



FAC Priority: Super Preemption House bill passes committee.

On Wednesday, the House Careers and Competition Subcommittee debated [HB 17 \(Rep. Fine\) - Relating to local Regulation Preemption](#). While the bill passed out of committee, more than 50 city and county officials and representatives came to the hearing to express their concerns. The House bill will next be heard in the Commerce Committee, after that it will go to the House floor for consideration.



FAC has asked that every county provide specific information to their legislative delegation and FAC on the impacts that HB 17 would have on their communities. For more information on how to help determine your local impact, please [click here](#).

In addition, please reach out to your local representatives and senators and share with them the concerns and major impacts this would have on your community and the detrimental impact it would have on businesses and citizens if the bulk of your decision making was transferred to the state. For discussion points, [please click here](#).

FAC Contact Associate Director of Public Policy [Laura Youmans](#).



- *News Service of Florida*: [Housetakes aim at local regulations](#)
- *Times/Herald*: [Should Florida override local business regulations? Some lawmakers think so.](#)
- *Politico*: [Househome rule fight breaks out as panel approves regulation reform bill](#)

FAC Priority: Economic & Tourism Incentives Elimination bill passes House Appropriations Committee.

On Tuesday, the House bill that would eliminate Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday. Prior to the committee hearing, the bill was amended to leave Visit Florida but reduce their budget to \$25 million. The

bill passed committee with 18 yeas and 12 nays. The House bill will now move to the floor for debate.



FL Assoc of Counties @flcounties · Feb 21
Big crowd at @MyFLHouse approps committee ready to support @EnterpriseFL & @VISITFLORIDA. #homerule

Senator Brandes filed [SB 1110](#) and [1120](#) which would maintain Enterprise Florida but with extensive reform. The bill would expand the membership of the Board to include CareerSource Florida and the Small Business Development Network and have at least one member with expertise in rural economic development. Among other changes, it would limit incentive contracts to 10 years, establish a “Startup Florida Grant Program” to provide \$50 million per year for the development and operation of small business incubators and accelerators throughout the state and require the return of \$117 million currently held in escrow for the Quick Action Closing (QAC) Fund to the State Economic Enhancement and Development (SEED) to increase the rate of return on those funds.



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FAC Contact: Assistant Director of Public Policy [Eric Poole](#).



- *Tampa Bay Times:* [Florida House panel votes to kill Enterprise Florida, decimate Visit Florida](#)
- *FloridaPolitics.com:* [Bill to kill business incentives, Enterprise Florida cleared for House floor](#)
- *Orlando Sentinel:* [House panel votes to cut Visit Florida, kill Enterprise Florida](#)

FAC Priority: Tax Reform

10% non-homestead cap moves forward



Implementing Solar Amendment #4 - Sen. Brandes filed [SB 90](#) to implement Amendment 4 to exempt solar and renewable energy devices from property taxes. The bill passed the Senate Community Affairs committee on Tuesday. The bill was significantly amended to address the application of the exemption to existing facilities developed before the passage of the constitutional measure. It is anticipated that House Majority Leader Rep. Ray Rodrigues will file a similar bill in the Florida House. The Senate bill will be analysed for a fiscal impact in

EDR's Revenue Estimating Impact Conference on Monday.

10% Assessment Limit on Non-Homestead Property - Sen. Lee has filed [SB 76](#) (Joint Resolution) and Rep. Burton has filed [HB 21](#) (Joint Resolution) to continue the existing 10% increase limit on assessments for non-homestead property. Both bills were heard and passed out of their respective committees this week.

FAC Contact: Associate Director of Public Policy [Laura Youmans](#).

FAC Priority: Comprehensive Water

Funding bill for St. Johns River moves forward.

On Tuesday, a bill ([SB 234](#)) by Sen. Bradley passed unanimously in Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation. It provides for a \$35 million annual appropriation to the St. Johns River Water Management District, to be used for land acquisition and restoration projects in the St. Johns River and Keystone Heights Lake Region areas. FAC will continue to monitor this legislation as a part of our broad

Senator files preemption bill

A new bill would limit home rule

On Thursday, Senator Kathleen Passidomo filed [SB 1158](#). SB 1158 prohibits counties from banning the sale of a good or service; imposing penalty on a sale of good or service; wage rates different than state or federal law unless expressly authorized by the state. In addition, the Senate bill prohibits local counties from adopting a rule, ordinance or regulation (ROR) that:

1. interferes with the regulation of CTL outside of its boundary;
2. adversely impacts :
 - economic growth;
 - private sector job creation or employment;
 - private sector investment;
 - business competitiveness, including impeding the ability of persons doing business in the county or state to compete with persons doing business in other areas of the state or in other domestic markets;
 - productivity;
 - or innovation within the county or outside its territorial boundaries.

Any ordinance inconsistent with these provisions would be void and the bill creates the ability for local governments to challenge the inconsistency of another local government's ordinance to the Florida legislature.

FAC is compiling a complete analysis of this legislation. In addition, please assess the complete impacts SB 1158 would have on your county and provide that information to FAC and your legislative delegation.

FAC Contact: Associate Director of Public Policy [Laura Youmans](#).

