

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAIOP
FROM: GrayRobinson
DATE: March 1, 2020
SUBJECT: 2020 Legislative Session –Week 7 (February 24-28)

The week started with an explosive hearing in the ongoing investigation into the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV). The House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee meeting, which spanned most of Monday, revealed some new information regarding the organization’s alleged misuse of taxpayer funds, including paying its former CEO more than \$7 million over three years.

As investigations continue, the state has gone forward with severing its contract with FCADV. The House passed a bill ending the contract last week and the Senate followed on Wednesday. Governor Ron DeSantis signed off Thursday.

FCADV may have dominated headlines out of the Capitol for the first half of the week, but coronavirus took center stage to close it out. DeSantis on Thursday stated there were no confirmed cases in Florida, but the state is holding back on sharing hard data. Surgeon General Scott Rivkees says the state can only share information on “highly infectious” viruses, and coronavirus doesn’t qualify. Democratic lawmakers may try to force the state to provide some answers next week by way of an amendment to Department of Health-related legislation.

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;

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- 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. The Senate Department of Financial Services legislation (SB 1404) was amended to extend the deadline to comply with enhanced radio signals to 2023, and the deadline to have any demonstration of compliance to January 1, 2022. This removes the permit requirement that originally required a permit application by December 2019 is now completed removed.

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

Detailed Activities and Bills related to NAIOPFL

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

Promoting Business Friendly CRE Regulations

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

Key Take Away

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

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unencumbered revenue of a repealed program; require the Department of Legal Affairs to prosecute or defend certain pending causes of actions, etc.

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

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

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed chamber vote.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

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

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

Weekly Roundup: House bill entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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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

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 28.

Civil Justice Subcommittee – Passed 12-0 on December 12

Business & Professions – Passed 13-0 on January 15

Judiciary – Passed 16-0 on January 23.

House – Passed 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 – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Weekly Roundup: N/A

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Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 5.

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

State Affairs – Passed 13-7 on February 20

Commerce – Passed 17-7 on February 27

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 5.

Community Affairs – N/A

Commerce & Tourism – N/A

Rules – N/A

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed third committee stop.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

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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 – On agenda for March 2

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

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

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disciplinary action can be taken; revise licensure requirements for engineers who hold specified licenses in another state; provide that certain cosmetology services may be performed in a location other than a licensed salon under certain circumstances, etc.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed January 9.

Business & Professions – Passed 12-3 on January 21

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

Commerce – Passed 23-0 on February 20

House – Placed on Special Order Calendar for March 3

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed October 7.

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

Commerce and Tourism – Passed 4-0 on February 4

Appropriations – Passed 20-1 on February 20

Senate – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Weekly Roundup: House bill entered the floor. Senate bill entered the floor.

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on October 18.

Agriculture & Natural Resources – Awaiting hearing

Ag & Natural Resources Appropriations – N/A

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

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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

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.

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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

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

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taxes under certain conditions; authorizing the Legislature to appropriate moneys to offset specified direct reductions of the local communications services tax by certain counties and municipalities, etc..

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed November 19.

Ways & Means – Awaiting hearing

Energy & Utilities – N/A

Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on December 9.

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

Community Affairs – Awaiting hearing

Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

If passed, would define the term “small business”; providing that small businesses are not required to collect the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain items of tangible personal property during a specified timeframe; authorize the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules, etc.

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 25.

Commerce and Tourism – 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

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

House Approval Milestones – No bill filed yet.

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on November 12.
Community Affairs – Passed 5-0 on February 3
Finance & Tax – Awaiting hearing
Appropriations – N/A

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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

Key Take Away

If passed, would revise definitions for “retail sale” and “mail order sale” to capture internet sales, and thus enforce the sales tax on internet sales.

House Approval Milestones – Bill filed on September 12.
Ways & Means Committee – Awaiting hearing
Commerce – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Bill filed on August 14.
Commerce and Tourism – Passed 5-0 on October 15
Finance and Tax – Passed 8-0 on February 13
Appropriations – Awaiting hearing

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

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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 Third Reading for March 3

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: No action needed at moment.

Private Property Rights Protection – HB 519 (Grant)

Key Take Away

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

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 – Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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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

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

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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

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 – Passed 15-7 on February 27

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on October 1.

Community Affairs – Passed 5-0 on January 27
Judiciary – Passed 5-1 on February 11

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Rules – On agenda for March 2

Weekly Roundup: House bill passed third committee stop.

Current Call to Action: N/A

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

Promote Economic Prosperity

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Filed on December 18.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee – Passed 12-0 on February 4
Ways & Means – Passed 17-0 on February 11
State Affairs – 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: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Filed on August 20.

Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee – Awaiting hearing
Education Committee – N/A
Appropriations – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones

Commerce and Tourism Committee: Passed 5-0 on October 15
Education: Passed 8-0 on November 12
Appropriations: Awaiting hearing

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

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

Key Take Away

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

House Approval Milestones – Filed on September 23.

Workforce Development & Tourism – Awaiting hearing
Transportation & Tourism Appropriations – N/A
Commerce – N/A

Senate Approval Milestones – Filed on September 23

Commerce and Tourism – Passed 5-0 on November 5
Appropriations Sub on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Dev -Passed 8-0 on January 29
Appropriations - Passed 20-0 on February 5, 2020
Senate – Passed 36-0 on January 13

Weekly Roundup: N/A

Current Call to Action: N/A

Summary of Committee Week 7 (February 24-28)

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The Florida House of Representatives

- The Higher Appropriations Committee advanced a plan to merge New College and Florida Polytechnic University into the University of Florida. It's now ready for a vote by the full House. Though there is no companion bill, Senate President Bill Galvano has expressed support for the plan.
- A bill that would require public and private employers to use the federal E-Verify system to check employees' immigration status had its debut committee hearing, clearing the Commerce Committee with a party-line vote. E-Verify is one of DeSantis' top priorities.

Florida Senate

- The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bill that aimed at reforming the Department of Children and Families. A priority of Senate President-designate Wilton Simpson, the "DCF Accountability Act" would create an Office of Quality Assurance and Improvement within the department as well as create a Chief Quality Officer position, among other changes.
- A bill by Senator Lauren Book that would require public schools to install panic alarm systems cleared two committee stops this week and it now heads to the chamber floor. The House companion is similarly positioned.

Bill of the Week

When the state legalized medical marijuana, it was removed from the list of banned substances in jails, prisons, and juvenile detention facilities.

This removal was due to the way the Legislature implemented the medical marijuana amendment. Though the state considers cannabis a controlled substance, lawmakers changed its definition to exclude medical marijuana. More recently, hemp was carved out.

House Bill 745, sponsored by Representative Scott Plakon, would add them both back and expand the contraband lists to include a couple other items.

Under the bill, it would be a third-degree felony to bring any cannabis product into a correctional facility. That includes hemp products such as CBD oil, which is legal for Floridians to use even without a medical marijuana prescription.

Further, the bill would add vaporizers, also known as e-cigarettes, to the contraband list for each facility type. Violations would be a first-degree misdemeanor, the same as cigarettes and other tobacco products.

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Cell phones — which are already outlawed at jails and prisons — would be similarly banned at juvenile facilities. If the violation was intentional, it would result in a first-degree misdemeanor.

The bill cleared its final committee this week, setting it up for a floor vote in the House. A similar bill in the Senate, SB 1286 by Senator David Simmons, is also ready for consideration by the full chamber.

Federal Spotlight

GrayRobinson's Washington, DC office releases a newsletter each week entitled The Golden Apple, reporting on the "latest discord on Capitol Hill." This week's newsletter discusses the FDIC reporting a decline in net bank income.

Lower net interest income and higher expenses led to a decline in the banking industry's overall net income in 2019, the [FDIC reported on Tuesday](#). FDIC Chairman Jelena McWilliams said the industry remains strong, and the number of "problem banks" declined to 51, the lowest level since 2006. The industry continued to consolidate, with 77 institutions absorbed by mergers in the fourth quarter of 2019 and three banks failing, while only three new banks opened.

Read The Golden Apple in its entirety here.

Current Bill Statistics

Total Bills Filed: 3,512 (2,517 House; 995 Senate)

Appropriations Bills Filed: 1,634 (1,770 passed through first committee)

Looking Ahead

There are just two weeks left in the 2020 Legislative Session, and most of the time remaining will be dedicated to hammering out the 2020-21 state budget.

The Senate has only three committee meetings scheduled for next week. The Ethics & Elections Committee will meet briefly on Monday to consider some gubernatorial appointments. A marathon meeting of the Rules Committee follows and with more than 50 items on the agenda, it will be the final resting place for many bills.

The Appropriations Committee will have a similarly packed agenda when it meets Tuesday. After that, it's three days of floor sessions.

House State Affairs and Health & Human Services committees will meet Monday, to address some final House priorities before the focus turns to floor sessions. These priorities include legislation regarding reclaimed water (HB 715), the Departments of Health (HB 1143) and child

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welfare (HB 7063). As well, the Rules Committee will meet Monday through Wednesday this week to set the House's final special order lists (Friday is last day for Special Order Calendar). The final substantive House committee scheduled is Education meets on Tuesday. With the possibility of the gaming compact to be reviewed in the final weeks, there is a possibility of additional committees, but none are scheduled as of now. .

Tuesday marks the 50th day of Session — the final day for regularly scheduled committee meetings.

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

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%20-%201st%20Amended.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 8:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2020/Weekly%20Schedules%202020-02-25%20140024.PDF>

Senate Week 9:

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