



MEMORANDUM

To: Lee Feldman, City Manager
City of Fort Lauderdale

From: Ronald L. Book, Esq.
Kelly C. Mallette
Rana G. Brown

Date: May 31, 2017

RE: 2017 Legislative Session – Final Session Report

On behalf of Ronald L. Book, P.A., we would like to first and foremost extend our appreciation for the continued opportunity to represent the City of Fort Lauderdale.

After a three-day extension to complete the budget and budget related bills, the Legislature adjourned, Sine Die, May 8th, at 8:52 pm. Included in this report is a summary of the budget and an update on legislation considered during the 2017 Regular Session. Should you have any questions regarding budget information, legislation, or legislative action, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

For the 2017 Session, the City of Fort Lauderdale's funding request for the rapid rehousing project was included in the final budget. The Legislature officially transmitted the budget to the Governor this morning, and as of today, the Governor will have fifteen (15) days to act.

Rapid Rehousing Project (Homelessness): Sponsored by Senator Farmer and Representative DuBose. Provides assistance and appropriate referrals to individuals and families in the Broward county area to prevent homelessness, and rapidly re-house homeless families and individuals. **Funded: \$400,000**

Bills Affecting Local Governments: The following issues are summarized for your review. Please let us know if you have questions on issues included in this report, or on any other issue of concern. We will be happy to provide information to you.

- Additional Homestead Tax Exemption
- Tax Cut Package – sales tax, property tax, and corporate income tax
- Regulation by the State of Public Works Project
- Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs)
- Utilities
- Vacation Rentals
- Traffic Infraction Detectors (Red Light Cameras)
- Drones / Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Harbour Centre | 18851 N.E. 29th Ave., Ste. 1010 | Aventura, FL 33180
Phone: 305.935.1866 | Fax: 305.935.9737
104 West Jefferson Street | Tallahassee, FL 32301
Phone: 850.224.3427 | Fax 850.224.3361

- Local Tax Referenda
- Ride Sharing (Uber)
- Gaming
- Task Force on Affordable Housing
- Beach Renourishment Funding/Coastal Management
- Fiscal Transparency of Local Governments
- Fiscal Responsibility of Local Governments
- Sovereign Immunity – Local Government Claims Bill Process Restructure
- Preemption of Local Government
- Regulation of Commerce, Trade, and Labor

Additional Homestead Tax Exemption: HJR 7105 (LaRosa) is a joint resolution which proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution adding a further homestead tax exemption. The original draft would have increased by up to \$25,000, the current homestead exemption from non-school property taxes by exempting the assessed value between \$75,000 and up to \$100,000. This version did pass the House with a vote of 81 – 35. The bill was amended to provide that the homestead tax exemption would apply to the valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000. On 4/28 the Senate heard this bill in the Rules committee, in which it was debated and passed with a vote of 9 – 2, and in an unusual move, that same afternoon, this joint resolution was heard and debated on the Senate floor.

HJR 7105 ultimately passed the Senate with a vote of 28 – 10, and the House with a vote of 83 – 35. This met the required vote of approval by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. The amendment will take effect January 1, 2019, if approved by the electors.

Tax Cut Package: HB 7109 provides for a variety of tax cuts and reductions. The highlights of this bill are as follows:

- **Back to School Sales Tax Holiday:** Provides a 3-day “back-to-school” holiday (August 4-6, 2017) for clothing and footwear costing \$60 or less, school supplies costing \$15 or less, and for computers with a sales price of \$750 or less.
- **Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday:** Provides a 3-day disaster preparedness sales tax holiday (June 2-4, 2017) for certain first-aid kits, tie-down kits, fuel tanks, batteries, food storage coolers, self-powered lights and radios, portable generators, and reusable ice.
- **Business Rent Tax Reduction:** The bill reduces the state sales tax rate on rental of commercial real estate (business rent tax) from 6 percent to 5.8 percent beginning January 1, 2018.
- **Feminine Hygiene Products:** Exempts from sales tax feminine hygiene products.
- Exempts from sales tax the purchase of building materials used in new buildings constructed in Rural Areas of Opportunity.
- **Local Government Economic Incentives:** The bill provides that enterprise zone boundaries in existence before December 31, 2015, are preserved for the purpose of allowing local governments to administer local incentive programs within these boundaries through December 31, 2020, except for eligible contiguous multi-phase projects in which at least one certificate of use or occupancy has been issued before December 31, 2020, and which project will then vest the remaining project phases until completion, but no later than December 31, 2025.

