



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #V.D.2

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2013
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: FRCA LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

See attached.



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS & FRCA BILL TRACKING SUMMARY September/October 2013

The first Interim Committee Meetings for the 2014 Legislative Session were held during the week of September 23 and October 7, 2013. The meetings were primarily informational and focused on staff presentations addressing each committee's area of jurisdiction as well as numerous updates from state agencies. Among the presentations made during these first two weeks were as follows:

Senate and House Appropriations Committees: Both received presentations from Amy Baker, Director of the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research, on Florida's long-range financial outlook. While there is expected to be a budget surplus this year, several key factors will drive the amount of money available for the 2014-15 Florida budget, including the long term effects of sequestration. A copy of Ms. Baker's presentation is attached to the email transmitting this Legislative Update.

Senate Agriculture Committee: An overview of water policies and procedures by both the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as well as presentation on state-owned lands by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

- **Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee:** A presentation by All Aboard Florida on intercity passenger rail service from South to Central Florida and a presentation by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on its new incentives portal. The website for the portal is <http://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-strategic-business-development/economic-development-incentives-portal>.

Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee: An update on springs protection, overview of the Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanup Program, and annual status report on regional water supply planning by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts; and, a presentation on water policies and procedures affecting water quality and quantity in Florida by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee: An update on implementation of Senate Bill 1784 (2013) relating to non-conservation encroachment buffers for military installations by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

House Economic Affairs Committee: A presentation by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on Florida's Economic Indicators Reemployment Assistance Program.

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee: Presentations by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding their respective roles pertaining to state-owned lands.

The presentations discussed above are available in committee meetings packets, which can be linked to through either <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/#com-list> (for Senate Committees) or <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committees.aspx> (for House Committees).

POLICY NOTES

Agriculture:

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam is expected to request approximately \$26 million from the legislature to expand his agency's agricultural water quality and water-use programs. He is also expected to request \$6.1 million to address citrus greening, and \$5 million to restore oyster reefs in the Florida Panhandle. In a presentation he gave at the Florida Chamber Foundation's Future of Florida Forum, he further outlined his legislative priorities, which included the following:

- An annual Tax Holiday Weekend for Energy Star and Water Sense appliances, similar to the back-to-school sales tax holiday that currently exists in the state;
- A cut by 50% over the next three years to the sales tax that Florida businesses currently pay for electricity, which will allow them to grow their businesses and create jobs, with the remaining sales revenue directed to PECO for school construction and maintenance;
- Expansion of a residential property-tax exemption to commercial properties for the installation of renewable energy systems; and,
- Undertaking a long-term study on the future of Florida's natural gas supplies demands.

Economy:

Governor Rick Scott recently released a white paper asking for \$100 million in spending cuts next year from his agencies. The paper, *It's Your Money Tax Cut Agenda*, includes the following proposals:

- #1. Return \$500 million to Florida taxpayers in reduced taxes and fees;
- #2. No longer allow the state to commit to any long-term debt obligations that do not yield a specific return on investment or internal rate of return; and,
- #3. Require all state agencies to eliminate government waste and propose a total of at least \$100 million in reductions.

A copy of the paper is attached to the email transmitting this report.

State agencies released their Long-Range Program Plans on September 30, 2013, in accordance with s. 216.013, F.S. These plans outline the state's goals and provide a framework and context for creating their respective Legislative Budget Requests, which were released on October 15, 2013, pursuant to s. 216.023. State agency Long-Range Program Plans and Legislative Budget Requests are available through the Florida Fiscal Portal at <http://floridafiscalportal.state.fl.us/>.

Enterprise Florida, Inc., is expected to again ask for \$3 million for its marketing campaign promoting Florida's business climate throughout the United States and abroad. The Legislature turned down the funding last year, but Enterprise Florida was able to pull together \$1.2 million through the support of private businesses and local economic development organizations to begin implementing the campaign.

Environment and Natural Resources:

Draft legislation by Senator David Simmons (Altamonte Springs – R) would designate 21 “outstanding Florida springs;” require the establishment of protection zones around the designated springs by July 2015; and, direct the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts to establish a “Baseline Flow Regime” for each of the designated springs and then either reserve such water to maintain or restore the flow or implement a recovery plan to accomplish that goal. Certain restrictions would also be placed on septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants within those zones. Senator Simmons is currently soliciting comments prior to officially filing the bill. For a copy of the draft, please contact Diane Suddes in Senator Simmons’ office at suddes.diane@flsenate.gov.

