

Mayor Susan Haynie
Chair

Legislative Update for the week ending 10/13/2017

Overview

The Legislature met this week to hold committee meetings and we have passed the ninety day mark, less than three months before the regular legislative session begins. With the 90 day mark passing almost 425 bills had been filed for the 2018 session, this is four times as many bills as last year. A chart showing the number of bills filed showed an interesting trend by year. The session immediately preceding an election cycle typically has far more bills filed than on a non-election year.

Keep an eye on HB 6001, a bill that would eliminate red light cameras. This bill comes up annually and thus far has not passed. This year, the house version was assigned to one committee. A sure sign that leadership wants it to pass. On Tuesday the bill passed out of committee with a favorable vote and will now be heard on the House floor for a full vote. This bill is moving fast, let's see how it fairs in the Senate.

The state budget is going to be slim this year according to the Revenue Estimating Conference, there is an expected \$75 Million surplus (out of a \$82 Billion budget, or less than 1%). Cutting into that surplus will be expenses from Hurricane Irma and that estimate was before Hurricane Irma basically shut down parts of the state which would be expected to have a negative impact on revenues produced to the state. Future budget years are projected to be even more bleak. A \$1 Billion shortfall is forecast for the next two fiscal years. Speaker Corcoran has stated that one of his spending priorities is Hurricane Irma recovery. Presumably this will cut into spending in other areas. Insurance claims related to Hurricane Irma have totaled nearly \$4.6 Trillion, this is quite telling in terms of the impact Irma had on Florida. On the topic of spending priorities Senate President Negrón has stated one of his funding priorities is funding the Bright Futures scholarship. He wants to make sure it is funded going into future years.

The Governor has asked Florida DOT to look at Interstate 75 and how the facility can be used most efficiently to evacuate persons when a hurricane is coming. He specifically asked that the section from Wildwood to the Georgia-Florida line be reviewed. This 144 mile section took hours to traverse during Irma evacuations, normally it should take about two hours. No worries though, the department is certainly up to the task.

The Florida focus on the damages Hurricane Irma brought on Puerto Rico remains a hot topic. Many residents of Florida can trace their history, or their family history, to Puerto Rico. With the amount of severe damage in Puerto Rico, Florida may see even more new residents who migrated from Puerto Rico. Many members of the legislature will look at ways Florida may assist Puerto Rico and her people that chose to relocate to Florida. This is concerning for school systems that are unsure how to prepare given the uncertainty of how many new students may arrive. Nothing like this has happened before to give administrators a clue as to what to expect. Watch this topic as the session unfolds, it should generate a lot of discussion along with some legislation or spending priorities. A side note to the issue of damage from Hurricane Irma, I have heard that South Florida

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real estate prices are expected to feel some upward pressure as residents from the Caribbean whose homes were damaged (and are no longer habitable) will look for housing in South Florida and increase competition among buyers.

The House is looking at Visit Florida again this year, this year a close look at a vendor who received millions to produce TV shows that showcased Florida. The question is how the money was spent. There is also a question of a fishing boat that became the property of the show's producer after filming. Last year it became quickly apparent that Speaker Corcoran was not interested in funding Visit Florida at the levels Governor Scott requested. This is beginning to feel like Deja Vu.

Lastly, Jose Oliva from Miami Lakes was installed as the next Speaker of the House for the 2018-2020 Legislative sessions by his fellow Republicans who hold 78 of the 120 seats in the House. When Jose is not working to represent the citizens of House District 110, he is occupied by his role of Co-CEO of Oliva Cigar Co. He sold the company that bears his name in 2016, however he remains connected to the business.

Grab a cup of coffee and enjoy this edition of the MPOAC Legislative Update.

Important Dates for the 2018 Legislative Session

- August 01, 2017 – Deadline for filing claim bills
- November 17, 2017 - Deadline for submitting requests for drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including requests for companion bills
- January 5, 2018 – Deadline for approving final drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, including companion bills
- January 9, 2018 - Regular Session convenes, deadline for filing bills for introduction
- February 24, 2018 - All bills are immediately certified, motion to reconsider made and considered the same day
- February 27, 2018 - 50th day, last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
- March 9, 2018 - 60th day, last day of Regular Session

Committee Meeting schedule prior to the official Legislative Session beginning on January 9th

October 2017 - Week of the 9th
October 2017 - Week of the 23rd
November 2017 - Week of the 6th
November 2017 - Week of the 13th
December 2017 - Week of the 4th

Legislation of interest to the membership

This is a summary of bills filed and published on the legislature's website as of September 15, 2017. More bills will be filed during the 2018 session and as they are made available the newly filed bills will be added to this list. The bills are listed in numerical order for your convenience. As the session and bills progress, this ordering of bills will make it easier to follow the status of any particular bill you are tracking.

