

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAIOP

FROM: GrayRobinson

DATE: March 8, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 Legislative Session – Week 8 (March 2-6)

At the beginning of the week, the Legislative Session seemed destined to go into overtime. During a Senate floor session, Senate Budget Chief Rob Bradley was the first to state that Sine Die would come after March 13. House Speaker José Oliva didn't mince words, saying an extension was "inevitable." Yet, the House and Senate released allocations on Friday, and all of the conference committees met at least once (some met twice) on Saturday, and continued to meet on Sunday. Pursuant to the published timeline, the House and Senate will "bump" outstanding issues to the overall appropriation chairs Monday, 1pm. Thereafter, the final "bumps" will go the presiding officers.

It isn't clear how long of an extension would be needed. Oliva didn't speculate. Senate President Bill Galvano said it may be a matter of hours, similar to the way it played out in the 2019 Legislative Session. Governor Ron DeSantis floated the possibility it could be days. He told lawmakers not to rush it by adhering to an "artificial timeline," adding that if it takes extra time to hammer out the 2020-21 state budget "that's not the end of the world."

The extra innings stemmed from significant differences between the House and Senate spending plans. The two chambers are more than \$1 billion apart, with education and the environment being the major sticking points.

Activities and Bills related to NAIOP – Summary List

Key Issues for 2020 As Determined at the NAIOP Summit

- Enacting the FAST Act;
- Phasing out the Business Rent Tax;

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- Removing the Witness Requirement for Commercial Leases;
- Maintaining a Commercial Building Representative on Florida Building Commission;
- Improving the State Fire Code; and
- Reining in Excessive Linkage Fees

Business Rent Tax – The House has published and passed its proposed tax package. In it, the House calls for a reduction of the business rent tax from 5.5% to 5.4%. We are pushing for a further reduction, but grateful that there is a reduction.

FAST Act – Based on request/advice from House and Senate leadership, we are seeking to incorporate parts of the FAST Act in general omnibus legislation that emanates from the House Commerce Committee.

Lease Signatory Changes – The House bill passed the bill on Wednesday, February 4. The Senate bill passed its final committee on Tuesday, February 4. The Senate bill was taken up on Wednesday, and the House bill was substituted for it. The bill passed and is now headed to the Governor.

Florida Building Commission – As of now, the House will follow the Senate’s lead and NOT remove the commercial real estate representative on the FBC.

Fire Code – We are following the lead of House Commerce Chair Mike La Rosa to get this finalized in one of his committee bills. The Senate Department of Financial Services legislation (SB 1404) was amended to extend the deadline to comply with enhanced radio signals to 2023, and the deadline to have any demonstration of compliance to January 1, 2022. This removes the permit requirement that originally required a permit application by December 2019 is now completed removed.

Linkage Fees – Chair La Rosa has also agreed to address linkage fees in a committee bill this session.

Detailed Activities and Bills related to NAIOPFL

The following are bills filed that impact (positively and/or negatively) the commercial real estate industry. **Highlighted text** means the bill was newly filed since the last memo publication.

Promoting Business Friendly CRE Regulations

Legislative Review of Occupational Regulations – HB 707 (Renner) and SB 1124 (Diaz)

Key Take Away

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If passed, would create the “Occupational Regulation Sunset Act”; establish a schedule for the systematic review of occupational regulatory programs; provide for the abolition of units or subunits of government and personnel positions responsible for repealed programs; provide for the reversion of certain unexpended funds and the refund of certain unencumbered revenue of a repealed program; require the Department of Legal Affairs to prosecute or defend certain pending causes of actions, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 19.
Commerce – Passed 22-1 on January 16.
Health & Human Services – Passed 12-4 on February 6
House – Passed 85-29 on February 26

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 13.
Govt Oversight and Accountability – Passed 3-1 on February 17
Appropriations – Awaiting hearing
Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed chamber vote.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Impact Fees – HB 637 (DiCeglie) and SB 1066 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

If passed, would revise conditions that counties, municipalities, & special districts must satisfy before enacting an ordinance or passing resolution; provide that impact fee credits are assignable & transferrable under certain conditions; require certain counties & municipalities to establish impact fee review committees; provide for membership; provide procedures for meetings & establishing quorums; provides committee duties.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 14.
Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs – Passed 13-1 on January 15
Ways & Means – Passed 12-2 on February 3
State Affairs – Passed 20-0 on February 20
House – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 26.
Community Affairs – Passed 5-0 on February 10
Finance & Tax – Passed 7-1 on February 18
Appropriations – Passed 18-0 on March 3

