

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAIOP
FROM: GrayRobinson
DATE: April 18, 2021
SUBJECT: 2021 Legislative Session – Week 7 (April 12-16)

With two weeks left in the Legislative Session, focus has turned to the state budget. House Speaker **Chris Sprowls** and Senate President **Wilton Simpson** told lawmakers on Thursday to stay in town over the weekend for budget conferences.

Heading into the weekend, the two chambers’ spending plans were \$2 billion apart, with the House proposing a total of \$97 billion and the Senate a total of \$95 billion.

Late on Friday, the House and Senate announced their budget conferees, allocations of general revenue totaling \$36 billion and a schedule that allowed for sub-committees to meet Saturday and Sunday, with any unsettled issues bumped to the Appropriations Committee level no later than close of business on Monday. As of the time of publication, many issues have been resolved after over 10 meetings for the various sub-committees. The allocations per silo are as follows:

Silo	Allocation (in Millions)
PreK-12 Education	\$12,874
Higher Education	\$4,560.1
Justice/Criminal and Civil Justice	\$4,911.1
Health and Human Services	\$12,382
Transportation, Tourism and Economic Dev.	\$252.5

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Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$362.6
State Administration and Technology	\$346.1
Administered Funds – Statewide Issues	\$494.9
Total General Revenue	\$36,183.2

As the budget takes center stage, it’s now or never for bills still waiting to get to the House and Senate floor. Their last chance is Tuesday — the 50th day of the Legislative Session — after which committee meetings come to a screeching halt.

It seems the gaming bills won’t be among the Day 50 casualties. The Senate package ([SPB 7076/SPB 7078/SPB 7080](#)) establishing a gaming commission and decoupling cardrooms and other types of gaming from quarter-horse racing and jai alai games quickly moved through committee and is primed for a floor vote. Companion legislation in the House ([HB 7073/HB 7075](#)) also moved through committee.

The bills advanced amid ongoing negotiations between the state and the Seminole Tribe of Florida on a new gaming compact. Simpson has been working to hammer out a new deal with the tribe for years and on Thursday floated a possible Special Session to ratify a gaming deal.

“I believe we’re in a reasonable place that a compact could get finished sometime this year, maybe in the next week or two, maybe in a Special Session. I’m not pushing that off, I just think these things are very complex issues and it takes a while,” he said.

The financial impact of the Piney Point reservoir leak also became clearer last week. Lawmakers plan to put \$100 million toward the cleanup effort in the upcoming budget. The legislative funding would come alongside an expectation that DEP will devise a plan to permanently close the site by the end of the year.

More immediately, Gov. **Ron DeSantis** announced that he would send \$15 million in Department of Environmental Protection funding to pretreat the toxic water to mitigate the impact of potential future discharges. He also ordered a study into the damage caused by the leak, and said findings would be used to hold the company that owns the site, HRK Holdings, accountable.

Outside of the Legislature, last week saw Education Commissioner **Richard Corcoran** encourage school districts to end mask mandates heading into next school year. Corcoran said his recommendation was based on data that “shows us that districts’ face covering policies do not impact the spread of the virus.”

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It was met with a chilly reception, with some of the state's largest school districts — Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach — saying they would not follow the recommendation and would instead base their decisions on guidance from health experts.

Interviews were held last week for candidates seeking to replace now-Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary **Julie Brown** on the Florida Public Service Commission. Four candidates are still in the running, including current Seminole County State Representative **Scott Plakon** and **Gabriella Passidomo** who is an attorney for the PSC and the daughter of Senator **Kathleen Passidomo**. Lobbyist **Rosanna Manuela Catalano** and **Ana Ortega**, a chief policy adviser to three PSC members, also made the cut. Their applications were sent to DeSantis on Monday and he has 30 days to make his pick.

Florida continued to see heightened case numbers, peaking Tuesday with more than 9,000 infections reported overnight. While not near the levels from the height of the pandemic, it is a marked increase from pre-Easter lows.

Meanwhile, vaccinations distribution continued to grow. There was no downturn after the FDA and CDC's temporary suspension of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The state reported more than 100,000 shots administered a day for most of the week.

