



Legislative Wrap - Up Session 2018

April 9, 2018
Nicole Fogarty
Legislative Affairs Manager

2018 Summary

- Regular session January 9th – March 9th
 - (extended to March 11th)
- Bills
 - 3192 bills filed
 - Over 1,000 were filed appropriation projects
 - 200 passed
 - About 350 tracked for possible impact on local governments
 - 20 of those passed which had a direct or indirect impact

BUDGET

Health & Human Services

- ✓ Ardie R. Copas Veterans Nursing Home \$200,000
- ✓ New Horizons of the Treasure Coast \$1,393,482
- ✓ Mental Health & Substance Abuse Local Grants
\$9,000,000

*Governor vetoed \$1.5 million for Torrey Pines

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- ✓ Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
\$111 million
- ✓ Beach Restoration & Inlet Management
\$50 million
 - ✓ \$679,185 Fort Pierce Inlet Sand Trap
 - ✓ \$183,000 Post Monitoring and Reimbursement
- ✓ Hurricane Irma Beach Funding
\$11.2 million
- ✓ Northern Everglades & Estuary Protection
\$31 million

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- ✓ EAA Reservoir (Senate Bill 10) \$64 million
- ✓ Herbert Hoover Dike \$50 million
- ✓ Florida Forever Funding \$100.8 million
 - ✓ \$72 million: State Lands
 - ✓ \$10 million: Florida Communities Trust
 - ✓ \$5.8 million: Land Protection Easment (DACs)
 - ✓ \$2 million: Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts
 - ✓ \$2 million: FRDAP
- ✓ Smithsonian Marine Research Station \$153,600
- ✓ Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program \$250,000
- ✓ UF/IFAS Invasive Plant Research \$540,000

Economic Development

- ✓ Florida Seaport Infrastructure
\$135.8 million
- ✓ Florida DOT Work Plan to SLC
\$93.4 million
- ✓ \$666,667 Fisherman's Wharf Bulkhead
- ✓ Visit Florida
\$76 million
- ✓ Enterprise Florida
\$16 million

St. Lucie County Total

\$97,029,271

Directly and Indirectly to St. Lucie County

Legislation presented to
or approved by the
Governor

Local Bill HB 891

- Repeals ch. 67-1990
- New requirements, establishment serves 150 or more patrons and occupying more than 2,500 square feet

Approved by Governor on March 23, 2018.

Tax Reduction Plan

- Sales Tax Holiday:
 - 7 day Disaster Preparedness Holiday
 - June 1 – June 7
 - 3 day Back to School
 - August 3 – August 5
- 9% traffic fine reduction if driver elects to traffic school
- Use of TDT dollars for certain water related improvements, and infrastructure
 - Received at least \$10 million in TDT revenue
 - County governing board approval
 - No more than 70% of the cost can be used
 - At least 40% of TDT is spent to promote tourism
 - Independent analysis showing positive impact on tourism

Tax Reduction Plan

- Requires “Performance Audit” on discretionary sales surtax referendums
 - OPPAGA will be contract manager for CPA’s
 - OPPAGA is still awaiting guidance on how to conduct this program
- Exemption of local business tax for:
 - veterans and their spouses
 - unremarried surviving spouses of veterans
 - Individuals on public assistance
 - Low-income individuals

Approved by Governor on March 23, 2019

Public Safety

- Creates a risk protection order to temporarily prevent persons who are at high risk of harming themselves or others from possessing firearms or ammunition
- Requires a three-day waiting period to purchase firearms
 - Exempts concealed weapons permit holders
- Prohibits a person under 21 years of age to purchase firearms or ammunition
- Prohibits bump-fire stocks beginning October 1, 2018

Public Safety

- Permits a sheriff to establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program
 - provides that personnel that are strictly classroom teachers with no other responsibilities cannot participate, with specified exceptions
 - \$67 million appropriation
- Requires assignment of one or more safe-school officers at each school
 - \$97.5 million appropriation
- Prohibits a person from making, posting, or transmitting a threat to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism
 - 2nd degree felony

Controlled Substances

- Requires 2 hour training course for prescribing physicians
- Defines “acute pain”: normal, predicted, physiological, and time limited response to an adverse chemical, thermal, or mechanical stimulus associated with surgery, trauma, or acute illness. Exempts:
 - Cancer
 - Terminal conditions
 - Palliative care to provide relief of symptoms related to incurable, progressive illness or injury
 - Serious traumatic injury with an Injury Severity Score of 9 or greater.

Controlled Substances

- Limiting prescription no more than three days can be extended to seven days if “medically necessary”
- Co-prescribe opioid antagonist with opioid prescription
- Requiring physicians to consult the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) prior to prescribing
- Creates new 3rd degree felony for unlawfully possession and using tableting or encapsulation machines.
- \$53.5 million has been appropriated towards this legislation.

Watchdog List

Impact Fees

- Required the collection of impact fees to be no earlier than the issuance of the building permit
- Required impact fees to show a rational nexus for additional capital facilities and the expenditure of funds
- Earmark funds collected by the impact fees
- Prohibited use of funds to pay debt, unless certain conditions were met.

Local Tax Referenda

- Required local tax referenda to only be placed on the General Election Ballot.
 - Prohibits any referendum to be placed on a Special Election or Primary ballot.

County and Municipal Officers

- Required out of state or foreign travel by a county or municipal public officer:
 - To be approved by the governing body at a public meeting
 - Provided exemption to allow on agenda after travel
 - Requires the item to contain an itemized travel expense
 - Travel approvals will have to be posted online till next fiscal year
- Constitutional Officers were exempted from this provision

Vacation Rentals

- Preempted the regulation of vacation rentals to the state and;
- Separating the regulation of vacation rentals from the regulation of public lodging establishments, such as hotels and motels
- Local governments only may regulate activities that arise when a property is used as a vacation rental, provided the regulation applies uniformly to all residential properties

More Legislation

- Reform to Community Redevelopment Agencies
- Local TDC and EDC requirements
- Interruption of Services
- Local Government Fiscal Transparency
- Truth in Millage
- Requirement for legislative approval and referendum for increase of millage.

CRC Proposal 6007

- Prohibits local governments from contracting with a lobbyist to advocate for appropriation projects.
- Currently in Style and Drafting Committee
 - An amendment was passed in committee to remove this language last Tuesday.
- Must pass the Full Commission with a two-thirds vote or 22 votes.

Questions?