The resolution declares that the House of Representatives regrets that the treatment of boys who were sent to the Dozier School and the Okeechobee School was cruel, unjust, and a violation of human decency, and acknowledges this shameful part of the State's history.
- The House of Representatives expresses its commitment to ensuring that children who have been placed in the State's care are protected from abuse and violations of fundamental human decency.

### **Background**

- The Dozier school was first opened by the State of Florida in 1900 as a reform school for children, many of whom were sentenced to Dozier for minor infractions such as truancy or smoking.
- Throughout its history, reports of brutal beatings and suspicious deaths plagued the school. Many of the boys were subject to physical and sexual abuse, and a number of them died on the premises. The Okeechobee campus (Okeechobee School) was opened in 1955 and students experienced similar abusive practices.
- Both the Dozier and Okeechobee schools were closed in 2011, following investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
- More than 500 former students have come forward with reports of physical, mental, and sexual abuse by school staff during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

## **HB 7115: Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys – Harrison and Stafford**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 7115 implements recommendations made by the Dozier Task Force to better understand the failures that lead to the tragedies at the Dozier and Okeechobee schools and honor the victims.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill implements the three recommendations by the Dozier Task Force.
- The bill requires the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to convey portions of Dozier School property to Jackson County, including property on which Boot Hill Cemetery and the White House are located, and provides for the preservation of Boot Hill Cemetery and the White House.
- The bill requires DEP to prepare a proposal to conduct a feasibility study to locate previously unidentified potential burial sites through surface and sub-surface evaluation on all lands formally associated with the school.
- The bill names the Department of Law Enforcement’s Forensic Training Center in Pasco County the “Thomas Varnadoe Forensic Center for Education and Research.” Thomas Varnadoe died at Dozier School on October 26, 1934, just 34 days after he was admitted to the school. His remains were identified by USF after being exhumed as part of its investigation.
- The bill appropriates \$1.2 million from general revenue to the Department of Management Services to pay for the reinternment of remains exhumed from the Dozier School and establishment of the memorial.

### **Background**

- In 2012, researchers from the University of South Florida (USF) began an investigation to determine the location of children buried at Dozier School for Boys in Marianna in order to excavate and repatriate the remains to their families.
- In January 2016, the researchers issued a report of their findings. The researchers analyzed historical records and determined that nearly 100 boys aged six to 18 died at the school between 1900 and 1973. During the investigation, the researchers excavated 55 graves and discovered 55 sets of human remains on the school grounds, only 13 of which were located in Boot Hill Cemetery on Dozier school property.
- The researchers made seven positive identifications and 14 presumptive identifications of the remains.
- In 2016, the Dozier Task Force, which was created by the Legislature submitted its recommendations to the Legislature.

## **HB 1385: Domestic Violence – Nuñez**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***HB 1385 helps ensure that individuals convicted of domestic abuse face the punishment deserved and complete a program designed to reform the offender and have them take responsibility for their actions.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill requires a court to order certain domestic violence offenders to attend *and complete* a batterer’s intervention program (BIP). A failure to complete BIP will result in a violation of probation, subjecting the offender to further criminal penalty.
- The bill increases mandatory jail time for offenders who have been found guilty and who intentionally caused bodily harm to another, and further increase the penalty if, in addition to the previous two factors, the violence was committed in the presence of a related child under 16 years old.
- There is no room in this state for domestic violence.

**CS/SB 1520: Termination of a Condominium Association [CS/HB 7055 – White]**

*Signed into Law*

**CS/SB 1520 amends the process to terminate a condominium association to protect condo owners from bad actors who look to profit off of the forced dissolution of a condominium association.**

**Highlights**

- The bill provides additional legislative findings regarding the public policy supporting condominium termination laws regarding economic waste, impossibility, or optional termination.
- The bill removes the ability of a declaration of condominium to provide for a termination vote of less than the statutory minimum.
- The bill changes the vote that may reject an optional termination from 10 to 5 percent.
- The bill extends the re-vote delay after a failed vote from 18 to 24 months.
- The bill provides that all homestead owners are entitled to a potentially higher payout during a termination by a bulk owner, not just original purchasers from the developer.
- The bill increases disclosure requirements related to bulk owners which must be given to all voting interests before the approval of a plan of termination.
- The bill requires the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes (Division) to review within 45 days of receipt of a plan of termination from a residential condominium and determine whether the plan meets the requirements of the law.

