

Mayor Susan Haynie
Chair

Legislative Update for the week ending 04/21/2017

Overview

Greetings Readers! There are only 14 more days until the 2017 Legislative session is scheduled to adjourn. Committees are winding down, and at this point if your bill has not made it out of committees then for all practical purposes you can say that your bill is done. Try again next year. There are only a few committees that will meet next week and that will be the last hope for some of these bills.

This past week was one filled with plenty of drama, which had the effect of moving focus away from the differences in the two budget proposals from each chamber. A Senator, while at a social function on Monday evening, used some alcohol-fueled language that caused a stir the size of a hurricane among both chambers and the press. By Thursday a lawyer had been hired and the Senator he was saying that he was planning to run for re-election next year. He doubled down and stated he would call members out and show that many others had done similar misdeeds. By Friday morning he had resigned his seat. The whole affair was quite a big distraction from the larger looming issue of working out budgetary differences between the House, Senate and Governor. Hopefully this coming week will bring a lot of progress on a budgetary solution.

I have noted that some of our members drive autos that sport the “Share the Road” license plate and support cycling in Florida. I was made aware of an amendment to a bill that would move the funding to a new program. HB 1375 (Specialty License Plates), is the bill with the provision to change how the funds are used through this license plate. Currently, \$15 for each Share the Road plate goes to Bike Florida and Florida Bicycle Association. The funding would be re-directed to the Florida Sports Foundation who would then distribute some of the funds to Bike Florida and Florida Bicycle Association. Additionally, the Florida Sports Foundation would take some funds for administrative purposes. There are two companion bills, SB 56 which does not appear to be moving and SB 784 which is on the agenda for the Appropriations Committee (04/25/2017). An amendment could be attached to SB 784 on Tuesday. Keep an eye on these bills.

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, a budget that is acceptable to both the House and Senate must be finalized by May 2nd to allow for a 72 hour “cooling off period” before a full vote on May 5th which is the scheduled end of session. The clock is ticking, and May 2nd is not that far away. My daughter’s middle school teacher has a sign in the classroom that reads “Deadlines are closer than they appear”. That message seems rather appropriate right now, let’s hope that a lot of progress is made in reaching a compromise on the budget.

This Legislative Update is a bit smaller than previous weeks. Any bill that has not advanced out of committees or is not being heard in one of the few remaining committee meetings this coming week has been removed from the newsletter. Those bills will have to try again next year.

We will catch up with you next week – I hope you enjoy this edition of the Legislative Update!

Lastly, this issue of the Legislative Update, as all issues do, contains changes to bill status or bills that are new to this Legislative Update in **RED** for your ease of discerning changes from the previous edition. For a fast read, look for the changes in **RED**.

Meetings of interest next week

Monday

Senate

Special Order Calendar Group

House

Government Accountability Committee

Tuesday

Senate

Appropriations Committee

Special Order Calendar Group

House

Full Session

Wednesday

Senate

Full Session

House

Full Session

Thursday

Senate

Full Session

House

Full Session

Friday

Senate

Full Session

House

Full Session

Legislation of interest to the membership

Changes from last update are shown in RED

HB 139: Local Tax Referenda – (Ingoglia; Avila - CO-INTRODUCERS: Donalds; Gruters; Massullo) – (Companion Bill SB 278 – Steube) - Requires local government discretionary sales surtax referenda to be held on the date of a general election. Passed Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. Now in Ways and Means Committee. Companion bill introduced (SB278) and assigned to committees but has not been heard in

committees. A committee substitute bill was passed by the Ways and Means Committee and has been sent to the Government Accountability Committee where it is waiting to be heard. **A Committee Substitute was passed out of the Government Accountability Committee and placed on Special Order Calendar for 04/25/2017.**

