

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAIOP

FROM: GrayRobinson

DATE: February 23, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 Legislative Session –Week 6 (February 17-21)

A host of major bills moved through the Legislature this week, including bills blocking life insurers from using genetic testing data, requiring parental consent for abortions, and creating a statewide regulatory framework for vacation rentals.

The DNA privacy measure, a priority of House Speaker-designate Chris Sprowls, has already cleared the House, but the Senate companion is now primed for floor vote — though it’s taken a different shape as its moved through committee, notably allowing for insurers to consider diagnoses based on genetic tests so long as they are in a policyholder’s medical record.

The parental consent bill, meanwhile, is ready for Governor Ron DeSantis’ signature after clearing the House on a mostly party line vote. DeSantis is expected to sign the bill, and he commented this week that the policy “deserves to be reconsidered” in the state Supreme Court, which struck down a similar law decades ago.

The vacation rental bill is ready for the House floor following a favorable vote from the Commerce Committee. Its Senate companion, Senate Bill 1128, has one hearing left. If passed, for the first time, online platforms such as Airbnb would have to collect and remit taxes on vacation rental properties, ensure that only properly licensed rentals are advertised and provide the state with specific information about the rentals. In exchange, regulation would be preempted to the state. The measures are a longtime priority for the industry, which currently must abide by vastly different rules county to county.

The “out of nowhere” proposal (HB 7087) to merge Florida Polytechnic University and New College into UF and FSU, respectively, gained some support this week when Governor DeSantis and Senate President Bill Galvano waded into the conversation.

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Both seem amenable to the idea, with DeSantis' only major qualm being which school New College is folded into — he questioned why FSU, and not USF, would be the ideal landing spot for the Sarasota university. Further, with the bill set to be heard by the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, February 25, a proposed committee substitute (PCS) was filed on Friday that would merge both New College and Florida Polytechnic University into UF, leaving FSU out of the merger discussion. For sure, this legislation continues to gain momentum and intrigue.

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;
- 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 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 is awaiting a hearing on the Senate floor.

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. **UPDATE:** 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.

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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

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 Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for 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: Senate bill passed first committee stop.

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 &

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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

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

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed first committee stop. Senate bill passed second committee stop.

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 – Awaiting hearing
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

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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 Floor – Passed House vote 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
Rules – Passed 16-0 on January 5
Senate Floor – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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 – Awaiting hearing

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 5.
Community Affairs – N/A
Commerce & Tourism – N/A
Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed second committee stop.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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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 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 Calendar, on 2nd reading

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 – Awaiting hearing

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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

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Senate Approval Milestones – January 10.
Commerce & Tourism – Awaiting hearing
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)

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

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

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed third committee stop. Senate bill passed third committee stop.

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

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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
State Affairs – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 28.
Environment and Natural Resources – Awaiting hearing
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 – Awaiting hearing
Innovation, Industry and Technology – N/A
Rules – N/A

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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 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 – Awaiting hearing
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

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

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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: Senate passed first committee stop.

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.

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House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 25.
Commerce and Tourism – Awaiting hearing
Finance and Tax – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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

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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

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 Floor – 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 Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for February 26

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Private Property Rights Protection – HB 519 (Grant)

Key Take Away

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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.

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 Floor – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Senate Approval Milestones – No senate bill filed yet.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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 – Awaiting hearing
Judiciary – N/A
Rules – N/A

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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.

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: Awaiting hearing

Judiciary: N/A

Rules: N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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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
Commerce – Passed 16-6 on February 13
State Affairs – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on October 1.
Community Affairs – Passed 5-0 on January 27
Judiciary – Passed 5-1 on February 11
Rules – Awaiting hearing

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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.

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Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee – Passed 12-0 on February 4
Ways & Means – Passed 17-0 on February 11
State Affairs – Awaiting hearing

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on January 2.
Environment and Natural Resources: Passed 4-0 on February 17
Judiciary: Awaiting hearing
Appropriations: N/A

Weekly Roundup: Senate bill passed first committee stop.

