

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAIOP

FROM: GrayRobinson

DATE: April 11, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 Legislative Session – Week 6 (April 5-9)

The House and Senate passed their proposed budgets this week, sending the Legislative Session into its next phase: Budget negotiations.

The Senate’s spending plan totals \$95 billion. The House plan is \$97 billion. However, unlike the upper chamber, the House budget includes funds from the American Rescue Plan. The state is expected to receive \$10.2 billion from the federal coronavirus relief effort over the coming year.

Upon the Senate budget’s passage, Senate Budget Chief **Kelly Stargel**, a Lakeland Republican, described the chamber’s comparatively modest proposal as a “worst case scenario.”

And while state economists have forecast a better fiscal outlook every time they’ve met this year — revenue estimates ticked up by \$2 billion Tuesday — Stargel said her chamber will prioritize frugality this year.

The Legislature also came to an agreement on a controversial plan to spend a portion of documentary stamp tax revenues, which are typically used to fund affordable housing, for environmental projects. Under the plan, the state would put \$200 million toward housing, and use \$111.7 million to fund efforts to combat sea level rise and another \$111.7 million for wastewater infrastructure grants.

Lawmakers maintain the infrastructure plan is not a “Sadowski sweep,” and note that the \$200 million funding level is more than the Legislature typically spends on affordable housing.

A developing environmental crisis at Piney Point, the derelict phosphate mine in Manatee County, led Sen. **Jim Boyd** — with Senate President **Wilton Simpson**’s blessing — to offer a budget

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amendment that would direct coronavirus relief funds to the cleanup effort. The total bill could be \$200 million or more.

The Florida theatre of the pandemic was full of drama this week.

On Sunday, 60 Minutes aired a segment accusing Gov. **Ron DeSantis** of entering a “pay to play” deal with Publix for exclusive rights to distribute COVID-19 vaccines in Palm Beach County. DeSantis called the story a “smear” and said he wanted to “hit them right between the eyes.”

Some prominent DeSantis’ rivals seized on the story, though more joined him in deriding the segment. Among them were Palm Beach County Mayor **Dave Kerner** and Florida Division of Emergency Management Director **Jared Moskowitz**, both of whom are Democrats.

Politics aside, the week saw case numbers tick upward slightly. Nearly 8,000 cases were reported on Thursday. Vaccinations accelerated faster, however. The high watermark came Wednesday, when the state administered nearly 150,000 doses.

As it stands, the state has recorded just over 2.1 million infections and nearly 35,000 deaths since the pandemic began. Meanwhile, about 25% of U.S. adults are now fully vaccinated. Florida is slightly behind the national average at 19%, or about 4.1 million.

Finally, the Governor’s office announced **Alex Kelly** was coming aboard as a Deputy Chief of Staff. Prior to the announcement, Kelly had served as Chief of Staff to Education Commissioner **Richard Corcoran**. He is also a former vice president for the Foundation for Excellence in Education, the school choice advocacy group founded by former Gov. **Jeb Bush**.

All of [these](#), a preview of [Week 7](#), our [Federal Spotlight](#) and current [Session Statistics](#) are detailed below.

Activities and Bills related to NAIOP – Summary List

Key Issues for 2021 As Determined at the NAIOP Summit

- Enacting provisions of the Georgia FAST Act in Florida;
- Phasing out the Business Rent Tax;
- Enforcing the Internet Sales Tax;
- Improving the State Fire Code, with particular regard to radio antenna requirements; and
- Monitoring Florida Building Commission membership and adding NAIOP member

Business Rent Tax – The Senate and House have collectively passed this bill and it is now ready to be sent to the Governor. As a reminder, the bill will enforce the online sales tax (bills summarized below). As well, the initial proceeds of the online sales tax will offset unemployment

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tax for businesses. When the unemployment fund has collected \$4.017 billion, the Business Rent Tax will be reduced from 5.5 to 2.0% with revenue gained from the online sales tax. We expect that to take place sometime in 2023 or 2024.

FAST Act – HB 1059 which increases time by which cities/counties must react to permits passed the House on April 1. In the Senate, SB 1788 passed the Rules Committee on April 6. It is now ready for the floor.

Fire Code – CFO Jimmy Patronis has included our language regarding in his official package (summarized below). As well, we are in a standalone package dealing directly with the radio communication antennae. This standalone package passed the House Commerce this week and now awaits a vote on the Senate Floor.

Detailed Activities and Bills related to NAIOPFL

The following are bills filed that impact (positively and/or negatively) the commercial real estate industry. Information that is **highlighted** is new as of this week.

Promoting Business Friendly CRE Regulations

Fire Prevention and Control – SB 360 (Hooper) and HB 415 (Botana)

Key Take Away

Requiring the authority having jurisdiction to determine certain minimum radio signal strength requirements for all new and existing buildings; authorizing the use of radio communication enhancement systems to comply with minimum radio signal strength requirements; extending the deadline to comply with minimum radio strength for fire department communications from 2019 to 2024 for permitting and from 2022 to 2027 for installation; providing an exception to the prohibition against installing or transporting certain radio equipment using law enforcement or fire rescue frequencies, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 17.

