



Village of Biscayne Park Commission Agenda Report

Village Commission Meeting Date:	July 7, 2015
Subject:	2015 Legislative Session Update
Prepared By:	Heidi Siegel, AICP, Village Manager
Sponsored By:	Staff

BACKGROUND

Please see the attached legislative summary from David Caserta, Government Relations, Inc.

During the 2015 Legislative Session the Village three items pending legislative approval:

1. A "Water Projects" request for \$150,000 for a Storm Water Master Plan;
2. A Historic Preservation Special Category Grant for \$100,000; and
3. A request for an emergency management vehicle.

Storm Water Master Plan Request

Initially, there were over one billion in requests for water projects throughout the State. This list was reduced by both the Senate and House to fund only \$78 million in projects. The Biscayne Park project remained on this list. Finally, the Governor reviewed the list and further reduced the list to \$50 million. Fortunately, the Village of Biscayne Park's request for \$150,000 to complete a Storm Water Master Plan remained on the list. Staff is currently awaiting an agreement from the State of Florida to proceed with work (also see Item 13c on this agenda).

Historic Preservation Special Category Grant

On October 31, 2014 the Village applied for a Special Category grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources in the amount of \$100,000 to be matched with \$50,000 from the Village for the additional restoration of the exterior and porch components (Village of Biscayne Park Resolution 2014-69). The award of the grant was contingent of the grant program being funded as part of the State budget during the legislative session. While the Florida Historical Commission recommended full funding of the Village's grant application, the project was ranked #34 out of 55. Upon final approval of the State budget by the House and Senate, the Special Category grant list was only funded to cover up to the project that was ranked #32; therefore, the Village will not receive funds for their grant application.

This grant, and the required \$50,000 match from the Village, would have funded the restoration of the porch, log restoration to include chinking and stain, shutters, lighting and a percentage of general condition costs.

The portion of the project that was to be covered by this Special Category grant was not included in the original contract with McKenzie Construction and was to be presented as a change order to the original contract.

At the May 19, 2015 Village Commission Meeting, the Commission was informed that should the Village not receive the Special Category grant the Village may need to address the shortfall through Village funding. As the Village Staff is still preparing the draft Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget, we are reviewing the savings and excess revenues during this fiscal year and identifying possible funds from next year's budget. It should be noted, that the Village is still obligated to match a portion, \$25,000, of the current year's Special Category grant during the next budget year.

Emergency Management Vehicle

At the suggestion of a member of the Legislature, a request was made for a SUV to be used for emergency management response. This request was not funded.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT

The Storm Water Master Plan will be able to proceed.

As stated above, Village Staff will continue to review the current and next years' budget and report back to the Village Commission as soon as possible on a recommended plan of action for the final phase of the historic Log Cabin restoration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Allow the Village Manager an opportunity to study the current and next years' budget for funding of the final phase of the historic Log Cabin.

ATTACHMENT

- End of Session 2015 Report from David Caserta, Government Relations, Inc.
- Special Session 2015 Report from David Caserta, Government Relations, Inc.

From: flagovernment@aol.com [mailto:flagovernment@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 2:11 PM
To: Maria Camara
Subject: Special session 2015 report

Heidi

I hope all is well.

As you already know, the 2015 Regular Session came to a controversial conclusion on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, the Florida House of Representatives surprisingly chose to sine die and end all formal business before the chamber. The controversial issue was the House's refusal to provide any offer to expand Medicaid. Instead they proposed using some state dollars to fund a portion of the deficit in the Low Income Pool (LIP) program. The Senate countered the House offer with an increased contribution of general revenue funds for LIP, and enactment of its market-based insurance plan (PHIX) to expand health insurance coverage to some 800,000 Floridians. With little sign of compromise, the House chose to end session. This maneuver took some house members and the entire Senate by surprise. The Senate worked until Wednesday afternoon, but never reconvened thereafter and was considered as having adjourned, sine die, at 11:59 PM, Friday, May 1, 2015. You were provided with a end of session report on our efforts with regards to bills impacting municipal government that both passed and failed.

Shortly thereafter, both the Senate and House agreed to reconvene on June 1st through June 19th in hopes of approving a state budget as required by law as well as deal with several other priority issues left unsettled in the regular session. Both the House and Senate also supported an almost \$400 million tax cut package. As a result the House and Senate finally came to an agreement with the remaining Health and Human Services issues and a final budget was approved, which was officially signed yesterday morning.