Growth Management:

According to a recent article in the Florida Current, there have been no legal challenges filed against any local government comprehensive plan amendment since the growth management laws were changed in 2011. For more information, please see, *State agency hasn’t filed legal challenges against any local growth decision since 2011*, <http://www.thefloridacurrent.com/article.cfm?id=34677790>.

Transportation:

At the American Association of Port Authorities Annual Convention on October 16 2013, Governor Rick Scott announced that he will recommend \$35 million in port improvements in the 2014 legislative session to “enhance our ports’ ability to move more goods, which will position Florida to play an even greater role in global trade.”

In a related matter, during the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Future of Florida Forum, the Chamber released its Trade and Logistics Study 2.0, which targets boosting international trade by improving Florida’s manufacturing sector to increase its exports and the “multiplier” effect from global trade. According to the report, Florida must invest more in infrastructure; reduce taxes and regulatory burdens on manufacturers and the “logistics” industry (i.e., companies involved in making the transfer of goods more efficient); and, increase investments in education. To obtain a copy of the Study, please visit <http://www.flchamber.com/event/2013-future-of-florida-forum/>. On that page, you will also find the presentations from the Future of Florida Forum.

FAC ADOPTS FEDERAL PROGRAM

For the first time in its history, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has adopted a formal federal advocacy and information program. FAC’s Executive Committee and Board of Directors identified the need to lobby federal issues as a strategic priority for the organization. As a result, staff developed a federal program that includes a focused advocacy platform and provides informational services on federal issues affecting counties, including legislative, judicial, and executive actions.

At FAC’s September Policy Conference, the Federal Committee identified, and the Executive Committee approved, two pressing issues as federal advocacy priorities for FAC: passage of a 2013 Water Resources Development Act and action on the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. FAC staff spent October 2 and 3, 2013, in Washington, D.C. meeting with members of Congress on these two important issues. More discussion on FAC’s federal agenda will take place at its Legislative Conference, November 13-15, 2013. For more on FAC’s proposed federal program, visit <http://www.fl-counties.com/advocacy/federal>.

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

November 4-8, 2013: Interim Committee Week
November 13-15, 2013: Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference
November 21-22, 2013: Florida League of Cities Legislative Conference
December 9-13, 2013: Interim Committee Week
January 6-10, 2013: Interim Committee Week
January 13-17, 2013: Interim Committee Week
February 3-7, 2013: Interim Committee Week
February 10-14, 2013: Interim Committee Week
February 17-21, 2013: Interim Committee Week
March 4, 2014: Regular Session Convenes
March 27, 2014: Florida Association of Counties Legislative Action Day
April 22, 2014: Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
May 2, 2014: Last day of regular session

BILL TRACKING REPORT

HB

0003

Relating to Freight Logistics Zones

Ray

Freight Logistics Zones: Defines "freight logistics zone"; authorizes county or two or more contiguous counties to designate geographic area(s) within its jurisdiction as freight logistics zone; requires adoption of strategic plan which must include certain information; provides that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding & certain incentive programs; provides evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

8/19/2013 HOUSE Filed

10/7/2013 HOUSE Referred to Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee;
Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee;
Economic Affairs Committee

10/7/2013 HOUSE Now in Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee

Bill Comments

The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of an MPO. Should the bill be amended to require consistency with the applicable SRPP as well?

HB

0049

Relating to Springs Revival Act

Stewart

Springs Revival Act: Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, & submit certain reports; authorizes districts to adopt rules & issue orders. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

9/10/2013 HOUSE Filed

10/7/2013 HOUSE Referred to Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee;
Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

10/7/2013 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee

Bill Comments

No comments.

SB

0076

Relating to Springs Revival Act

Soto

Springs Revival Act; Requiring water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, and submit certain reports to the Governor and the Legislature; authorizing the districts to adopt rules and issue orders, etc. Effective

Date: July 1, 2014

8/13/2013 SENATE Filed

8/27/2013 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation;
Community Affairs; Appropriations; Rules

Bill Comments

By October 1 of each year, requires each WMD, with appropriate technical support, to identify first and second magnitude springs that are in decline based upon historic average water quality and flow levels, and which are not identified in DEP's rule for impaired water bodies. By July 1, 2015, each WMD must develop a five-year plan to restore historic average water quality flow levels to the springs that are identified as described above and in the rule for impaired water bodies. Also beginning July 1, 2015, quarterly progress reports are required. The authority to adopt rules pursuant to this legislation is provided.

