

GRAYROBINSON

MARION COUNTY

2024 Pre-Session Report

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MARION COUNTY 2024 PROJECTS

LOWELL AREA MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER PROJECT

Requested amount: \$7,000,000

Sponsored by Representative Payne and Senator Perry

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS- NW 49TH STREET

Requested amount: \$2,475,934

Sponsored by Representative Chamberlin and Senator Perry

PLANNING AND DESIGN OF A NEW DISTRICTS 5 AND 24 MEDICAL EXAMINER BUILDING

Requested amount: \$2,860,000

Sponsored by Representative McClain and Senator Perry

MARION COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER EXPANSION

Requested amount: \$2,800,000

Sponsored by Representative Chamberlin and Senator Perry

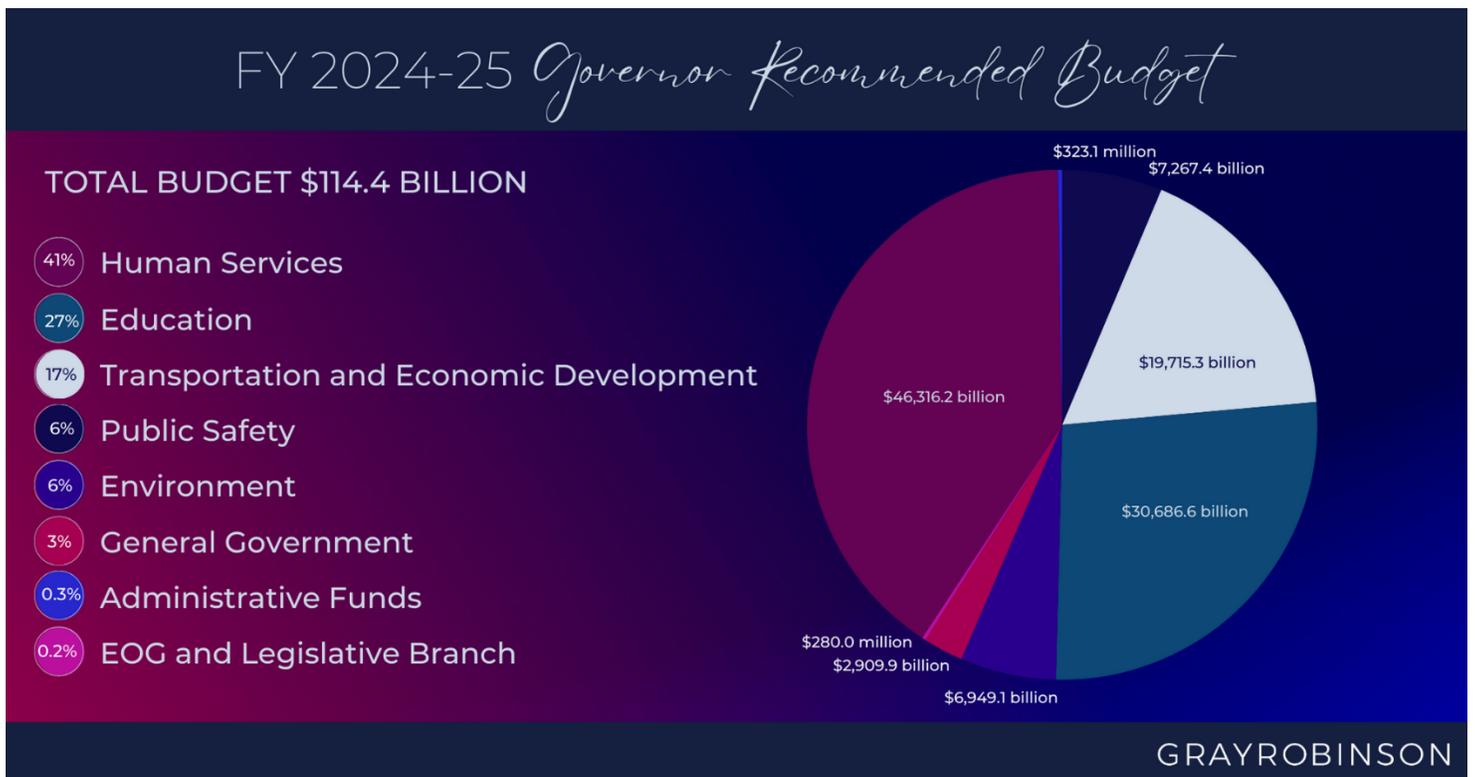
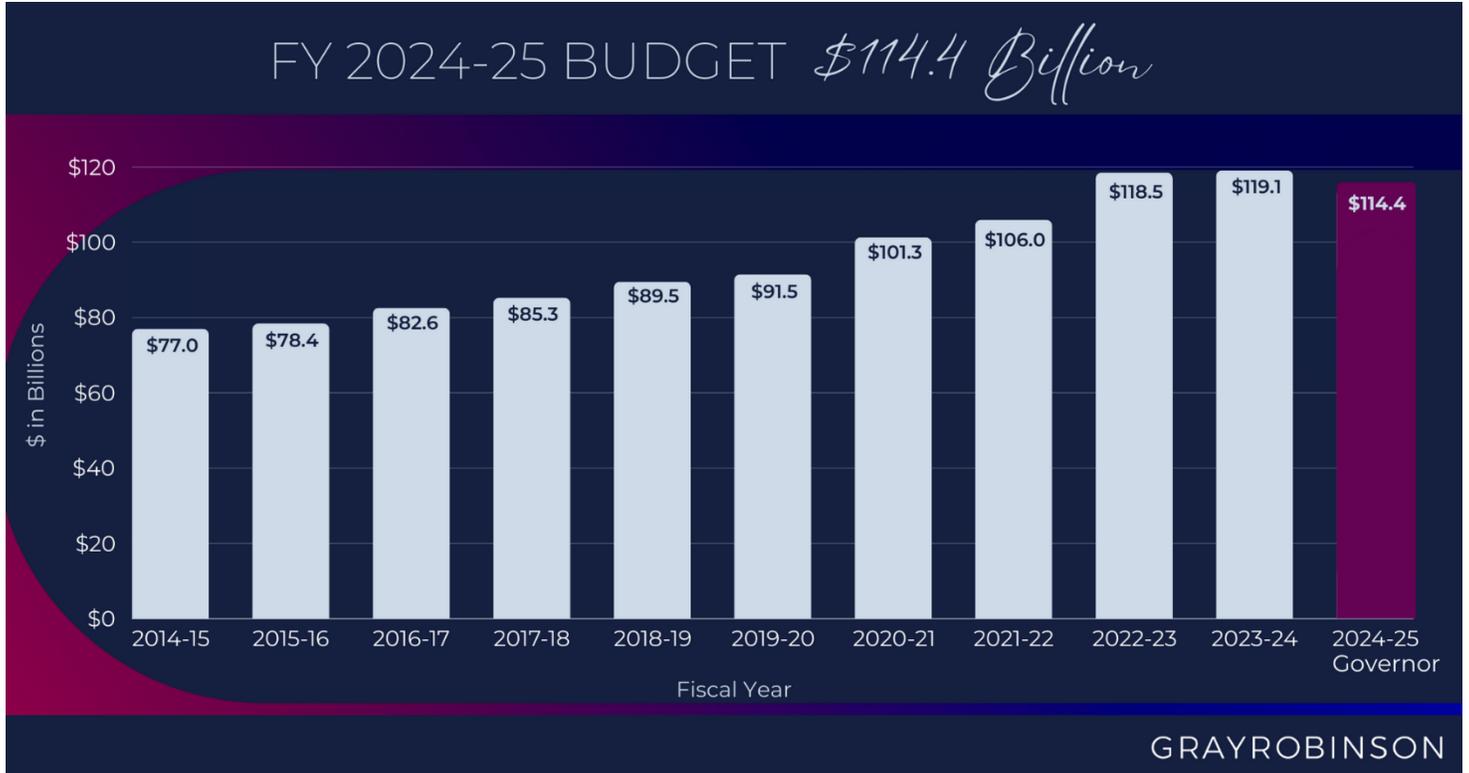
SW 80TH AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