**Background**

- Currently, there are condominium association members that own the vast majority of properties in their association. These “bulk” owners have time and again used dissolution for their profit without regard to the other owners or what affect dissolution might have to the value of their properties.

## **CS/CS/HB 7059: Juvenile Justice – J. Grant**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***CS/CS/HB 7059 helps prevent juvenile recidivism by helping identify and detain certain juveniles at particular risk of repeating offenses.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill addresses recidivism occurring when a juvenile delinquent is returned to the community while new charges are pending or while the juvenile is awaiting placement in a residential program.
- The bill establishes criteria to identify a narrow class of repeat delinquents, referred to as “Prolific Juvenile Offenders,” who must be placed in nonsecure or secure detention until the disposition of their pending cases.
- The bill requires secure detention for a delinquent awaiting placement in a nonsecure residential program.
- The bill provides that nonsecure detention periods are tolled on the date a violation of detention is alleged.
- The bill specifies that days served in any type of detention before a violation of detention do not count toward current law’s 21-day and 15-day detention limits, so that detention may be continued by the court after a violation.
- Children should not be excessively punished for youthful mistakes. However, in cases where a young adult demonstrates a consistent propensity to violate the law, we need to ensure that he or she is placed in detention so that the state may begin reform efforts.

### **Background**

- Statistics from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), based on Fiscal Years (FYs) 2007-08 through 2013-14, indicate for juveniles arrested or referred to DJJ that:
  - Fifty-five percent have been previously referred to DJJ for a felony;
  - Almost 29 percent have been previously referred to DJJ for a felony against a person or a firearm/weapon charge; and
  - Fifteen percent have been previously referred to DJJ at least four times.
- A news story reported last year by the Tampa Bay Times highlights the tragic consequences that can occur when juveniles are not prevented from reoffending. In the case reported, two 15-year-old girls and one 16-year-old girl were killed while fleeing officers in a stolen vehicle. Collectively, the three girls had been arrested for motor vehicle theft seven times during the previous year.

## **HJR 1: Judicial Term Limits – Sullivan**

*Passed House Only*

***To help ensure judicial accountability, HJR 1 would have proposed to place on the next general election ballot an amendment to the Florida Constitution to provide term limits for state appellate-level judges.***

### **Highlights**

- The state constitutional amendment proposed in HJR 1 would have barred state Supreme Court justices and District Court of Appeal judges from appearing on a ballot for retention if they have served 12 consecutive years in the same office.
- If approved by the voters, these new term limits would have applied to judges currently in office, but would not have included time served in office prior to January 9, 2019.
- This amendment would have helped reinforce the important principle that judicial service, like all public service, is about the citizenry, the institution, and rule of law, *not* about the individual.
- Term limits will help ensure that the Governor nominates the best candidate, not the one that will help extend his or her legacy the longest.

### **Background**

- Justices of the Florida Supreme Court and judges of the Florida district courts of appeal are appointed to office by the Governor. There are no limits on the number of terms of office that a justice or judge may serve, although each justice or judge is subject to removal pursuant to the merit retention process and is subject to a mandatory retirement age.
- Merit retention is the system of retaining appellate court justices and judges established by a 1976 state constitutional amendment. Newly appointed justices or judges face their first merit retention vote in the next general election that occurs more than one year after their appointment. If retained in office by a majority of voters, the justice or judge serves a full six-year term. Thereafter, the justice or judge is subject to a merit retention election every six years. No Florida justice or judge has ever lost a merit retention election.

## **HB 301: Supreme Court Reporting Requirements – White**

*Passed House Only*

***HB 301 would have helped ensure the Florida Supreme Court functioned efficiently, as members of the public expect and deserve.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have required the Florida Supreme Court to provide an annual report by October 15 of each year listing its cases without a decision or disposition beyond a 180 day period.
- The report would have had to include the case name, number and type, and the reason for the delay, among other requirements. The report would have had to be delivered to the Governor, Attorney General, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- A new reporting requirement for the Supreme Court would allow the public to determine whether any deficiencies exist in the court's functioning and indicate to lawmakers whether there is a need for reform.

