

GRAYROBINSON

2024 SESSION

WRAP-UP

CITY OF FORT PIERCE



# TODAY'S *Presenter*



## RYAN MATTHEWS

Ryan is a recognized authority in environmental policy related to natural resources, with broadly developed expertise in water future and scarcity concerns. He represents some of Florida's largest electric, water, and wastewater utility companies, local government entities, statewide associations, and top private sector corporations navigating the environmental resource permitting process.

Ryan embraces client challenges with a unique understanding of how local governmental frameworks intersect with regulated interests and the business community. Some of the state's most notable public and private players turn to him for influential decision-making and the ability to bridge communication gaps, break down barriers, and shepherd them through thorny legal, administrative, and regulatory challenges.

Before joining GrayRobinson, Ryan served as the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under the Rick Scott Administration and in the general counsel and legislative affairs offices of the Florida League of Cities. Ryan has a Master of Laws in Environmental/Natural Resources Law from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and a Juris Doctor from the Florida Coastal School of Law. He is a former Chair of the CFWI and a board member of the Florida State Park Foundation.



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MEET THE  
PLAYERS

# OFFICE OF *the Governor*



**RON DESANTIS**  
Florida Governor



**JAMES UTHMEIER**  
Chief of Staff



**PETER CUDERMAN**  
Legislative Affairs Director



**CHRIS SPENCER**  
Office of Policy and Budget Director

## THE CABINET



**WILTON SIMPSON**  
Commissioner of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services



**ASHLEY MOODY**  
Attorney General



**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
Chief Financial Officer

# FLORIDA *House*

PAUL RENNER  
Speaker of the House



TOM LEEK  
Budget Chair



MICHAEL GRANT  
Majority Leader



CHUCK CLEMONS  
Speaker Pro Tempore



DANNY PEREZ  
Rules Chair and  
Speaker Designate



FENTRICE DRISKELL  
Minority Leader



# FLORIDA *Senate*

KATHLEEN  
PASSIDOMO  
Senate President



DENNIS BAXLEY  
President Pro Tempore



BEN ALBRITTON  
Majority Leader and  
President Designate



LAUREN BOOK  
Minority Leader



DOUG BROXSON  
Budget Chair



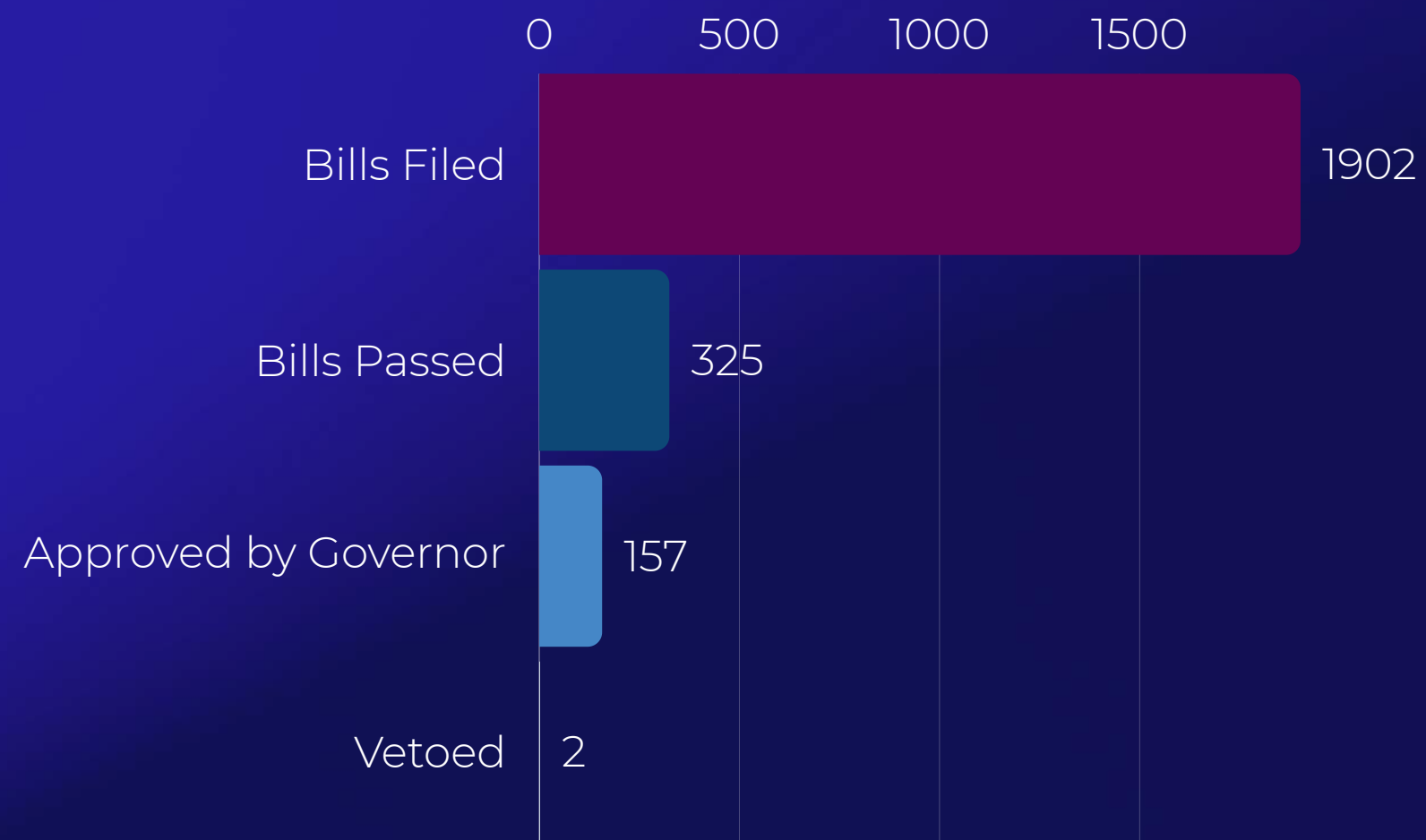
DEBBIE MAYFIELD  
Rules Chair



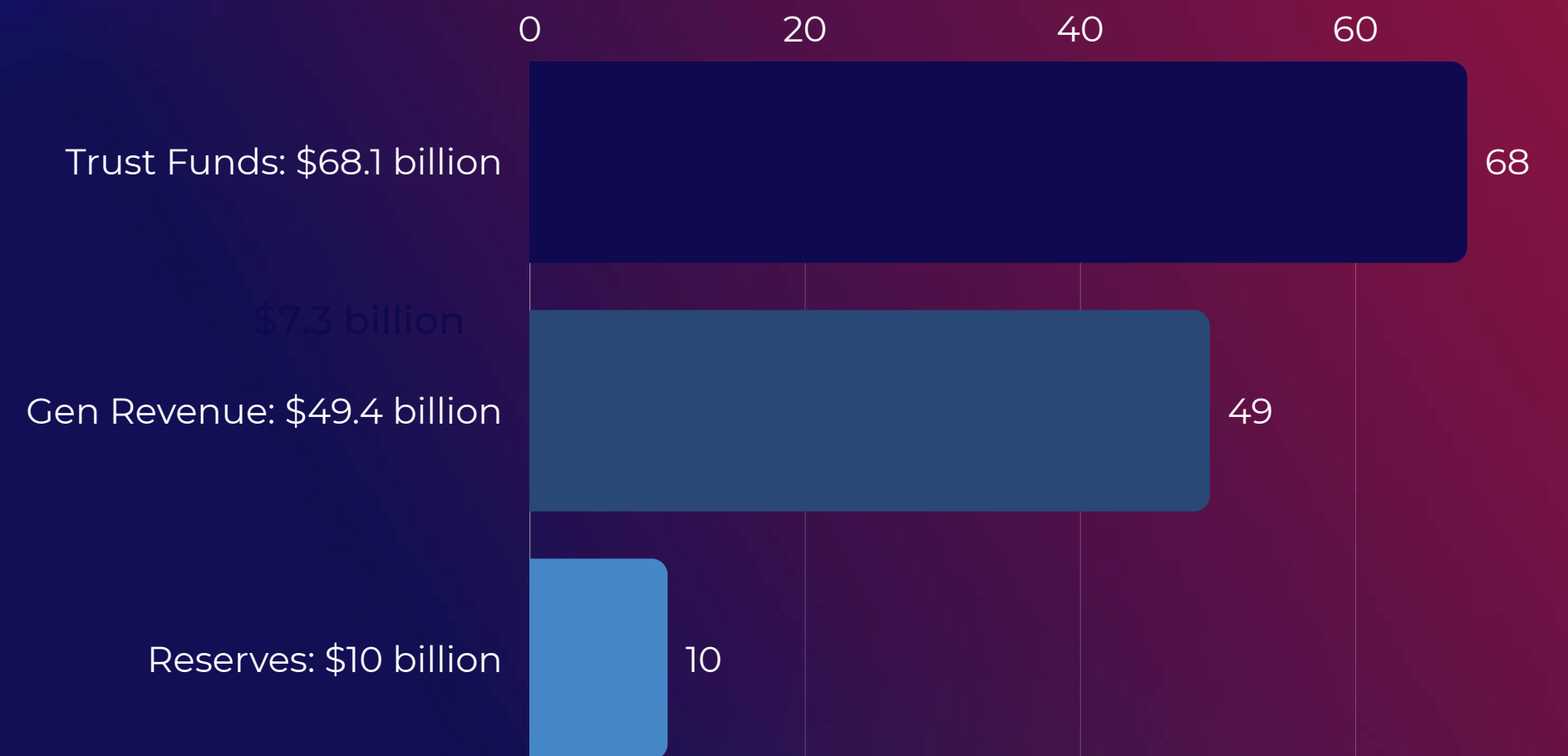
# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## *By the Numbers*