Considering the financial impacts presented by the differences of each respective House on key budget issues, funds for many substantive programs within the State budget in the areas of education, health, transportation, government and natural resources suffered some loss. However, in what was considered one of the most difficult budget years and the fact that there was over a billion dollars in water requests and only 50 million allocated, I am proud to announce that the Village of Biscayne park was able to secure \$150,000 in funding for its storm water master plan project, which is of critical importance to the Biscayne park community. The budget has been sign by the Governor and includes our funding of which can be found in line 1662A Grants and Aids to local Governments...water projects.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

David Caserta

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2015 Session Bills that passed and Died

Bills That Passed:

Municipal Police/Fire Pensions

CS/SB 172 (Bradley and Ring) and CS/CS/HB 341 (Cummings), relating to municipal police and fire pensions, are identical bills. The Florida League of Cities opposes the bills because they significantly reduce current flexibility in the use of insurance premium tax revenues, as provided in the Department of Management Services "Naples" interpretation; they significantly intrude on current collective bargaining authority; and they mandate increases in required minimum pension benefit levels.

In broad terms, the bills are designed to establish a two-step process regarding the use of insurance premium tax revenues (IPTR) under Chapters 175 (fire) and 185 (police), Florida Statutes. Of primary importance, under the bills, the current law relating to defining an "extra benefit" and requiring a portion of IPTR to be used for "extra benefits" is removed.

In its place, the bills allow cities and unions (or police/fire plan members if there is no union) to "mutually consent" to the use of IPTR for retirement benefits, including any accumulation of tax revenues not yet used for benefits. If "mutual consent" is achieved, the other provisions of the bills relating to any required use of IPTR are NOT applicable; rather, the parties have "mutually consented" until the next collective bargaining cycle or until "mutual consent" is revoked.

If, however, "mutual consent" cannot be achieved, there is a statutory "default" process or a reversion to a statutory IPTR distribution process. The statutory distribution process is a very complicated and potentially costly process to the city taxpayers if "mutual consent" is not achieved and the statutory "default" provisions used to distribute and utilize IPTR are engaged. The bills also increase the minimum pension benefit levels by increasing the pension multiplier from 2.0 percent to 2.75 percent per year of service.

The bills have been amended to change the base year distribution amount to cities if "mutual consent" is not met. The base year is the IPTR distribution amount to cities for 2002 (approximately \$100.5 million collectively) as opposed to the 1997 amount (approximately \$71 million). The bills have also been amended to require police or fire pension boards of trustees to adopt and operate under an administrative expense budget and have an annual accounting performed.

CS/SB 172 passed both the full House and Senate

Private Property Rights

CS/CS/CS/HB 383 (Edwards) and CS/CS/SB 284 (Diaz de la Portilla) amend several provisions of the Bert J. Harris Private Property Rights Protection Act. While the League supports some of the provisions in the bills, the adverse provisions impose significant potential costs on local governments. These include the creation of a new cause of action for a "prohibited exaction," which is defined as a permitting condition imposed by a governmental entity on a property owner's proposed use of real property that lacks an essential nexus to a legitimate state interest and is not roughly proportionate to the harm the governmental entity seeks to avoid, minimize or mitigate.

CS/CS/CS HB 383 and CS/CS/SB 284 were significantly amended to address several concerns raised by the League. The amendment narrowed the scope of attorney fees to a prevailing party standard, except in cases where a

government does not have an essential nexus in imposing an exaction. In addition, the amendment more narrowly tailors the damages provision, shortens the statute of limitations to bring a cause of action from four years to 180 days after the exaction is imposed, makes the new cause of action apply only to prohibited exactions occurring after the effective date of the bill, and excludes impact fees and non-ad valorem assessments from prohibited exactions.

The League supports language in Section One of the bills that limits the definition of "property owner" in Bert Harris claims. This provision limits local government liability from neighboring property owners who are not the direct subject of a government action. Additionally, under the current provisions of the Bert Harris Act, settlement agreements between the property owner and the government entity may only be reached during the pre-suit period; this bill allows a settlement agreement to be reached at any time. The bills also allow local governments to conduct a "shade meeting" to discuss the settlement of the claim prior to the lawsuit being filed. CS/CS/CS/HB 383 passed both the full House and Senate.