Commerce Committee – **Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-1 on April 6.**

House Floor – **Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 21.

Community Affairs - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

Banking & Insurance – Passed by vote of 9-0 on March 30.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

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Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Construction Defects – HB 21 (Andrade) and SB 270 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Defining the term “material violation”; requiring that a person submit a construction defect claim to the warranty provider before bringing a cause of action; requiring that a claimant submit a construction defect claim to the warranty provider before serving a notice of claim; authorizing a person served with a copy of a notice of claim to perform a reasonable inspection of the property subject to the claim; requiring, instead of authorizing, a person served with a notice to serve a copy of the notice to specified persons under certain circumstances, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 30, 2020.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 10-8 on February 17.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-5 on March 8.

Judiciary Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 21.

Judiciary – Approved by vote of 9-1 on February 15.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill hasn’t moved much. Its chances of passage are slim, but it could be part of an amendment later.

Building Design – HB 55 (Overdorf) and SB 284 (Perry)

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide that regulations relating to building design elements may not be applied to residential dwellings unless they are historic properties; provides affected party may submit certain local government regulations to Florida Building Commission for review; provides for enforcement of such regulation.

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House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 10.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on February 10.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 3.

Commerce – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 18-5 on March 9.

House Floor – The bill was TP'd on Second Reading. It is expected to come up next week.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 11.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 16.

Regulated Industries – Passed by vote of 8-1 on March 23.

Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

County and Municipal Code Enforcement – SB 60 (Bradley) and HB 883 (Overdorf)

Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit code inspectors designated by boards of county commissioners from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints; require persons who report potential violations of codes and ordinances to provide specified information to the board before an investigation occurs; prohibit code inspectors designated by governing bodies of municipalities from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 13-4 on March 9.

Public Integrity & Elections Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 16-1 on March 29.

State Affairs Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 5.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 6-3 on February 2.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Approved by vote of 4-1 on March 3.

Rules – Approved by vote of 11-4 on March 11.

Senate Floor – Passed by vote of 27-11 on March 25.

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Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Home-based Business – SB 266 (Perry) and HB 403 (Giallombardo)

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide legislative findings and intent; specify conditions under which a business is considered a home-based business; authorize a home-based business to operate in a residential zone under certain circumstances; preempt to the state the ability to regulate or license home-based businesses; prohibit a local government from certain actions relating to the licensure and regulation of home-based businesses, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 10-6 on February 18.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 14-8 on March 9.

House Floor – Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 14.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 6-3 on March 10.

Commerce and Tourism – Passed by vote of 9-2 on March 22.

Rules – **On Committee Agenda for April 14.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Engineers – SB 572 (Baxley) and HB 931 (Toledo)

Key Take Away

Prohibiting a person who is not licensed as an engineer from using a specified name or title; prohibiting, after a specified date, a person who is not a licensed professional structural engineer from using specified names and titles or practicing professional structural engineering; authorizing the Board of Professional Engineers to refuse to certify an applicant for a professional structural engineer license for certain reasons; exempting certain applicants who apply for licensure before a specified date from having to pass a certain national examination, under certain conditions; specifying acts that constitute grounds for disciplinary action, including civil penalties, against a professional structural engineer, etc.

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House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 11.
Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.
Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 12
Regulated Industries – Approved by vote of 9-0.
Commerce & Tourism – Approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15.
Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If the House bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Florida Building Code – SB 1146 (Brodeur) and HB 401 (Fetterhoff)

Key Take Away

Provides that assisting living facilities are exempt from certain compliance standards; authorizes substantially affected person to file petition with Florida Building Commission to review local government regulations; provides requirements for such petition; provides requirements for commission when considering petition; requires commission to issue nonbinding advisory opinion within specified timeframe; authorizes commission to issue errata to code; prohibits local government from requiring certain contracts for issuance of building permit; requires evaluation entities that meet certain criteria to comply with certain standards.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.
Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on March 2.
Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on April 1.
Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 30.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.
Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the House, but is stalled in the Senate. If the Senate bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Alcoholic Beverage Licenses – HB 329 (Tomkow) and SB 134 (Brandes)

Key Take Away

Authorizes food service establishments to sell or deliver alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption if requirements are met; revises provisions that authorize restaurant to allow patrons to remove partially consumed bottles of wine from restaurant for off-premises consumption; revises requirements for sale of alcoholic beverages by certain vendors.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 14-0 on February 18.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 24-0 on March 16.

House Floor - Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 13.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 4, 2020.