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Senate – Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 9

Weekly Roundup: Senate bill passed third committee stop and entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Florida Building Code – SB 710 (Albritton)

Key Take Away

If passed, would require in the Florida Building Code that the entire envelope of certain buildings being constructed or rebuilt be impact resistant and constructed with high wind-resistant construction materials; require that all parts or systems of a building or structure envelope meet impact test criteria or be protected with an external protection device that meets such criteria; providing exceptions, etc.

House Approval Milestones – No house bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 30.

Community Affairs – N/A

Infrastructure and Security – N/A

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Real Estate Conveyances – HB 469 (Duggan) and SB 1224 (Simmons)

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide that witnesses are not required to validate certain instruments conveying leasehold interests in real property.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 28.

Civil Justice Subcommittee – Passed 12-0 on December 12

Business & Professions – Passed 13-0 on January 15

Judiciary – Passed 16-0 on January 23.

House – Passed 117-0 on February 5

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed December 12.

Banking and Insurance – Passed 8-0 on January 21

Judiciary – Passed 6-0 on January 28

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Rules – Passed 16-0 on January 5
Senate – Passed 40-0 on March 5

Weekly Roundup: Senate bill passed chamber vote.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Home-Based Businesses – HB 537 (Donalds) and SB 778 (Perry)

Key Take Away

If passed, would 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 on November 5.

Business & Professions Subcommittee – Passed 7-3 on February 4

State Affairs – Passed 13-7 on February 20

Commerce – Passed 17-7 on February 27

House – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 5.

Community Affairs – N/A

Commerce & Tourism – N/A

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: House bill entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act – 2020 – HB 783 (Beltran) and SB 660 (Berman)

Key Take Away

If passed, would create chapter 714, F.S., as the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act; specifying that a court has exclusive jurisdiction to direct receivers and determine controversies under certain circumstances; providing requirements and authorizations relating to the appointment of a receiver; providing for defenses and immunities of a receiver; authorizing the court to enter certain orders if the court concludes that receivership property is likely to be insufficient to satisfy certain claims; requiring a

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receiver to file a final report containing certain information upon completion of the receiver's duties, etc..

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 26.

Civil Justice – Passed 13-0 on January 22
Justice Appropriations – Passed 12-0 on February 4
Judiciary – Passed 18-0 on February 12
House – Placed on third reading for March 9

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on October 24.

Judiciary – Passed 5-0 on December 10
Commerce and Tourism – Passed 4-0 on February 4
Rules – Passed 16-0 on March 2
Senate – Retained on Special Order Calendar

Weekly Roundup: Senate bill passed third committee stop and entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Nonservice Animals – HB 243 (Antone) and SB 1814 (Powell)

Key Take Away

If passed, would prohibit nonservice animals from entering specified public food service establishments or places of business; require DBPR to create & maintain publicly accessible website for complaints; provides penalties.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on September 30.

Business & Professions – Awaiting hearing
Government Operations & Technology Appropriations – N/A
Commerce – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – January 10.

Commerce & Tourism – N/A
Innovation, Industry and Technology – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Deregulation of Professions and Occupations – HB 1193 (Ingoglia) and SB 474 (Albritton)

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Key Take Away

If passed, would significantly revise the Florida Building Commission membership, however, it would not remove the commercial real estate representative. Additionally, this 77 page bill would, among other things, delete the requirement that a yacht broker maintain a separate license for each branch office; specify that the failure to repay certain student loans is not considered a failure to perform a statutory or legal obligation for which certain disciplinary action can be taken; revise licensure requirements for engineers who hold specified licenses in another state; provide that certain cosmetology services may be performed in a location other than a licensed salon under certain circumstances, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 9.

Business & Professions – Passed 12-3 on January 21

Government Ops & Technology Appropriations – Passed 10-2 on January 28

Commerce – Passed 23-0 on February 20

House – Placed on third reading for March 9

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 7.