Growth Management

CS/CS/SB 1216 (Simpson) and CS/CS/CS/HB 933 (La Rosa) are comprehensive proposals that restrict local government control over growth management decisions. The bills include provisions that address the elimination of the development of regional impact (DRI) process for future large-scale projects; dissolve the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (RPC), along with some of the statutory functions of the remaining 10 RPCs; amend the sector plan process by reducing certain regulatory reviews; and create a 10-year pilot program in Pasco County authorizing connected-city corridor comprehensive plan amendments that can be approved by the county without state review in certain situations.

CS/CS/SB 1216 includes provisions that cap concurrency and impact fees in certain situations, authorize local government Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program loans to repair properties damaged by sinkholes and expands the definition of "blighted" for purposes of community redevelopment areas to include areas with sinkholes activity. Amendments to CS/CS/CS/HB 933 deleted these provisions, as well as the provision preempting local government from imposing fees for vegetation removal from the rights of way when a developer is complying with concurrency. However, CS/CS/CS/HB 933 creates a private property rights element that will have to be included in all local government comprehensive plans. CS/CS/SB 1216 passed both the full House and Senate.

Peril of Flood Insurance

CS/CS/CS/SB 1094 (Brandes) and CS/CS/HB 895 (Ahern) give insurers greater flexibility to offer customized flood insurance policies to replace those offered by the National Flood Insurance Program. The bills require the coastal management element of a local government comprehensive plan to address flooding and include principles that reduce flood risk in coastal areas. CS/CS/CS/SB 1094 passed the full House and Senate.

Body Cameras

CS/CS/CS/SB 248 (Smith) creates a public records exemption for audio or video recordings made by a law enforcement officer performing his or her official duties and responsibilities under a number of specific conditions. The bill also exempts audio or video recordings, or a portion of such, if the recording is exempt from public records pursuant to another exemption, and that exemption determines under which circumstances, if any, when the recording or a portion of the recording may be disclosed to the public. The bill requires a law enforcement agency to retain body camera recordings for a minimum of 90 days. CS/CS/CS/SB 248 has passed the full House and Senate.

Public Lodging Establishments

CS/CS/HB277 Requires specified public lodging establishments to waive certain policies for individuals who present valid military identification card; prohibits duplication of military identification cards. Has passed both the full House and Senate

Juvenile Civil Citation

SB 378 by Sen. Garcia (HB 99 by Rep. Clarke-Reed) expands the discretion of a law enforcement officer to issue a civil citation to youth who have committed a second or subsequent misdemeanor offense. In addition, law enforcement will be authorized to issue a simple warning to the youth, inform the youth's parents of the misdemeanor, issue a civil citation or require participation in a similar diversion program. Passed full House and Senate.

Local Child Care Licensing Agencies

SB 7078 by Sen. Sobel, relating to child welfare, included local licensing agencies under the definition of "specified agency" for background screening purposes. This will allow the County's child care licensing program to access the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse operated by the Agency for Health Care Administration. Passed full House and Senate.

All-American Flag Act

HB 225 by Rep. Cortes requires any U.S. flag or state flag that is purchased by the state, county, or municipality for public use to be made in United States. Passed full House and Senate.

Local Government Construction Preferences

SB 778 by Sen. Hays prohibits the application of local ordinances or regulations that give preference to a local contractor in circumstances involving a competitive solicitation for construction services in which 50 percent or more of the project's costs will be paid from state-appropriated funds. The bill requires disclosure in the solicitation document that a local preference is not in effect for any project where 50 percent or more of the cost will be paid from state-appropriated funds. Passed full House and Senate.

Low-voltage Alarm Systems

CS/SB 466 Revising the definition of the term "low-voltage alarm system project" and adding the definition of the term "wireless alarm system"; providing that a permit is not required to install, maintain, inspect, replace, or service a wireless alarm system and its ancillary components; prohibiting a local enforcement agency from requiring the payment of any additional fees, charges, or expenses associated with the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm system, etc. Passed full House and Senate.