Additional Tax Exemptions and Reductions: The bill contains several cuts and reductions in the areas of sales tax, property tax, and corporate income tax.

- Exempts from sales tax health products for livestock, poultry and aquaculture.
- Exempts from sales tax property used to construct and equip a large capacity data center.
- Exempts from sales tax purchases made by municipally owned golf course operators.
- Exempts from sales tax fingerprint services that are part of the application to obtain a concealed weapons and concealed firearms license. This simply codifies the current administrative treatment.

- Makes permanent the Community Contribution Tax Credit program and provides a limit of \$14.0 million in credits each year.
- Increases the Contaminated Site Rehabilitation Tax Credit program annual tax credit limit from \$5 million to \$10 million.
- Increases the limit on Research and Development Corporate Tax Credits from \$9 million to \$16.5 million for calendar year 2018.
- Provides a 50% discount in property taxes to multifamily projects that provide affordable housing to low income persons and families.
- Exempts charitable 501(c)(3) Assisted Living Facilities from property tax.
- Extends until 2053 the distribution of cigarette tax receipts to the Moffitt Cancer Center set to end in 2033.
- Clarifies the requirements for granting a property tax exemption for property leased to a charter school.
- Extends the deadline for charter schools to apply for a property tax exemption.
- Allows low-income residents of homes for the aged to prove their income by providing an affidavit to the property appraiser.
- Exempts marine boat trailers used by charitable organizations from motor vehicle registration fees.
- Authorizes the use of tourist development taxes for publicly owned auditoriums operated by charitable organizations.
- Requires local motor fuel taxes to be renewed before July 1 to be effective on September 1 of the year they expire.

The total impact of the bill in fiscal year 2017-2018, totals cuts in the amount of \$296.5 million, of which, \$276.0 million are recurring.

HB 7109 passed the full House and Senate, and has been signed by the Governor, Chapter No. 2017-036.

Regulation by the State of Public Works Project: SB 534 (Perry) and HB 599 (Williamson) This bill would require that for any public works project that receives 50% or more in funding from the state, local governments would be prohibited from imposing restrictive conditions on contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers. The bill prohibits state and local governments from requiring contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers, engaged in public works projects to pay a predetermined wage, control limit or expand staffing, or recruit, train or hire employees from a designated restricted or single source. Any pre-bid mandate would be preempted should this bill pass. Again, it is only for public works projects that receive 50% or more in State funding. It would not apply if a local government pays for a project in full, pays for a project in the amount of 50% or more, or if any federal funding goes toward this project.

HB 599 passed the full House with a vote of 77 – 40, and passed the Senate with a vote of 20 – 17, and was sent to the Governor, who must act by 6/14/17.

Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs): HB 13 (Raburn) SB 1770 (Lee) This bill is a continuing priority of the House leadership, however the Senate leadership, on more than one occasion, said it did not intend to pass this CRA bill. Having said that, as it passed the House, this bill would have accomplished the following:

- Require the governing board members of a CRA to undergo 4 hours of ethics training annually
- Require each CRA to use the same procurement and purchasing processes as the creating county or municipality
- Expand the annual reporting requirements for CRAs to include audit information and performance data and requiring the information and data to be posted on the agency website