Requested amount: \$2,000,000

Sponsored by Representative McClain and Senator Perry

GOVERNORS PROPOSED BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FOCUS ON FLORIDA'S FUTURE - FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025



GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Highlights

Focus on Florida's Future

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - **\$100 million**
- VISIT Florida - **\$105 million**
- State Small Business Credit Initiative Phase III - **\$175.2 million**
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program - **\$100 million**
- Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program - **\$20 million**
- University of Florida Semiconductor Institute (Operating and FCO) - **\$80 million**

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FULLY FUNDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Fully Fund Affordable Housing Programs (SAIL, SHIP, Hometown Heroes) - **\$398.1 million**
- Open Federally Declared Disasters - **\$1.3 billion**
- Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery - **\$396 million**
- Unauthorized Alien Transport Program - **\$5 million**
- Transportation Work Program - **\$14.5 million**
- Moving Florida Forward - **\$630 million**

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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Highlights

Focus on Florida's Future

MORE THAN \$1.1 BILLION IN TAX RELIEF FOR FLORIDIANS

- Temporary Tax Cuts - **\$883.9 million**
- 1-Year Insurance Premium Tax - **\$250.8 million**
- 1-Year FIGA Assessment - **\$143 million**
- 1-Year State Fire Marshall Assessment - **\$15.4 million**
- Two Back to School Sales Tax Holidays - **\$168.6 million**
- 3-Month Summer Freedom Sales Tax Holiday - **\$241.4 million**
- Two 14-Day Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday - **\$48.5 million**
- 7-Day Skilled Worker Tool Sales Tax Holiday - **\$16.2 million**

MORE THAN \$1.1 BILLION IN TAX RELIEF FOR FLORIDIANS

- Permanent Tax Cuts - **\$228.8 million**
- Sales Tax Collection Allowance - **\$165 million**
- Over the Counter Pet Medications - **\$37.1 million**
- Flood Insurance - **\$21.7 million**
- Tax Credit for Employment of Individuals with Unique Abilities - **\$5 million**

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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Highlights

Focus on Florida's Future

ENVIRONMENT

The Focus on Florida's Future Budget brings the two-year total investment to **\$2.9 billion**, more than 80% toward Governor DeSantis' goal of a **\$3.5 billion** investment in Everglades Restoration and protection of water resources.

BUDGET INCLUDES MORE THAN \$875 MILLION FOR THE PROTECTION OF FLORIDA'S WATER RESOURCES.

- Everglades Restoration - **\$745 million**
- Targeted Water Quality Improvements - **\$330 million**
 - Indian River Lagoon Protection Program - **\$100 million**
 - Caloosahatchee River and Estuary - **\$25 million**
- Florida Keys Stewardship Act (FKSA) - **\$20 million**
- Alternative Water Supply Grant Program - **\$80 million**
- Springs Restoration - **\$50 million**
- Innovative Solutions to Algae - **\$10 million**
- Water Quality Enhancement and Accountability - **\$11 million**
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Red Tide Management - **\$30 million**



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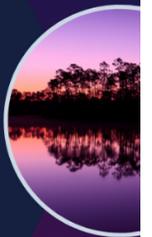
GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Highlights

Focus on Florida's Future

ENVIRONMENT - PROTECTING RESOURCES

- Resilient Florida - **\$158 million**
 - Coral Reef Restoration - **\$11.3 million**
- Conservation Lands and Waterways - **\$125 million**
 - Florida Forever Program - **\$100 million**
 - Florida Communities Trust (FCT) - **\$15 million**
 - Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) - **\$10 million**
- State Park Enhancements - **\$50 million**
- Beach Projects - **\$50 million**
- Cleanup of Contaminated Sites - **\$211 million**
- Citrus Protection and Research - **\$20 million**
- Oyster Habitat Management - **\$1.3 million**

The Governor's recommended budget fully complies with Amendment 1 by including over \$1 billion for land and water programs funded from documentary stamp tax revenues.



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The 2024 Legislative Session begins on January 9, 2024, and is scheduled to conclude on March 8. With an election looming in late 2024, look for lawmakers to do everything in their power to leave Tallahassee on time and with numerous victories, both in policy and appropriations, to take back home to their districts. Governor Ron DeSantis is scheduled to give his State of the State address on opening day in a joint session before both chambers. The Governor recently released his proposed state budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which begins on July 1. The proposed budget of \$114.4 billion acts as a starting point for negotiations as the Legislature works through its process of finalizing a spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year. Three areas of focus for Governor DeSantis: increasing teacher's salaries, continuing Everglades restoration efforts, and upgrading the state correctional facilities.

Following multiple special sessions, the predominant focus of which was the state's struggling property insurance market, look for significant time to be spent on the following policy areas during the 2024 Legislative Session: healthcare; artificial intelligence; post-storm hurricane recovery; pre-storm mitigation; insurance; labor market; public schools; social media; the environment; and taxes. House Speaker Paul Renner and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo are entering their final session as presiding officers. Speaker Designate Danny Perez and President Designate Ben Albritton will succeed them. It will be worth watching what influence both future presiding officers have on the upcoming session. To date, over 1220 bills have been filed, with that number to grow significantly prior to the deadline to officially file bills, which is the first day of session. While the following list is not exhaustive, it can be used as a starting point by which to review proposed policies for the upcoming legislative session.

BILLS OF INTEREST

CONTRACTS FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - HB 15 (RUDMAN)

The bill referred to as the "Right to Rock Act," would prohibit a live entertainment venue accepting state funding from cancelling/terminating an executed contract with persons engaged in a live presentation or performance on the basis of social media or political affiliation. The bill has yet to be heard in committee.