### **Background**

- The Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, written and adopted by the Supreme Court, provide time standards for the resolution of various types of cases. Among the standards is that an appellate court render a decision within 180 days of oral argument or submission of the case to the court panel without oral argument. The trial courts and district courts of appeal must report every quarter all cases on their dockets that fall outside of the applicable time standard. This report is sent to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as part of the Supreme Court's constitutional duty to supervise the lower courts.
- The Supreme Court by practice also creates a report each quarter of the cases on its docket past the 180 day time standard, which it files with itself.



## **CS/HB 697: Federal Immigration Enforcement – Metz**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 697 would have helped the enforcement of federal immigration law.***

### **Highlights**

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

### **Background**

- Although the federal government has broad powers over immigration enforcement, federal immigration agencies rely on state and local law enforcement agencies to assist and cooperate in the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

**CS/HB 779: Weapons and Firearms – Combee**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/HB 779 would have reduced penalties for the unintentional and temporary open display of a firearm.*

**Highlights**

- CS/HB 779 would have reduced the first-time penalty for the unintentional and temporary open display of a concealed firearm from a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree misdemeanor to a \$25 non-criminal citation.
- The bill would have reduced the second-time penalty for the unintentional and temporary open display of a concealed firearm from a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree misdemeanor to a \$500 non-criminal citation.
- Florida’s concealed weapons permit laws are designed to allow those who undergo training and background checks to safely and discreetly exercise their second amendment rights. When someone is carrying their concealed weapon, it is possible that, through no fault of their own, their weapon may become temporarily visible. Lawful permit holders should not be criminalized for a harmless mistake, and this bill helps ensure that they won’t be.

**Background**

- Florida law generally prohibits the open carrying of firearms and certain weapons. Section 790.053, F.S., makes it a second degree misdemeanor for a person to openly carry on or about his or her person any firearm or electric weapon or device. This section does not apply to a person who has a license to carry concealed weapons or concealed firearms (licensee), if the licensee briefly and openly displays the firearm to the ordinary sight of another person, unless “the firearm is intentionally displayed in an angry or threatening manner, not in necessary self-defense.”

## **CS/HB 849: Concealed Weapons and Firearms on Private School Property – Combee**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/HB 849 allows property owners of certain schools to determine whether licensees can carry concealed weapons on their property.*

### **Highlights**

- Under CS/HB 849, a licensee would not have been prohibited by law from carrying a concealed weapon or concealed firearm on private school property if a religious institution is located on the property.
- The bill would therefore have allowed the private property owners of such types of property to determine whether to authorize or prohibit carry by licensees on their property.
- Private property owners should have the ultimate say on whether individuals with concealed weapons permits may carry on their property.

### **Background**

- Currently, Florida law, subject to limited exceptions, prohibits a person, including a person who has a license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm (licensee), from carrying such weapon or firearm at a school. The term “school” means “any preschool, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or nonpublic.” The only person excepted from this prohibition is a law enforcement officer.
- Florida law does not prohibit or address the carrying of a concealed weapon or concealed firearm by a licensee at a religious institution in this state. An owner of private property on which a religious institution is located may determine whether to authorize or prohibit concealed carry by licensees on the property. If prohibited, the private property owner can enforce the prohibition through trespass law.

**CS/CS/HB 7049: Child Exploitation – Spano**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/CS/HB 7049 would have fought the exploitation and sexual abuse of children by creating and strengthening certain criminal penalties.*

**Highlights**

- CS/CS/HB 7049 would have criminally prohibited persons in Florida from possessing, promoting, or transmitting morphed child pornography.
- The bill would have provided that offenses relating to the possession and transmission of child pornography may be charged as separate offenses based upon each image of child pornography and other proscribed items.
- The bill also would have clarified in conformity with a recent Florida Supreme Court decision that the sharing of child pornography via file servers is criminally prohibited.
- The bill would have created s. 794.10, F.S., to authorize criminal justice agencies to issue subpoenas for investigations involving sexual offenses against children and require the recipient of the subpoena to maintain the existence and contents of the subpoena as confidential.
- Our children are our most vulnerable citizens, and we should constantly evaluate new ways to protect them, particularly from exploitation and sexual abuse.

