



# Palm Beach County State Legislative Update

## Department of Legislative Affairs

### Legislative Session Week 3

January 22-26, 2024

#### State Budget Update

The Florida House and Senate each released their chamber budget proposals at the end of this week. The Florida House has allocated a total of \$115.5 billion for FY 24-25 while the Senate’s budget comes in at \$115.9 billion.

Each budget can be amended before the package is voted on in their respective chamber’s Appropriations Committee. After the proposals clear committee, they will be on their way to the House and Senate Floor for approval to put the bills in the right posture for budget conference, which will occur later in session. The Week 4 report will include a detailed summary of each proposal as well as their topline spending numbers by issue area.

Many local governments, not-for-profit organizations, community groups, and others have requested state funding for local programs and projects. Generally, for a project to be eligible to receive funds in the final Florida FY 24-25 Budget it must be included at some amount in at least one chamber’s budget proposal. Below is an update on the appropriation requests submitted by Palm Beach County.

Project Name	Request Amount	Funded in House	Funded in Senate
Balanced Community Justice Project	\$367,420	\$0	\$0
Central PBC Historic Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$0
CR 880 Road Reconstruction	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Water Vessels	\$385,000	\$0	\$385,000
PBC Fresh Food Boxes and “Early Bird” Elder Meals Pilot Program	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
Green Cay Phase II	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$500,000
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative	\$906,000	\$453,000	\$0
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	\$774,543	\$90,000	\$0
Palm Beach Lakes Blvd Bridge Reconstruction	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
Peanut Island Historic Restoration	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$350,000
RESTORE Re-entry Program	\$500,000	\$0	\$400,000
Senior Art, Education, & Recreation Programs	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
PBC Discounted Bus Passes Program	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
W. Delray Regional Park All Abilities Playground	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,000,000
Westgate CRA Enhanced Street Lighting & Safety	\$750,000	\$0	\$750,000

For an update on the status of funding for all local appropriations requests sponsored by members of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, click [HERE](#) to find the live spreadsheet.

## **On the Floor This Week**

### **SENATE**

The Florida Senate had a light Special Order Calendar with just two bills scheduled to be heard on the floor. One of the bills, **CS/SB 280** relating to vacation rentals, was temporarily postponed but will be considered next week. The Senate did consider and pass **CS/SB 278**, which restores limits on fees for the preparation of an estoppel certificate by a condo or HOA to \$250. The bill also reduces the deadline for completion and delivery of the certificate, among other provisions.

### **HOUSE**

In the House, two of Speaker Paul Renner's priority bills were passed and sent over to the Senate in Messages. **CS/HB 1**, sponsored by Republican and Democratic legislators, prohibits social media platforms from allowing minors under the age of 16 to create accounts and use the application. The bill passed 103-13 and now awaits Senate consideration. **CS/CS/HB 3** was also passed off the floor and requires an entity that publishes material harmful to minors, specifically pornography, to prohibit access to persons who are under 18 years old. The bill passed unanimously. The House also passed **HM 351**, a memorial condemning the emerging partnership between the Chinese and Cuban governments.

## **Bills of Interest in Committee**

### **House Ways & Means Committee**

*CS/HB 1195, Millage Rates:* Requires a two-thirds vote of the governing body of a county, municipality, or independent special district to pass any millage rate increase, except where a higher vote threshold is already required under current law. The bill has two more committees of reference. The Senate companion, SB 1322, was also heard in committee during Week 4 and has two more committees left to pass through as well.

### **Senate Committee on Regulated Industries**

*SB 1142, Occupational Licensing:* Authorizes registered contractors in good standing who have been registered with a local jurisdiction during calendar years 2021, 2022, or 2023, to qualify for a registration when the local jurisdiction has determined not to continue issuing local licenses or exercising disciplinary oversight over such licensees. The bill requires the Construction Industry Licensing Board to issue licenses to eligible applicants in the circumstances specified in the bill. There is one more committee of reference for this bill before it can be heard on the Senate Floor.

### **Senate Committee on Community Affairs**

*SB 660, Public Records/Animal Shelter Foster & Adoptions:* Provides an exemption from public records requirements for records containing information about persons with legal custody of an animal from an animal shelter or animal control agency operated by a local government. The bill has one more committee before being eligible for the Senate Floor. The House companion, HB 273, was also heard and has one more committee stop.