LICENSE TAXES - SB 28 (HOOPER) AND HB 107 (ESPOSITO)

The bills would define the terms "electric vehicle" and "plug-in hybrid vehicle." It will also impose specified additional annual license taxes on electric vehicles; authorize persons and entities to biennially renew vehicle registrations for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles; and addresses the distribution of proceeds from the additional license taxes and the requirements for how local governments may use those proceeds. HB107 (Esposito) would exempt certain vehicles from specified license fees. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS -HB 31 (EDMONDS) AND SB 64 (OSGOOD)

The bills would limit rent increases to 30% per year for most tenants, require air conditioning in all rental units on the market, and increase the time given (15 days) for notice of termination of a rental agreement when partial payment is made. HB 31 and SB 64 have not yet been heard in committee.

ACCEPTANCE OF CASH PAYMENTS BY BUSINESSES – HB 35 (RUDMAN) AND SB 106 (JONES)

The bills would require certain businesses to accept cash as a payment for any transaction involving the purchase of a tangible good, if in connection with such transaction, the business would accept other means of payment and the customer is physically present at the place of business. Exempt businesses include sales that are not conducted in person; parking facilities owned by municipalities; business providing professional services (accountants, attorneys, architects, engineers, etc.) HB 35 and SB 106 have not yet been heard in committee.

COMPREHENSIVE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN – SB 36 (STEWART) AND HB 455 (CASELLO)

The bills require the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan by July 1, 2025. SB 36 was heard and passed its first committee of reference, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS – SB 40 (STEWART)

The bill requires employers to provide current employees with a copy of their employment contract upon request. The bill has not yet been heard in committee and currently does not have a House companion.

PUBLIC RESTROOM REQUIREMENTS – SB 44 (STEWART)

The bill requires public restrooms with a wheelchair accessible toilet compartment or single-user toilet room which are newly constructed after July 1, 2024, must: (1) install a hook within reach of an average-sized person; and (2) such restrooms must be in compliance with all applicable requirements set forth in the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction. The bill has not yet been heard in committee and currently does not have a House companion.

MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER UTILITY RATES – HB 47 (F. ROBINSON) AND SB 104 (JONES)

The bills would require a municipality to charge customers receiving its utility services in another municipality the same rates, fees, and charges as it charges consumers within its own municipal boundaries under certain circumstances. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

EMPLOYMENT AND CURFEW OF MINORS – HB 49 (CHANNEY)

The bill removes the following restrictions on work hours for minors 16 and 17 years-of-age: Working before 6:30 a.m. or after 11:00 p.m. or for more than 8 hours in any one day when school is scheduled the following day. When school is in session, working more than 30 hours in any one week. On any school day, being gainfully employed during school hours if they are not enrolled in a career education program. The bill reduces the age from 17 years-of-age to 15 years-of-age, which will prohibit minors 15 years old or younger from working more than: 6 consecutive days in any one week; 4 hours continuously without an interval of at least 30 minutes for a meal period. The bill removes the exception from the restrictions for minors 16

and 17 years-of-age who have graduated from high school or received a high school equivalency diploma and clarifies that minors 16 and 17 years old may work the same number of hours as a person is 18 or older. HB 49 was heard and passed its first committee of reference in the House. The bill currently does not have a Senate companion.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER TERM LIMITS - HB 57 (SALZMAN) AND SB 438 (INGOGLIA)

The bills establish an eight-year term limit for county commissioners. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

IMPEDING, THREATENING, OR HARASSING FIRST RESPONDERS - HB 75 (RIZO) AND SB 184 (AVILA)

The bills would specify that peaceful recording or observation is not harassment; prohibit approaching a first responder or remaining within a specified distance of such person with the intent to impede, threaten, or harass or physically prevent the person from performing lawful duties after receiving a warning not to approach; and provide criminal penalties. HB 75 was heard and passed its first of two committees in the House. SB 184 was heard and passed its first of three committees in the Senate.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE - SB 98 (JONES) AND HB 383 (EDMONDS)

The bills create the Community Violence Task Force within the Florida Division of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to review system failures and causes of high crime areas and violence in urban core neighborhoods and communities. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

TREES ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY - SB 122 (STEWART)

The bill repeals section 163.045, Florida Statutes, which prohibits local governments from requiring notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on a residential property if the property owner provides documentation from a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect that the tree poses an unacceptable risk. Replanting of trees is not required under this section, except for mangrove protection. This bill has not yet been heard in committee and has no House companion.

GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS - HB 157 (CARUSO) AND SB 894 (BRADLEY)

HB 157 (Caruso) will authorize governing bodies of municipalities to convene meetings and conduct official business via teleconferencing or other technological means if certain conditions are met. This bill will also provide limitations on these meetings, providing that if a state of emergency is declared, these limitations will be suspended. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

PROTECTIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WHO USE MEDICAL MARIJUANA AS QUALIFIED PATIENTS - SB 166 (POLSKY)

The bill will prohibit a public employer from taking adverse personnel action against an employee or a job applicant who is a qualified patient for his or her use of medical marijuana. This bill will also require a

public employer to provide written notice of an employee's or a job applicant's right to explain or contest a positive marijuana test result. Procedures will also need to be put in place on what to do when an employee or job applicant tests positive for marijuana. This bill has not yet been heard in committee and, to date, does not have a House companion.