**Background**

- “Morphing” refers to a process in which a computer user distorts or transforms one picture into another. In recent years, individuals have started using this technique to create “morphed” child pornography. This includes sexually explicit images in which an actual child’s head has been superimposed onto an adult’s body.
- Federal law currently prohibits morphing, but Florida law does not.

**Public Integrity & Ethics**  
**Legislative**  
**Highlights**

**CS/HJR 7001: Six-Year Lobby Ban Constitutional Amendment – Metz**

**CS/HB 7003: Six-Year Lobby Ban – Metz**

*Both Passed the House Only*

*CS/HJR 7001 and CS/HB 7003 would have extended the current lobby ban from two years to six years to close the revolving door of former elected officials becoming lobbyists.*

**Highlights**

- **CS/HJR 7001** would have proposed an amendment to Florida’s Constitution to extend the post-service lobbying ban from two years to six years.
  - If passed by a three-fifths vote in both the House and Senate, the proposed constitutional amendment would have been placed on the 2018 ballot for voter approval.
- **CS/HB 7003** would have extended the current statutory lobby ban from two years to six years. The bill would have prevented legislators and statewide elected officers from lobbying their former government body for six years after leaving office.
- The six-year ban would have been the first of its kind and the strictest in America.

## **CS/HB 7021: Local Government Ethics Reform – Metz**

*Passed House Only*

*CS/HB 7021 would have made significant ethics reforms at the local level by making numerous changes to Florida’s Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees as it relates to local government officers, employees, and lobbyists.*

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have required certain elected local officers to file a more detailed financial disclosure.
- The bill would have expanded annual ethics training requirements for local officers.
- The bill would have expanded restrictions when a conflict of interest exists.
- The bill would have required lobbyists to register with a statewide database before they could lobby local government bodies.
  - **CS/HB 7023 (Yarborough)**, which was linked to CS/HB 7021, would have created the Local Government Lobbyist Registration Trust Fund within the Commission on Ethics.
- Ethics reforms should not stop at the state level. Local government officials, like state officials, should be held to the highest ethical standard.

## **CS/HB 7083: Ethics Reforms – Sullivan**

*Passed House Only*

***CS/HB 7083 would have amended laws related to conflicts of interest to help ensure government employees and elected officials serve the public and not use their positions for private gain.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill would have prohibited state and local officers or employees from soliciting a conflicting job.
- The bill would have required disclosure and reporting on offers of conflicting employment.
- The bill would have required state legislators and statewide elected officers to disclose changes in employment and pay raises immediately when the employer has interests in the legislative process.
- The bill would have imposed a two-year ban on agency directors from lobbying any state agency.



**Select Committee on  
Triumph Gulf Coast  
Legislative Highlights**

## **HB 7077: Triumph Gulf Coast – Trumbull**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 7077 ensures 75 percent of all BP economic settlement monies from the Deepwater Horizon incident remain dedicated to the eight disproportionately affected counties in Florida’s Panhandle region.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill requires 75 percent of all payments Florida receives pursuant to the BP settlement be immediately transferred from General Revenue to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund.
  - **HB 7079 (Trumbull)** creates the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund within the Department of Economic Opportunity.
- The bill authorizes Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to make awards for projects or programs that provide for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the disproportionately affected counties.
- The bill requires the board of county commissioners in each of the eight disproportionately affected counties to submit a list of projects to Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., that it or other elected local governing boards recommend for funding.
- The bill provides for the Speaker and Senate President to each appoint one additional private sector member from one of the four least populous disproportionately affected counties so that two such counties are represented on the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., Board of Directors.
- The bill extends the current requirement that a member of the Board of Directors refrain from having any direct interest in or other benefit arising from an award by the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., from two years to six years after their term ends.