HB 221: Transportation Network Companies – (Sprowls) - Provides that transportation network company (TNC) driver is not required to register certain vehicles as commercial motor vehicles/for-hire vehicles; requires TNC to designate & maintain agent for service of process; provides fare requirements & requirements for TNC's digital network; provides for electronic receipt; provides automobile insurance requirements & requirements for specified proof of coverage; provides disclosure requirements for TNC driver in event of accident; requires TNC to cause its insurer to issue certain payments directly to certain parties; requires TNC to make specified disclosures in writing to TNC drivers; authorizes specified insurers to exclude certain coverage; provides that right to exclude coverage applies to coverage included in automobile insurance policy; provides that specified automobile insurers have right of contribution against other insurers that provide automobile insurance to same TNC drivers in satisfaction of certain coverage requirements under certain circumstances; requires TNC to provide specified information to certain parties during claims coverage investigation; requires certain insurers to disclose specified information to other insurer involved in claim; provides that TNC drivers are independent contractors if specified conditions are met; requires TNC to implement zero-tolerance policy for drug/alcohol use; provides TNC driver requirements; requires TNC to conduct background check for TNC driver; prohibits TNC driver from accepting certain rides or soliciting/accepting street hails; requires TNC to adopt nondiscrimination policy & notify TNC drivers of policy; requires TNC drivers to comply with nondiscrimination policy & applicable laws regarding nondiscrimination & accommodation of service animals; prohibits TNC from imposing additional charges for providing services to persons who have physical disabilities; requires TNC to maintain specified records; specifies that TNCs, TNC drivers, & TNC vehicles are governed exclusively by state law; prohibits local governmental entities & subdivisions from taking specified actions; provides applicability & construction. Passed both Committees, and passed the House. Referred to three Committees: Banking and Insurance, Judiciary, and Rules. **This bill was withdrawn from Committees and was substituted for SB340 which had a couple of committee substitutes on it. It was then heard by the full Senate and passed on the 19th of April. This bill has passed both chambers.**

SB 340: Transportation Network Companies - (Brandes – CO-INTRODUCER: Galvano) - Providing that a transportation network company (TNC) driver is not required to register certain vehicles as commercial motor vehicles or for-hire vehicles; providing requirements for a TNC's digital network; providing that specified automobile insurers have a right of contribution against other insurers that provide automobile insurance to the same TNC drivers in satisfaction of certain coverage requirements under certain circumstances, etc. Referred to three Committees. The Banking and Insurance Committee moved a committee substitute forward. Committee Substitute passed the Judiciary Committee. Now before the full Senate. Placed on Special Order Calendar for 04/18/2017. **This was laid on the table and HB221 was substituted for this bill.**

SB 596: Utilities – (Hutson) - Companion Bill (HB 687) - Utilities; Creating the “Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act”; prohibiting the Department of Transportation and certain local governmental entities, collectively referred to as the “authority,” from prohibiting, regulating, or charging for the collocation of small wireless facilities in public rights-of-way under certain circumstances; providing that approval of, and charges by, an authority are not required for routine maintenance, the replacement of certain wireless facilities, or the installation, placement, maintenance, or replacement of certain micro wireless facilities, etc. Passed Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Committee Substitute passed Government Oversight and Accountability Committee. **Passed by Rules Committee on 04/19/2017, now on 2nd reading in Senate. HB 687 Referred to two Committees, in the Energy, Utilities and Commerce Committee and passed one.**

HB 647: Hillsborough County Public Transportation Commission - Grant, J. ; Toledo ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Harrison ; Raburn ; Raulerson ; Shaw ; Spano - Prohibits commission from incurring additional obligations or indebtedness; requires liquidation of assets & satisfaction of existing obligations &

indebtedness by a specified date; dissolves commission; corrects cross reference. Passed Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Passed Government Accountability Committee, now before the full House.

SB 720: Central Florida Expressway Authority – (Mayfield) – Companion Bill (HB299) - Central Florida Expressway Authority; Increasing the number of members making up the governing body of the Central Florida Expressway Authority; adding the geographical boundary of Brevard County to the area served by the authority, etc. SB720 has been assigned to three committees. **Passed two committees. Now on the Rules calendar of 04/25/2017 in the Senate.** HB299 has passed the full House.

SB 842: South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Artiles - Co-Introducer: Galvano) – Companion Bill HB 695 – Authorizing the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, in conjunction with the operation of a certain commuter rail service, to have the power to assume specified indemnification and insurance obligations, subject to certain requirements; requiring the Department of Transportation to transfer specified amounts annually from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the authority, etc. Committee Substitute proposed by the Transportation Committee, pending reference review. The Committee Substitute is now in Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development. **Passed all but Appropriations Committee, will be heard in that committee on 04/25/2017.**

HB 865: Department of Transportation (Williamson – Co-Introducer Fischer) – This is the annual bill put forward by the Department and this year is a fairly “light” year for their bill. It contains clean-up provisions for mostly minor things. The last part of the bill does place some restrictions on the Tri-Rail system and their ability to contract. Here is a link to the bill: <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/00865> The Bill was filed on February 17th and has not had any further action.