**SB
0136**

Relating to Freight Logistics Zones

Ring

Freight Logistics Zones; Defining the term "freight logistics zone"; authorizing a county, or two or more contiguous counties, to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone; requiring the adoption of a strategic plan that must include certain information; providing that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; providing evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones, etc.

Effective Date: July 1, 2014

8/28/2013 SENATE Filed

9/11/2013 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Community Affairs; Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development;
Appropriations

10/28/2013 SENATE On Committee agenda - Transportation, 11/07/13, 9:00 am, 37 S

Bill Comments

The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of an MPO. Should the bill be amended to require consistency with the applicable SRPP as well?

**HB
0141**

Relating to Florida Enterprise Zone Act

Powell

Florida Enterprise Zone Act: Revises date of repeal of Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

Effective Date: July 1, 2014

10/3/2013 HOUSE Filed

Bill Comments

Changes the date to repeal the Florida Enterprise Zone Act from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2025.

**HB
0189**

Relating to Growth Management

Boyd

Growth Management: Revising restrictions on initiative or referendum process in regard to local comprehensive plan amendments & map amendments. Effective

Date: upon becoming a law

10/17/2013 HOUSE Filed

Bill Comments

The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land."

SB

0230 Relating to Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority

Simmons

Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority; Providing for the transfer of governance and control, legal rights and powers, responsibilities, terms, and obligations to the authority; providing conditions for the transfer; extending, to 99 years from 40 years, the term of a lease-purchase agreement; limiting the authority's authority to enter into a lease-purchase agreement; removing the authority and criteria for an authority to waive payment and performance bonds for certain public works projects that are awarded pursuant to an economic development program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2015

10/2/2013 SENATE Filed

10/10/2013 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Community Affairs; Appropriations

Bill Comments

Renames the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to the Central Florida Expressway System and creating the Central Florida Expressway Authority, serving Orange, Seminole, Lake, and Osceola Counties. Removes requirement that the route of a project must be approved by a municipality before the right-of-way can be acquired. Revises membership of the Wekiva River Basin Commission by removing the Seminole County Expressway Authority.

HB

0235 Relating to Department of Economic Opportunity

Combee

Department of Economic Opportunity: Requires DEO to create web page accessible through its Internet website that provides certain information; provides purpose of web page; requires DEO to collect all local business information available to DEO; requires DEO to request relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requires local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by department; authorizes local government entities to provide summary that includes certain information for DEO's web page. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

10/30/2013 HOUSE Filed

Bill Comments

The bill creates Section 288.112, F.S., requiring the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to create a new web page on its website devoted solely to the collection and publication of data and information relevant to the creation or expansion of new businesses within the state, for the following purposes: (a) provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that exist within cities and counties that are conducive to the creation and expansion of new businesses; (b) enable prospective employers to effectively and accurately evaluate the business climate in various locations throughout the state; and, (c) provide prospective business owners and operators within the state with immediate access to specific charges and costs related to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a business. The bill provides the specific list of criteria to be collected. The Department is given until January 1, 2015 to collect the information and post it as soon as possible thereafter on its website.

HB

0241 Relating to Developments of Regional Impact

Gaetz (M)

Developments of Regional Impact: Deletes certain exemptions for dense urban land areas. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/1/2013 HOUSE Filed

Bill Comments

The bill deletes s. 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., F.S., removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in s. 163.3164, F.S., and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area.

**SB
0264**

Relating to Inflation and Deflation

Brandes

Inflation and Deflation; Requiring each state agency, including the judicial branch, to identify all statutes relating to the agency which contain a reference to a monetary amount; requiring each state agency to submit an initial report relating to those findings and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by a certain date as to whether those amounts should be adjusted; requiring each agency to submit a final report containing final recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by a certain date and include a fiscal impact statement for each recommended statutory change to the monetary amount, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

10/14/2013 SENATE Filed

11/4/2013 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations

Bill Comments

This bill applies to statutory references that identify a "fixed" monetary amount. A draft report is due by August 1, 2015 and between that date and September 15, 2015, a public comment period occurs. Final recommendations to the Governor and Legislature are due October 31, 2015.

**SB
0338**

Relating to Community Redevelopment

Bullard

Community Redevelopment; Renaming the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969; redefining the term "blighted area," as applicable to the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, to include land previously used as a military facility and adjacent to a county-owned zoological park, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/1/2013 SENATE Filed

Bill Comments

In addition to the expansion of the definition of blighted area described above, the bill renames the act from the "Community Redevelopment Act of 1969" to the "Senator Larcenia Bullard Community Redevelopment Act."