Innovation, Industry and Technology – Passed 8-0 on January 21

Commerce and Tourism – Passed 4-0 on February 4

Appropriations – Passed 20-1 on February 20

Senate – Retained on Special Order Calendar

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Stormwater Management Systems – HB 405 (Good) and SB 686 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

If passed, would direct water management districts, with DEP oversight, to adopt rules for standards relating to new development & redevelopment projects specifically focusing on removal of nutrients from stormwater discharges; directs DEP to incorporate such rules for district use; directs DEP & districts to amend such rules into applicant's handbook; provides rebuttable presumption relating to water quality standards for certain systems; revises requirements for construction of certain systems; requires specified staff training; directs DEP & districts to initiate rulemaking..

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on October 18.

Agriculture & Natural Resources – Awaiting hearing

Ag & Natural Resources Appropriations – N/A

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State Affairs – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 28.
Environment and Natural Resources – N/A
Appropriation Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and Gen Gov – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Promote Feasible Sustainability Initiatives
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Clean Energy Programs – HB 225 (Zika) and SB 824 (Hooper)

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize property owner to apply to approved PACE administrator for loan; authorize local governments to enter into agreements with PACE administrators; provides requirements for PACE loan contracts; provides certain prohibitions; provides remedies.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on September 25.
Energy & Utilities – Awaiting hearing
Ways & Means – N/A
State Affairs – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on November 7.
Community Affairs – N/A
Innovation, Industry and Technology – N/A
Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Renewable Energy – SB 446 (Brandes)

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

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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 – No house bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 4.
Innovation, Industry and Technology – N/A
Commerce and Tourism – N/A
Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Promote Fair Taxation

Taxation of Real Property – HB 1141 (Caruso) and SB 1778 (Gruters)

Key Take Away

If passed, would exempt from the sales and use tax certain property that is rented, leased, subleased, or licensed to a specified small business (less than nine employees); requiring the Department of Revenue to approve or deny such application within a specified time period, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 7.
Ways & Means – Awaiting hearing
Commerce – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 10.
Commerce and Tourism – N/A
Finance & Tax – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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Communications Services Tax – HB 701 (Fischer) and SB 1174 (Hutson)

Key Take Away

If passed, would revise legislative intent regarding local communications services tax rates; revising downward the tax rate on the retail sale of communications services to 5%; delete a provision that specifies where proceeds of a communications services tax must be deposited and disbursed; require dealers to collect and remit local communications services taxes under certain conditions; authorizing the Legislature to appropriate moneys to offset specified direct reductions of the local communications services tax by certain counties and municipalities, etc..

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 19.

Ways & Means – Awaiting hearing

Energy & Utilities – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 9.

Innovation, Industry and Technology – Passed 10-0 on February 3

Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing

Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday – SB 1052 (Taddeo)

Key Take Away

If passed, would define 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; authorize the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules, etc.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 25.

Commerce and Tourism – N/A

Finance and Tax – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Affordable Housing Tax Reduction – SB 856 (Pizzo)

Key Take Away

If passed, would provide a reduction in certain property taxes to taxpayers building or renovating certain affordable, elderly, or workforce housing projects; specify the calculation of property assessments over the reduction term; authorize certain counties to limit the total number of qualifying projects, subject to certain requirements; specify a taxpayer's liability for back taxes, penalties, interest, and certain remedies under certain circumstances, etc..

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 12.

Community Affairs – Passed 5-0 on February 3

Finance & Tax – Awaiting hearing

Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Internet Sales Tax Enforcement – HB 159 (Clemons) and SB 126 (Gruters)

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.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on September 12.

Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting hearing

Commerce – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on August 14.

Commerce and Tourism – Passed 5-0 on October 15

Finance and Tax – Passed 8-0 on February 13

Appropriations – Awaiting hearing

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Collaborative Growth Management

Regional Planning Council Meetings – HB 1097 (Geller) and SB 1398 (Flores)

Key Take Away

Provides requirements for establishing quorum for meetings of certain councils when voting member appears via telephone, real-time videoconferencing, or similar real-time electronic or video communication.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 6.

Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs – Passed 14-0 on January 21

State Affairs – Passed 23-0 on January 30

House – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on January 6.

