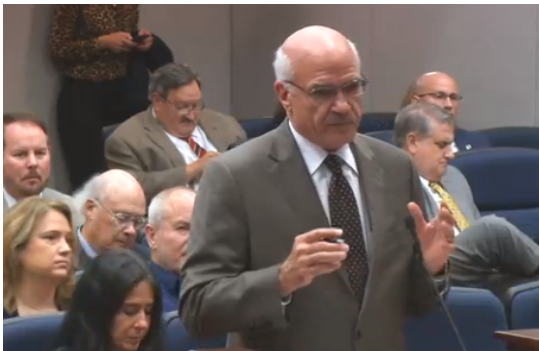


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Hurricane Irma & FEMA Funding



Above: Roger Desjarlais, County Manager from Lee County, speaks about the challenges Lee County is facing post Hurricane Irma. Representatives from Monroe and St. Johns County also shared their struggles since Hurricane Irma with the committee.

The House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness held their first meeting on Thursday, October 12 to discuss the state's emergency management system, Hurricane Irma response and recovery, and hear from the Office of Insurance Regulation. In addition, that same day the Senate Appropriations Committee held a presentation on Hurricane Irma's effect on the 2017-18 and upcoming 2018-19 fiscal year.

FAC anticipates that some ancillary issues will be raised relating to Hurricane Irma as well as previous disasters such as Hurricane Matthew.

Several committees both in the House and Senate have dedicated their meetings to discussing debris issues, gas shortages, shelter standards, insurance, utilities and power restoration, and the storm's impact on the state budget. It is of high importance to the committees to discuss the manner in which FEMA and the State handle disaster recovery from counties and cities.

With that in mind, FAC has been working to address the issues relating to the FEMA funding issues.

Payments - FAC has had discussions with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and its consultants that help manage the payments. Last week, FAC was advised that additional assistance was being expedited and that, as of today, more than \$15 million has been processed to the state comptroller's office. This means that disbursement of additional funds should begin in the next few weeks. DEM has indicated that they will continue to expedite as many payments as possible as county request for payments are being submitted.

Deobligations - FAC has continued working with Florida's Congressional delegation to ensure that FEMA deobligations are time-restricted and tied to the completion of projects and not the close-out of a disaster. This measure has passed the House, once again, in two forms. Over the last year, FAC has worked closely with Senator Rubio and Nelson's office to push similar language which they both have.

Both Senators have also requested their language be added to the Hurricane Irma supplemental funding package. Additionally, FAC provided recommendations to FEMA in its development of its 2015 policy, 705 Disaster Grant Close Out Procedures, addressing future deobligations. This policy significantly reduced the amount of deobligations in Florida.

Appeals - In light of the state's recent failure to submit timely county project appeals to FEMA, which resulted in denials, FAC has shared language with members of the Florida Congressional delegation that would ensure counties are not penalized when the state fails to meet regulatory appeal deadlines. FAC is hoping to see this language included in the funding supplemental.

FAC Contact:

If your county has an issues relating to a project or payment, contact Eric Poole via email at epoole@fl-counties.com

NEWS ARTICLES ON HURRICANE RESPONSE AND PREPARDNESS



[A year after Hurricane Matthew, counties ask Rick Scott: Where's our money?](#)

Local Government Fiscal Transparency

The House Ways and Means passed [HB 7](#) , Local Government Fiscal Transparency, by Representative Burton on Tuesday, October 10. Immediately after passing during the first committee, it went straight to the floor with no room for negotiation. This bill primarily would require an additional two meetings whenever a raise in taxes or an issuance of debt occurs.

Last year, this bill passed in the House but died in the Senate. FAC anticipates that this will be one of multiple related bills that the House will attempt to merge into one large bill. At this time, FAC staff has been working with sponsors and committee staff about their concerns.

FAC Contact: To learn more about this issue and related legislative information con tact Laura Youmans, Esq. via email at lyoumans@fl-counties.com

Springs & Beach Funding

[SB 204](#) , the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF), by Senator Bradley which would appropriate \$50 million annually for restoration of the St. Johns River and its tributaries as well as the \$75 million for springs restoration passed unanimously in its first committee.

Chair Bradley also filed a bill, [SB 370](#) , to dedicate \$100 million annually to the Florida Forever Trust Fund. FAC anticipates that the bill will be heard during the next Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation committee meeting.



On Monday, October 9, the Senate Environmental Preservation & Conservation Committee took up [SB 174](#), Coastal Management, by Senator Latvala. The bill passed unanimously in its first committee. This bill revises beach nourishment funding criteria and dedicates an annual appropriation from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) to beach projects. Specifically, the bill would dedicate \$50 million, or 7.6% of funds remaining after payment of debt services from LATF.

Last year, the same bill passed the Senate but eventually stalled and died at the House. FAC has adopted a policy proposal supporting dedicated beach project funding and is optimistic about this bill

moving forward so early in the process.

FAC Contact:

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Susan Harbin, Esq. via email at sharbin@fl-counties.com

NEWS ARTICLES ON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION



Senate Panel Approves Two Environmental Funding Measures

Constitutional Revision Commission

In the past two weeks, proposals for constitutional amendments were released by the Constitutional Revision Commission. As anticipated, one of the proposals seeks to prevent charter counties from changing the nature of the offices of the five county constitutional officers. Variations of this concept have been heard in the Florida Legislature over the past few sessions, but the language in each draft has been slightly different.