To date, the state has reported more than 2.1 million cases of COVID-19 and about 35,000 deaths. Meanwhile, more than 7.7 million Floridians have received at least one dose of vaccine since the first ones were approved in December. About 4.8 million Floridians are fully vaccinated.

All of [these](#), a preview of [Week 8](#), 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 tax for businesses. When the unemployment fund has collected \$4.017 billion, the Business Rent

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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 last week and now awaits a vote on the Senate Floor. The CFO's package is on special order in the House and on its final committee agenda in the Senate (Rules) on Tuesday.

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 April 15.

State Affairs Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 19-0 on March 29.

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

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 – **Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.**

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 – **Committee Substitute approved by vote of 12-2 on 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 – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 21-0 on April 14.
House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 8.
Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 9-0 on March 30.
Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.
Rules – 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.

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 – **Substituted for SB 148.**

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.

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State Affairs Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 21-0 on April 6.
House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

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

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

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 – Passed by vote of 22-0 on April 14.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

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 – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.

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.

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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 – Sent to Senate and Referred to Rules.

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 – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20 -0 on April 14.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.

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

Appropriations – Passed by vote of 19-1 on April 15.

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Rules – On Committee Agenda for April 20.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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

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

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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.

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

Commerce Committee – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 17-0 on April 14.

House Floor – Placed on Calendar for Second Reading.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 26.

Regulated Industries – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-0 on March 30.

Appropriations – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 20-0 on April 15.

Rules – On Committee Agenda for April 20.

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

Rules – **On Committee Agenda for April 20.**

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.

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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.

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 – Passed by vote of 17-3 on April 14.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

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 – On Committee Agenda for April 20.

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

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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)

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 was 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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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 – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 12-8 on April 15.
House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

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 – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 18-2 on April 15.
Senate Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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

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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.

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.

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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.

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 – Passed by vote of 14-0 on April 8.

State Affairs Committee – Passed by vote of 19-0 on April 15.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 18.

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Community Affairs – Approved by vote of 9-0 on March 10.
Finance and Tax – Passed by vote of 8-0 on April 14.
Appropriations – Awaiting Hearing.

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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

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

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 – On Committee Agenda for April 19.

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

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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.

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

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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.

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) and SB 1274 (Perry)

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 – Passed by vote of 17-1 on March 3.

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

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

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House Floor – Sent to Senate and Referred to Rules.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed February 12.

Community Affairs – Committee Substitute approved by vote of 7-2 on March 30.

Rules – **On Committee Agenda for April 20.**

Weekly Roundup: N/A.

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

Promote Economic Prosperity

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)

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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 – **Passed by vote of 115-0 on April 14..**

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.

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 Substitute approved by vote of 14-5 on April 15.**

House Floor – **Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.**

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 – **On Committee Agenda for April 20.**

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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 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- Passed by vote of 17-0 on April 15.

House Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 20.

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 – Passed by vote of 17-0 on April 16.

Senate Floor – Placed on Special Order Calendar for April 21.

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

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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.

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)

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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 7 (April 12-16)

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

Civic Education Curriculum Legislation ([HB 5 by Rep. Zika/SB 1450 by Sen. Rodriguez](#)) —

The bills would require high school government classes to include a comparative discussion of political ideologies, including communism. The House passed its version with a unanimous vote earlier this month. The Senate bill moved through its final committee last week and now heads to the chamber floor.

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 House passed the bill last week with a unanimous vote. The Senate bill is on the Special Order Calendar for Tuesday.

Charter Schools Legislation ([HB 51 by Rep. Duggan/SB 1028 by Sen. Hutson](#)) —

The bills would allow state colleges and universities to operate charter schools that could accept students from multiple counties and put the college or university Board of Trustees in charge of the schools. The House bill passed its final committee last week and is ready for a floor vote. The Senate Appropriations Committee will hear the bill when it meets at 10 a.m. Monday.

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

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cleared one committee and is awaiting a hearing in the Health and Human Services Committee. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government advanced SB 390 last week, sending it to the full Appropriations Committee.

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 to sell directly to consumers by the drink or by the package. The House took up the bill Thursday and approved it 115-1. It now heads to the Governor’s desk.