CS/SB 742, Public Works Projects: Revises the definition of public works project to prohibit local governments from requiring contractors to pay a specific wage to their employees working on the project, even if the project is funded entirely with local dollars. The bill has two more committee stops before the floor.

CS/SB 770, Improvements to Real Property: Substantially amends a program authorized in current law, commonly known as the “Property Assessed Clean Energy” or “PACE” program, which allows property owners to make qualifying improvements to real property and finance the cost through annual non-ad valorem tax assessments. The bill enhances certain protections for consumers entering into PACE contracts and oversight for contractors that install improvements. The bill also expands the universe of improvements this financing may be utilized to install, updates the legislative intent of the PACE statute to reflect the expanded scope of the program, and introduces definitions used to clarify the language of the statute. The bill has one more committee to pass through.

SB 1150, Development Permits & Orders: Makes changes to the process of issuing development permits and orders to applicants for municipalities and counties. The bill provides that within 5 business days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, the municipality or county must confirm receipt of the application, and specifies that all timeframes related to issuing development permits and orders restart if an applicant makes a substantive change to the application. Additionally, the bill provides a schedule for the refund of application fees that a municipality or county must issue if statutorily-defined timelines for processing development permits and orders are not followed by a local government. Lastly, the bill provides that a municipality or county must specify in writing the minimum information that must be submitted for certain types of development permits and make such information available to the applicant in certain ways. The House companion bill, HB 791, was also heard in its first committee of reference. Both bills have two more committee stops left.

### **House State Affairs Committee**

CS/CS/HB 7013, Special Districts: Creates 12-year term limits for elected members of governing bodies of independent special districts, repeals the municipal conversion process from statute, requires all special districts to adopt goals and objectives, and reduces the maximum ad valorem millage rate that may be levied by a mosquito control district to one mill. The bill also prohibits the creation of new safe neighborhood districts and requires each petition to create a community development district to contain an affidavit concerning planned development. This bill is ready to be heard by the full House and is on the Special Order Calendar for 2/1.

CS/HJR 7017, Annual Adjustments to Homesteads Exemption Value: Proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution requiring the \$25,000 of assessed value, which is exempt from ad valorem taxes, be adjusted annually for positive inflation growth. This bill is ready to be heard by the full House and is on the Special Order Calendar for 2/1.

### **House Commerce Committee**

CS/HB 303, Rabies Vaccinations: Authorizes employees or agents of an animal control authority to administer rabies vaccinations to impounded dogs, cats, and ferrets under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian. The veterinarian must be available for consultation in person or via telecommunication. The bill is on the House Special Order Calendar for 2/1.

HB 849, Veterinary Practices: Authorizes a Florida licensed veterinarian to practice veterinary telehealth and creates a regulatory framework for such practice. The bill is ready to be heard on the House Floor and is on the Special Order Calendar for 2/1.

CS/HB 1459, Advanced Technology: Requires an entity or person who produces AI content or technology that is available to the Florida public for a commercial purpose to create safety and transparency standards that alert consumers that the content is generated by AI and allow the content to be recognizable as AI to other AI. The bill requires such entity or person to provide clear notice on its homepage that it provides an AI mechanism, prohibits knowingly using an image of an identifiable child in generating child pornography with AI, and requires any state agency that uses AI to disclose such and ensure that any confidential information remains confidential. Lastly, the bill creates an advisory council to study and monitor the development and deployment of AI systems. This legislation has two more committees of reference to pass through before being heard on the floor.

### **Senate Committee on Agriculture**

SB 1082, Housing for Agricultural Workers: Preempts a local government from inhibiting the construction or installation of housing for certain agricultural workers on land classified as agricultural if the housing meets certain criteria related to location and construction. The bill has one more committee stop before the floor.

CS/SB 1156, Dangerous Dogs: Requires a dog owner who knows of their dog's dangerous propensities to securely confine the dog in a proper enclosure. The bill also provides requirements and penalties for owners of dangerous dogs involved in injury and or death to humans or other domesticated animals. A statewide Dangerous Dog registry will be created under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services under the bill. There are two more committee stops for this legislation before it can be heard on the floor.