### **Background**

- The eight disproportionately affected counties in Florida’s Panhandle include: Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Wakulla.
- In 2010, the BP Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig exploded and spilled oil into the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). The surface oil slicks harmed the beaches, bays, estuaries, and marshes of the five Gulf-bordering states and deeply harmed the economy of Florida’s Panhandle region.
- In 2016, BP reached a settlement agreement with the five affected Gulf states, including Florida. According to the settlement agreement, BP will pay Florida \$2 billion on a schedule through 2033 to resolve the economic damage claims arising from Deepwater Horizon incident. Florida received an initial payment of \$400 million in 2016.
- The Legislature created Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., under the Department of Economic Opportunity in 2013 to create and administer a trust or “recovery fund” (now called Triumph

Gulf Coast Trust Fund) for the benefit of the disproportionately affected counties. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., currently has an unpaid five-member Board of Directors.

**Ways & Means  
Legislative  
Highlights**

## **HJR 21: Limitations on Property Tax Assessments – Burton**

*Filed with Secretary of State*

***HJR 21 is a proposed constitutional amendment to permanently retain the 10 percent cap on annual non-homestead parcel assessments.***

### **Highlights**

- HJR 21 is a joint resolution to propose a constitutional amendment to permanently retain the current 10 percent cap on annual non-homestead assessment approved by voters in 2008.
- Subject to approval by 60 percent of the voters in the 2018 general election, the joint resolution provides that the proposed amendment will take effect on January 1, 2019.
- Passing this resolution and the constitutional amendment would ensure property owners avoid a substantial tax increase.

### **Background**

- The Florida Constitution requires all property to be assessed at just value (i.e., market value) on January 1 of each year for purposes of ad valorem taxation, subject to assessment limitations and exemptions in certain circumstances.
- In 2008, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment limiting annual assessment increases for most non-homestead parcels to 10 percent of prior year assessed value. This limitation does not apply to district school board assessments or in years when a property undergoes certain changes, including changes in ownership. Unless renewed, the 2008 amendment is set to expire on January 1, 2019.

## **CS/CS/HB 455: Tax Exemptions for First Responders and Surviving Spouses - Metz**

*Signed into Law*

*CS/CS/HB 455 implements an amendment to our state constitution to provide ad valorem tax relief to certain disabled first responders. Providing property tax relief for our brave first responders who become fully disabled as a result of injuries in the line of duty is a small way to show our appreciation for their sacrifice.*

### **Highlights**

- This bill implements a 2016 amendment to the state constitution by providing a 100 percent homestead tax exemption to first responders who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injury sustained in the line of duty.
- The bill also extends a 100 percent exemption to the surviving spouse of a totally and permanently disabled first responder, provided certain conditions are met.

### **Background**

- In November 2016, Florida electors approved a constitutional amendment that allows the legislature to provide homestead tax relief to first responders who are totally and permanently disabled as a result of injury sustained in the line of duty.<sup>13</sup> The amendment specifies that a causal connection between an injury and service in the line of duty may not be presumed, and that the term “disability” does not include chronic disease, unless injury in the line of duty was the sole cause of the disease.

## **HJR 7105: Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption – La Rosa and Jacquet**

*Filed with Secretary of State*

***HJR 7105 allows voters to decide whether to add \$25,000 to the homestead exemption.***

### **Highlights**

- Under HJR 7105, the homestead exemption from non-school property taxes increases the exemption on the assessed value greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000.
- The voters must approve the amendment at the 2018 general election before it takes effect.
- Floridians should be able to decide if they want a larger homestead exemption.
- The exemption would result in approximately \$645 million in savings to tax payers.

### **Background**

- The Florida Constitution requires all property to be assessed at just value (i.e., market value) on January 1 of each year for purposes of ad valorem taxation, subject to assessment limitations and exemptions in certain circumstances.
- One such exemption, known as the homestead exemption, is on the first \$25,000 of assessed value of a homestead property. A second homestead exemption is currently on the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000, with the exception of school district taxes.