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 Committee: 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 Subcommittee – N/A

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Commerce Committee – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on September 23

Commerce and Tourism Committee – Passed 5-0 on November 5

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

Appropriations Committee - Passed 20-0 on February 5, 2020

Senate Floor – Passed 36-0 on January 13

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

Summary of Committee Week 6 (February 17-21)

The Florida House of Representatives

- The House passed legislation to sever the state contract with the embattled Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which is under investigation for allegedly paying its former CEO more than \$7 million over the past three years. The bill, which skipped the committee process at DeSantis’ request, now heads to the Senate.
- The House voted in favor of placing a school board term limits proposal on the ballot. The bill would limit county school board members to eight years in office, the same limitation imposed on state lawmakers. While the proposal easily cleared the House, it faces a tougher road in the Senate. Even if successful, voters would ultimately decide by way of a ballot question requiring 60 percent for approval.

Florida Senate

- A bill championed by Senate Budget Chief Rob Bradley that would relax gift ban rules for non-elected state employees if they or their child are diagnosed with a “serious disease or illness” is heading to the Senate floor.
- A bill that would allow pharmacists to diagnose and treat the flu and strep throat, saving patients a trip to the doctor, cleared its first Senate panel, and has already been scheduled for its second committee hearing. Prior to this week, the measure had been moving more quickly in the House with little interest on the Senate’s part.

Bill of the Week

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A bill sponsored by Senator Debbie Mayfield would update the rules on which ships have to raise anchor during a hurricane watch. Senate Bill 826 would force vessels that weigh less than 500 tons to vacate seaports that haven't been certified as suitable for hurricane refuge as soon as the port issues an evacuation order.

If owners haven't relocated their ships by the time the port's Coast Guard Captain declares condition "Yankee" — a designation meaning gale force winds are expected to arrive within the next 24 hours — the marina owner or a marina employee would be compelled to move it. The port could recoup the cost of moving the ship by fining the owner. The bill caps the fine at three times the costs incurred.

The bill also provides the marina owner or employee protection from liability if they damage the vessel while moving it, so long as the damage wasn't intentional or caused by negligence. The bill has so far cleared the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the Infrastructure and Security Committee. It awaits a hearing in the Rules Committee, its final stop before the chamber floor.

A similar bill in the House, HB 1329 by Representative Rene Plasencia, has yet to receive a committee hearing. However, the substance of the legislation is included in the transportation package sponsored by Representative Alex Andrade (HB 395).

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 President Trump's [announcement](#) that he will nominate Dana T. Wade to serve as Assistant Secretary of Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner.

Wade was Acting Federal Housing Commissioner from July 2017 to June 2018; she later served as a Program Associate Director for General Government at the Office of Management and Budget. Earlier in her career, Wade was Deputy Staff Director for the Senate Banking Committee, and Republican Deputy Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Committee, under Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL).

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

Current Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 3,500 (2,508 House; 992 Senate)

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

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Looking Ahead

The House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee is the only committee scheduled to meet Monday, but it's a long one. The panel has set aside five hours to discuss the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV). Though the full House has already voted to sever FCADV's statutorily protected contract with the state, criminal investigations into the organization's alleged financial mismanagement are moving forward.

More investigations could be on the way, too. Representative Juan Fernandez-Barquin said the House's next goal is to peer into the local care providers overseen by FCADV, and DeSantis this week penned an executive order calling on state agencies to review all other single-source contracts enshrined in statute.

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

House Week 7:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2020&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%207%20February%2024%20-%2028,%202020%20-%201st%20Amended.pdf>

House Week 8:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2020&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%208%20March%202%20-%206,%202020.pdf>

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 7:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2020/Weekly%20Schedules%202020-02-13%20171210.PDF>

Senate Week 8:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2020/Weekly%20Schedules%202020-02-20%20175048.PDF>

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Senate Week 9:

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