Public Lodging & Public Food Service Establishments

HB 401 Revises frequency at which Division of Hotels and Restaurants of DBPR must reassess inspection frequency of public food service establishments; revises DBPR's duties with respect to distribution of specified food-recovery brochure; deletes restriction on length of time that licensed public food service establishment may operate at temporary food service event; authorizes division to deliver lodging inspection reports & food service inspection reports electronically; requires operators of public food service establishments to maintain copies of food service

inspection reports & make them available to division; revises certain delinquent fees for license renewal. Passed full House and Senate.

Bills That Died:

Pensions Generally/Police and Fire Pensions

CS/CS/CS/HB 1279 (Adkins) relates primarily to the makeup and authority of police and fire pension plan boards of trustees.

- The bill requires the members of the board of trustees to serve staggered terms.
- The board of trustees must establish qualifications for a plan administrator, who is subject to a majority plus one vote of the plan sponsor.
- The bill requires an internal audit be performed every three years if the police or fire pension plan has an assets-to-liabilities ratio, using the most recent plan actuarial report, of 50 percent or less.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1279 died.

Location of Utilities

CS/CS/CS/HB 391 (Ingram) and CS/CS/SB 896 (Brandes) prohibit local governments from requiring utilities to pay the costs of equipment relocation unless the utilities are in a "right of way," as opposed to the current requirement for utility relocations occurring "upon, over, under or along" a roadway. The bills require local governments, and not the utilities, to bear the cost of relocating a utility's equipment if such equipment is located within a utility easement, regardless of the private or public nature of the easement. In addition, the bills prohibit a municipality or county from requiring a provider of communication services to resubmit proprietary maps already in the possession of, or previously provided to, the municipality or county. CS/CS/CS/HB 391 Died

Public Records/Contracts for Services

CS/CS/SB 224 (Simpson) and CS/CS/CS/HB 163 (Beshears) address the public records laws when private entities enter into contracts to provide services to public agencies, as well as when seeking public records from public agencies. The bills provide a process that must be followed to award attorney's fees and costs to an individual claiming a violation of the public records laws. CS/CS/CS/HB 163 was amended in its final committee stop to require each agency head to designate a custodian of public records and the contact information for the custodian must be displayed on its website, if the agency does in fact have a website. In order to be eligible to collect attorney fees under section 119.12, Florida Statutes, a request to inspect or copy public records must be made directly to the custodian of public records, a member of the agency's governing body or the head of the agency.

CS/CS/SB 224 was amended on the Senate floor to require two days notice to the custodian of public records before a person alleging a violation of the public records law may obtain attorney's fees and costs. This time period is not a requirement to comply with the public records request, because, depending upon the circumstances, fulfilling a public records request may take less or more than two business days. Rather, the time period is designed to provide the custodian of public records with notice that the public records request has been made, and take the appropriate steps to fulfill the request. CS/CS/SB 224 now requires public agencies to provide training to its employees, the extent of

which is up to the agency, on public records laws. The Senate bill also requires the agency to post the contact information for the custodian of the public records in any building in which public records are sent, received, created, maintained and requested.

CS/CS/SB 224 Died.

Local Preferences

CS/CS/CS/HB 113 (Perry) and CS/CS/SB 778 (Hays) preempt local preference ordinances if 50 percent or more of the public construction project is paid for with state-appropriated funds. The bills define "state-appropriated funds" to mean only those funds appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, excluding federal funds. CS/CS/SB 778 was amended to clarify that only those state-appropriated funds received by the city at the time of the bid are to count towards the percentage of state funds used to pay for the project. The amended bill also requires cities to disclose on the bid document whether or not the local construction preference applies to the project. The previous version of the bill required cities to list the percentage of state funds used to pay for the project on every bid document, regardless of whether or not state funds were used to pay for the project. CS/CS/CS/HB 113 Died.