- Provide that moneys in the redevelopment trust fund may only be expended pursuant to an annual budget adopted by the board of commissioners of the CRA and only for those purposes specified in current law beginning October 1, 2017
- Authorize the local governing body creating the CRA to adjust the level of tax increment financing available to the CRA
- Require a CRA created by a municipality to provide its budget and any amendments to the board of county commissioners for the county in which the CRA is located by a time certain
- Require counties and municipalities to include CRA data in their annual financial report

The bill would have ensured that the creation of any new CRAs on or after October 1, 2017, may only occur by special act of the Legislature. It provided for the eventual phase-out of existing CRAs at the earlier of the expiration date stated in the agency's charter or on September 30, 2037, with the exception of those CRAs with any outstanding bond obligations. However, phase-out may be prevented if a supermajority of board members serving on the board that created the CRA vote to retain the agency. The bill provided a process for the Department of Economic Opportunity to declare a CRA inactive if it has no revenue, expenditures, and debt for three consecutive fiscal years.

HB 13 passed the full House with a vote of 78 – 37, however, SB 1770 failed in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development, on 4/18, with a vote of 2 – 5, but a motion was made to reconsider the vote by which the bill failed, and the bill was left pending.

HB 13/SB 1770 did not pass.

Utilities: SB 596 (Hutson) HB 687 (LaRosa) This bill, in its final form as passed, would provide for the following:

- Expands the definition of “applicable codes” to include local codes or ordinances adopted to implement the bill, including objective design standards related to replacement utility poles, ground mounted equipment, and small wireless facilities.
- Defines the term “authority” to include a county or municipality with jurisdiction and control of the rights-of-way of any public roads and to expressly exclude the Department of Transportation.
- Limits the definition of “authority utility pole” to exclude a pole located in the ROW within a retirement community or a municipality with certain characteristics.
- Limits the definition of “utility pole” to exclude any horizontal structure to which signal lights or traffic control devices are attached and to exclude any pole or similar structure 15 feet tall or less.
- Clarifies that an authority may not require an applicant for collocation to provide more information than is necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable codes.
- Authorizes an authority, within 14 days from the filing of a collocation application, to request an alternative location within the right-of-way for placement of a small wireless facility, and creates a process to negotiate and resolve any such request.
- Reduces the maximum height of certain new utility to 50 feet (from 60 feet) and applies the bill's height limitations to all wireless support structures regardless of construction date.
- Expands the time for an authority to determine the completeness of an application to 14 days (from 10 days).
- Provides that a permit issued pursuant to an approved application is effective for 1 year unless extended by the authority.
- Limits the number of small wireless facilities that may be included in a single consolidated application to 30.
- Expands the criteria upon which an authority may deny an application for collocation.
- Authorizes an authority to adopt reasonable and nondiscriminatory ordinances providing for insurance coverage, indemnification, performance bonds, security funds, force majeure, abandonment, authority liability, or authority warranties.

- Authorizes an authority to reserve space on its utility poles for future public safety uses, provided that such reservation does not preclude collocation of a small wireless facility.
- Requires any structure permitted for collocation to comply with state airport zoning laws and federal regulations related to airport airspace protections.
- Clarifies that an authority may require a permit for work that involves excavation, closing a sidewalk, or closing a vehicular lane.
- Establishes a maximum annual rate of \$150 for collocation of a small wireless facility on an authority utility pole.
- Provides that agreements between authorities and wireless providers related to collocation of small wireless facilities in the right-of-way and in effect on July 1, 2017, will remain in effect subject to applicable termination provisions.
- Provides that an authority may require an applicant to provide an estimate, at the applicant's expense, for the make-ready work necessary to support the small wireless facility and to perform the make-ready work.
- Provides that if make-ready work requires pole replacement, the scope of the estimate is limited to the design, fabrication, and installation of a pole substantially similar in color and composition.
- Provides that a replaced or altered utility pole remains the property of the authority.
- Provides that, until such time as an authority's implementing ordinances become effective, the authority may process an application for collocation of a small wireless facility under its current ordinances regulating the placement of communications facilities in the right-of-way.
- Requires a wireless provider to comply with any nondiscriminatory undergrounding requirements of the authority which prohibit above-ground structures in the public right-of-way.
- Authorizes a wireless infrastructure provider to apply to place utility poles in the public right-of-way to support small wireless facilities, if the facilities will be used to provide service within 9 months of the application being granted, subject to the review timeframes in the bill and any applicable codes or other governing codes.
- Authorizes an authority to enforce local codes, administrative rules, or regulations, and certain pending local codes, administrative rules, or regulations, applicable to designated historic areas.
- Provides that the bill does not authorize a person to collocate small wireless facilities or micro wireless facilities in a retirement community or municipality with certain characteristics, unless otherwise permitted by federal law, and provides that these exemptions do not apply to micro wireless facilities on existing aerial communications facilities, subject to any municipal ordinance that requires the conversion of such aerial facilities to underground facilities.
- Provides that the bill does not authorize a person to collocate small wireless facilities or micro wireless facilities on an authority utility pole or erect a wireless support structure, in a location subject to covenants, conditions, and restrictions; articles of incorporation; and bylaws of a home owners association.