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 House amended and passed the Senate bill last week, sending it back to the upper chamber for another vote.

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 alongside food. The Senate version passed the full House last week with an amendment. It now heads back to the Senate.

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 Senate passed the bill last week after amending it to require drivers carry \$5,000 in “med pay” coverage. The House version is awaiting a hearing in its second committee.

Impact Fees ([HB 337 by Rep. DiCeglie/SB 750 by Sen. Gruters](#)) — The bills include several provisions to restrict impact fees imposed by local governments or special districts, including requiring local governments and special districts to credit against collection of impact fees any contribution related to public facilities. It also specifies conditions under which local government, school districts, or special districts may increase impact fees and requires specified entities to file affidavits attesting impact fees were appropriately collected and expended. Both bill cleared their final committees last week. The House bill is on the Special Order Calendar for Tuesday. The Senate bill is on the Special Order Calendar for Wednesday.

Combating Public Disorder Legislation ([HB 1 by Rep. Fernandez-Barquin/SB 484 by Sen. Burgess](#))

The bill, one of the Governor’s top priorities, would increase penalties for certain crimes committed during protests and would prevent local governments from cutting law enforcement budgets. The Senate took up the House bill and passed 23-17, sending it to DeSantis.

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State Preemption of Seaport Regulations Legislation ([HB 267 by Rep. Roach/SB 426 by Sen. Boyd](#))

The bills would preempt local government ordinances that “restrict or regulate commerce” at Florida seaports. The provision targets a Key West ordinance aimed at keeping cruise ships away from the island. The Senate bill was approved in its final committee stop and is on the Special Order Calendar for Wednesday.

Home-Based Businesses Legislation ([HB 403 by Rep. Giallombardo/SB 266 by Sen. Perry](#))

The bills would preempt local ordinances regulating most home-based businesses. In the House, the bill is on the Special Order Calendar for Tuesday. The Senate bill was approved by the Rules Committee last week but is pending a reference review.

Consumer Data Privacy Legislation ([HB 969 by Rep. McFarland/SB 1734 by Sen. Bradley](#)) —

The bills would give Floridians the right to find out what personal information a company has on them, how the company got it, and what the company does with it. They would also be able to request the data be deleted or block it from being sold to others. The House version passed its final committee last week. The Senate bill is awaiting a floor vote.

Physician Assistants Scope of Practice Legislation ([HB 431 by Rep. Rizo/SB 894 by Sen. Diaz](#))

— The bills would allow physician assistants to prescribe up to a 14-day supply of psychiatric controlled substances to minors and remove a requirement that PAs tell patients they can request a doctor’s opinion before a PA writes prescriptions. It would also raise the cap on how many PAs doctors can oversee from four to 10. The House bill passed the full chamber with a 106-5 vote. The Senate version is awaiting a hearing in the Appropriations Committee, its final stop.

Preview of Week 8 (April 19-23)

Appointments considered — The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee will consider more than 100 appointments to state boards and agencies, including recently appointed Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris. The committee meets at 8:30 a.m. A [full list](#) of appointments is available in the meeting notice.

Legal Notices Legislation ([HB 35 by Rep. Fine/SB 402 by Sen. Rodrigues](#)) — The bills 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 to post them on a government website or send them to residents through the mail. The bill passed the House last month. Meanwhile, the Senate version has been amended to now require some publication in local newspapers. This watering-down of the original intent is, in part, to ensure that the bill can survive the committee process. The Senate Appropriations Committee will hear SB 402 when it meets at 10 a.m. Monday.

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Technology Transparency Legislation ([HB 7013/SB 7072](#)) — The proposals, a priority of the Governor, would impose a series of requirements on social media companies aimed at ending the practice of “deplatforming” or “shadow banning” users. The bills would also require companies to clearly spell out prohibited content that could lead to a ban and inform users of any changes to their terms of service. HB 7013 and its linked public records bill (HB 7015) were approved in the House Judiciary Committee last week and now head to the chamber floor. The Senate bills will go before their final committee, Appropriations, at 10 a.m. Monday.