Regulated Industries – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce and Tourism – N/A

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the House, but is stalled in the Senate. If the Senate bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Tolling and Extension of Permits and Other Authorizations During States of Emergency– SB 912 (Albritton) and HB 859 (Grant)

Key Take Away

Adding consumptive use permits issued under part II of ch. 373, F.S., and specified development permits and development agreements to the list of permits and other authorizations that are tolled and extended during a state of emergency declared by the Governor for a natural emergency; providing for retroactive application.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Approved by vote of 16-0 on March 9.

Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 22-0 on March 29.

State Affairs Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 21-0 on April 6.

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.
Community Affairs – Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.
Environment and Natural Resources – Committee Substitute approved by vote 6-0 on March 22.
Rules – Passed by vote of 15-0 on March 31.
Senate Floor – Passed by vote of 40-0 on April 7.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills have passed all committees. Bill will likely be sent to governor.

Public Safety Emergency Communications Systems– HB 587 (Snyder) and SB 1902 (Rodrigues)

Key Take Away

Revises requirements for minimum radio signal strength for fire department communications; requires State Fire Marshal to adopt minimum radio coverage design criteria for public safety emergency communications systems & minimum standards for interior radio coverage & signal strength in buildings; requires local jurisdiction's public safety emergency communications system be certified as meeting or exceeding certain criteria before new & existing buildings are required to install, or to be assessed for, two-way radio communications enhancement systems; requires local jurisdictions to produce radio coverage heatmaps; prohibits local jurisdictions from withholding certificates of occupancy under certain circumstances.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 29.
Insurance & Banking Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.
Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.
Banking and Insurance – Awaiting Hearing.
Appropriations – N/A.
Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes.....dead.

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Building Inspections – HB 667 (Mooney) and SB 1382 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Requires certain counties & enforcement agencies allow requests for inspections to be submitted electronically; provides acceptable methods of electronic submission; authorizes enforcement agencies to perform virtual inspections; requires refund of fees in certain circumstances; requires surcharges be recalculated under certain conditions.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 1.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 2.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on April 1.

Commerce Committee –Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 5-0 on March 31.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Application for and Issuance of Building Permits– HB 1059 (Robinson) and SB 1788 (Boyd)

Key Take Away

Application for and Issuance of Building Permits: Requires county that issues building permits & local enforcement agency to post certain information on their websites; authorizes all components to completed application be submitted electronically or in person; requires local enforcement agency, local government, or local building department to reduce permit fee by specified amount for failing to meet certain deadlines; prohibits authority that issues building permit from requiring applicant to provide specified contracts as part of application for certain construction.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 17.

Regulatory Reform Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 17-0 on March 2.

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 21-0 on March 24.

House Floor – Passed by vote of 113-0 on April 1, sent to Senate.

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Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 9-0 on March 10.

Governmental Oversight and Accountability – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 5-0 on March 31.

Rules – Passed by vote of 16-0 on April 6.

Senate Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. Bill will likely be sent to Governor.

Department of Financial Services – SB 1408 (Burgess) and HB 1209 (Fetterhoff)

Key Take Away

Requires State Risk Management Trust Fund to provide insurance for certain firefighter cancer-related benefits; prohibits persons from acting or advertising themselves as funeral directors, embalmers, authorizes contractor repairing certain existing fire alarm systems to begin work after filing application for required permit; revises continuing education requirements for certain persons licensed to solicit, sell, or adjust insurance; provides exemption from diligent-effort requirement for surplus lines agents exporting contracts or endorsements providing flood coverage; extends deadline for certain buildings to comply with minimum radio signal strength requirement under Florida Fire Prevention Code; provides that certain persons serving as volunteer firefighters may serve as regular or permanent firefighters for limited period.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 22.

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on March 17.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-0 on April 7.

Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.

Banking and Insurance – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 10.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the House, but is stalled in the Senate. If the Senate bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Licensure Requirements for Land Surveyors – HB 821 (Mariano) and SB 1342 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Authorizing an exiled professional to substitute specified lawful practice of profession for education requirement for examination; revises education requirements for licensure; provides that specified work experience or completion of specified apprenticeship program may be substituted for education requirements for licensure as land surveyor or mapper; provides applicant who holds license from other state, jurisdiction, or territory, & has certain experience in practice of surveying & mapping may take licensure examination to practice as land surveyor or mapper in this state.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Regulatory Reform – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 13-5.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 11-4 on April 1.

Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Regulated Industries – TP'd in committee on March 9.

Commerce and Tourism – N/A.

Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: The bill hasn't moved much. Its chances of passage are slim, but it could be part of an amendment later.

Department of Business and Professional Regulation – HB 1517 (Duggan) and SB 1966 (Diaz)

Key Take Away

Revises & provides requirements relating to electronic reporting, application fee schedules, weight of boxing gloves, fingerprint processing procedures, proof of occupancy of premises, food service establishment audit schedules, delinquency of payment conditions, rules related to submission of certain complaints, & location of Office of the Condominium Ombudsman.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.

Regulatory Reform – Committee Substitute approved by vote 14-0 on March 24.