### BILL ACTIONS\*



### TOTAL BUDGET: \$117.46 BILLION



\*As of May 7, 2024



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LEADERSHIP  
PRIORITIES

# GOVERNOR *Priorities*



## PROPERTY INSURANCE TAX RELIEF

☆ Passed

**HB 7073** Sponsored by Rep. Stan McClain

**HB 7074** Sponsored by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia

- Provides a one-year exemption on taxes, fees, and assessments for residential property insurance policyholders with homes valued up to \$750,000.
- Effective on policies written between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.
- The exemption will include the Insurance Premium Tax, the State Fire Marshal Assessment, and the Florida Insurance Guarantee Association (FIGA) Assessment.
- One-year insurance premium tax exemption on flood insurance policies and reducing the cost of flood insurance policies.

# SPEAKER *Priorities*



## ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INCREASE

☆ Passed

### HB 7017

Sponsored by: State Affairs Committee, Ways & Means Committee, Rep. James Buchanan. Co-Introducers: Sen. Ileana Garcia and Rep. Lauren Melo

- Passed by both chambers and will go to the ballot in November 2024.
- Establishes an amendment mandating yearly inflation adjustments to the valuation of specific homestead exemptions.
- Exempts the first \$25,000 of assessed real estate value for primary residences, with an additional exemption for values greater than \$50,000 and up to \$75,000 for non-school district taxes.
- Requires annual CPI adjustments for the \$25,000 exemption for non-school taxes.
- Provides tax relief on ad valorem taxes for veterans aged 65+ with combat-related disabilities, transferable to a surviving spouse.
- **Effective: January 1, 2025**

# PRESIDENT *Priorities*



## LIVE HEALTHY ACT

☆ PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB 330** Sponsored by Sen. Jim Boyd

**SB 1758** Sponsored by Sen. Jason Brodeur

**SB 7016** Sponsored by Sen. Colleen Burton

**SB 7018** Sponsored by Sen. Gayle Harrell

- Aims to grow Florida's healthcare workforce, increase access, and incentivize innovation.
- A package introduced in January moved through the Senate with hardly any opposition.
- Invests over \$800 million into healthcare systems and initiatives.
- Creates the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program.
- Increases the Slots for Doctors Program funding by \$50 million and 500 new residency slots.
- Creates a 15-member Health Care Innovation Council to convene healthcare experts to explore innovations in healthcare technology.
- Creates a \$500 million 10-year revolving loan program to implement innovative solutions that the council will regulate.
- Expands access to free and charitable clinics by increasing eligibility for access to care.
- Expands Florida reimbursement assistance for medical and dental education.
- **Effective Date: While some of the newly signed bills are now in effect, some provisions will not be effective until July 1.**