In general, the proposal provides that:

- The clerk must serve as ex officio clerk of the board unless otherwise provided by (1) special law approved by vote of the electors, or (2) if provided by general or special law (pursuant to Article V, section 16 of the Florida Constitution).
- County charters may not:
 - Abolish any of the offices of the county officers
 - Transfer the duties of those officers to another officer or office
 - Establish the length of the term of office
 - Establish any manner of selection other than by election by the electors of the county
- Applies to all county constitutional officers: sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of court.
- Takes effect January 5, 2021 but governs qualifying and holding the primary and general elections for county constitutional officers in 2020.

For the full text of the amendment follow this [Link](#) .

FAC CONTACT:

For additional information, please feel free contact Laura Youmans via email at lyoumans@fl-counties.com or Brian Sullivan via email at bsullivan@fl-counties.com .

LIP Funding

On Wednesday, October 11, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services had the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) discuss the \$1.5 Billion Low Income Pool (LIP) program funding that was supposed to come down from the federal government. However, the actual amount is not \$1.5 Billion but much closer to \$790.4 million. ACHA Deputy Secretary told the subcommittee that the agency has \$303 million in funding commitments from the counties to help fund LIP which will be used to draw \$487 million in federal Medicaid dollars, bringing the total available to just more than \$790 million, less than half of what was expected.

FAC Contact:

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Robert Brown via email at rbrown@fl-counties.com

NEWS ARTICLES ON LOW INCOME POOL

'LIP' money falls short of initial estimates

State and Local Regulation of Vacation Rentals



Flagler County Administrator, Craig Coffey, was among the panelist.

On Tuesday, October 10, the Senate Community Affairs Committee held a workshop on state and local regulation of vacation rentals. Chair Lee indicated that he convened a panel to allow ample time for stakeholders to discuss their concerns before the committee votes on a bill. Flagler County Administrator, Craig Coffey, was among the panelist. The discussion lasted the entire duration of the committee meeting.

Last session, the vacation rental industry attempted, unsuccessfully, to restore the full preemption of local regulation of vacation rentals that passed in 2011 but was partially rolled back in 2014. This bill has not yet been filed this session, but will almost certainly return in some format.

Since there wasn't enough time to answer question or time for public comment, Chair Lee stated that he would continue the discussion at the committee's next meeting.

FAC Contact:

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Susan Harbin, Esq. via email at sharbin@fl-counties.com

Summit Your Open Comments on FAC Proposed Guiding Principles

DEADLINE IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 30th

During the 2017 FAC Policy Development Conference, in Osceola County, the membership approved several recommendations to FAC's Guiding Principles for each policy area:

- Federal
- Finance, Tax, and Administration
- Health and Safety
- Growth, Agriculture, Transportation and Environment

Each policy area includes guiding principles that take a strategic approach, designed to address all legislation that impact home rule values. The Legislative Executive Committee approved a call for an **open comment period** to give members an opportunity to share feedback.

We encourage you to review the materials and provide us with your comments. To review the proposed Guiding Principles [**CLICK HERE**](#)

FAC CONTACT:

Please submit your comments to Tiffany Henderson, t Henderson@fl-counties.com, by Monday, October 30th.

Other Legislative Issues of Note

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

Opioid Addiction - The Senate Health Policy Committee held a workshop on Tuesday, October 10 relating to opioid addiction. Chair Young opened the discussion with her idea of bringing in expert panelist that would represent all stages of addiction. Law Enforcement, Emergency Medicine, Rehabilitation Centers, and University Research Professors were all represented.

Medical Marijuana - The Senate House Policy Committee received an update on the implementation of **SB 8-A** , Medical Use of Marijuana, by the Department of Health (DOH). DOH discussed the challenges of the the timeline that the Legislature gave them to issue five, merit-based Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MMTC) licenses. The Office of Medical Marijuana Use (OMMU) Executive Director told the committee that he didn't have an exact date for when the licenses would be issued. The legislative mandate deadline was October 3rd.

SB 186 - On Tuesday, October 10 the Senate Ethics and Election committee passed SB 186 by Senator Hutson. This bill would require elected officials to resign from office to run for federal public office if the terms of the two offices overlap.

SB 192 - The Senate Ethics and Elections committee passed SB 192 by Senator Baxley on Tuesday, October 10. This bill would exempt certain types of meetings from public notice and access requirements.

Tourism Marketing - On Wednesday, October 11, the House Tourism & Gaming Control subcommittee received an updated on tourism marketing including the status of partnership between state and local tourism marketing.

Long Range Financial Outlook - State Economist, Amy Baker, presented a Long Range Financial Outlook adjusted for anticipated impacts from Hurricane Irma. Initially, the State was projected to have a modest \$52 million budget surplus; however, the impact from Hurricane Irma is expected to have a net negative \$141.7 million revenue impact and the downgraded projections for the Florida Retirement System will obligate the legislature to allocate an additional \$55.4 million towards the pension plan. At this time, the State is looking at a deficit of \$145.1 million dollars in 2017-18

Job Growth Grant Fund - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee reviewed the roll out of the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, hearing from Cissy Proctor, head of Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Applications totaling a combined \$642 million have been submitted. 176 applications have been submitted of which 96 were infrastructure proposals and 83 were workforce projects. The DEO is still reviewing the proposals and have not awarded any funds yet. The Department's 2018 budget request includes another \$85 million for the fund for 2018-19 fiscal year.

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