## **HB 7109: Taxation – Boyd**

*Signed into Law*

***HB 7109 is a tax cut proposal that would return \$180.3 million to Floridians. This means more money in the pockets of students, veterans, parents, business owners, homeowners, and many other Floridians.***

### **Highlights**

The bill provides tax relief as follows.

- **Students:**
  - Back-to-School Holiday
    - Provides a three-day sales tax holiday from August 4, 2017, through August 6, 2017.
    - Clothing costing \$60 or less will be exempt.
    - School supplies costing \$15 or less per item will be exempt.
    - Personal computers priced \$750 or less will be exempt.
- **Business Owners:**
  - Sales Tax on Rental of Commercial Real Estate (Business Rent Tax)
    - Reduces the business rent tax from 6 percent to 5.8 percent.
- **Disaster Preparation:**
  - Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday
    - Provides a three-day sales tax holiday from June 2, 2017, through June 4, 2017.
    - Various supplies and dollar thresholds will be exempt from sales tax.
- **Property Taxes:**
  - Affordable Housing
    - Provides a 50 percent discount in property taxes to certain multifamily projects that provide affordable housing to low income persons and families.
- **Rural Areas:**
  - Rural Areas of Opportunity
    - Exempts purchases of certain building materials, goods and services used for new construction in Rural Areas of Opportunity.
    - Maximum is \$10,000 per parcel.
- **Corporate Income Tax:**
  - Contaminated Site Rehabilitation Tax Credits (Brownfields)
    - Increases the amount of available for Brownfields tax credits from \$5 million annually to \$10 million.
  - Community Contribution Tax Credits
    - Makes the program permanent with \$14 million in credits available annually.
    - Also available for sales tax and insurance premiums tax.



## **CS/HB 7065: Local Government Fiscal Transparency – Burton**

*Passed House Only*

**CS/HB 7065 would have promoted and enhanced local government fiscal transparency.**

### **Highlights**

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

**Special Session A  
Legislative  
Highlights**

## **HB 1A: Economic Programs – Renner**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***HB 1A transforms the state’s approach to economic development by ending corporate welfare. The bill dramatically increases transparency and accountability for VISIT Florida and Enterprise Florida, Inc., and ends unfair incentive programs in exchange for broad-based policy and investments in infrastructure and education.***

### **Highlights**

- The bill dramatically increases transparency and accountability in EFI and VISIT Florida. In doing so, the bill will help ensure EFI’s and VISIT Florida’s track records of using very poor judgement with taxpayer dollars come to an end. The bill funds EFI and VISIT Florida at \$16 million and \$76 million, respectively.
- The Florida House believes poor performing economic development programs and offices reward a select few at the expense of many, and we believe that is wrong. That’s why the Florida House is focused on eliminating such programs and offices so that we can focus more state resources on implementing policies that help all businesses, like lowering taxes, cutting burdensome regulations, and making smart investments in education and infrastructure.
- The bill creates the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. The fund will allow the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), at the direction of Florida’s Governor, to make critical, rapid investments in public infrastructure and job training that will benefit Florida’s economy and Florida’s workforce but not a specific company or corporation. The Grant Fund will receive an \$85 million non-recurring appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017-18.
- The bill makes additional investments in education and infrastructure consistent with the Legislature’s new broad-based approach toward economic development. The bill appropriates \$60 million in additional funding for higher education projects and initiatives and \$50 million to DEO for rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

### **Background**

- VISIT Florida was intended to be a public-private partnership, but taxpayers pay 86 percent of VISIT Florida’s budget.
- VISIT Florida lacks transparency and accountability and has used poor judgement in spending public funds:
  - VISIT Florida paid the rapper Pitbull millions of dollars to promote the state as a tourist destination. VISIT Florida refused to release the details of its contract with Pitbull. Pitbull later released the contract after Speaker Corcoran filed a lawsuit. In wake of the Pitbull debacle, VISIT Florida paid the outgoing President/CEO a \$73,000 bonus.
  - VISIT Florida paid \$11.6 million for a cooking show.
  - VISIT Florida paid \$9.1 million to Brand USA, an entity led by Christopher L. Thompson, for international advertising. Mr. Thompson once ran VISIT Florida and previously hired

the VISIT Florida executive who later awarded Mr. Thompson and Brand USA the \$9.1 million contract