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS & FRCA BILL TRACKING SUMMARY November 2013

The Interim Committee meetings that occurred during the week of November 4, 2013, began to move from agency overviews to more substantive issues. Among the presentations made during this week were as follows:

Senate Agriculture Committee: An overview of the Apalachicola Bay and River Basin, which included a discussion of the declining oyster industry and importance of aquaculture in Franklin County, with identified goals of rehabilitating and enhancing the existing reef substrate; relaying live oysters as a coordinated effort with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and, encouraging and assisting with aquaculture development around the state. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity also provided an overview of its Franklin County Long-term Economic Diversification Strategy.

Senate Community Affairs: Presentation on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Water Reuse (i.e., reclaimed water) Program. Of note, was the usage breakdown of 725 million gallons per day of reclaimed water as follows:

- o Public access areas (e.g., landscape irrigation, golf courses, parks) – 55%
- o Industrial uses (e.g., cooling towers, power plants, citrus prewashing) – 17%
- o Ground water recharge (e.g., rapid infiltration basins, percolation ponds) – 13%
- o Agriculture irrigation (e.g., edible crops, sprayfields, feed crops, fodder) – 10%
- o Wetland and other (e.g., wetland restoration, fire protection, toilets) – 5%

Florida leads the nation in reuse, with an average of 38 gallons per day/person; California is the closest competitor with 16.06 gallons per day/person.

House Economic Affairs Committee: A presentation on Florida's film industry addressing the challenges and opportunities identified in the Film Florida 2013-18 Film and Entertainment Industry Strategic Plan, as follows:

Today's Challenges	Tomorrow's Opportunities
Lack of a unified vision for Florida's film and entertainment industry.	Alignment of industry stakeholders around a consensus-backed five-year strategic plan.
Lack of consistency in tax credit and incentive programs, and increased competition from other states and countries.	Consider revisions to the current incentive programs to increase competitiveness and maximize the return on investment and benefits to the state.
Short-term nature projects.	Establish a permanent infrastructure to attract and retain long-term productions.
Workforce graduating from Florida's educational institutions and leaving the state to work in competing states.	Establish a permanent and successful industry in Florida to encourage the retention of the graduating workforce.

House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee: Updates on the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Reemployment Assistance Connect System and Economic Development Incentives Portal. Legislators are concerned about the problems

being faced by Connect, the Department's new on-line jobless benefits system. It ran into some technical difficulties, leading to delays in benefits payments. The Department is working with Deloitte, the contractor hired to build the system, to fix the glitches. With regard to the Incentives Portal, legislators want more transparency, including the average wage required by a contract to receive taxpayer funds and the amount jobs retained by a project, as required by HB 7007 (2013).

House Energy and Utilities Subcommittee: Presentations regarding Florida's Energy Infrastructure, including meeting Florida's demand for natural gas and maintaining a secure electric grid.

House Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee: Presentation on the Florida Department of Transportation's 2014 Legislative proposals, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Extends the Florida Transportation Commission's oversight to include the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority;
- Eliminates the Florida Statewide Passenger Rail Commission;
- Requires the Department to consult with Enterprise Florida prior to making expenditures for transportation projects under the economic development statutes, which is already current practice;
- Provides the Department with flexibility to support projects in spaceport territories that may not meet the definition of a transportation facility; and,
- Makes several changes to environmental mitigation requirements to make the Department and transportation authorities more accountable.

Joint meeting of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee and State Affairs Committee: Presentations regarding the environmental status of the Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie River, Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, and Lake Okeechobee, by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns River Water Management District, South Florida Water Management District, and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). The representative from DACS primarily addressed the relationship of agriculture to the quality and quantity of the water within those water bodies.

The presentations discussed above are available in committee meetings packets, which can be linked to through either <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/#com-list> (for Senate Committees) or <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committees.aspx> (for House Committees).

In addition, many of the committees and subcommittees listed above, and others not included in this report, heard presentations on state agency legislative budget requests. As a reminder, State agency Long-Range Program Plans and Legislative Budget Requests are available through the Florida Fiscal Portal at <http://floridafiscalportal.state.fl.us/>.