Taxation

HB 7141 (Finance and Tax) is the House Tax Reform Plan for 2015. The bill has an estimated fiscal impact for municipalities of approximately \$6.48 million non-recurring for state fiscal year 2015-2016 and \$13.55 million recurring. The tax package includes a wide range of tax reductions designed to directly impact both households and businesses. The bill includes a reduction of the state communications services tax (CST) rate by 3.6 percent and the state sales tax rate on rental of commercial real estate by 0.2 percent. The bill includes new or expanded sales tax exemptions for agricultural items, including feed for aquatic organisms, irrigation equipment, costs of maintenance and repairs of irrigation and power farm equipment, stakes and certain trailers; sales at school book fairs and K-12 school food and beverage concessions in support of extra-curricular activities; college textbooks and instructional materials; machinery and equipment used for metal recycling; gun club memberships or admissions; and motor vehicles brought to Florida by military service members deployed outside of the U.S. The bill also includes the following sales tax holidays: a three-day "back-to-school" holiday for clothing, footwear, school supplies and computers; a one-day tax free period on November 28, 2015, for sales of items priced at \$1,000 or less by certain small businesses; a one-day tax-free period on July 4, 2015, for certain firearms, ammunition, camping tents and fishing supplies. With respect to property taxes, the language increases, from \$500 to \$5,000 of value, the longstanding exemption for widows, widowers, blind, or totally and permanently disabled persons; and updates and expands the current partial homestead exemption available to military servicemembers deployed overseas. The bill makes various corporate income tax changes including temporary increases in the total tax credits available for voluntary brownfields clean-up; creation of a corporate income tax credit for federal defense contractors that hire Florida subcontractors; revises the distribution for the current research and development tax credit; temporary increases in the annual credits that can be awarded and extending the Community Contribution Tax Credit program with \$13.3 million in tax credits for one year. Other changes include creation of an alternative process for retaining homestead status in certain circumstances; elimination of the obsolete Florida estate tax and \$5 permit fee to register certain vehicles to be used to transport alcoholic beverages; equalization of the tax rates applied to apple and pear cider; a one-year extension of a current title insurance premiums tax reduction; an exemption from the aviation fuel tax for fuel used by certain Florida higher educational institutions; and clarification of CST dealer tax reporting period requirements and the sales tax exemption on prepaid college meal plans. HB 7141 Died

Transportation Network Companies

CS/CS/HB 817 (Gatez) is a comprehensive bill that preempts local government regulation of transportation network companies (TNCs) such as Uber or Lyft. The bill requires that a designated state agency issue a permit to any TNC that meets specific requirements and pays an annual permit fee to the department. The bill establishes a statewide

regulatory scheme that includes insurance coverage standards, fare and rate disclosure requirements, anti-discrimination policies and other consumer protections. However, the bill skews the ride-for-hire market in favor of Uber/Lyft-type companies at the expense of local taxi services. CS/CS/HB 817 states that a municipality or other local government may not impose a tax on, or require a license for, a TNC or a TNC driver or subject a TNC to the local government's rate, entry, operational or other requirements. CS/CS/HB 817 Died

Utility Projects

CS/CS/HB 617 (Goodson) and CS/SB 1102 (Legg) allow certain local governments to finance the costs of utility projects by issuing utility cost containment bonds. To be eligible to issue utility cost containment bonds, a local government must be a member of a utility authority that consists of at least three counties. CS/SB 1102 allows only water and wastewater utilities to bond for projects. The bills require a public meeting notification, along with the requirement that the rates paid by the customers be lower upon completion of the project. CS/CS/HB 617 Died.

Firefighter Pension Plans/Municipal Services Taxing Units

CS/CS/SB 216 (Bradley) and CS/HB 105 (Eagle) authorize imposition of the insurance premium tax within a municipal services taxing unit, if, through interlocal agreement, a municipality provides fire protection services within the taxing unit. The tax revenues generated would be allocated to the municipality providing the fire protection services. CS/CS/SB 216 Died

Local Government Retirement Plans/Mortality Tables

CS/SB 242 (Brandes) and CS/CS/HB 1309 (Drake) amend current law to require local government defined benefit retirement plans to operate under specified mortality tables and submit various actuarial and other reports to the Department of Management Services. The bills require all local government defined benefit pension plans to use mortality tables used in either of the two most recently published actuarial valuation reports of the Florida Retirement System, including the projection scale for mortality improvement. (The most current FRS report uses mortality table RP2000 Scale BB.) The bills also require a recently passed local government retirement plan funding report be developed using these same type mortality tables. The bills could have an immediate, significant fiscal impact due to mandatory use of specified mortality tables. Please send any cost impact information on your city to kconn@fcities.com. While all cities strive for properly funded pension plans, this isolated mandate by the Legislature does not provide cities with the underlying, fundamental legislative changes needed to address, in a comprehensive manner, the funding issues with city pensions. CS/CS/HB 1309 was amended to provide an effective date of January 1, 2016. CS/SB 242 Died.