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State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – Committee
Substitute approved by vote of 14-0 on April 7.
Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.
Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-0 on March 30.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.
Rules – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Promote Feasible Sustainability Initiatives

Resiliency – SB 514 (Rodrigues) and HB 315 (LaMarca)

Key Take Away

Establishing the Statewide Office of Resiliency within the Executive Office of the Governor; creating the Statewide Sea-Level Rise Task Force adjunct to the office; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to contract for specified services, upon request of the task force; requiring the Environmental Regulation Commission to take certain action on the task force's recommendations, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.
Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Appropriations Committee – N/A.
State Affairs Committee – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.
Environment and Natural Resources – Passed by vote of 6-0 on February 15.
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, & General Government – Awaiting Hearing.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes.....dead.

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Renewable Energy – SB 208 (Brandes) and HB 775 (Omphroy)

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize owners of commercial or industrial businesses, or third parties contracted by such owners, to install, maintain, and operate a renewable energy source device on or about the structure in which the business operates or on a property the business owns or leases; authorizes owners or contracted third parties to sell electricity generated from the device to certain businesses regardless of whether the device is located in a utility's service territory, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 4.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee – N/A.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 7, 2020.

Regulated Industries – Passed by vote of 9-0 on March 23.

Commerce and Tourism – Awaiting Hearing.

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes....dead.

Renewable Energy – HB 539 (Byrd) and SB 896 (Brodeur)

Key Take Away

Provides definitions of terms "biogas" & "renewable natural gas"; revises definition of term "renewable energy" to include certain energy created to displace traditional fuel sources.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 17-0 on March 9.

Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote 17-1 on March 23.

Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 22-0 on April 6.

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute approved by vote 7-1 on March 16.

Environment and Natural Resources – Passed by vote of 3-2 on March 29.

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Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Soil and Groundwater Contamination – SB 1054 (Broxen)

Key Take Away

Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to make information relating to areas of PFAS contamination available to certain governmental entities; requiring the department to provide constructive notice to local governmental entities and to certain property owners and residents when the department issues a site rehabilitation completion order that relies on intuitional controls not recorded in public records; requiring the department to adopt rules for statewide cleanup target levels for PFAS in soils and groundwater; providing that a person who executes a PFAS voluntary site rehabilitation agreement with the department is immune from and has no liability for certain claims under certain circumstances.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 2.

Environment and Natural Resources – Committee Substitute approved by vote 6-0 on March 22.

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes....dead.

State Preemption of Energy Infrastructure Regulation – SB 856 (Hutson) and HB 839 (Fabricio)

Key Take Away

Prohibits local government from regulating energy infrastructure; preempts such regulation to state.

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House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 12-6 on March 9.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 15-0 on April 1.

Commerce Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 7-2 on March 9.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute Approved by vote of 6-3 on March 16.

Rules – Awaiting hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Public Financing of Potentially At-risk Structures – SB 1550 (Rodriguez)

Key Take Away

Providing that coastal building zones are areas at risk due to sea level rise and coastal structures within those areas are potentially at-risk structures; requiring state-financed constructors to include certain flood mitigation strategies in sea level impact projection studies.

House Approval Milestones – No Bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 23.

Environment and Natural Resources – Passed by vote of 6-0 on March 22.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes.....dead.

Promote Fair Taxation

Internet Sales Tax Enforcement – SB 50 (Gruters) and HB 15 (Clemons)

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Key Take Away

If passed, would revise definitions for “retail sale” and “mail order sale” to capture internet sales, and thus enforce the sales tax on internet sales. Amended to require certain amounts to be deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund during specified periods and to offset the Business Rent Tax through a reduction from 5.5 to 2.0%.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 30, 2020.

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 16-2 on March 11.

Commerce – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 23-0 on March 29.

House Floor – **Substituted for SB 50.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 18, 2020.

Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote 11-0 on January 25.

Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 8-0 on February 18.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-0 on March 4.

Senate Floor - **Enrolled.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate. Bill will be sent to Governor.

Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday – SB 598 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Providing exemptions from the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain clothing, wallets, bags, school supplies, personal computers, and personal computer-related accessories during a specified timeframe; defining terms; specifying locations where the exemptions do not apply; authorizing certain dealers to opt out of participating in the tax holiday, subject to certain requirements, etc.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 13.

Commerce and Tourism – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 11-0 on February 15.

Finance and Tax – Approved by vote of 8-0 on March 11.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If a House bill doesn’t start moving next week, it is likely dead.

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Sales Tax Holiday for Disaster Preparedness Supplies – SB 734 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

Providing exemptions from the sales and use tax for specified disaster preparedness supplies during a specified timeframe; requiring purchasers of certain items to furnish a specified affidavit and information to the selling dealer; providing a criminal penalty for furnishing a false affidavit with certain intent; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 22.

Commerce and Tourism – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 11-0 on February 15.

Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 8-0 on March 11.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If a House bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Tax Exemption for Affordable Housing – HB 563 (Anthony Rodriguez) and SB 674 (Ana Maria Rodriguez)

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize counties and municipalities to adopt ordinances to grant ad valorem tax exemptions to property owners whose properties are used for the governmental or public purpose of providing affordable housing to certain persons or families; specifying procedures in the event property is transferred for other purposes; specifying procedures in the event an exemption is improperly granted as a result of certain acts by the property appraiser, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 28.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Ways & Means Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 15.

Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.

Finance and Tax – N/A.

Appropriations – N/A.

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Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes....dead.

Impact Fees – HB 337 (DiCeglie) and SB 750 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

Specifies instances when local government or special district may collect impact fee; requires local governments & special districts to credit against collection of impact fee any contribution related to public facilities; provides annual limitations on impact fee increases; requires school districts to report specified items regarding impact fees; requires specified entities to file affidavit attesting that impact fees were appropriately collected & expended.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 19.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 13-5.

Ways & Means Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 15-2 on March 31.

State Affairs Committee – Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote 5-3 on March 24.

Finance and Tax – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 6-2 on March 31.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday – HB 637 (DiCeglie) and SB 302 (Taddeo)

Key Take Away

Defining the term “small business”; providing that small businesses are not required to collect the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain items of tangible personal property during a specified timeframe; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules; providing an appropriation.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 1.

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Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting Hearing.
Commerce Committee – N/A.
Appropriations – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 18.
Commerce and Tourism – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15.
Finance and Tax – Passed by vote of 7-0 on March 25.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If the House bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Tax Refund Program for Qualified Target Industry Businesses – SB 982 (Gruters) and HB 6071 (LaMarca)

Key Take Away

Deleting a provision prohibiting the certification of applicants after a specified date.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 10.
Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Ways & Means Committee – N/A.
Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 1.
Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote of 10-0 on March 9.
Finance and Tax – Approved by vote of 8-0 on March 18.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If the House bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Government Property Tax Exemptions – HB 1555 (Harding) and SB 1702 (Hutson)

Key Take Away

Revising the types of lessees whose purposes and functions are deemed to be governmental, municipal, or public purposes or functions; providing exemptions from ad valorem taxes for certain real property.

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House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 1.
Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Ways & Means Committee – N/A.
Commerce Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 25.
Community Affairs – Awaiting Hearing.
Finance and Tax – N/A.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes....dead.

Limitation on Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes – HB 1377 (Chaney) and SB 1182 (Brandes)

Key Take Away

Proposes amendment to State Constitution to authorize Legislature to prohibit consideration of changes or improvements made to real property used for residential purposes to improve property's resistance to flood damage in determining assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 22.
Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 17-0 on March 15.
Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting Hearing
State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.
Community Affairs – Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10.
Finance and Tax – Awaiting Hearing.
Appropriations – N/A.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: The bill hasn't moved much. Its chances of passage are slim, but it could be part of an amendment later.

Tax Administration – HB 1241 (Stevenson) and SB 7068 (Finance and Tax Committee)

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Key Take Away

Requires tax collectors to accept late payments of prepaid property taxes; specifies severance tax rate for titanium; revises conditions for sales tax exception for tangible personal property exported out of state; specifies application requirements & procedures for forwarding agent; specifies procedures regarding forwarding agents and reporting tax; provides criminal penalties for certain violations; revises recordkeeping requirements for dealers collecting sales & use tax; provides that stolen sales tax revenue may be aggregated for purposes of determining grade of criminal offenses; authorizes DOR to publish list of forwarding agents' addresses on its website.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 24.

Ways & Means – Approved by vote of 16-0 on March 11.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote 27-0 on March 22.

House Floor – Read Third Times, Passed by vote of 115-0 on March 31.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 22.

Finance and Tax – Passed by vote of 7-0 on March 25.

Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions – SB 2512 (PCB bill by Appropriations) and HB 5401 (Tomkow)

Key Take Away

Revising and deleting distributions of the documentary stamp tax; providing that specified distributions may not be transferred to the General Revenue Fund; revising the purposes for which distributions may be made from the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 25.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 19-10 on March 31.

House Floor – Read Third time, substituted for SB 2512.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed March 26.

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 12-8 on March 31.

Senate Floor – Enrolled.

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Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate. Bill will be sent to Governor.

Collaborative Growth Management

State Housing Funds – SB 510 (Hooper) and HB 13 (Killebrew)

Key Take Away

If passed, would protect Housing Trust funds by exempting State Housing Trust Fund & Local Government Housing Trust Fund from provision authorizing Legislature, in GAA, to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to Budget Stabilization Fund & General Revenue Fund

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 30.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing.
Appropriations Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 8.

Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 9-0 on February 2.
Finance & Tax – Passed by vote of 7-1 on February 18.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If the House bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Growth Management – HB 59 (McClain) and SB 496 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Requires local governments to include property rights element in their comprehensive plans; provides statement of rights that local government may use; requires local government to adopt property rights element by specified date; prohibits local government's property rights element from conflicting with statutorily provided statement of rights; provides that certain property owners are not required to consent to development agreement changes; prohibits municipality from annexing specified areas; requires DOT to afford right of first refusal to certain individuals; provides requirements & procedures for right of first refusal; authorizes certain developments of regional impact agreements to be amended.

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House Approval Milestones – Filed on December 10, 2020.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 4.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on February 17.

State Affairs – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 20-3 on March 10.

House Floor- **Enrolled.**

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 7.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 3.

Judiciary – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 11-0 on March 15.

Rules – Committee Substitute approved by vote 17-0 on March 25.

Senate Floor – **Substituted for HB 59.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Passed the House and Senate. Bill will be sent to Governor.

Small Scale Development Amendments – HB 487 (Duggan)

Key Take Away

Revises acreage thresholds adopting an amendment using a small scale development amendment.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 17-1 on March 3.

Commerce Committee – Approved by vote of 22-1 on March 9.

State Affairs Committee – Approved by vote of 20-3 on March 17.

House Floor – Read Third time, Passed by vote of 103-9 on April 1.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the House, but does not have a bill in the Senate. If a Senate bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Promote Economic Prosperity

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**Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19 – HB 7 (McClure) and SB 72 (Brandes) -
Approved by Governor, Chapter No. 2021-001, on March 29**

Key Take Away

Provides requirements for civil action based on COVID-19-related claim; provides that plaintiff has burden of proof in such action; provides statute of limitations; provides retroactive applicability.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote 11-6 on January 13.
Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Passed by vote 11-6 on February 3.
Judiciary Committee - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 14-7 on February 16.
House Floor – Sent to Senate and Referred to Rules.

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 6.

Judiciary – Approved by vote 7-4 on January 25.
Commerce and Tourism Committee – Approved by vote of 7-4 on March 3.
Rules – Committee Substitute passed by vote of 10-5 on March 11.
Senate Floor – Enrolled.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill has passed, the Senate version was signed into law by the Governor on March 29.

Evidentiary Standards for Actions Arising During an Emergency – HB 579 (Melo)

Key Take Away

Provides that specified actions taken by business during declared emergencies may not be used as evidence in certain civil causes of action.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 29.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 14-1 on March 12.
Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee – Passed by vote of 17-1 on March 24.
Judiciary Committee – Passed by vote of 19-0 on March 29.
House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the House, but does not have a bill in the Senate. If a Senate bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

Governmental Actions Affecting Private Property Rights – HB 421 (Tuck) and SB 1876 (Albritton)

Key Take Away

Revises notice of claim requirements for property owners; creates presumption that certain settlement offers protect public interest; specifies property owners retain option to have court determine awards of compensation; authorizes property owners to bring claims against governmental entities in certain circumstances; authorizes property owners to bring actions to declare prohibited exactions invalid; provides for resolution of disputes concerning comprehensive plan amendments under Florida Land Use & Environmental Dispute Resolution Act.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 26.

Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Approved by vote of 15-3 on March 4.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 15-2 on April 1.

Judiciary Committee- Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Judiciary - Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-4 on March 22.

Community Affairs – Passed by vote of 6-3 on March 30.

Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Committee Substitute combines this bill with HB 1101.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Electronic Legal Documents – HB 483 (Altman) and SB 848 (Powell)

Key Take Away

Clarifies that supervising witnessing of electronic record by online notary public is notarial act; specifies applicability of online notarization procedures to supervision of witnessing of electronic record; modifies witnessing procedures; revises statutory forms for affidavit for acceptance of & reliance upon power of attorney, for notice of election relating to descent of homestead property, for self-proof of will or codicil, for disposition of certain

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assets at death, & for petition of summary relief for sale or transfer of property owned by absentee, to reflect means of notarization.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.
Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee – Passed by vote of 16-0 on March 30.
Commerce Committee – Passed by vote of 22-0 on April 6.
Judiciary Committee- Awaiting Hearing.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 27.
Commerce and Tourism – Approved by vote of 11-0 on March 2.
Judiciary – Approved by vote of 10-0 on March 9.
Rules – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: Both bills are moving. The chances of passage are better than 50/50.

Tourism Marketing Entities – HB 675 (Plasencia) and SB 778 (Hooper)

Key Take Away

Authorizes Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation to carry forward unexpended state appropriations into succeeding fiscal years; abrogates repeal of provisions establishing Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, direct-support organization of Enterprise Florida, Inc., & Division of Tourism Marketing within Enterprise Florida.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 2.
Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.
Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee – N/A.
Appropriations Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 25.
Commerce and Tourism – Passed by vote of 10-1 on February 15.
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development – Subcommittee Recommendation approved by vote of 10-0 on March 10.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: The bill is moving in the Senate, but is stalled in the House. If the House bill doesn't start moving next week, it is likely dead.

