



## Keep calling. They hear you.

Senate votes today and if passed send it back to the House. This fight is not over yet!

VOTE **NO** ON ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD

**UPDATE:** This resolution is part of a 2 part plan by the Speaker. Next Session, it is rumored he will proposed to only allow local governments to raise their millage rates with approval from the state.

This is part of a broad plan from the Speaker to centralize both financial and regulatory power in the State.

Share this information and let Senators know - raising the millage rate to compensate for this loss might not be an option.

**What:** [HJR 7105](#)

**When:**  
Today

**Where:**  
Florida Senate

**Action Needed:**

1. [Know your local impact - click here to view](#)
2. Call / Email [Senate](#)members

**Messages:**

1. No local project is worth a \$650 million hit to Florida's counties
2. This is a tax SHIFT not a tax CUT
3. Small counties hit the hardest
4. Citizens will get less with less

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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



*Tampa Bay Times*  
**Editorial: Homestead vote tests Florida Senate**

The Florida Senate traditionally has been where bad ideas are killed, common sense prevails and independent thinking rules. That reputation will be tested Monday when the Senate votes on a misguided proposal to increase the homestead exemption, one of House Speaker Richard Corcoran's top priorities. This is part of a secret deal between Corcoran and Senate President Joe Negron to resolve the state budget and other top issues, but it's a terrible trade-off, and senators should reject it rather than follow along like sheep.

Corcoran, R-Land O'Lakes, wants a constitutional amendment on the 2018 ballot that would increase the homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000. He hates taxes, distrusts local government and may run for governor. [-Read More-](#)

# ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD COUNTY BY COUNTY ANALYSIS



## Bills in the News: Additional Homestead Exemption

### FAC Priority: Opioid Epidemic

[SB788](#) (Sen. Clemons) –related to marketing practices for substance abuse services has been placed on 2nd reading in the Senate. The House companion [HB 807](#) has passed the full House and been sent to the Senate.



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

[SB 588](#) (Sen. Passidomo) is the companion bill to [HB 249](#) (Rep. Rommel) encourages first responders to report certain overdose incident data to the Department of Health within 120 hours of the incident through the existing state Emergency Medical Service Tracking and Reporting System (or other appropriate method) and requires the Department to make the information available to local government agencies no later than 120 hours after receipt. [SB 588](#) has been placed on the Senate Special Order calendar for Tuesday, May 2. [HB 249](#) and similar [HB 61](#) have both been passed by the full House and sent to the Senate for consideration.

[SB 150](#) (Rep. Steube) / [HB 477](#) (Rep. Boyd) creates crimes of trafficking in fentanyl and synthetic drugs and increases penalties for some drug related offenses. This is the priority legislation for the Florida Sheriffs Association. [SB 150](#) passed its final committee and is on the Senate Special Order Calendar for Tuesday, May 1. [HB 477](#) passed the full house and has been sent to the Senate.

#### Questions/More information:

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



## Bills in the News: Opioid Epidemic

### FAC Priority: Medical Marijuana

On Friday, the House amended [HB 1397](#) (Rep. Rodrigues) to more closely match the Senate version. One key change was removing the 90 day waiting period to receive medical cannabis. The House's amended bill has been placed on 3rd reading for a final vote in the House on Tuesday, May 2.



[SB 406](#) (Sen. Bradley) has passed all of its committees of reference and is waiting to be calendared on the full Senate agenda.

#### **Legislation and FAC Contact**

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

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## **FAC Priority: Tax Reform**

**10% Assessment Limit on Non-Homestead Property** - [HB 21](#) (Rep. Burton) has been substituted for [SB 76](#) (Sen. Lee) and has passed both houses and sent to the Governor for consideration.

**Renewable Energy** - [SB 90](#) (Sen. Brandes) passed the full Senate on 4/28 and has been sent to the House for consideration. [HB 1351](#) (Rep. Rodrigues) was temporarily postponed and remains on 2nd reading in the House.

**Local Business Taxes** - [SB 330](#) (Sen. Stuebe) was not heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/25 nor was it placed on the Appropriations agenda for 5/1. [HB 487](#) (Rep. Renner) has passed its final committee and placed on 2nd reading in the full House.

#### **Questions / More Information:**

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

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## **FAC Priority: Comprehensive Water Reform**



[HB 285](#) (Rep. Fine) -Relating to Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Inspections has been passed by the full House and been sent to the Senate for consideration. [SB 1748](#) (Sen. Stewart) still has two more committee stops making it unlikely to move anymore this Session.

[SB 532](#) (Sen. Galvano) related to public notices of pollution was passed off the Senate Floor on 4/18/17 and is now in House messages. The House companion [HB 1065](#) has not moved

through any of its committees of reference.

[SB 10](#) (Sen. Bradley) – Relating to Water Resources passed off the Senate floor and is now in House messages. The passage of this bills is a major part of final state budget negotiations.

#### **Questions / More information:**

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

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## **FAC Priority: Beach Re-nourishment**



[SB 1590](#)(Sen. Latvala) – Relating to Coastal Management passed the full Senate on 4/27 and is now in House messages.