TOWING AND STORAGE - HB 179 (BELL) AND SB 774 (PERRY)

HB 179 (Bell) prohibits the Florida Highway Patrol from excluding wrecker operators from the wrecker operator system or from being designated as an authorized wrecker operator based solely on a prior felony conviction. It will authorize a towing-storage operator to charge certain fees and will be revising various requirements set. The requirements being revised include the removal of vehicles or vessels by law enforcement agencies and DHSMV, sales, liens, notice of liens, and disposition of property at self-service storage facilities. The bill will require towing-storage to accept certain types of payment, and rental agreements authorize tenants to designate an alternate contact person. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

ANCHORING OF VESSELS IN ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS - HB 437 (PORRAS) AND SB 192 (GARCIA)

The bills will revise a section of a statute pertaining to Biscayne Bay in which a person may not anchor a vessel during a specified timeframe. HB 437 was heard and passed its first committee of reference the House Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee. SB 192 has not yet been heard in committee.

WRECKER AND TOWING-STORAGE OPERATORS - HB 199 (SMITH) AND SB 202 (RODRIGUEZ)

The bills prohibit the exclusion of wrecker operators from wrecker operator systems based solely on prior felony conviction; clarify what fees a towing-storage operator may charge for the incidental to, recovery, removal, or storage of a vehicle or vessel; and mandate that a wrecker and towing operator accept credit cards as a form of payment. The bills have yet to be heard in committee.

COLLEGE CAMPUS FACILITIES IN AREAS OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN - HB 217 (MOONEY)

The bill will revise the number of beds certain Florida College System institutions may provide to certain persons and authorize such beds to be provided to healthcare workers. This bill will also be revising which funds may not be used for the construction of dormitories. The bill has yet to be heard in committee.

BUILDING REGULATIONS - HB 267 (ESPOSITO) AND SB 684 (DICEGLIE)

The bill removes a provision in Ch. 533, the Building Code, which requires single-family residential dwelling permits to be issued within 30 days unless the application does not conform to the Building Code or local laws or ordinances. However, the bill incorporates the time period to review single-family residential dwellings into the general section related to building permit applications. The bill reduces the time that a local government has to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a building permit application

following receipt of a completed and sufficient application to the following timelines unless the applicant waives such limitation in writing:

- For an applicant using local government plans review to obtain a building permit:
 - Within 30 business days after receiving a complete and sufficient application (currently 120 days, or 30 days for single-family residential dwellings).
- For an applicant using a private provider to obtain a building permit:
 - Within 15 business days after receiving a complete and sufficient application (currently 120 days, or 30 days for single-family residential dwellings).
- For an applicant for a master plan permit:
 - Within 10 business days after receiving a complete and sufficient application (current timeframe is dependent on the local program, or 30 days for single-family residential dwellings).
- For an applicant for a single-family residential dwelling applied for by a contractor licensed in this state on behalf of a property owner who participates in a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity:
 - Within 10 business days after receipt of the application unless the permit application fails to satisfy the Building Code or the enforcing agency's laws or ordinances (currently 15 days).

HB 267 was heard, and passed its first committee of reference, the House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee. SB 684 has not yet been heard in committee.

INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE - HB 275 (CANADY) AND SB 340 (YARBOROUGH)

The bills will provide criminal penalties for causing intentional harm or damage to critical infrastructure, including electric substations and corresponding equipment, municipal water and wastewater facilities, natural gas facilities, etc. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

VACATION RENTALS - SB 280 (DICEGLIE)

SB 280 maintains the current preemption on local governments from adopting zoning ordinances specific to short-term rentals, as well as regulating the duration of stays and the frequency in which the properties are rented. Local Registration Programs:

- The local government has 15 business days after receiving an application for registration to either accept the application or issue a written notice specifying all deficiencies. Both parties may agree to extend the timeline. If a municipality does not accept or deny an application within that 15-day window, that application is deemed approved.
- As a condition of registration, the local registration program may only require the owner or operator of a vacation rental to:
 - Pay a fee of no more than \$150 per unit for processing an individual registration application and a \$50 per unit yearly renewal. A local government may impose a \$300 fine for failure to register.

- o Charge a reasonable fee for inspections to ensure compliance with the Florida Building and Fire Prevention Code.

SB 280 was heard, and passed its first committee of reference, Senate Regulated Industries. There is currently no House companion.