Community Affairs – Passed 3-0 on January 21

Govt Oversight and Accountability – Passed 5-0 on February 3

Rules – Passed 16-0 on February 12

Senate – Passed 39-0 on March 3

Weekly Roundup: Senate bill passed chamber vote.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Private Property Rights Protection – HB 519 (Grant)

Key Take Away

If passed, would revise notice of claim requirements for property owners; revises procedures for determination of compensation; create presumption that certain settlements of claims apply to all similarly situated residential properties within political subdivision under certain circumstances; authorize property owners to bring claims against governmental entities in certain circumstances; provide that property owners are not required to submit formal development applications or proceed through formal application processes to bring claims in specified circumstances; authorize property owners to bring actions to declare prohibited exactions invalid; requires DOT to afford right of first refusal to previous property owner before disposing of property in certain circumstances.

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House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 4.
Civil Justice Subcommittee – Passed 10-5 on January 16
Commerce – Passed 13-8 on January 30
Judiciary – Passed 11-5 on February 6
House – Read second time

Senate Approval Milestones – No senate bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: House bill entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Community Development Districts – HB 493 (Cortes) and SB 1434 (Torres, Jr.)

Key Take Away

If passed, would authorize certain entities to petition court to dissolve community development district with outstanding financial obligations or operating or maintenance responsibilities; provides procedures to be used by court in appointing receivers; specify court authorities in issuing orders concerning duties of receiver. Effective Date: July 1, 2020.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on October 29.
Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing
Civil Justice – N/A
State Affairs – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 6.
Community Affairs – N/A
Judiciary – N/A
Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

State Funds – HB 381 (Silvers) and SB 306 (Mayfield)

Key Take Away

If passed, there would no longer be trust fund “sweeps” of the Sadowski Fund.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on October 16.

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Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing
State Affairs – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill Filed September 17.

Infrastructure and Security – Passed 8-0 on February 3
Appropriations Sub on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Dev: Awaiting hearing
Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

Development Order Attorney Fees – HB 6019 (Casello) and SB 250 (Berman)

Key Take Away

If passed, would delete the entitlement for prevailing party to recover reasonable attorney fees and costs in challenge or defense of development order.

House Approval Milestones – Filed September 10.

Commerce – Awaiting hearing
Judiciary – N/A
State Affairs – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed September 10.

Community Affairs Committee: N/A
Judiciary: N/A
Rules: N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: Both bills are filed by Democrats and are an attack on the Republican-led legislation of 2019. It is unexpected this bill will move.

Property Rights Inserted into Growth Management – HB 203 (McClain) and SB 410 (Perry)

Key Take Away

Would make clear that a property owner's rights to develop his/her/its property must be honored by a local government.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on September 19.

Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs – Passed 9-5 on October 23

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Commerce – Passed 16-6 on February 13
State Affairs – Passed 15-7 on February 27
House – Temporarily postponed on second reading

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on October 1.
Community Affairs – Passed 5-0 on January 27
Judiciary – Passed 5-1 on February 11
Rules – Passed 14-3 on March 2
Senate – Passed 26-14 on March 5

Weekly Roundup: House bill entered the floor. Senate bill passed third committee stop and chamber vote.

Current Call to Action: N/A

Hurdles: None yet. Although, it is worth noting that this same bill died in the House and Senate during 2019 session.

Promote Economic Prosperity

Brownfields – HB 1001 (Stone) and SB 1350 (Baxley)

Key Take Away

Revising the definition of the terms “housing project” and “mixed-use project” for purposes of specifying the projects eligible for certain tax exemptions; revising the conditions under which an applicant that has rehabilitated a contaminated site may submit and claim certain tax credits; revising the criteria for determining applicants who are redeveloping brownfield sites who may be eligible for certain tax credits; specifying defenses to specified causes of action concerning certain discharges or other types of pollution resulting from certain discharges or pollution, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on December 18.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee – Passed 12-0 on February 4
Ways & Means – Passed 17-0 on February 11
State Affairs – Passed 22-0 on March 2
House – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 2.

Environment and Natural Resources – Passed 4-0 on February 17
Judiciary – Awaiting hearing

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Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed third committee stop and entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: N/A

Job Growth Grant Fund Revisions – HB 71 (Santiago) and SB 130 (Hutson)

Key Take Away

Would authorize the Governor to approve workforce training grants to certain charter schools under the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on August 20.

Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing

Education Committee – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones

Commerce and Tourism Committee – Passed 5-0 on October 15

Education – Passed 8-0 on November 12

Appropriations – Awaiting hearing

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

Florida Tourism Marketing – HB 213 (Ponder) and SB 362 (Hooper)

Key Take Away

Would revise the scheduled repeal of the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation direct-support organization (aka Visit Florida) to the year 2028.