### **Senate Committee on Commerce & Tourism**

SB 1218, Broadband: Extends the date through which municipal electric utilities are required to offer to broadband providers a \$1 per pole, per year, wireline attachment rate for any new pole attachments necessary to make broadband service available to an unserved or underserved end user within a municipal electric utility service territory. The date under the bill has now been extended to December 31, 2028. The bill has one more committee of reference before the floor.

SB 1748, Tourist Development Tax: Prohibits a tourist development council's plan from allocating more than 25 percent of tourist development tax revenue received for a fiscal year to fund an individual project unless the governing board of the county approved the use by a supermajority vote. There are two more committee stops for this bill to pass through.

CS/SB 1492, Employment Regulations: Originally this bill would have prohibited local governments from requiring contractors to pay their employees a specific wage rate when they are doing business with the local government. This provision was removed by an amendment in committee. Now, the language left in the bill prohibits a local government from requiring an employer or contractor to meet or provide heat exposure requirements that are not already required under state or federal law. It does not limit the authority of a local government to provide workplace heat exposure requirements for their direct employees. There are two more committees of reference left for this bill to pass through.

### **House Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee**

CS/HM 1411, Shore Protection: Urges Congress to direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to amend their current easement policy for shore protection projects to allow such critical projects in Florida to proceed without delay. The memorial must pass one more committee before it can be adopted on the House floor.

## **Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources**

*CS/SB 1692, Preventing Contaminants of Emerging Concern from Discharging Into Wastewater Facilities and Waters of the State:* Creates the PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane Pretreatment Initiative within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to prevent contaminants of emerging concerns from entering the waters of the state through wastewater facilities. This legislation directs DEP to provide specific guidance to wastewater facilities with an industrial pretreatment program on the types of industrial users to be included in a required inventory of industrial users that are probable sources of 1,4-dioxane or PFAS. By July 1, 2025, the bill provides that each wastewater facility must submit such an inventory to DEP. DEP and wastewater facilities must provide written notice to all identified industrial users that they have been identified as a probable source of these contaminants and will be issued permits, orders, or other similar measures to enforce applicable pretreatment standards as early as one year after the written notice is sent. These permits, orders, or other measures must be issued by July 1, 2027. The bill also provides interim discharge limits and surface water quality standards for these contaminants that go into effect July 1, 2025, and allows wastewater facilities to propose local limits to DEP.

## **House Ethics & Elections Subcommittee**

*CS/HB 57, Term Limits for County Commissioners:* Prohibits a person from appearing on the ballot for reelection to the office of county commissioner if that person has served 12 consecutive years in office. The bill has one more committee left before the House floor.

*CS/HB 103, Public Records/County & City Attorneys:* Exempts from Florida public record requirements the personal identifying and location information of county and city attorneys, deputy attorneys, and assistant attorneys as well as the personal identifying and location information of their spouses and children. The bill has one more committee of reference.

## **Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment & General Government**

*SB 1638, Funding for Environmental Resource Management:* Dedicates revenues from the 2021 gaming compact between the Seminole Tribe and the State of Florida to the acquisition and management of conservation lands and the identification and prioritization of critical clean water infrastructure improvements. 32% of Compact revenues will be set aside for land acquisition, 32% will go toward land management, and 32% will be dedicated to water quality. The bill makes several other recurring and nonrecurring appropriations for land acquisition, land management, and water quality. The bill has one more committee of reference before it can be heard on the Senate Floor.

## **House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee**

*CS/HB 1221, Land Use & Development Regulations:* Establishes criteria for the approval of infill residential developments, provides requirements for self-storage facility expansions, and requires land development regulations adopted by a local government to establish minimum lot sizes consistent with the maximum density authorized by the comprehensive plan to provide standards for infill residential development. Additionally, the bill prohibits optional elements of a comprehensive plan from restricting the density or intensity established in the future land use element and revises the procedure for the adoption of small-scale comprehensive plan amendments. This legislation has two more committee stops before the floor.