TRANSPORTATION - HB 287 (ESPOSITO) AND SB 266 (HOOPER)

The bills will limit the amount of revenue that the Department of Transportation may annually commit to public transit projects. It will authorize the department to enter into comprehensive agreements with private entities for certain purposes. The department will have to pay interest to a contractor and will have to register a motor vehicle used for specified work on projects. This bill will also provide a presumption that if a death, injury, or damage is caused as a result of a motor vehicle being crashed in a construction zone in which the driver was under the influence of marijuana, the driver's operation of such vehicle was the proximate cause of his or her own death, injury, or damage. Revises conditions under which a contractor is immune from liability. It will create a new Local Agency Program within in the department that will focus on funding, including prioritization and reimbursement. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

WRECKER OPERATORS - SB 332 (BURGESS) AND HB 661 (CARUSO)

The bills mandate Counties establish maximum rates that may be charged by a wrecker operator for the storage of electric vehicles in the operator's storage facilities. Such rates may not exceed the rate for storing gasoline powered vehicles. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

AGRITOURISM - HB 339 (ROTH) AND SB 696 (RODRIGUEZ)

The bills prohibit local governments from adopting ordinances, regulations, rules, or policies that require certificates of use for certain agriculture lands, facilities, and venues. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT - SB 378 (GARCIA) AND HB 1105 (CARUSO)

The bills modify the timeframe for a property appraiser to file an appeal of a value adjustment board decision and establish a new limitation on homestead tax assessments for property transferred from non-homestead residential property to homestead property. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PARKING REQUIREMENTS - SB 386 (OSGOOD)

The bill requires local governments to reduce parking requirements necessary for development approval for "Live Local" developments where at least 75% of the residential units are affordable for at least 30 years, and the development is located within one-half mile of a major transportation hub. The bill has not yet been heard in committee and, to date, does not have a House companion.

SUNSHINE STATE ONE-CALL OF FLORIDA, INC., CORP BOARD OF DIRECTORS - HB 411 (SMITH)

The bill will require a certain number of underground utility and excavation contractors recommended by the National Utility Contractors Association of Florida to be voting members of the Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., board of directors. This bill has not yet been heard in committee.

WORKPLACE HEAT EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS - HB 433 (ESPOSITO)

The bill will preempt the regulation of heat exposure requirements in the workplace be regulated by the state. All local laws, ordinances, resolutions, regulations, rules, codes, policies, and amendments will be void and prohibited. This will require the Department of Commerce to adopt new rules relating to workplace heat exposure requirements if the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has not done so by a certain date. This bill will also prohibit local governments from mandating and imposing certain requirements or from seeking certain requirements from persons related to said requirements. The bill has not yet been heard in committee and, to date, does not have a Senate companion.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY - SB 472 (BRODEUR) AND HB 569 (MCFARLAND)

The bills increase the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state and its agencies and subdivisions. The current statutory limits for claims are \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident. Both bills would increase the caps to \$400,000 per person and \$600,000 per incident. To reflect inflation, the bills require caps to be adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the regional Consumer Price Index. The bills prohibit an insurance policy from conditioning the payout of a claim on the passage of a claims bill. HB 569 allows a subdivision of the state to settle a claim above the statutory limits without the need for a claims bill. HB 569 narrows the statute of limitation on negligence claims against government entities from 4 years to 2 years. Both the House and Senate bills allow the limitations of liability in effect on the date a final judgment is entered to apply to the claim. Therefore allowing claims that occurred prior to the implementation of these new limits to avail themselves of the increase in caps. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT LIABILITY - HB 473 (GIALLOMBARDO) AND SB 658 (DICEGLIE)

The bills will provide that a county, municipality, commercial entity, or third-party agent that complies with certain requirements is not liable in connection with a cybersecurity incident. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING MOBILITY SYSTEMS - HB 479 (W. ROBINSON) AND SB 688 (MARTIN)

The bills revise and provide additional guidance concerning the use of mobility plans and the collection of mobility fees. The bills provide definitions for "mobility fee" and "mobility plan" to be used within the Community Planning Act. The bills prohibit local governments from charging for transportation impacts if they are not the local government that is issuing a building permit, require that local governments collect for extra jurisdictional impacts if they are issuing building permits, and prohibit local governments from assessing multiple charges for the same transportation impact. Concerning impact fees, the bills

provide that local governments adopting and collecting impact fees by ordinance or resolution must use localized data available within the previous 12 months of adoption for the local government's calculation of impact fees. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

LIMITATION ON LOCAL FEE FOR VIRTUAL OFFICES - HB 503 (FABRICIO) AND SB 578 (INGOGLIA)

The bills prohibit a local government from adopting or maintain an ordinance or rule that imposes a tax, charge, fee, or other imposition with respect to the utilization of a virtual office. Virtual office is defined as an office that provides communications services, such as telephone or facsimile services, and address services without providing dedicated office space. The bills have not been heard in committee.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS - SB 506 (WRIGHT)

The bill adds code enforcement officers to the list of covered professionals under Section 784.07, Florida Statutes, which provides penalties for assault, battery, aggravated assault, and aggravated battery when the offense is knowingly committed against a law enforcement officer or other specified professionals who are engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties. The bill has not yet been heard in committee and to date has no House companion.

LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT - HB 527 (MAGGARD) AND SB 664 (BURGESS)

The bills preempt the regulation of dredge and fill activities under Chapter 403, Florida Statutes to the Department of Environmental Protection. The bills also clarify that buffer zones for land or water delineations established by local governments that exceed the delineation determinations made by FDEP or water management district must be acquired by the local government through an eminent domain action. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

USE OF PRIVATE PROVIDER FOR PLANS REVIEW AND INSPECTION - HB 579 (GRIFFITS)

The bill requires that private provider firms qualify as business organizations and authorizes an owner or contractor to file a complaint with the Department of Commerce against a local government if certain fees are not reduced should the owner or contractor utilize a private provider in plans review. The bill has not yet been heard in committee and does not have a Senate companion.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS - HB 601 (DUGGAN)

The bill determines it unlawful for municipalities or citizen oversight boards to pass or enforce any ordinance relating to the receipt, processing, or investigation of complaints of misconduct by law enforcement officers and correctional officers. The bill also prohibits the creation of any laws in relation to civilian oversight of a law enforcement agency in relation to the investigation of complaints. The bill has not been heard in committee and, to date, does not have a Senate companion.

LOCAL BUSINESS TAXES – HB 609 (BOTANA) AND SB 1144 (DICEGLIE)

The bills repeal Chapter 205, Florida Statutes, with regard to the levy of local business taxes. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

PROHIBITED USE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKED LABOR IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS – SB 628 (SIMON) AND SB 796 (AVILA)

The bills require certain contractors with governmental entities to provide an affidavit attesting the contractor does not use coercion for labor or services. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS – HB 665 (MCCLAIN) AND SB 812 (INGOGLIA)

The bills require:

- Counties with a population of 75,000 or more and municipalities with a population of 30,000 or more to create a program to expedite the process of issuing building permits for residential subdivisions by August 15, 2024.
- Creation of a two-step application process to include the adoption of a preliminary plat and a final plat to expedite the issuance of building permits.
- Allowing cities to work with the appropriate local government agencies to issue an address and temporary parcel identification number for lot lines and sizes based on the metes and bounds of the plat contained in the application.
- Require applicants to have a performance bond for up to 130%.
- Require applicants to indemnify local governments that issue the permit.
- Specify that upon an applicant's request, a local government must issue no less than 50% of the permits for dwellings to be built.

The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

UNITED STATES PRODUCED IRON AND STEEL – SB 674 (BOYD) AND HB 779 (GRIFFITS)

The bills require governmental entities to include a requirement in certain contracts that certain iron or steel products be produced in the United States. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS – HB 705 (SHOAF) AND SB 742 (GRALL)

The bills revise and expand the definition of "public works project" to include an activity that is paid using any local or state-appropriated funds. Under current law, this is defined as any state funds. The bills prohibit municipalities that contract for a public works project from requiring a contractor to do the following:

- Pay employees a predetermined number of wages or prescribe any wage rate.
- Provide employees with a specified type, amount, or rate of employee benefits.
- Control, limit, or expand staffing.
- Recruit, train, or hire employees from a designated, restricted, or single source.

The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

IMPROVEMENTS TO REAL PROPERTY – SB 770 (MARTIN) AND HB 927 (TRABULSY)

The bills revise requirements relating to the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. The bill authorizes local governments to enter financing agreements with property owners to finance or refinance qualifying improvements and requires such agreements to meet specified conditions. The definition of “qualifying improvement” is expanded to include wastewater improvements relating to the repair, replacement, or conversion of a septic tank system and flood and water damage mitigation and resiliency improvements. It revises and specifies public recording requirements for assessment financing agreements and notices of lien. It authorizes local governments to include in any contracts with program administrators’ provisions for performing annual reviews to confirm compliance. It imposes numerous new consumer protection requirements on the approval of PACE financing agreements, including requirements that a local government or program administrator determine whether a property owner has the ability to pay the assessment, requirements for disclosures to property owners, requirements for obtaining the consent of certain mortgage holders or loan servicers, requirements for monitoring compliance by qualifying improvement contractors and requirements for annual reporting by local governments. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

MUNICIPAL WATER OR SEWER UTILITY RATES, FEES AND CHARGES – HB 777 (BRACKETT) AND SB 1088 (MARTIN)