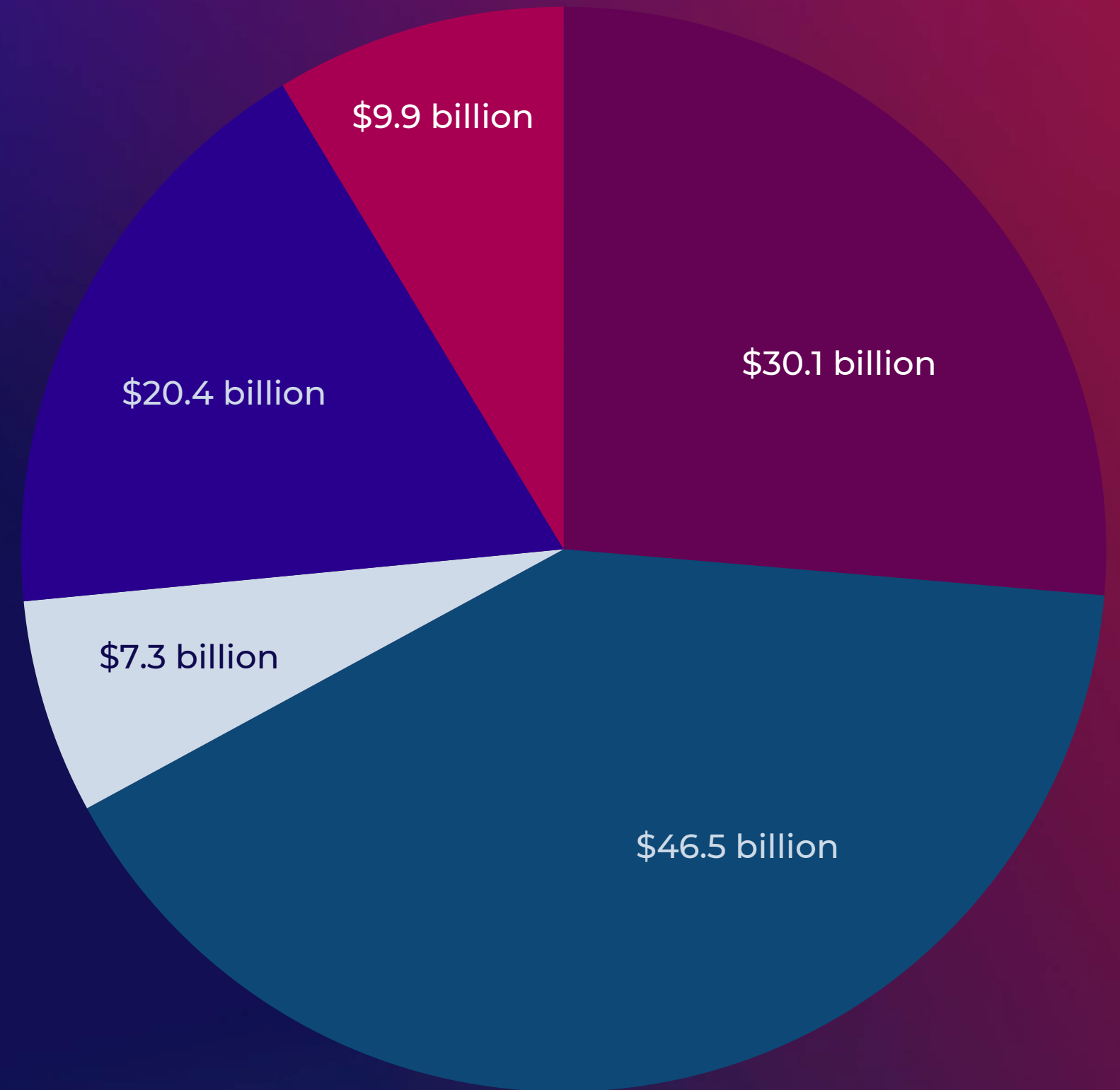
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THE  
BUDGET

# 2024 BUDGET *Breakdown*

TOTAL BUDGET \$117.46 BILLION

- 41% Health and Human Services
- 26% Education
- 18% Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- 9% Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
- 6% Criminal and Civil Justice



# BUDGET *Quick Notes*

- Session-long emphasis (particularly in the House) to bring down total spending and increase reserves.
- With COVID relief funds drying up, budget chairs focused on a return to “normal” spending levels.
- **\$10 billion** total reserves with **\$500 million** to retire outstanding state debt.
- **3%** state worker pay raise.
- **\$1.8 billion** increase to K12.
- More than **\$700 million** for Live Healthy.
- **\$100 million** for Hometown Heroes.
- **\$100 million** for prison infrastructure.