### Questions / More Information

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



## Bills in the News: Beach Re-nourishment

### FAC Priority: Economic Development

House and Senate budget talks indicate that Enterprise Florida would receive no new funding in this year's budget.



*Times / Herald*

#### **Legislature to governor: We've got a budget deal but you're not going to like it**

Gov. Rick Scott traveled the state the last two months calling out legislators for opposing his top budget priorities. He spent more than \$1.2 million on ads trying to win the public over to his thinking. And on Thursday he was even seen making rare house calls to Senators and House members in their offices to persuade them. [- read more-](#)



*Sunshine State News*

#### **Scott Sets Stage to Veto Enterprise Florida, Visit Florida Cuts -- But Will Lawmakers Override Him?**

Gov. Rick Scott seems willing and ready to brandish his veto pen and slash through proposed cuts to Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida after state lawmakers threatened to drastically reduce funding for his twin pride and joy economic agencies – but state lawmakers are fully prepared to fight back.

Scott's comments come on the heels of budget negotiations which would gut funding for the state's tourism agency, Visit Florida, from \$75 million to \$25 million. [-read more-](#)

### 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](#)

**Clerks of the Circuit Court:**

- [SB 2506](#), which provides for additional funds for clerks and a mechanism to adjust for budget fluctuations during the year, was passed off the Senate Floor, received by the House which took up the bill and amended the legislation and ultimately agreed to include the subject matter of the bill as a part of the upcoming budget conference.
- [HB 7051](#) revises the way in which clerk of court budgets would be approved. The bill has passed the full House and been sent to the Senate for consideration.
- FAC webpage: [fl-counties.com/clerks-circuit-court](http://fl-counties.com/clerks-circuit-court)

#### Drones:

- [HB 1027](#) was passed off the House floor on 4/20/17 and sent to the Senate for consideration.
- [SB 832](#) passed its final committee on 4/25 but has not yet been placed on the Senate calendar for consideration by the full body.
- FAC webpage: [fl-counties.com/drones](http://fl-counties.com/drones)

## Finance, Tax & Administration

[Laura Youmans](#)

### Worker's Compensation –

[SB 1582](#) / [HB 7085](#)

- The bills provide concepts for reform of existing worker's compensation system. [SB 1582](#) (Sen. Bradley) has been placed on the Senate Special Order Calendar for Monday, May 1. The Senate version would cap attorneys' fees at \$250 and would require individual insurers to file their own rate requests rather than the requests being filed by the National Council on Compensation Insurance. The bill now includes language that would deem multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma to be occupational diseases for firefighters for purposes of workers' compensation. [HB 7085](#) (Rep. Burgess) was passed off the House floor on 4/19/17 and will now await action by the Senate. Among other provisions, the House version of the workers' compensation reform would limit claimants' attorney's fees to \$150.
- FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/workers-compensation](http://fl-counties.com/workers-compensation)

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

- The bills stipulate when local governments must have their local referenda elections and by what threshold they must pass. [SB 278](#) is in Senate Appropriations but was not placed on the final agenda May 1. [HB 139](#) passed the full House on 4/26 and has been sent to the Senate for consideration.
- FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/local-referenda](http://fl-counties.com/local-referenda)

### Local Government Fiscal Transparency – [HB 7065](#) (House Ways & Means Comm.)

Among various provisions, the bill provides for:

- a) Voting records related to Board actions to increase taxes and the issuance of tax-supported debt.
- b) The provision of online access to historical TRIM notices by parcel.
- c) Additional requirement for public meetings and notice for local option tax increases and tax-supported debt issuances.
- d) The requirement for local governments to conduct a debt affordability analysis prior to approving new long-term tax-supported debt.
- e) The requirement that local governments include compliance with transparency requirements in their annual audit.

Currently, there is no Senate companion bill to [HB 7065](#)

The bill passed the full House on 4/26 and sent to the Senate for consideration.

FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/local-government-fiscal-transparency](http://fl-counties.com/local-government-fiscal-transparency)

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## • Growth Management, Environmental & Transportation

[Eric Poole](#)

### Vacation Rentals - [SB 188](#) / [HB 425](#)

- [SB 188](#) which has been substantially amended is now in Senate Rules committee which does not have another meeting scheduled. [HB 425](#) passed the full House by a 63/56 vote and has been sent to the Senate for consideration.
- FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/vacation-rentals](http://fl-counties.com/vacation-rentals)
- Vacation rental [articles in the news.](#)

### Cell Phone Towers: [HB 687](#) / [SB 596](#)

- SB 596 has passed both chambers and now goes to the Governor for consideration. The final bill passed included a \$150 price per pole per year.
- FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/cell-phone-towers](http://fl-counties.com/cell-phone-towers)
- Cell phone tower [articles in the news](#)

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

- [HB 599](#) has passed both chambers and now goes to the Governor for consideration.
- FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/utility-transmission-lines](http://fl-counties.com/utility-transmission-lines)

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

- [HB 13](#) has passed the full House and been sent to the Senate for consideration.
  - FAC Webpage: [fl-counties.com/community-redevelopment-agencies](http://fl-counties.com/community-redevelopment-agencies)
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