HB 687 passed the full House by a vote of 110 – 3, and the full Senate by a vote of 33 – 1 on final passage.

Vacation Rentals: SB 188 (Steube) and HB 425 (LaRosa) The final version of the bill would have maintained the preemption that would prohibit local governments from regulating vacation rentals. Additionally, the bill would have allowed any local vacation rentals ordinance that was passed prior to June 1, 2011, to maintain its grandfathered status, and the ordinance would have to be ratified in a local referendum by at least a two-thirds of the electors. The Senate bill was amended to exempt the statutorily defined, area of critical state concern, which is specifically the Florida Keys. The House bill did not include the provision exempting the Keys, but did require that all rental property be treated equally, regardless of the type of rental the owner chooses for the property. The House bill required that the owner of the vacation rental property submit a copy of the vacation rental license required under chapter 509, to the local jurisdiction, who in turn, could not charge a fee for the submission. Additional language clarified that the copy of the rental license would only be used for informational purposes. Both bills included language

authorizing a local government to amend a law, ordinance or regulation that was adopted on or before June 1, 2011, to be less restrictive, or to reduce the regulatory burden, on active duty and temporary duty armed forces personnel, and veterans with a 30 percent or more disability rating. Our firm worked throughout the Session in conjunction with the many entities that opposed this bill, including the League of Cities.

As this bill moved forward during the last week of the regular Session, eleven substantive amendments were filed for action on the Senate floor, by both proponents and opponents. Because of these several amendments, the hectic rush toward the end of Session, the controversial nature of this issue, the strong opposition from our firm and many others, and the various amendments filed, the vacation rental bill was not heard for final passage.

SB 188/HB 425 and did not pass.

Traffic Infraction Detectors (Red Light Cameras): HB 6007 (Sponsors: Avila, Ingoglia CoSponsors: Brodeur, Diaz (M), Drake, Eagle, Edwards, Jacquet, Mariano, Massullo, Jr., Plakon, Stone, Stevenson, Antone, Donalds, Metz, Renner) This bill would have banned the use of red light cameras to enforce traffic laws in Florida, and would have provided that local governments would have no authority to implement red light camera programs by local ordinance.

HB 6007 passed the full House, 91 – 22, on 3/23, and remained in messages to the Senate. SB 178, the Senate companion bill, sponsored by Senator Artiles, and Co-Sponsored by Senators Brandes, Mayfield, Campbell, failed in its first committee hearing with a tie vote of 2 – 2.

HB 6007/SB 178 did not pass.

Drones / Unmanned Aircraft Systems: SB 832 (Young) HB 1027 (Yarborough) would create a new section of law that would regulate the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (otherwise known as drones, which are used in the air) and the use of Personal Delivery Devices, which are operated on the ground. This bill, as passed, would accomplish the following:

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

- Provides a clarification of the jurisdictional authority between the FAA over national airspace and potential or existing local ordinances
- Defines critical infrastructure facilities and prohibits these drones from flying over these facilities, making contact with these facilities, (crashing into), interfering with the operations of these facilities
- Includes communications service providers as an exception to the current prohibition of surveillance where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy
- Directs Flight restrictions over a facility to use Section 2209 of the FAA Extension Safety and Security Act of 2016, which creates a process for owners of critical infrastructure facilities, who petition the FAA to restrict the operation of drones in the close proximity of these facilities.