Legislation with no activity this week

FAC Priority: Opioid Epidemic

- [SB 558](#) (Sen. Passidomo) / [HB 61](#) (Rep. Lee, Jr) pertaining to treatment one should receive if hospitalized for an unintentional overdose;
- [SB 588](#) (Sen. Passidomo) / [HB 249](#) (Rep. Rommel) related to the mandatory reporting of drug overdoses;
- [SB 150](#) (Rep. Steube) / [HB 477](#) (Rep. Boyd) which creates crimes of trafficking in fentanyl and synthetic drugs and increases penalties for some drug related offenses.

FAC Priority: Medical Marijuana

- [SB 406](#) (Sen. Bradley): Compassionate Use of Low-THC Cannabis and Marijuana
- [SB 616](#) (Sen. Brandes): Medical Marijuana

FAC Priority: Tax Reform

- *Sales Taxes on Commercial Leases* - Rep. Ahern has filed [HB 223](#) and Sen. Perry has filed [SB 838](#), relating to an exemption on sales taxes for commercial leases, however FAC does not support this version of the concept.
- *Local Business Taxes* - [SB 330](#) by Sen. Stuebe was filed on 1/10/17. The bill proposes restrictions and limitations on local governments with regards to local business taxes. [HB 487](#) by Rep. Renner has filed similar legislation in the Florida House.
- *Property Taxes* - [SB 272](#) (Sen. Hutson) / [HB 49](#) (Rep. Eagle) Relating to Ad Valorem Taxation proposes to provide ad valorem tax abatements or relief for victims of natural disasters.

FAC Priority: Comprehensive Water Reform

- [SB 10](#) (Bradley) / [HB 761](#) (Rep. Altman) – Relating to Water Resources, outlines a plan for the South

Florida Water Management District to purchase 60,000 acres of land for a water storage reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee.

- Central and Southern Florida Project for Flood Control and Other Purposes - Sen. Simmons filed [SB 816](#) which provides an alternative plan to the Senate President's priority.
- [SB 532](#) (Sen. Galvano) – Relating to Public Notice of Pollution
- [HB 285](#) (Rep. Fine) – Relating to Septic Tank Inspections
- [SB 874](#) (Sen. Young) / [HB 551](#) (Stone) – Relating to Septic Tank Remediation Plan
- [SB 10](#) (Sen. Bradley) / [HB 761](#) (Rep. Altman) – Relating to Water Resources

FAC Priority: Beach Re-Nourishment

No legislation filed to date

Cell Towers:

- [SB 596](#) (Sen. Hutson) / [HB 687](#) (Rep. La Rosa) - Relating to Utilities: The bill, among other technical provisions, prohibits DOT & local governmental entities from regulating/prohibiting collocation of small wireless facilities in public rights-of-way.

Firefighters:

- [SB 158](#) (Sen. Latvala) / [HB 143](#) (Rep. Fitzenhagen) - Relating to Firefighters:
The bills create a presumption that certain types of cancers causing partial or total disability to or the death of a firefighter were contracted in the line of duty unless competent evidence is shown to the contrary. It seeks to increase the FRS rate for Special Risk Class employees by 0.01 percentage point to fund the benefit change. FAC is currently working to determine the fiscal impact to local governments associated with the bill.

Civil Citation Program for Juveniles:

- [SB 196](#) (Sen. Flores) / [HB 205](#) (Rep. Ahern) - Relating to Juvenile Civil Citation & Similar Diversion Programs

Concealed Weapon:

- [SB 626](#) (Sen. Stuebe) - Relating to Concealed Weapons or Firearms
The bill removes prohibition from carrying a concealed weapon at a BOCC meeting. The bill has not been assigned committees of reference as of yet.
- [SB 908](#) (Sen. Baxley) / [HB 803](#) (Rep. Hahnfeldt) - Relating to Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms:
This legislation would remove restrictions on places where persons could carry concealed weapons including courthouses and county commission meetings.

Ethics:

- [PIEC3](#) (Public Integrity & Ethics Committee) - Relating to Local Government Ethics:
The proposed bill language, which passed the Public Integrity & Ethics Committee Tuesday, would establish a statewide local lobbyist registration system. Additionally, the proposed bill language would propose further restrictions upon local public officials when conflicts of interest arise.

Local Referenda:

- [HB 139](#) (Rep. Ingoglia) / [SB 278](#) (Sen. Stuebe) - Relating to Local Tax Referenda:
The current version of the bill maintains the current passage threshold at 50% for general elections. However, the current draft does not include language maintaining ability to utilize non-general elections that was included in the final bill last year. Rep. Ingoglia has indicated a willingness to work with us to go back to language from last year allowing referendums during primary elections at a 60% threshold.

Sentencing

- [HB 157](#) (Rep. Burgess) - Relating to Sentencing:
The current version of the bill authorizes certain offenders to be sentenced to county jail for up to 24 months if the county has a contract with the Department of Corrections. The bill requires that funding for all contracts be specifically appropriated by the legislature. The bill was heard on February 15, 2017 and passed by the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (13 - 1). FAC supports this legislation in its

current format.

Workers' Compensation for First Responders:

- [SB 516](#) (Sen. Perry) - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders:
The bill removes limits to current workers' compensation benefits for first responders and provides that mental or nervous injuries are compensable under law.
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