Emergency Fire Rescue Services and Facilities Surtax

CS/CS/SB 668 (J. Latvala) and CS/CS/HB 209 (Artiles) remove the requirement that local governments enter into an interlocal agreement in order to receive emergency rescue service and facilities (surtax) proceeds. Instead, the county will distribute the surtax proceeds based on the average annual expenditures of ad valorem and non-ad valorem assessments for fire control and emergency fire rescue services in the preceding five fiscal years. The bills delete the requirement that surtaxes collected in excess of projected collections be applied as a rebate to final millage, but do not remove the requirement to reduce ad valorem or non-ad valorem fire assessments. CS/CS/HB 209 passed the House unanimously and is now awaiting action by the Senate. CS/CS/SB 668 Died.

Value Adjustment Board

CS/CS/HB 695 (Avila) and CS/SB 972 (Flores) amend multiple provisions relating to Value Adjustment Boards (VABs), including specifying who can represent a property owner at a hearing and requiring the petition to be signed by the

taxpayer or accompanied by written authorization to represent a taxpayer. The bills require the VAB to hear all complaints, complete the certification and submit it to the property appraiser by June 1, unless the county commissioners extend the assessment roll. The bills reduce the interest owed from 12 percent to the prime rate on unpaid taxes and excess tax that are refunded. The bills allow the school board or the county commission to audit expenses related to the VAB process. CS/CS/HB 695 was amended to modify the composition of the VAB board from two county commissioner, one school board member and two citizen members to five citizen members appointed by the legislative delegation. CS/CS/HB 695 authorizes the property appraiser to contract for services to audit homestead tax exemptions claimed on assessment rolls and allows contractors to be paid from penalties. Property owners falsely claiming a homestead exemption are authorized to enter into a payment plan, and a tax lien based on a false homestead claim would be collected in the same manner as, and in addition to, the current ad valorem taxes. CS/CS/HB 695 requires a county receiving 10,000 or more petitions in one year to notify the Department of Revenue, which is then directed to conduct a review of the VAB proceedings. CS/CS/HB 695 Died.

Department of Transportation

CS/CS/HB 7039 (Transportation and Ports) removes the ability of municipalities and counties to charge a developer for removing vegetation within the right-of-way limits of road improvements for which the developer completed or contributed funding as required under transportation concurrency for a development project. The bill does not affect a local government's ability to require any tree removal permits or tree removal plans, or a local government's ability to establish and enforce landscaping requirements. Each municipality or county may, by a majority vote of its governing body, exempt itself from this provision of the bill. Lastly, the bill increases the minimum amount transferred to the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program from \$15 million to \$25 million. CS/CS/HB 7039 Died.

CS/CS/CS HB 57 (Jones) and SB 7080 (Criminal Justice) requires law enforcement agencies using body cameras to develop policies and procedures addressing the proper use, maintenance, and storage of body cameras and the data recorded by body cameras. The bills also require that each law enforcement agency using body cameras adequately train employees who are involved in the camera program about the policies and procedures associated with the department's program. CS/CS/CS HB 57 Died.

County & Municipal Parks

CS/HB 721 (McGhee), CS/HB 1095 (Rooney) and CS/SB 1430 (Abruzzo) require cities to provide discounts on park entrance fees to military service members, veterans, surviving spouses and parents of deceased members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions. The bills also apply to surviving spouses or parents of law enforcement officers, firefighters and first responders who died in the line of duty. Park entrance fees are defined as fees charged to access lands managed by a city park or recreation department, but do not include additional fees for amenities such as campgrounds, aquatic facilities, stadiums or arenas, etc. CS/SB 1430 was amended in committee to include language requiring a regional transportation authority to provide a discount on fares and other charges for the use of a transportation system or a transportation facility owned and operated by the authority to a disabled veteran who presents written documentation determining the eligibility for the discount. This regional transportation authority language is also found in CS/HB 1095. CS/HB 721 Died.