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Health Care Civil Liability – HB 7005 (Formerly HHS1 Bill by Health & Human Services Committee)

Key Take Away

Provides protections for COVID-19 related claims for Health Care providers.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 5.

Health & Human Services Committee – Passed by vote of 17-3 on February 17.

Pandemics & Public Emergencies - Committee Substitute passed by vote of 12-6 on March 2.

Judiciary– Committee Substitute passed by vote of 15-5 on March 10.

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: Added through an Amendment to COVID-19 Civil Liability bill, SB 72.

Chances of Passage: The contents of this bill was approved by the governor through SB 72.

Repeal of Developer Incentive Requirements – HB 6067 (Eskamani)

Key Take Away

Removes provisions requiring counties & municipalities to provide incentives to fully offset costs of certain affordable housing contributions or linkage fees.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 9.

Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting Hearing.

Commerce Committee – N/A.

State Affairs Committee – N/A.

Senate Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

Chances of Passage: While nothing is officially dead yet, this legislation is for all intents and purposes....dead.

Summary of Session Week 6 (April 5-9)

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In case you missed it, here is an update on last week's legislation to watch:

Barber Services Legislation ([HB 855 by Rep. Nixon/SB 1176 by Sen. Stewart](#))— The bills would change barber regulations to allow for house calls. Current law only allows house calls for customers with debilitating health issues. The Senate Rules Committee approved SB 1176 and is now ready for a floor vote. The House has already passed the companion bill.

Emergency Management Legislation ([HB 7047 by House Pandemics and Public Emergencies Committee and Rep. Leek/SB 2006 by Sen. Burgess](#)) – The legislation would update the State Emergency Management Act to better address and minimize threats that arise due to pandemics or other public health emergencies. It would address planning and preparations; require greater transparency for emergency orders, delegated emergency powers, and emergency spending; and pull back the authority of local government emergency orders that restrict individual liberties; among other things. This priority legislation is moving quickly in both the House and Senate. The Senate bill cleared its final committee this week, though it is now pending a reference review and could go before another committee before hitting the chamber floor.

Online Sales Tax Packages ([HB 15 by Rep. Clemons/SB 50 by Sen. Gruters](#)) – The bills would require online retailers to collect and remit sales tax on purchases regardless of whether they have a physical presence in Florida. The measure is expected to increase tax collections by \$1 billion. Initially, the money will be used to replenish the state's unemployment trust fund, after which it will offset a decrease in the commercial rent sales tax. The proposal has cleared both chambers and is headed to the Governor's desk.

Student Financial Aid Legislation ([SB 86 by Sen. Baxley](#)) — The bill originally would have limited the amount of Bright Futures scholarship funding offered for degree programs that are not seen as leading directly to a job, but it has been substantially reworked following outcry from students and parents. The bill would now put a hold on course registrations for college freshmen until they confirm they are aware of their chosen degree's job prospect potential. The Senate passed the bill with a 22-18 vote. It now moves to the House, where no similar proposal has advanced through the committee process.

Resilient Florida Legislation ([HB 7019 by Rep. Busatta Cabrera/HB 5401 by Rep. Tomkow/HB 7021 by Rep. Busatta Cabrera/SB 1954 by Sen. Rodrigues/SB 2512 by Senate Appropriations/SB 2514 by Senate Appropriations](#)) — The legislation would create the Resilient Florida Grant Program within DEP to help local governments address the impact of sea-level rise and nuisance flooding. The Senate bills got the greenlight from both chambers and now await the Governor's signature.

Beverage Law Legislation ([SB 148 by Sen. Bradley](#)) — The bill would allow restaurants to continue selling alcoholic beverages to-go after the pandemic ends, as long as they are purchased

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alongside food. The bill passed the full Senate last week with a 38-2 vote. It is on the House Special Order Calendar for Tuesday.

Growth Management Legislation ([HB 59 by Rep. McClain/SB 496 by Sen. Perry](#)) — The legislation would require local governments to consider adding a “property rights element” to its comprehensive plan that would consider property owners’ rights to privacy, perform property improvements, and sell or gift the property, among other things. The Senate took up the House bill and passed unanimously. It now heads to the Governor.