Penalties are provided for any individual for the improper use of any unmanned aircraft system, or a drone, in violation of this bill, of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. A person who commits a second or subsequent violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Personal Delivery Device – on ground

- Defined as an electrically powered device that is operated on sidewalks and crosswalks, is used primarily for transporting property, weighs less than 80 lbs, has a maximum speed of 10 mph, and can be manned or unmanned.

- Authorizes the operation of personal delivery devices within county or municipal jurisdiction unless prohibited by local ordinance
- Allows local governments to adopt regulations for the safe operation of these devices
- Prohibits their operation on the Florida Shared Use Non Motorized Trail Network
- Requires an operator to maintain minimum level of insurance of \$100,000 for general liability

HB 1027 passed the House 117 – 0, and passed the Senate, 35 – 0 on final passage.

Local Tax Referenda: HB 139 (Ingoglia) and SB 278 (Steube) This bill would require any referendum that would levy a discretionary sales surtax, to be held during a general election or a primary election. If the referendum is held in a primary election, the referendum must be approved by 60 percent of electors voting on the ballot question. If the referendum is held in a general election, the referendum must be approved by a majority of electors voting on the ballot question. One difference between the two bills are the effective dates. The effective date of the House bill would be July 1, 2018, and the effective date of the Senate bill would be July 1, 2019.

HB 139 passed the full House 93 – 23 but ultimately, this bill did not pass.

Ride Sharing (Uber): SB 340 (Brandes) and HB 221 (Sprowls) would require minimum insurance and background check standards for vehicle-for-hire app companies, and would preempt any local regulation.

HB 221 passed and has been approved by the Governor; Chapter No. 2017-012.

Gaming: SB 8 (Galvano) and HB 7037 (LaRosa) The individual House and Senate gaming bills passed both the House and Senate during week 4, with behind the scenes discussions ongoing throughout most of Session. The gaming conference committee met three times, exchanging offers between the House and Senate conferees. However, this issue failed to move forward.

Issues in addition to the Seminole Indians compact included the authorization of slots in Counties that voted in favor of such, decoupling, race reduction, tax rates, black jack, a variety of permit issues, and permit portability. Also, another key discussion item for conference is the tax rates and purse pool for any new casinos allowed, any distance restrictions, and lastly, designated player games. Included in the House bill is designated funding as a permanent source for charter school construction. This is an issue that continues to be opposed by House Democrats.

Task Force on Affordable Housing: SB 854 (Brandes) HB 1013 (Newton) This Session, Senator Brandes has filed SB 854 which creates an affordable housing task force assigned to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. The bill was amended to increase the composition of the task force to add three additional members so that a total of five members of the 13-member board will now be appointed by the Governor. Of the five members selected by the Governor, one member must be an advocate for the homeless, one member must be an advocate of the needs of individuals with disabling conditions and persons with special needs, one member must represent the building or development community, and one member must be a realtor licensed in Florida.

SB 854/HB 1013 did not pass.

Beach Renourishment Funding/Coastal Management: SB 1590 (Latvala) HB 1213 (Peters) The bill would allocate \$50 million a year, or 7.6%, whichever is less, from the state's Land Acquisition Trust Fund. The bill would require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a new three-year plan for beach restoration projects, similar to the state's five-year transportation work plan. In this three-year plan, projects would be scored on their return on investment and economic impact. It also would refocus attention

on sand management at inlets and seek a revision in a ranking system so the most serious erosion problems are prioritized.

SB 1590/HB 1213 did not pass. However, the overall budget included \$50 million for beach renourishment.