Provides for assessment & calculation of fine for unlawful weight & load of natural gas-fueled vehicle; requires written certification of weight information; provides gross vehicle weight requirements; provides exception; requires inspection of certain bridges at intervals required by Federal Highway Administration; revises amount for which DOT may enter into certain construction & maintenance contracts; provides requirements for validation of turnpike revenue bonds & related complaints; waives requirements for approval of certain work program amendments by LBC; deletes provisions regarding Florida Highway Beautification Council; transfers certain powers & duties to DOT; prohibits SFRTA from entering into certain contracts/agreements & committing certain funds w/o DOT approval of expenditures; prohibits certain funds to be provided to authority except under certain circumstances; provides requirements for entering into certain new contracts. Passed Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee. Now in Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. **To be heard in the Government Accountability Committee this coming week.**

SB 1672: Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (Latvala – Co-Introducers Galvano; Rouson) - Creating the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee to replace the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee; revising the definition of the term “authority” to mean the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority and to include only Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties and any other contiguous county that is party to an agreement of participation; creating the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority, instead of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority, etc. Referred to three committees. Committee Substitute passed the Transportation Committee. **Passed Community Affairs Committee, will be heard in Appropriations Committee on 04/25/2017.**

Other transportation legislation

HB 179: Veteran Identification – (Combee) - Veteran Identification; Requires DHSMV to create veteran identification card for certain purposes; provides for design of card; provides eligibility requirements; prohibits

use of card for certain purposes; authorizes use of card as proof of veteran status for obtaining waivers of license/registration fees relating to certain businesses & occupations & carrying concealed weapons/firearms. Committee Substitute by Local, Federal and Veteran's Affairs Subcommittee, passed; Completed CS review. Committee Substitute passed the Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, now in the Government Accountability Committee.

SB 302: Penalties and Fees – (Brandes - CO-INTRODUCERS: Rouson; Young) - Revising requirements relating to the payment of court-related fines or other monetary penalties, fees, charges, and costs; prohibiting the suspension of a person's driver license solely for failure to pay a penalty if the person demonstrates to the court, when specified, that he or she is unable to pay such penalty; revising penalties relating to suspending, revoking, or withholding issuance of driver licenses or driving privileges for minors under a specified age who possess firearms under certain circumstances, etc. Committee Substitute by Transportation Committee, passed; Completed CS review and advanced to Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice. The Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice passed a Committee Substitute on 04/13/2017. **Now in Appropriations Committee.**

SB 534: Public Works Project – (Perry) Companion bill HB 599 - Public Works Projects; Prohibiting the state and political subdivisions that contract for public works projects from imposing restrictive conditions on certain contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers; prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from restricting qualified bidders from submitting bids or being awarded contracts, etc. Committee Substitute by Community Affairs Committee. Committee Substitute passed the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee. **Bill has passed the Appropriations Committee and is on 2nd reading before the Senate.**

HB 1137: Use of State Funds – (Edwards) - Provides limitation on actual expenses of certain lodging that may be reimbursed for specified employee; authorizes employee to expend own funds on lodging expenses that exceed specified amount; establishes maximum costs per square foot guidelines for new state-funded construction; provides duties of DMS; provides criminal penalties; requires legislative budget requests for fixed capital outlay for new construction to comply with certain requirements; prohibits use of state funds to purchase alcoholic beverages & food or beverages for certain state agency appreciation or recognition events. Referred to three committees. Passed Oversight, Transparency and Administration Subcommittee. Committee Substitute passed Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee, now in Government Accountability Committee. Placed on Committee Agenda for 04/06/2017, was not considered. **Passed out of Committees and is on the Special Order Calendar for 04/25/2017.**

HB 1387: Express Lanes – (Nunez) - Requires DOT & Florida Turnpike Enterprise to ensure reasonable & practicably feasible entry & exit points on express lanes & to undertake efforts to expand reasonable & practicably feasible entry & exit points for certain purposes; provides toll requirements. Introduced on 03/07/2017, referred to three Committees. Passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Agenda. **A Committee Substitute passed the Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, now in Government Accountability Committee.**

HB 6007: Traffic Infraction Detectors – (Avila; Ingoglia - CO-INTRODUCER: Diaz, M.) – (Very similar to SB 178 - Artiles - CO-INTRODUCERS: Brandes; Mayfield) - Traffic Infraction Detectors; Repeals provisions relating to installation & use of traffic infraction detectors to enforce specified provisions when driver fails to stop at traffic signal, provisions that authorize DHSMV, county, or municipality to use such detectors, & provisions for distribution of penalties collected for specified violations. Passed Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Passed Appropriations Committee; Passed Government Accountability Committee; Placed on Calendar. On 2nd Reading. Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/22/2017. Passed the full House. Now in the Senate and assigned to three committees: Transportation; Community Affairs; and Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee. **This bill does not appear to be moving in the Senate.**