The bills remove statutory authorization for municipalities to impose any surcharge for serving customers outside their municipal boundaries. It specifies that rates, fees, and charges for extraterritorial customers must be just and equitable and be based on the same factors used to fix rates, fees, and charges for customers inside the municipality’s boundaries. The bill also requires municipal utilities to conduct a rate study by January 1, 2027, and every seven years thereafter. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS AND ORDERS – HB 791 (ESPOSITO/OVERDORF) AND SB 1150 (PERRY)

The bills require local governments to specify in writing the minimum information that must be submitted for an application for a zoning approval, rezoning approval, subdivision approval, certification, special exception, or variance. Within 5 business days after receiving an application for approval of a development permit or development order, a local government shall confirm receipt of the application using contact information provided by the applicant. The bills also discuss refunding applicants:

- 10% of the application fee if local government fails to issue written notification of completeness or areas of deficiency within 30 days after receipt.
- 20% of the application fee if local government fails to issue written notification of completeness or written specification of areas of deficiency within 10 days after receiving the additional information requested
- 50% of the application fee if the local government fails to approve, approves with conditions, or denies the application within 30 days after the conclusion of the 120-day or 180-day timeframe.
- 100% of the application fee if the local government fails to approve, approves with conditions, or denies an application 31 days or more after the conclusion of the 120-day or 180-day timeframe.

The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – HB 853 (MCCLURE) AND SB 400 (BURGESS)

The bills specify that retired law enforcement officers can be reemployed in a position that qualifies for the Special Risk Class by an employer that participates in the Florida Retirement System. The bill reduces the timeframe from 12 months to 6 months, during which a former employee is prohibited from receiving both a reemployment salary and retirement benefits. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS – SB 870 (BOYD) AND HB 781 (CLEMONS)

The bills state that a public entity may proceed with an unsolicited proposal for a qualifying project without engaging in a public bidding process if the responsible public entity holds a duly noticed public meeting at which the proposal is presented, affected public entities and members of the public are able to provide comment, and the responsible public entity determines that the proposal is in the public's interest. The bills have yet to be heard in committee.

DISPLAY OF FLAGS BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES – HB 901 (BORRERO) AND SB 1120 (MARTIN)

The bills prohibit governmental entities from displaying flags that represent a political viewpoint, including, but not limited to, a politically partisan, racial, sexual orientation and gender, or political ideology viewpoint. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY – SB 980 (PERRY)

The bill requires that all plans submitted on or after a specified date for construction of a pedestrian crosswalk on a public highway, street, or road that is located at any point other than at an intersection with another public highway, street, or road must include traffic control signal devices and pedestrian control signals that conform to specified requirements. The bill has not yet been heard in committee, and to date, there is no House companion.

PUBLIC DEPOSITS – SB 1018 (INGOGLIA) AND HB 611 (BOTANA)

The bills add credit unions to a list of financial institutions eligible to be qualified public depositories. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

TRAFFIC INFRACTION DETECTORS – SB 1042 (GARCIA) AND HB 805 (BORRERO)

The bills provide for the repeal of the ability of local governments to utilize red light cameras. The bills have not yet been heard in committee.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS – SB 1058 (HUTSON) AND HB 7013 (LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL DISTRICTS SUBCOMMITTEE)

The bill revises provisions relating to special districts by:

- Creating a 12-year term limit for elected members of governing bodies of most types of independent special districts.
- Requiring a continuation referendum for most independent special districts exercising ad valorem tax authority on a date certain and every 10 years thereafter.
- Providing dissolution process for special districts that voters elect to not continue.
- Adding additional criteria for declaring a special district inactive.
- Revising notice and procedures for proposed declaration of inactive status.
- Authorizing districts that have been declared inactive to expend funds as necessary to service outstanding debt.
- Requiring all special districts to adopt goals and objectives, as well as performance measures and standards, to determine if those goals and objectives are being achieved.
- Repealing a provision that allows a special district to convert itself into a municipality without legislative approval.
- Requiring each petition to create a community development district to contain a sworn affidavit concerning planned development.
- Requiring independent special fire control districts to report certain information to the Division of the State Fire Marshal.
- Requiring mosquito control districts to meet certain conditions required to participate in state programs.
- Prohibiting the creation of new neighborhood improvement districts (NIDs) and requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a performance review of existing NIDs.

HB 7013 was heard, and passed, its first committee of reference. SB 1042 has not yet been heard in committee.

INCREASED HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION - WMCI (WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE PCB)

The bill proposes a state constitutional amendment to increase the maximum amount of the homestead exemption on homestead properties with an assessed value greater than \$50,000 from \$25,000 to \$50,000.