Fiscal Transparency of Local Governments: HB 7065 is an omnibus bill that would impose several requirements on local governments. This bill restructures how local governments would be required to provide greater transparency in the fiscal area, specifically, tax history, and new debt issuance. This bill intends to provide the public a greater level of detail on the local officials' votes related to property tax increases, local option tax, and new debt issuance. Local governments would be required to post on their website, voting records on each of these, and would be required to maintain this information on the website for a period of four years.

HB 7065 passed the full House with a vote of 98 – 15, but ultimately this bill did not pass.

Fiscal Responsibility of Local Governments: HB 7063 was also a Ways and Means committee bill, and a priority of the Speaker Corcoran and House leadership, which sets forth requirements aimed to increase the fiscal responsibility of local governments.

The bill creates a new statutory maximum millage rate for local governments. A county, municipality, or special district could not levy a millage rate above its rolled-back rate, unless the government does not have excess unencumbered fund balances in any of its special revenue funds, as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which the millage rate is being considered. This, would prohibit property tax increases, unless excess fund balances are spent down.

The bill allows the special revenue fund excess balances to be used for any public purpose, except for funds subject to restrictions imposed by the federal government or revenues that were approved by vote of the electors.

The bill prohibits a municipality or county from enacting, extending or increasing local option taxes other than property taxes, if the municipality or county had adopted a millage rate in excess of its rolled-back rate in any of the three previous years.

The bill requires any local option or property tax levy, including by special districts, that will be approved by referendum be considered only at a general election. The bill also increases the voter threshold by which any local option tax or property tax levy could pass, to 60%.

The bill requires voter approval for any new tax-supported debt that pledges revenues beyond 5 years, and would be required to be held in a general election as well.

HB 7063 did not pass.

Sovereign Immunity – Local Government Claims Bill Process Restructure: HB 1305 (Co-Sponsors: Representatives Jenne, and Grant) This bill sought to make changes to the process by which the state and local governments pay out claims. The bill would have raised caps on awards and authorized local governments to purchase umbrella insurance plans to cover damages. The focus of this legislation is to bypass legislative approval for these claims.

HB 1305 did not pass.

Local Regulation Preemption: Several bills have been filed that would restrict local government regulation of a myriad of issues at the local level. We worked throughout Session with House and Senate

leadership as well as with the bill sponsors of each of these bills below, to voice opposition these preemptions.

Regulation by the State of Public Works Project: SB 534 (Perry) and HB 599 (Williamson) This bill would require that for any public works project that receives 50% or more in funding from the state, local governments would be prohibited from imposing restrictive conditions on contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers. The bill prohibits state and local governments from requiring contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers, engaged in public works projects to pay a predetermined wage, control limit or expand staffing, or recruit, train or hire employees from a designated restricted or single source. Any pre-bid mandate would be preempted should this bill pass. Again, it is only for public works projects that receive 50% or more in State funding. It would not apply if a local government pays for a project in full, pays for a project in the amount of 50% or more, or if any federal funding goes toward this project.

HB 599 passed the full House with a vote of 77 – 40, and passed the Senate with a vote of 20 – 17, and was sent to the Governor, who must act by 6/14/17.

Preemption of Local Government: HB 17 (Fine, Renner) and SB 1158 (Passidomo) were two sweeping preemption bill that would have imposed strict preemptions on local governments regarding all regulation at the local levels. Both bills are indicative of the view of local governments across the state, by the legislature.

HB 17 would prohibit local governments from adopting or imposing new regulations on a business, profession, or occupation, effective July 1, 2017. The regulation of businesses, professions, and occupations would be expressly preempted to the state. Additionally, in this bill, it provides that local regulations enacted before July 1, 2017, but not expressly authorized by general law, may continue to exist until July 1, 2020, but may not be added to or modified except to repeal or reduce the regulation.

We continue to monitor this issue and all preemption issues with House and Senate Leadership in the interim, as we expect that these concepts will be revisited in 2018. The House Leadership remains unwavering in their belief of local government preemptions.

