



ACTION ALERTS! Help Stop the Assault on Home Rule

Homestead Exemption, Super Preemptions, Cell Phone Towers & Vacation Rentals

Ask Legislators to:



What: [SJR 1774](#) / Expected House Companion

When:
Wednesday: Possible introduction in House
TBD: In next Senate committee

Where:
1. [House Ways and Means Committee](#)
2. [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax](#)

Action Needed:
1. [Determine local impact](#)
2. Call / Email [House](#) & [Senate](#) committee members

Messages:
1. This is a tax SHIFT not a tax CUT.
2. Small counties hit the hardest
3. Citizens will get less with less



What: [SB 596](#) / [HB 687](#)

When:
TODAY: 4:00 p.m.

Where:
[Senate Government Oversight & Accountability Committee](#)

Action Needed:
Call / Email [Senate](#) committee members

Messages:
1. Taxpayers shouldn't foot the bill
2. Let's work together
3. The CST red herring
3. Protect public safety and community standards
4. Stop the Preemption

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Questions/More information:
[Laura Youmans](#)

Questions/More information:
[Eric Poole](#)



What: [HB 425](#) / [SB 188](#)

When:
Tuesday: 8:00am

Where:
[House Careers & Competition Subcommittee](#)

Action Needed:
Call / Email [House](#) committee members

Messages:
1. Regulation is shared – let's keep it that way.
2. Stop the preemption.
3. Tallahassee shouldn't regulate the noise or parking in my neighborhood.
4. Local ordinances work.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Questions/More information:
[Eric Poole](#)



What: [HB 17](#) & [SB 1158](#)

When:
TBD

Where:
1. [Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee](#)
2. [House Commerce Committee](#)

Action Needed:
Call / email [House](#) & [Senate](#) committee members

Messages:
1. Reverses home rule
2. Bad for Business
3. Creates regulatory uncertainty
4. Economic Investment at Risk

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Questions/More information:
[Laura Youmans](#)

FAC Priority: Opioid Epidemic



EACH DAY:
3,900 People initiate nonmedical use of prescription opioids for the first time.



580 People use heroin for the first time.

78 People die from an opioid-related overdose.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[HB 249](#) (Rep. Rommel) had its reference to Criminal Justice committee removed this week which made its unanimous passage in Health and Human Services committee its last stop and it's now headed to the floor.

[SB 588](#) (Sen. Passidomo) is scheduled to be heard next Monday, March 27, in Health Policy at 4:00 p.m. where it is expected to be amended to more closely match the House bill.

[HB 61](#) (Rep. Lee, Jr) had two of its committee references were removed this week making its unanimous passage in Health and Human Services committee its last stop and it is now headed to the floor. Its Senate companion, [SB 558](#) (Passidomo), has not been heard yet.

[SB 788](#) (Sen. Clemens) / [HB 807](#) (Rep. Hager) – related to marketing practices for substance abuse services were heard this week and both unanimously passed their second committees.

Questions/More information:

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Lisa M. Hurley, Esq. via email @ lhurley@fl-counties.com or visit the **OPIOID EPIDEMIC** Legislative page [here](#).



Bills in the News: Opioid Epidemic

FAC Priority: Medical Marijuana

The Senate Health Policy workshopped SB 406 and discussed elements of the four other medical marijuana bills filed this far in the Senate. The committee did not take a vote on any piece of legislation, but will do so most likely in Week 5. Staff has prepared a side by side analysis of the major components of the filed bills. The analysis can be found [here](#).



[HB 1397](#) (Rep. Rodrigues) will be heard on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the House Health Quality Subcommittee.

Legislation and FAC Contact

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Susan Harbin, Esq. via email @ sharbin@fl-counties.com or visit the **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** Legislative page [here](#).

FAC Priority: Tax Reform

Implementing Solar Amendment #4 - The House released version of implementing legislation for the recently passed constitutional amendment #4 [HB 1351](#) (Rep. Rodrigues) was heard on Tuesday, 3/21/2017 in the House Energy and Utilities Subcommittee and passed unanimously. The Revenue Estimating Conference will be reviewing a proposed amendment on Friday 3/23/2017 that would significantly reduce the fiscal impact to counties with existing utility scale solar facilities and fiscally constrained counties with planned facilities. The next stop for the bill is House Ways & Means Committee.



Communications Services Taxes - [SB 1636](#) (Sen. Artiles) / **[HB 1377](#)** (Rep. M. Miller) - Relating to Taxation of Internet Video Service would exclude internet video services from any local tax, charge, fee, or other imposition on related to the provision or purchase of internet video services. **[SB 1636](#)** will be heard in the Senate Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities on 3/28/17 at 3:00 pm.

10% Assessment Limit on Non-Homestead Property - [HJR 21](#) (Rep. Burton) – Limitations on Property Tax Assessments – Passed through its last committee in the House last week, the bill was passed off the House floor on 3/23/17.

Additional Homestead Exemption - [SJR 1774](#) (Sen. Lee) – Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption – was heard and passed in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Wednesday, 3/22/2017 the next stop will be Senate Subcommittee on Finance and Tax. Please see above for more information.

Local Business Taxes - [SB 330](#) by Sen. Stuebe and **[HB 487](#)** by Rep. Renner were both heard and passed on Tuesday 3/21/2017. The bills originally proposed restrictions and limitations on local governments with regards to local business taxes. However, amendments to both bills change the nature of bills such that the only impacts would be the creation of an exemption from business taxes for specified veterans, spouses of veterans, the spouse of active service members, and low-income individuals if that individual signs a Request for Fee Exemption.