Changes from last update are shown in RED

SB 72: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving – (Garcia – Co-Introducers: Rodriguez; Mayfield) - Revising the legislative intent relating to the authorization of law enforcement officers to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to persons who are texting while driving; requiring deposit of fines into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund, etc. Referred to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations. **Withdrawn – Senator Garcia is now a Co-Sponsor on SB 90 which is identical to this bill.**

SB 90: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving – (Perry) – Identical to SB 72. Revising the legislative intent relating to the authorization of law enforcement officers to stop motor vehicles and issue citations to persons who are texting while driving; requiring deposit of fines into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund, etc. Referred to Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

SB 116: Operation of Vehicles – (Baxley – Co-Introducers: Passidomo) - Requiring drivers to vacate lanes closest to, or reduce speed and pass, vulnerable road users, authorized emergency, sanitation, and utility service vehicles or workers, and wrecker operators under certain circumstances, subject to certain requirements, etc. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

HB 117: Operation of Vehicles – (Stone) - Companion Bill to SB 116. Referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee.

HB 121: Texting While Driving – (Slosberg; Stark) – Similar to SB 72 and SB 90. Revises short title & legislative intent; revises penalties for violations of provisions re: texting while driving; provides enhanced penalties for violations committed in school zones & crossings; requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies prohibiting racial profiling in enforcement; removes requirement that enforcement be accomplished as secondary action. Referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee; Government Accountability Committee.

SB 176: Traffic Infraction Detectors – (Hutson) – Similar to HB 6001 - Repealing provisions relating to the installation and use of traffic infraction detectors to enforce specified provisions when a driver fails to stop at a traffic signal, provisions that authorize the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, a county, or a municipality to use such detectors, and the distribution of penalties collected for specified violations, etc.. Referred to Transportation; Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

SB 182: Small Business Roadway Construction Mitigation Grant Program – (Rodriguez) - Requiring the Department of Transportation to create a Small Business Roadway Construction Mitigation Grant Program; requiring the program to disburse grants using funds allocated to the department by the Legislature to certain qualified businesses for the purpose of maintaining the businesses during a construction project of the department, etc. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

SB 188: Public School Transportation – (Steube) - Requiring district school boards to provide transportation to certain students; revising the speed and road conditions that meet the requirements for a hazardous walking condition; requiring a district school superintendent to request a review of a hazardous walking condition upon receipt of a written request from a parent of a student, etc. Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education; Appropriations.

SB 206: Highway Memorial Markers – (Perry) – Requiring the Department of Transportation to establish a process, including the adoption of any forms deemed necessary by the department, for submitting applications for installation of a memorial marker; authorizing the department to install a certain sign at no charge to an applicant; authorizing an applicant to request an emblem of belief not specifically approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration for incorporation in a memorial marker, subject to certain requirements, etc. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations.

HB 215: Autocycles – (Payne) - Defines "autocycle" & revises definition of "motorcycle"; requires safety belt usage by autocycle operator/passenger; authorizes autocycle operation without motorcycle endorsement; provides applicability. Definition of an autocycle: A three-wheeled motorcycle that has two wheels in the front and one wheel in the back; is equipped with a roll cage or roll hoops, a seat belt for each occupant, antilock brakes, a steering wheel, and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride it; and is manufactured in accordance with the applicable federal motorcycle safety standards provided in 49 C.F.R. part 571 by a manufacturer registered with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Referred to Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee; Transportation and Tourism Subcommittee; Government Accountability Committee. Just in case you were wondering, here is what an autocycle looks like:



SB 346: Motorcycle and Moped Riders – (Perry) – Increasing the age (from age 16 to age 21) at which persons who are operating or riding upon a certain motorcycle are exempt from protective headgear requirements, etc. Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development; Appropriations.

SB 384: Electric Vehicles – (Brandes) – Requiring the Florida Transportation Commission to review all sources of revenue for transportation infrastructure and maintenance projects and prepare a report to the Governor and the Legislature when the commission determines that electric vehicles make up a certain percentage or more of the total number of vehicles registered in this state; requiring a long-range transportation plan to consider infrastructure and technological improvements necessary to accommodate the increased use of autonomous technology and electric vehicles, etc.. Bill Filed, not yet referred to committees.

HB 6001: Traffic Infraction Detectors – (Avila; Ingoglia) – Similar to SB 176 - 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. Referred to Appropriations Committee, on the Committee agenda for 10/10/2017. Passed Committee, placed on Calendar for full House Vote.