Literacy Improvement Legislation ([HB 3 by Rep. Trabulsy/SB 1372 by Sen. Burgess](#)) — The bill would create the “New Worlds Reading Initiative,” which would provide free books to elementary school students who are reading below grade level. The Senate Appropriations Committee will take up SB 1372 when it meets at 10 a.m. Monday.

Preemption Over Restriction of Utility Services Legislation ([HB 919 by Rep. Tomkow/SB 1128 by Sen. Hutson](#)) — The bills would block local ordinances restricting the types of fuel a utility may use, such as a ban on natural gas. The Senate will be heard in the Rules Committee, it’s final stop, when it meets Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

Vacation Rental Preemption Legislation ([HB 219 by Rep. Fischer/SB 522 by Sen. Diaz](#)) The bills originally preempted the regulation of vacation rental platforms to the state but would allow local ordinances in place before June 1, 2011 to stay on the books. Platforms would be required to collect and remit sales taxes to the state and to verify that property owners have a valid vacation rental license quarterly. Since filing, the House bill has remained the same and stalled, while the Senate bill was amended to remove the state preemption and continues to move. It will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee, Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

COVID-19 Impacts on Educational Institutions ([SB 7070 by Senate Education Committee](#)) — The bill would shield colleges and universities from lawsuits over decisions to shut campuses because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill would also protect K-12 schools from accountability measures based on standardized test scores this year. The Senate bill will be heard the Senate Rules Committee when it meets Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

Federal Spotlight

Who gets to be a bank? - The House Financial Services Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held [the first of what Chairman Ed Perlmutter \(D-CO\) said would be multiple hearings](#) yesterday to discuss whether and how fintech companies and other businesses that offer credit should serve customers through nontraditional charters. As technology and demographics change the way Americans use financial services, former Acting Comptroller Brian Brooks said, regulators have a duty to encourage responsible innovation while ensuring safeguards for consumers, and he sees nontraditional bank charters as the best way to do that. Other witnesses

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warned against mixing banking and commerce, and said that the FDIC lacks the authority it needs for adequate supervision of state-chartered industrial loan companies owned by non-banks.

Senate panel looks for ways to boost travel - As Americans get vaccinated and businesses reopen, the travel and tourism industry is eager to welcome guests back to hotels, restaurants, convention centers, and other public spaces, [witnesses told the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion](#) on Tuesday. Domestic and leisure travel should rebound quickly, but U.S. Travel expects it may take up to five years for business and international travel to return to pre-pandemic levels. Steve Hill of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority called for the creation of a National Travel Infrastructure Strategy, and Tori Emerson Barnes of US Travel noted that the United States is the only one of the top 30 global destinations that doesn't have a cabinet-level position dedicated to travel and tourism. Witnesses told the Subcommittee that while the hospitality industries urgently need more help, the most important first step is to end the pandemic.

Housing is infrastructure, says Waters - House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) said Wednesday that she was pleased to see President Biden's American Jobs Plan recognize that housing must be a major component of any comprehensive infrastructure proposal. [Witnesses appeared before the Committee](#) to testify on 17 bills covering a wide range of housing-related issues, including rehabilitation of public housing units, expansion of affordable housing programs, and reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. Waters' own Housing is Infrastructure Act would provide more than \$237 billion in new funding, including \$70 billion for repairs to public housing, \$35 billion for the HOME program, \$45 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund and \$12 billion for the Capital Magnet Fund. Committee Republicans said that the President's infrastructure plan was a "liberal wish list" that would eliminate jobs in the private sector while driving the national debt to catastrophic levels.

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: 3,085 (2,034 House; 1,051 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,060

Total Appropriation Project Dollars Requested: \$1.174 billion

Session Weekly Schedules

House Week 8:

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<https://www.myfloridahouse.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%20-%204th%20Amended.pdf>

House Week 9:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Session&CommitteeId=&Session=2021&DocumentType=Session%20Weekly%20Schedules&FileName=Session%20Weekly%20Schedule%20for%20Week%209%20April%2026%20-%2030,%202021.pdf>

Senate Week 8:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2021/Weekly%20Schedules%202021-04-14%20204656.PDF>

Senate Week 9:

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