# THE BIG *Ticket Items*

- FLORIDA EDUCATION FINANCE PROGRAM (FEFP)
- TRANSPORTATION WORK PLAN - MOVING FLORIDA FORWARD COMPLETION
- VISIT FLORIDA
- FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND
- ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING
- HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET INCREASES
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING





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AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING

MY SAFE FLORIDA

*Home*

HB 1263 - SPONSORED BY REP. CHIP LAMARCA  
SB 7028 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JIM BOYD

☆ PASSED



- \$200 million matching grant fund in alignment with the My Safe Florida Home Program.
- Can be utilized by homeowners to reduce damage from storms, including windstorm mitigation upgrades to roofs and windows, as well as door hardening measures.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024**

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# AFFORDABLE *Housing*

SB 328 - SPONSORED BY SEN. ALEXIS CALATAYUD  
HB 1239 - SPONSORED BY REP. VICKI LOPEZ

☆ PASSED



- \$100M appropriation for the Florida Hometown Hero Program down payment assistance program.
- Clarifies that the Live Local Act's allowances and preemptions do not apply to proposed developments within a quarter-mile of a military installation or in certain areas near airports.
- Requires each county to maintain a database of its policy procedures and expectations for administrative approval of Live Local Act-eligible projects.
- **Effective: Upon becoming a law.**

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ENVIRONMENT

# SAFE WATERWAYS

# Act

HB 165 - SPONSORED BY REP. GOSSETT-SEIDMAN AND REP. CROSS

☆ PASSED

- Builds upon the Clean Waterway Act of 2020.
- Mandates the DEP to create a website and digital messaging notification system in order to notify the public about water contamination.
- Requires the DEP to post and maintain health advisory signs around affected beach waters and public bathing places owned by the state and to issue health advisories within 24 hours if water quality fails to meet standards.
- Requires DOH to adopt and enforce rules establishing health standards and procedures for bacteriological sampling of beach and bathing waters.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024**



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# FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL

# *Resource Management*

SB 1638 – SPONSORED BY REP. TRAVIS HUTSON  
HB 1417 – SPONSORED BY REP. JAMES BUCHANAN

 PASSED

- Funding plan expands the wildlife corridor, removes invasive species, and continues the efforts associated with flood mitigation and sea level rise.
- Funds are made up of Seminole Tribe of Florida gaming compact revenue.
- Requires annual reports on projects, descriptions, costs, and outcomes to the Governor and Legislature.
- Requires water quality improvement projects that show maximum load reduction and project readiness to be prioritized for DEP.
- **Effective: upon becoming a law if SB 7080 or similar legislation is adopted in same Session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.**



# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL *Protection*

 PASSED

HB 1557 - SPONSORED BY REP. LINDA CHANEY  
SB 1386 - SPONSORED BY SEN. ALEXIS CALATAYUD

Revises creates, and repeals various provisions under the jurisdiction of DEP relating to:

- Aquatic preserves.
- Preservation and regeneration of seagrass.
- Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.
- Use of reclaimed water.
- Resilient Florida Grant Program.
- Comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise data set and assessment.
- Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.
- Regional planning councils and estuary partnerships.
- Transfer of regulation of Onsite Sewage Program from DOH to DEP.
- Domestic wastewater treatment facilities.
- Basin management action plans.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024.**



# TAKING OF *Bears*

HB 87 – SPONSORED BY REP. JASON SHOAF  
SB 632 – SPONSORED BY SEN. COREY SIMON

☆ PASSED



- Allows lethal force against bears under specific conditions of self-defense to person or pet or substantial property damage.
- Individuals are not permitted to put themselves recklessly or intentionally in the vicinity/dangers of the bear; this includes luring the bear with food or attractants.
- Any incident must be reported to FWC within 24 hours of it occurring.
- Anyone who has taken a bear by lethal force under this bill is not permitted to sell, possess, or dispose of the bear or its parts. FWC will adopt rules for the handling.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024**



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MUNICIPAL  
UTILITIES

# MUNICIPAL *Utilities*

HB 1277 – SPONSORED BY REP. DEMI BUSATTA CABRERA  
SB 1510 – SPONSORED BY SEN. JASON BRODEUR

## X DIED

- Municipalities that generate revenue from providing utilities may not use more than 10 percent of the gross revenues generated to fund or finance general government functions.
- Requires a public meeting in the service areas before policies affecting customers outside the municipal boundaries could be put into effect.
- Municipal governments will still have authority over their general revenue funds within their own boundaries; it only limits those who are beyond their municipal boundary.
- Municipalities have annual reporting requirements to the Florida Public Service Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature.