Other Property Taxes - [HB 49](#) (Rep. Eagle) was heard and passed on Tuesday, 3/21/2017 during the Ways and Means Committee meeting. The bill proposes to provide ad valorem tax abatements or relief for victims of natural disasters.

Sales Taxes on Commercial Leases - [SB 378](#) (Sen. Flores) Taxation – was amended in Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax on 3/21/17. As amended and approved in committee, it proposes to repeal an existing insurance premium tax credit. The resulting cost savings would be used to reduce the state sales tax on commercial leases by 1 cent (6 to 5 cents). Local governments and their respective revenue sharing proceeds would be held harmless.

[SB 704](#) (Sen. Garcia) related to exempting ad valorem tax charges from the sales and use tax on commercial leases was heard and passed in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Wednesday, 3/22/2017.

Questions / More Information:

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Laura Youmans, Esq. via email @ lyoumans@fl-counties.com or visit the **TAX REFORM** Legislative page [here](#)

FAC Priority: Comprehensive Water Reform

[SB 532](#) (Sen. Galvano) related to public notices of pollution passed unanimously Senate Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations, and is now in its final committee, Senate Appropriations.

[HB 285](#) (Rep. Fine) - Relating to Onsite Sewage Treatment and

Disposal System Inspections will be heard on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the House Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee.

[SB 1438](#) (Broxson)–Relating to Aquifer Replenishment is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation committee.



Questions / More information:

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Susan Harbin, Esq. via email @ sharbin@fl-counties.com or visit the **COMPREHENSIVE WATER** Legislative page [here](#).

FAC Priority: Beach Re-nourishment



[HB 1213](#) (Rep. Peters) passed unanimously in the House Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee. [SB 1590](#) (Sen. Latvala) passed unanimously in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation.

[HB 1213](#) (Rep. Peters) is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 in the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee at 12:00 p.m.

Questions / More Information

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Susan Harbin, Esq. via email @ sharbin@fl-counties.com or visit the **BEACHRENOURISHMENT** Legislative page [here](#).



Bills in the News: Beach Re-nourishment

Other Legislative Issues of Note

The following provides information regarding legislation that may significantly impact Florida's counties.

Health & Human Services / Public Safety

[Lisa Hurley](#)

Relating to Sentencing: [SB 1068](#) / [HB 157](#)

- Monday, March 27 up in Senate Criminal Justice Committee at 1:30pm
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/sentencing

Florida Criminal Justice Task Force: [SB 458](#) / [HB 387](#)

- Senate bill passed its 2nd committee on 3/22/17
- FAC webpage: fl-counties.com/criminal-justice-reform-task-force

Drones - [SB 832](#) / [HB 1027](#)

- Senate bill passed Criminal Justice Committee on 3/21/2017
- House bill passed the Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on 3/21/2017
- House bill is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, 3/28 at 8:00am in House Careers & Competition Subcommittee
- FAC webpage: fl-counties.com/drones

Finance, Tax & Administration

[Laura Youmans](#)

Local Referenda – [HB 139](#) / [SB 278](#)

- [SB 278](#) was amended and passed on Wednesday, 3/22/2017 during a meeting of the Senate Ethics and Elections committee. The amendment added the ability for local governments to hold a referenda election to adopt local option sales taxes during a primary election as long as the voter passage threshold is increased to 60%. General elections still only require a 50% threshold. The effective date was moved back to 7/1/2019. Staff anticipates that the same amendment will be added to [HB 139](#) (Rep. Ingoglia).
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/local-referenda

Public Records – [SB 80](#) / [HB 163](#)

- [SB 80](#) (Sen. Stuebe) was read a second time on the Senate Floor on March 23, 2017 and is now placed on the calendar for Third Reading on March 29, 2017.
- [HB 163](#) (Rep. Burgess) was passed unanimously in the House Civil Justice and Claims for 3/20/17.
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/public-records

Ethics - [HB 7021](#)

- [HB 7021](#) has been placed on the House special Order calendar for second reading on Wednesday, March 29, 2017.
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/ethics

Constitutional Officers – [SJR 134](#) / [HJR 721](#)

- [HB 271](#), and [HB 1129](#) was heard and passed on Tuesday, 3/21/2017 during the House Local, Federal and Federal Affairs Subcommittee.
- [SJR 136](#) relating to Property Appraisers and [SJR 134](#) relating to Sheriffs will be on the Senate Ethics and Elections agenda on 3/28/17 at 3:00 pm.
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/constitutional-officers

Worker's Compensation – [SB 1582](#) / [HB 7085](#)

- No action
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/workers-compensation

Growth Management, Environmental & Transportation

[Eric Poole](#)

Relating to Transportation Network Companies: [SB 340](#) / [HB 221](#)

- [SB 340](#) will be heard on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/transportation-network-companies

Public Works Contracting - [SB 534](#) / [HB 599](#)

- [SB 534](#) was passed on Wednesday, 3/22/2017 during the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability committee meeting
- [HB 599](#) was temporarily postponed in the House Government Accountability committee meeting on the same day.
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/public-works-contracting

Utility Transmission Lines - [SB 1048](#) / [HB 1055](#)

- SB 1048 has been placed on the Senate calendar on 2nd reading
- The House bill passed the Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee on 3/20/2017
- FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/utility-transmission-lines

Community Redevelopment Agencies - [SB 1770](#) / [HB 13](#)

- [SB 1770](#) was scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, 3/22/2017 during the Senate Community Affairs committee meeting but due to time constraints, was not considered.
 - FAC Webpage: fl-counties.com/community-redevelopment-agencies
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