Florida retirement system

SB 108 - Revising eligibility for the purchase of credit for military service; declaring that the act fulfills an important state interest, etc. Withdrawn

Public Lodging and Public Food Service Establishments

SB558 Revising the frequency at which the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation must reassess the inspection frequency of public food service establishments; authorizing the division to deliver lodging inspection reports and food service inspection reports by electronic means; requiring an operator of a public food service establishment to make available a copy of the latest food service inspection report at the time of a division inspection, etc. SB558 Died.

Amendment 1 Trust Fund Bills

Due to the budget dispute, all bills filed to address the trust fund changes mandated by the passage of Amendment 1 failed.

Economic Development Packages

Economic development packages in both chambers, HB 7067 by Rep. LaRosa and SB 1214 by Sen. Latvala, fell apart due, in large part, due to the budget dispute, and also because of the House's early adjournment. SB 1214 proposed a number of changes to the state's economic development, and housing and community development programs to provide more flexibility in some programs, and to increase transparency and accountability across those programs. The bill made changes to the Qualified Target Industry Business Tax Refund (QTI) Program; proposed various changes to the criteria for projects eligible for funding from the Quick Action Closing Fund (QAC) Program; revised the Entertainment Industry Incentive Program (tax credits) and created a new Entertainment Action Fund; allowed businesses located in enterprise zones with active economic development contracts entered between January 1, 2013, and December 31, 2015, to continue to apply for enterprise zone state tax programs and the child care facility property tax exemption for three years; and made changes to housing and community development programs, including the SAIL and SHIP programs, State Office on Homelessness, Challenge Grant Program, and created an incentive program to provide rental opportunities for essential personnel in the Florida Keys.

HB 7067, similarly modified definitions, processes, and the administration of economic development incentive tax refund and grant programs. However, there were significant differences between the two measures. Unlike the SB 1214, HB 7067 did not contain provisions revising the Entertainment Industry Incentive Program. The bill reauthorized the Qualified Defense Contractor and Space Flight Business Tax Refund program through June 30, 2017, rather June 30, 2020; repealed the International Game Fish Association World Center funding program; exempted eligible new developments from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency, or proportionate share requirements for transportation impacts for three years; made changes to the Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC), authorizing the FDFC to enter into interlocal agreements with public entities to fulfill its purposes and the FDFC's participation in the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program; extended and renewed certain permit extensions previously authorized by the Legislature; and created a new state-administered enterprise zone certification program which counties and cities opposed.

Major Tax Cuts and Reforms

Major tax packages failed to pass both chambers (e.g., SB 110, SB 140, HB 7141). Reductions to the Communications Services tax and Sales/Use tax applied to commercial leases failed. Legislation including new or expanded sales tax exemptions for the following also died: agricultural items, including feed for aquatic organisms, irrigation equipment, costs of maintenance and repairs of irrigation and power farm equipment, stakes, and certain trailers; sales at school book fairs and K-12 school food and beverage concessions in support of extra-curricular activities; college textbooks and instructional materials; machinery and equipment used for metal recycling; gun club memberships or admissions;

and motor vehicles brought to Florida by military service members deployed outside of the United States. Reauthorizations of sales tax holidays, including July 4th guns and ammunition tax holiday, died as well. It is likely some or all of these items may be considered during the upcoming Special Session on the budget.

Public Works Projects

HB 527 by Rep. Van Zant and SB 934 by Sen. Brandes would have prohibited the state and political subdivisions that contract for the construction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of public works from imposing certain conditions on contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers including conditions relating to hiring personnel, providing benefits, requiring specific rates of pay (e.g., prevailing wages, unless required by federal law), project labor agreements, etc. Additionally, the bills would have proscribed the state, counties, cities, and other political subdivisions from imposing restrictions on qualified bidders, such as declaring a qualified bidder nonresponsive because the bidder did not agree to participate in the political subdivision's workforce program.

Transportation Network Companies (UBER/Lyft)

Legislation (HB 817, SB 1298) requiring ride sharing drivers to provide \$1 million in insurance coverage when transporting passengers in their personal cars, establishing a statewide regulatory structure for transportation network companies (TNCs), and preempting local governments from locally regulating TNCs or their drivers failed.

Sales of Motor Vehicles Powered by Electricity or Hydrogen

SB 864 by Sen. Soto would have exempted the sale of an electric vehicle and hydrogen vehicle from the sales and use tax.