# MUNICIPAL WATER OR SEWER UTILITY RATES, FEES, AND

# Changes

HB 777 – SPONSORED BY REP. ROBBIE BRACKETT  
SB 1088 – SPONSORED BY SEN. JONATHAN MARTIN

## X DIED

- Eliminates additional surcharges [rates, fees, charges] up to 25% for consumers outside municipal boundaries.
- Mandates periodic rate studies by January 1, 2027, and every 7 years thereafter regarding future capital needs, sufficiency of revenues to cover operating/maintenance costs and support capital investments, and equitable distribution of costs among all customer classes.
- Eliminates the option to fix rates without a public hearing when adding specific surcharges.



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LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT *Actions*

SB 1628 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JAY COLLINS  
HB 1547 - SPONSORED BY REP. LAWRENCE MCCLURE

## PASSED

- Current law exempts counties and cities from producing a “business impact estimate” before passing an ordinance related to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulations.
- This bill limits the exemptions to development orders, permits, and agreements.
- Local governments must produce a “business impact statement,” including an estimate of the direct economic impact of the government action, before passing an ordinance or adopting/implementing a comprehensive plan amendment or land development regulation other than those initiated by a private party.
- A local government holding a referendum on approving a bond issue greater than \$500 million must do so at a general election instead of a special election held for that purpose.
- **Effective: October 1, 2024.**



# BUILDING *Regulations*

☆ PASSED

HB 267 - SPONSORED BY REP. TIFFANY ESPOSITO  
SB 684 - SPONSORED BY SEN. NICK DICEGLIE

- Modifies provisions in the Florida Building Code relating to replacement windows, doors, or garage doors.
- Revises the timeframes for local governments to process building permit applications and to notify permit applicants of any deficiencies.
- Revises the timeframe for local governments to provide written notice to an applicant specifically stating the reasons the permit application is deficient and to provide the applicant an opportunity to resubmit revisions.
- Prohibits local code enforcement agencies from auditing the performance of private providers until the agency creates a manual (to be publicly available online or printed) for standard operating audit procedures. Provides requirements for the manual.
- Ensures audit results are readily accessible, specifying when a permit application is deemed complete and approved.
- Creates a new section of law to provide thermal efficiency standards for unvented attic and unvented enclosed rafter assemblies. Requires the Florida Building Commission to review, consider, and report technical changes to the Legislature by December 31, 2024.
- **Effective: January 1, 2025**



# PERMITTING OF THE HOMELESS *to Camp*

HB 1365 - SPONSORED BY REP. SAM GARRISON  
SB 1530 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JONATHAN MARTIN

☆ PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

- Would prohibit cities and counties from allowing homeless individuals to camp on public property unless permitted.
- Passed on party-line votes with concerns including the details of the permitting process and the lack of resources for smaller rural communities.
- Homeless individuals would have to sleep in designated areas identified by local governments that have clean bathrooms, bans on drugs and alcohol, and access to behavioral health services.
- **Effective: October 1, 2024**



# SUITS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT:

# *Sovereign Immunity*

SB 472 – SPONSORED BY SEN. JASON BRODEUR  
HB 569 – SPONSORED BY REP. FIONA MCFARLAND

## X DIED



- Increases the per-person and per-incident caps on claims against government agencies from \$200,000 to \$400,000 and \$300,000 to \$500,000, respectively.
- First adjustment in permissible claim amounts against government agencies without a legislative claim bill since 2010.
- Updates the statute of limitations for civil actions concerning negligence, contribution, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and specified cases.
- Requires the Department of Financial Services to adjust liability limits every 5 years using the Consumer Price Index, capped at a maximum 3% increase.



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REGULATION

# INDIVIDUAL *Wine Containers*

HB 583 – SPONSORED BY REP. CHIP LAMARCA  
SB 1134 – SPONSORED BY SEN. JAY TRUMBULL

☆ PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

- Allows for sale of wine in glass containers of 4.5, 9, 12, and 15 liters.
- The sale of wine in containers larger than 1 gallon other than reusable or glass containers is prohibited.
- **Effective July 1, 2024**



# VACATION

# Rentals

☆ PASSED

SB 280 - SPONSORED BY SEN. NICK DICEGLIE  
HB 1537 - SPONSORED BY REP. PHILLIPS GRIFFITS JR.