Preview of Week 7 (April 12-16)

Gaming Legislation ([SPB 7076/SPB 70768/SPB 7080](#)) — Senate President **Wilton Simpson** sent a memo late last week announcing the Senate Regulated Industries Committee would consider a set of gaming bills. SPB 7076 would set up a five-member Gaming Control Commission; SPB 7078 would exempt the commission’s investigations from public record; and SPB 7080 would scratch out requirements mandating a certain number of on-site races or jai alai games for parimutuels to offer wagering, a move known as decoupling. The Regulated Industries Committee will hear the bills when it meets Monday at 3 p.m.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers Legislation ([HB 1155 by Rep. Toledo/SB 390 by Sen. Wright](#)) — The bills would allow the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) to regulate audits on pharmacy benefit managers, who negotiate drug prices between insurers and pharmacies. The House bill has cleared one committee and is awaiting a hearing in the Health & Human Services Committee. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government will hear SB 390 when it meets at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Legal Notices Legislation ([HB 35 by Rep. Fine/SB 402 by Sen. Rodrigues](#)) — The bill would remove a requirement that local governments publish legal notices in a local newspaper. Notices could still be published in a newspaper, if a government chooses to do so, but they would also have the option of posting them on a government website or sending them to residents through the mail. The full House approved the bill last month. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice will hear SB 402 when it meets at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Foreign Influence Legislation ([HB 7017 by Rep. Grall/SB 2010 by Sen. Diaz](#)) — The bills would require organizations seeking state funding to disclose any financial ties to adversarial countries, or “foreign country of concern.” The list includes China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria and Venezuela. The legislation is a priority of Gov. **Ron DeSantis** and House Speaker **Chris Sprowls**. The House version is on the Special Order Calendar for Tuesday.

Craft Distilleries Legislation ([SB 46 by Sen. Hutson](#)) – The bill would reduce regulations on craft distilleries, including raising the production cap from 75,000 to 250,000 gallons and allowing them

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to sell directly to consumers by the drink or by the package. The bill is listed on the House Special Order Calendar for Tuesday.

Reclaimed Water Legislation ([HB 263 by Rep. Maggard/SB 64 by Sen. Albritton](#)) — The legislation would set a five-year timeline to eliminate non-beneficial surface water discharges. The legislation would also create a permit structure for the use of reclaimed water, including for human consumption, a process colloquially referred to as “toilet-to-tap.” The full Senate unanimously passed the measure. The House Special Order Calendar for Tuesday lists both versions of the bill.

Motor Vehicle Insurance Legislation ([HB 719 by Rep. Grall/SB 54 by Sen. Burgess](#)) — The bill would repeal the state’s no-fault auto insurance system and replace it with a mandatory bodily injury system, which requires a fault determination before damages are paid. The House bill has passed one of three committee stops. The Senate bill is on Thursday’s Special Order Calendar in the Senate.

Federal Spotlight

President submits "skinny budget"

President Joe Biden began the long process of hammering out a budget today by sending Congress his discretionary funding request for FY 2022, which an [administration official described](#) as “reinvesting in the foundation of our country’s strength.” The budget request is for \$769 billion in nondefense discretionary spending. It calls for major increases in spending on high-poverty schools, medical research, public health, and core climate functions. It would extend Housing Choice Vouchers to more than 200,000 additional households and provide a \$500 million increase in Homeless Assistance Grants. More detailed proposals will follow for these programs, for nondiscretionary spending and for tax reform. Today’s request is “complementary but separate” from the President’s American Jobs Plan, unveiled last week. In both cases, these are opening gambits in a policy debate that will continue over the next several months of hearings, markups, and—theoretically—eventual compromises.

American Jobs Plan would invest \$2.3 trillion in infrastructure

President proposed the \$2.3 trillion [American Jobs Plan](#), which he said would be the “largest American jobs investment since World War Two” if Congress approves it. If you’re a subscriber to this newsletter, you should already have received our summary of the plan, which includes:

- \$631 billion for transportation
- \$428 for caregiving and veterans services
- \$232 billion for supply chain modernization and clean energy
- \$213 billion for housing
- \$200 billion for water and broadband
- \$180 billion for research and development

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- \$137 billion for schools and child care investments
- \$126 billion for environment and electric grid improvement
- \$100 billion for workforce training and labor protections
- \$36 billion for small business programs

On Wednesday [President Biden said](#) he was “open to ideas about how to pay for this plan,” and pledged not to impose tax increases on anyone making less than \$400,000 a year. He proposed an increase in the corporate tax rate to 28 percent, which he said would be lower than at any time between World War II and 2017. He noted a study’s finding that at least 55 of the nation’s largest corporations paid no federal income tax in 2020, and said that was “just not fair.”

President Biden is also proposing a global minimum tax of 21 percent on US corporations, and pledged to step up IRS enforcement against corporate and “super wealthy” tax dodgers.

For more updates from our federal lobbying team, read last week’s [On the Record with the Golden Apple](#).

Current Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 3,053 (2,009 House; 1,044 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,060

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1.174 billion

Session Weekly Schedules

House Week 7:

<https://www.myflorida.house.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%207%20April%2012%20-%2016,%202021.pdf>

House Week 8:

<https://www.myflorida.house.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%208%20April%2019%20-%2023,%202021.pdf>

Senate Week 7:

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<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-04-06%20173618.PDF>

Senate Week 8:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-04-09%20150634.PDF>

Senate Week 9:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-04-09%20150729.PDF>