- EFI lacks accountability and has used poor judgement in spending public funds:
  - EFI was originally designed to receive 50 percent funding from private businesses. Unfortunately, that number is closer to 10 percent, leaving taxpayers to foot the rest.
  - A former executive director hired a speech writer for over \$150,000, purchased custom furniture for \$92,000, and received a severance package of at least \$132,000.
  - EFI increased their executive payroll by \$600,000 over six years, but added only two employees.
  - A vast majority of EFI programs lose taxpayer money.
  - Notable bad EFI-lead deals include the following:
    - The state paid Digital Domain \$20 million and it went out of business.
    - The state paid Sanford Burnham over \$150 million and they are preparing to leave.
    - The state paid the Intl. Game Fish Association World Center Facility almost \$15 million and they left almost immediately after receiving the last state incentive payment.
    - State paid Torrey Pines almost \$25 million and they did not meet their employment goal.

**HB 3A: Florida Education Finance Program – Diaz, M.**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

***HB 3A honors the Legislature’s unwavering commitment to Florida’s children by increasing K-12 student funding to the most in the state’s history. The bill also keeps the Required Local Effort (RLE) at the same level as the last fiscal year to prevent a half billion dollar tax increase.***

**Highlights**

- The bill sets the RLE at \$7.6 billion which is the same as the RLE for Fiscal Year 2016-17; this will result in an approximately \$521 million tax avoidance to Florida property owners.
- The bill provides \$7,296.23 in total funds per student which is a \$100 increase over total funds per student provided in Fiscal Year 2016-17.
- The bill establishes a base student allocation (BSA) of \$4,203.95 in the FEFP for Fiscal Year 2017-18 which is a \$43.24 increase over the BSA for Fiscal Year 2016-17.
- The bill also funds in the FEFP the portion of the rate increase for the Florida Retirement System attributable to school districts in the amount of \$54 million which is included in the total funds noted above.

## **SB 8-A: Medical Use of Marijuana [HB 5A – Rodrigues]**

*Signed by Officers and Presented to Governor*

**SB 8-A responsibly implements the authorized medical use of marijuana for Floridians with debilitating medical conditions.**

### **Highlights**

- The bill complies with federal guidance ensuring continued access to medical marijuana in Florida.
  - The bill creates a robust regulatory system that meets the federal government’s priorities to avoid federal enforcement actions thereby ensuring continued access to medical marijuana in Florida.
- The bill treats marijuana as medicine to ensure patient safety.
  - The Constitution makes physicians the means of accessing medical marijuana, so the bill treats medical marijuana like prescribed drugs are treated in the law, but with added protections necessary for a Schedule II addictive controlled substance.
  - Smoking is not a delivery mechanism for any form of medicine in the United States; therefore, medical marijuana will not be smoked.
  - All medical marijuana products must be tested by specially certified labs to ensure products are free from harmful contaminants. Edibles must also meet Florida food safety regulations.
- The bill implements the will of the voters to legalize marijuana for debilitating medical conditions by ensuring access.
  - The Department of Health (DOH) must license current dispensing organizations as medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs).
  - DOH must then license 10 new MMTCs. Of the 10, DOH must first license qualifying prior applicants by August 1, 2017. Then, DOH must license the remainder of the 10 licenses by October 3, 2017.
  - The bill authorizes four additional MMTC licenses when patient population reaches 100,000 and an additional four MMTC licenses for every additional 100,000 patients thereafter.
  - The bill caps the number of medical marijuana retail dispensing facilities at 25 statewide and regionally based on percentage of state population.
  - The bill eliminates the 90-day waiting period under current law to give patients quicker access.

### **Background**

- In 2016, Florida voters passed Amendment 2 to legalize marijuana for Floridians with debilitating medical conditions. The amendment requires DOH to adopt rules for patient and caregiver identification cards, caregiver qualifications, MMTCs and patient supply limits by July 3, 2017. DOH must begin registering MMTCs and issuing identification cards by October 3, 2017.

# Appendix