Regulation of Commerce, Trade, and Labor: SB 1158 (Passidomo) This bill took a different approach to preemption, and the concept was as sweeping. In sum, anything that a local government could regulate that falls within the area of commerce, trade, and labor, would be preempted to the state.

Senator Passidomo indicated early on this Session, that she would discontinue pushing her bill, SB 1158, for this Session, but is planning to bring a version of it back for next year.

HB 17/SB 1158 did not pass.

~~~

# 2017 SESSION: JUST THE FACTS

The Florida Legislature adjourned the 2017 Session late Monday, May 8, after a brief extension to complete the Florida budget and budget conforming bills. Here's what happened... at a glance.



## TAXES

### Approved:

- Back-to-School Sales Tax
- Hurricane Preparedness Tax Holiday
- Additional \$25,000 Homestead Exemption (constitutional amendment on ballot in 2018)
- Business Rent Tax Reduction



## GAMING

### Failed:

- Senate & House passed gaming legislation, but bills failed after joint conference committee could not reach agreement on final product



## BUSINESS

### Approved:

- Local Government Economic Incentives (HB 7109)

### Failed:

- Worker's Compensation Reform
- Prejudgment Interest
- Personal Injury Protection repeal
- Repeal and reform of Community Redevelopment Agencies



## EDUCATION

### Approved:

- Comprehensive Education Reforms for traditional public schools and charter schools (HB 7069)
- Ease Grants (formerly FRAG) funded at record \$3,300 per student
- \$16 million for mentoring programs
- \$39.5 million for Bright Futures Academic Scholars Summer Funding



## ENVIRONMENT

### Approved:

- \$150 million for the Everglades
- \$50 million for beach projects
- \$50 million for Florida's Springs
- \$13 million for implementation of the Florida Keys Stewardship Act
- Statewide regulations on anchoring and mooring (HB 7043)

### Failed:

- \$0 for Florida Forever conservation land-buying program



## MARIJUANA

### Failed:

- Medical Marijuana/ Amendment 2 implementation

## BUDGET: \$82.4 BILLION

### Key Budget Issues:

\$1.5 billion for Lake Okeechobee Reservoir

\$9.9 billion for Transportation Five Year Plan

Full Restoration of Best and Brightest Scholarship Program

\$241.4 million for FEFP (\$7,221 per student)

\$1.5 billion for the Low Income Pool

\$250 million for Affordable Housing Programs

Visit Florida Funding reduced to \$25 million

Across-the-board state employee pay increase

\$26.8 million for Cultural and Museum Grants



## HEALTH CARE

### Approved:

- Expanded Newborn Screening Program (SB 1124)
- \$41 million for Veterans' Nursing Homes
- \$18 million in additional funds for community based care agencies

### Failed:

- Certificate of Need Repeal



## TRANSPORTATION

### Approved:

- \$17.8 million for Pedestrian Safety Improvements (Bridges and Tunnel) in Miami Gardens
- Ridesharing legislation (SB 221)
- \$81.5 million local transportation projects

### Failed:

- Red Light Camera Repeal



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Approved:

- Minimum mandatory sentencing for trafficking fentanyl (HB 477)
- Expansion and strengthening of Stand Your Ground defense (SB 128)

### Failed:

- Expansion of Juvenile Civil Citation

If you would like to know more, or if you would like one of our firm professionals to speak at your event, about these issues or any issues that came before the Florida Legislature this session, please contact us.

**Ronald L. Book:** Ron@rlbookpa.com  
**Kelly Mallette:** Kelly@rlbookpa.com  
**Rana Brown:** Rana@rlbookpa.com

**Miami:**  
18851 NE 29th Avenue, Suite 1010  
Aventura, FL 33180  
T: 305.935.1866 F: 305.935.9737

**Tallahassee:**  
104 West Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
T: 850.224.3427 F: 850.224.3361



**Ronald L. Book, P.A.**  
LAW OFFICES  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION