



**Interim Committee Week: County Lobbyist Call  
Monday, March 11, 2019**

**Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Davin Suggs, FAC's Director of Public Policy, gave the following updates:

- FAC Legislative Days are March 27-28, 2019, in Tallahassee. Please [click here](#) for more information and to register. The legislative briefing will occur on Wednesday, March 27th and the FAC Water Policy Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, March 28th.
- We welcome Broward, Clay, Hillsborough, Marion, Pasco and Polk for their county days this week. Please stop by the FAC offices to enjoy a cup of coffee, check your emails or just for some quiet time as this is your home away from home.

**PRIORITIES**

- **HB 3 (M. Grant) Preemption of Local Regulations** continues to remain a priority bill for FAC. The bill was heard and passed favorably in the House Business & Professions Subcommittee on Thursday, February 21. This was its first of three committee stops. It is scheduled to be heard next in the State Affairs Committee and then the Commerce Committee.

Visit FAC's website for talking points and more information on the bill – [CLICK HERE](#).

- **HB 5 (DiCeglie) Local Tax Referenda**  
This bill increases the thresholds to adopt local option surtaxes authorized under 212.055. For those levies required to be adopted by referendum, the bill would require a two-thirds vote of the county governing body to place the surtax on the ballot, the referenda could only be on the general election ballot, and would be required to be approved by 2/3 (66.66%) of the electors voting on the question.

An amendment to the bill adopted by the committee would make procedural changes to the performance audit requirement adopted in 2018. These changes would require the county or school board to notify OPPAGA of the pending referendum at least 180 days before the referendum is held. As amended, the bill would render any referendum that does not comply with the performance audit requirements invalid. The 2018 law was silent as to a notification timeline and penalty for non-compliance. The bill as amended also creates a process for citizen-initiated referenda to undergo the performance audit and be placed on the ballot.

The new provisions related to the performance audit would apply to referenda held after January 1, 2020. The remaining portions of the bill take effect upon becoming law (10 days from approval by the Governor). The bill passed favorably out of Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee by a 9-3 vote with Reps. Eskamani, Jenne, and Silvers voting in opposition.

Visit FAC's website for talking points and more information on the bill – [CLICK HERE](#).

- **SB 1000 (Hutson) Communications Services Tax**  
Reducing the communications services tax rate levied on sales of communications services; revising the authority for municipalities and counties to impose permit fees on providers of communications services that use or occupy municipal or county roads or rights-of-way, etc.
- **HB 671 (Clemons) Regional Rural Development Grants Program**  
The bill was reported favorably by the House Workforce Development and Tourism Subcommittee on Thursday, March 7. This was its first of three stops in the House.

Regional Rural Development Grants Program - The bill would increase the annual grant awards for regional economic development organizations, which are defined in the bill to be those economic organizations located within a designated rural area of opportunity. It would also reduce the local match requirement. The bill would increase the maximum allowable expenditure from the Regional Rural Development Grant Program from \$750,000 to \$1 million. The bill would have no fiscal impact on state funds, however, because the appropriation for the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund, which funds the grant program, remains unchanged. The bill would also increase the percentage of the project costs that could be covered by the Rural Infrastructure Fund and clarifies that eligible infrastructure projects include access to broadband internet service. Finally, the bill would require contracts associated with funding from both programs include certain provisions and be posted online at least 14 days prior to execution.

The companion bill, SB 596 Regional Rural Development Grants by Albritton is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Innovation, Industry, and Technology Committee on Tuesday March 12. This will be its second of three stops. It was passed unanimously out of its first committee, Senate Commerce and Tourism, on February 19.

## WATCHING CLOSELY

- **SB 302 (Brandes) Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services**  
Authorizing Medicaid nonemergency transportation services to be provided to a Medicaid recipient by certain transportation network companies or transportation brokers, subject to compliance with certain requirements; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to update the Non-Emergency Transportation Services Coverage Policy by a specified date, etc.
- **HB 639 (Perez) Security in Trial Court Facilities**  
Requires sheriffs to provide security for trial court facilities; requires sheriffs to coordinate security matters with chief judges; specifies that sheriffs retain control over security matters & chief judges retain certain authority; specifies that sheriffs & their deputies, employees, & contractors are officers of court for certain purposes.

- **HB 15 (Burton) Local Government**  
 Revises Legislative Auditing Committee duties; specifies purpose of local government fiscal transparency requirements; requires local governments to post voting record information on websites; requires property appraisers & local governments to post property tax information & history on websites; requires public notices for public hearings & meetings prior to increases of local government tax levies; specifies noticing & advertising requirements; requires local governments to conduct debt affordability analyses under specified conditions; provides method for local governments to post certain required information.
- **HB 529 (Mariano) Use of Vessel Registration Fees**  
 Authorizes portion of county or municipal vessel registration fees to be used for specified purposes.
- **HB 715 (Robinson) Florida Building Code Enforcement**  
 Prohibits local government from carrying forward more than specified amount of unexpended revenue; revises requirements for expenditure of certain unexpended revenue.
- **HB 717 (Killebrew) Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities**  
 Proposes amendments to State Constitution to authorize surviving spouse of deceased veteran to carry over certain discounts on ad valorem taxes on homestead property under specified circumstances; authorizes transfer of discount to another permanent residence if surviving spouse remains unmarried.
- **HB 719 (Killebrew) Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction**  
 Authorizes surviving spouse of deceased veteran to carry over certain discounts on ad valorem taxes on homestead property under specified conditions; authorizes discount to be transferred to another permanent residence under specified conditions; provides procedure by which applicant may file application after specified date & receive discount.
- **HB 861 (Roach) Local Government Financial Reporting**  
 Requires county & municipality budget officers to submit certain information to EDR within specified timeframe; requires adopted budget amendments & final budgets to remain posted on each entity's official website for specified period of time; requires EDR to create form by specified date.
- **HB 1139 (Plakon) Inspections and Permits**  
 Requires county or municipality that imposes inspection fees to establish expedited inspection process that provides priority processing for such inspections; authorizes county or municipality to charge additional fee up to specified amount for expedited inspection process; requires such local governments to establish expedited permitting process that provides priority processing for such permits; authorizes local government to charge additional fee for expedited inspection process; provides that local government must require applicant to pay only specified percentage of fees due upon receipt of application; provides for reduction of outstanding fees due; provides for refund of fees; specifies that certain procedures apply to building permit applications for any nonresidential buildings.

- **HB 521 (McClure) Wetland Mitigation**  
 Providing applicability.
- **SB 596 (Albritton) Regional Rural Development Grants**  
 Specifying that the concept of building the professional capacity of a regional economic development organization includes the hiring of professional staff to perform specified services; increasing the maximum percentage of total infrastructure project costs for which the department may award a grant; providing that improving access to and availability of broadband Internet service may be included in a project that is eligible for rural infrastructure grant funds, etc.
- **SB 536 (Brandes) 911 Services**  
 Requiring counties to develop a plan for implementing a text-to-911 system and to implement a system to receive E911 text messages by a specified date; requiring that the Technology Program within the Department of Management Services develop and implement a plan to require that emergency dispatchers be able to transfer an emergency call from one E911 system to another E911 system in this state, etc.
- **HB 9 (LaMarca) Community Redevelopment Agencies**  
 Specifies ethics training requirements for community redevelopment agency commissioners; establishes procedures for appointing board of community redevelopment agency board members; requires referendum to create community redevelopment agency; establishes procurement procedures; provides reporting and boundary map requirements; provides termination dates for certain community redevelopment agencies; provides phase-out period for existing community redevelopment agencies; requires DEO to declare inactive certain community redevelopment agencies; requires DEO to maintain website identifying inactive community redevelopment agencies; specifies level of tax increment financing that governing body may establish; revises requirements for budgets of community redevelopment agencies; revises requirements for annual audit.
- **SB 806 (Perry) Local Government Public Construction Works**  
 Requiring the governing board of a local government to consider estimated costs of certain projects using generally accepted cost-accounting principles that account for specified costs when making a specified determination; requiring that a local government that performs projects using its own services, employees, and equipment disclose the actual costs of the project after completion to the Auditor General; requiring estimated total construction project costs for certain projects to include specified costs, etc.
- **SB 78 (J. Rodriguez) Public Financing of Construction Projects**  
 Prohibiting state-financed constructors from commencing construction of certain structures in coastal areas without first conducting a sea level impact projection study and having such study published and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection; requiring the department to develop by rule standards for such studies; providing for enforcement; requiring the department to publish such studies on its website, subject to certain conditions, etc.

## **Calendar: Week Of 3/11/19**

FAC will be attending and monitoring the following committee meetings and bills this week.

### **Monday, March 11, 2019**

#### **4:00 p.m. Senate Banking and Insurance**

- SB 302 (Brandes) - Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services

### **Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

#### **8:30 a.m. House Criminal Justice Subcommittee**

- HB 639 (Perez) - Security in Trial Court Facilities

#### **8:30 a.m. House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee**

- HB 15 (Burton) - Local Government
- HB 529 (Mariano) - Use of Vessel Registration Fees
- HB 715 (Robinson) - Florida Building Code Enforcement
- HB 717 (Killebrew) - Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities
- HB 719 (Killebrew) - Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction
- HB 861 (Roach) - Local Government Financial Reporting
- HB 1139 (Plakon) - Inspections and Permits

#### **1:30 p.m. House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee**

- HB 521 (McClure) - Wetland Mitigation

#### **1:30 p.m. Senate Innovation, Industry and Technology**

- SB 596 (Albritton) - Regional Rural Development Grants
- SB 536 (Brandes) - 911 Services
- SB 1000 (Hutson) - Communications Services Taxes

#### **4:00 p.m. House Ways & Means Committee**

- HB 5 (DiCeglie) - Discretionary Sales Surtaxes
- HB 9 (LaMarca) - Community Redevelopment Agencies

#### **4:00 p.m. Senate Community Affairs**

- SB 806 (Perry) - Local Government Public Construction Works

#### **4:00 p.m. Senate Environment and Natural Resources**

- SB 78 (J. Rodriguez) - Public Financing of Construction Projects