House Approval Milestones – Filed on September 23.

Workforce Development & Tourism – Awaiting hearing

Transportation & Tourism Appropriations – N/A

Commerce – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on September 23

Commerce and Tourism – Passed 5-0 on November 5

Appropriations Sub on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Dev -Passed 8-0 on January 29

Appropriations - Passed 20-0 on February 5, 2020

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Senate – Passed 36-0 on February 13

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

Summary of Committee Week 8 (March 2-6)

The Florida House of Representatives

- A bill that would require public schools to install panic alarm systems was rewritten to remove a requirement that a single, uniform system be installed in all schools. The rewrite came a week after the Senate version was itself amended to add the statewide requirement.
- An amendment setting a 10 percent cap on THC for medical marijuana prescribed to patients under 21 was added on to a House health care bill. The idea has Oliva’s backing, though similar proposals failed to gain traction in the Senate. That could signal a potential bargaining chip as the Legislature heads into budget negotiations.

Florida Senate

- Senator Aaron Bean said the chamber is considering adding a “super line” to the health care budget to give the Florida Department of Health more agility in responding to public health emergencies. His comments came soon after the first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Florida.
- The chamber voted to repeal the “Best and Brightest” teacher bonus program. Ending the bonus system frees up \$300 million in the budget, about half of the money needed to fund the Senate’s teacher pay raise plan.

Bill of the Week

A pair of bills moving through the House and Senate would make numerous changes to the state’s higher education system. Much attention has been paid to the intellectual diversity survey requirement in HB 613, which polls students and faculty at state colleges and university to gauge a campus’ political leanings. However, the bill would also change the process colleges use to contract with outside companies to build, renovate and repair facilities.

The bill would roll back a requirement that an institution’s board of trustees follow the “Consultants’ Competitive Negotiation Act,” which lays out the bidding process for government

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entities to hire certain professionals, including architects and engineers. Currently the rules apply to all projects with a price tag of \$50,000 or more.

The change would allow university boards of trustees to consider other factors, including price, in procuring those services. School boards and state colleges would also be permitted to modify their construction procurement rules, which is currently prohibited.

Senate Bill 72 includes changes to a different set of procurement rules. The bill would modify which colleges and universities state agencies could contract with for projects costing more than \$35,000 but less than \$65,000. Under current law, only institutions that are based in Florida and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools — the accrediting body for all of Florida’s public universities as well as several dozen private institutions — are eligible for such contracts.

The Senate bill would add in schools accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). There are currently no Florida-based MSCHE schools, though the bill would also allow schools that “operate” in Florida to land state contracts.

House Bill 613 and Senate Bill 72 are awaiting floor votes.

Federal Spotlight

GrayRobinson's Washington, DC office releases a newsletter each week entitled The Golden Apple, reporting on the "latest discord on Capitol Hill." This week's newsletter discusses the COVID-19 outbreak.

Congress can move fast when it wants to. The House and Senate approved \$8.3 billion in funding this week to support the federal government’s response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the President signed that bill today. The package includes \$826 million to support development and review of vaccines and treatments; \$300 million to purchase vaccines and treatments once they’re approved; \$950 million for states and localities to respond; and \$3.1 billion for medical supplies, including expanding the [Strategic National Stockpile](#). Testing is a priority, as the CDC expanded its [criteria for testing](#) and Vice President Pence, who’s heading the government’s response, promised that more than a million test kits will be distributed around the country.

The SEC [announced Wednesday](#) that publicly traded companies affected by the outbreak will have an additional 45 days to file certain disclosure forms that would otherwise be due between March 1 and April 30. The federal banking agencies have postponed the [National Interagency Community Reinvestment Conference scheduled for next week in Denver](#).

Read The Golden Apple in its entirety [here](#).

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Current Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 3,514 (2,518 House; 996 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,634 (1,629 passed through first committee)

Looking Ahead

The upcoming House and Senate weekly schedules can be found as follows:

House Week 9:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2020&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%209%20March%209%20-%2013,%202020.pdf>

Senate Week 9:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2020/Weekly%20Schedules%202020-02-20%20175127.PDF>

Special Order Calendar for Senate - March 9, 2020

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2020/Special%20Calendars%202020-03-05%20165030.PDF>