- Requires advertising platforms or operators listing vacation rentals to collect and remit specified taxes for certain transactions.
- Defines "advertising platform" and sets mandates for displaying license and registration numbers in advertisements.
- Preempts the regulation of advertising platforms to the state, authorizes local governments to adopt registration programs for vacation rentals, and outlines registration processes and requirements.
- Establishes criteria for local governments to fine, suspend, or revoke vacation rental registrations for non-compliance.
- Mandates visibility of vacation rental licenses and unique identifiers within the rental properties.
- Stipulates that the division must create and maintain a vacation rental information system to facilitate compliance and provide a mechanism for local governments and platforms to verify vacation rental statuses.



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# EMPLOYMENT AND CURFEW OF

*Minors*

HB 49 – SPONSORED BY REP. CHANEY  
SB 1596 – SPONSORED BY SEN. BURGESS

☆ PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

- Amends work hour restrictions for minors in Florida.
- Allows minors 15 and under to work no more than 6 consecutive days in one week and until 7 pm on school nights, with a weekly maximum of 15 hours during school.
- Permits 16 and 17-year-olds to work until 11 pm on school nights and more than eight hours on one day only on holidays and/or Sundays, and up to 30 hours a week during school, with waiver possibilities for weekly hour limits.
- Mandates breaks for minors working over four continuous hours - specifies exceptions to restrictions for graduated minors, those with exemptions, minors in hardship situations, home-educated, or in approved virtual programs.
- Allows the department to waive work and hour restrictions in clarifying employer violations regarding minor employment laws.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024**



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# FOOD DELIVERY *Platforms*

SB 676 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JENNIFER BRADLEY  
HB 1099 - SPONSORED BY REP. LAUREN MELO

☆ PASSED AND APPROVED BY GOVERNOR

- Regulates food delivery platforms, defining them as intermediaries arranging food orders from multiple establishments.
- Excludes direct orders fulfilled by the food service establishment from the bill's scope.
- Requires explicit consent from food service establishments for delivery arrangements.
- Mandates clear disclosure of transaction costs and delivery details to consumers.
- Establishes guidelines for agreements between platforms and establishments, including fee transparency and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- **Effective upon becoming a law.**



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OTHER BILLS THAT  
DIED

# OTHER BILLS THAT *Died*

## **TERM LIMITS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

SB 438 – SPONSORED BY SEN. BLAISE INGOGLIA  
HB 57 – SPONSORED BY REP. MICHELLE SALZMAN

- This legislation would have restricted county commissioners to 8 consecutive years and mandated a two-year hiatus for former commissioners eyeing a return, including running for a different district seat or at-large county. It also would have required counties with longer term limits in their charter to hold a referendum during the 2024 election asking if the limit should be lowered.



## **DISPLAY OF FLAGS BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

HB 901 – SPONSORED BY REPS. DAVID BORRERO AND RANDY FINE  
SB 1120 – SPONSORED BY SEN. JONATHAN MARTIN

- The legislation was aimed at mandating the neutral representation of political viewpoints and would have prohibited the display of flags that represent partisan, racial, sexual orientation, and gender, or political ideology viewpoints.



# OTHER BILLS THAT *Died*

## PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

SB 1122 – SPONSORED BY SEN. JONATHAN MARTIN

HB 395 – SPONSORED BY REP. DEAN BLACK

- Would have prevented the removal of historic state monuments, like Confederate statues and punish local governments that try to take down historic monuments located on public property by establishing the “Historic Florida Monuments and Memorials Protection Act.”



## GENDER AND BIOLOGICAL SEX

HB 1639 – SPONSORED BY REP. DOUGLAS BANKSON AND REP. DEAN BLACK

- Would have required individuals to list their sex assigned at birth on their identification cards and health insurance policies and would have required insurance policies covering sex-reassignment procedures to also include de-transition treatments.

# OTHER BILLS THAT *Died*

## **POTENCY FOR ADULT PERSONAL USE OF MARIJUANA**

HB 1269 - SPONSORED BY REP. RALPH MASSULLO

SB 7050 - SPONSORED BY SEN. COLLEEN BURTON

- Expands the definition of products "attractive to children" and introduces the term "total delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol concentration" to specify legal THC limits.
- Limits delta-9 THC to 2 mg per serving/10 milligrams per container in all hemp products sold in Florida.
- Appropriates \$2 million to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to purchase testing equipment.



# LOOKING *Ahead*

## **June 10-14**

- Qualifying for state and local offices

## **August 20**

- Primary Election

## **September 8**

- First NFL Sunday

## **November 5**

- General Election

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# Questions



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THANK YOU