**HB 1365, Unauthorized Public Camping & Public Sleeping:** Prohibits counties and municipalities from authorizing or permitting public sleeping or camping on public property without a lawfully issued temporary permit. The bill provides that local governments may designate certain property they own for public sleeping or public camping if the Department of Children and Families determines minimum sanitation levels are met, security is present on-site at all times, access to behavioral health services is provided, drugs and alcohol are prohibited within the designated area, and the area is not in a location that adversely affects the value or security of existing residential or commercial properties. A person or business is authorized to bring a civil action against a local government regarding a violation of the provisions included in the bill. There are two more committees for the bill to pass through before being eligible for consideration on the House Floor.

**CS/HB 735, Government Accountability:** Prohibits public officers, state agency employees, local government attorneys, and candidates for office from soliciting or accepting anything of value from a foreign country of concern, establishes requirements for lobbying local governments that mirror executive branch lobbying requirements, and prohibits local governments from renewing or extending employment contracts of senior level staff during the 8 months preceding a general election unless it is unanimously approved by the governing board. The bill has one more committee stop before the House Floor.

### **House State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee**

**CS/CS/HB 149, Continuing Contracts:** Increases the maximum limit for continuing contracts from an estimated per-project construction cost of \$4 million to \$7.5 million plus an annual increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) beginning with the CPI announced for the year 2026. This legislation has one last committee left to pass through.

### **Bills of Interest Up in Week 4**

***\*CS/SB 280, Vacation Rentals, Senate Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***\*CS/CS/HB 7013, Special Districts: House Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***\*CS/HJR 7017, Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value: House Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***\*CS/HB 7019, Exemption of Homesteads: House Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***\*CS/CS/HB 49, Employment & Curfew of Minors: House Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***\*CS/HB 303, Rabies Vaccinations: House Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***\*HB 849, Veterinary Practices: House Special Order Calendar, 2/1***

***HB 1065, Substance Use Treatment: House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, 1/29 at 11:30 am***

***SB 1622, Insurance: Senate Committee on Banking & Insurance, 1/29 at 1:30 pm***

***SB 1716, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation: Senate Committee on Banking & Insurance, 1/29 at 1:30 pm***

***SB 648, License or Permit to Operate a Vehicle for Hire: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/29 at 1:30 pm***

***SB 734, Government Accountability: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/29 at 1:30 pm***

***SB 1058, Special Districts: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/29 at 1:30 pm***

***SB 1530, Unauthorized Public Camping & Sleeping: Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/29 at 1:30 pm***

**SB 1628, Local Government Actions:** Senate Committee on Community Affairs, 1/29 at 1:30 pm

**SB 656, Continuing Contracts:** Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight & Accountability, 1/29 at 1:30 pm

**SB 472, Sovereign Immunity:** Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight & Accountability, 1/29 at 1:30 pm

**SB 1120, Display of Flags by Governmental Entities:** Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight & Accountability, 1/29 at 1:30 pm

**SB 148, Antisemitism:** Senate Committee on Judiciary, 1/29 at 4 pm

**CS/SB 738, Environmental Management:** Senate Committee on Judiciary, 1/29 at 4 pm

**SB 1680, Artificial Intelligence Transparency:** Senate Committee on Judiciary, 1/29 at 4 pm

**SB 1072, Tourist Development:** Senate Committee on Commerce & Tourism, 1/30 at 9 am

**SB 270, Discharging a Firearm in Residential Areas:** Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, 1/30 at 9 am

**SB 830, Youth Athletic Services:** Senate Committee on Health Policy, 1/30 at 9 am

**HB 479, Alternative Mobility Funding Systems:** House Commerce Committee, 1/30 at 10 am

**HB 103, Public Records/County & City Attorneys:** House Judiciary Committee, 1/30 at 12:30 pm

**CS/HB 705, Public Works Projects:** House State Affairs Committee, 1/30 at 12:30 pm

**SB 688, Alternative Mobility Funding Systems:** Senate Committee on Transportation, 1/30 at 1 pm

**HB 927, Improvements to Real Property:** House Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee, 1/30 at 3 pm

**SB 712, Public Records/County & City Attorneys:** Senate Committee on Rules, 1/30 at 3:30 pm