POLICY NOTES

Agriculture: Lack of oysters led the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to close Apalachicola Bay to weekend oyster harvesting starting on Saturday, November 23 and running through the end of May, 2014. Drought and lack of water flowing from the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers in Alabama and Georgia are being blamed for the Bay's declining oyster population.

Economy: The Office of Economic & Demographic Research released revenue reports for October 2013. General Revenue collections were \$4.4 M under the estimates adopted by the General Revenue Estimating Conference on August 9, 2013. With the exclusion of early payments of service charges, total General Revenue collections were \$22.9 M below estimate for the month. For more information, see <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/>.

Environment and Natural Resources: As of November 21, the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment political committee announced that it had obtained 90 percent of the 910,000 signatures needed by February 1, 2014. This proposed constitutional amendment, which is supported by many in the environmental community, would direct one-third of the state documentary stamp tax revenue to conservation spending. Those opposed to the amendment have made it clear that they support the Florida Forever land-buying program and long-term investments in the environment but believe that these types of decisions should be made by legislators and not placed in the Florida Constitution.

Growth Management/Transportation: On November 1, Governor Scott Issued Executive Order 13-319, creating the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force. Its purpose is to develop recommendations on transportation, environment, and land-use planning for portions of Brevard, Orange, and Osceola Counties. The Task Force is part of the Florida Department of Transportation's statewide Future Corridors effort to coordinate future land uses and the supporting transportation network, and will serve as a pilot to be tested and evaluated for use in other future corridor planning efforts statewide. The Task Force will build upon a regional vision supported by an analysis of land use, mobility, economic, environmental, and community issues in the study area. For more information, visit www.flfuturecorridors.org/.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS

Several organizations recently adopted their respective 2014 legislative platforms, as described below. As additional platforms are adopted, they will be included in FRCA's Legislative Highlights:

Small County Coalition:

While meeting in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference on November 13, 2013, the Small County Coalition adopted its 2014 Legislative Program. Among its priorities is a statement supporting funding for regional planning councils as follows: *The Small County Coalition supports full funding of regional planning councils. Regional planning councils provide planning and technical services and economic development support activities to local governments. Regional Planning Council assistance is especially helpful to local governments in rural Florida.* The complete legislative program will soon be posted to http://www.smallcountycoalition.org/legislative_agenda.html, but in the meantime, to obtain a copy, please email sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org.

Florida Association of Counties:

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) 2014 Legislative Priorities, adopted earlier this month at its Legislative Conference, are as follows:

- o **Maintaining Revenues for Florida's Communities:** Support for tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's taxpayers while at the same time *considering and minimizing the collective and cumulative negative impact on local revenues*, including state shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments in providing community services. Proposals of interest to FAC and its members include those

effecting the Communications Services Tax, Sales Tax Exemption on Commercial Leases, Local Business Taxes, E-911 Fees, and Local Discretionary Revenue Sources.

- o **Enhancing Juvenile Justice:** Support initiatives that reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services. In addition, support state funding for the operation of juvenile detention facilities, as upheld by Florida's courts and support allowing counties to pay actual costs on a monthly reimbursement basis.
- o **Protecting Florida's Waters:** Support sustained commitment of state resources for the development of alternative water supplies, water quality improvement projects and comprehensive water infrastructure needs. Support legislation that enhances regional and local financial capacity to address water supply development and water infrastructure.
- o **Ending Homelessness in Florida:** Support developing a dedicated state funding source for homeless programs and tax credits for businesses that employ the homeless.

In addition, FAC's Growth, Agriculture & Environment Policy Committee adopted the following policy statement pertaining to regional planning councils: *SUPPORT full funding of regional planning councils to, at a minimum, cover the costs of statutory responsibilities, and to support enhanced economic development activities. OPPOSE legislation prohibiting or restricting the ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical services to its local governments.* A more complete listing of FAC's Legislative Priorities and copy of its Legislative Policies are available at <http://www.fl-counties.com/advocacy/2014-legislative-priorities>.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council:

The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) adopted its 2014 Legislative Policy Positions in early November. The MPOAC's priority policy positions support legislation that does the following:

- o Implements the recommendations from the MPOAC transportation revenue study;
- o Restores funding for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program to promote regional planning and project development;
- o Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS; and,
- o Allows funds from the State Transportation Trust Fund to be used for capital expenses associated with the development of multi-use regional trails.

In addition, other policy positions supported by the MPOAC include legislation that does the following:

- o Reduces distracted driving by regulating as a primary offense the use of electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a moving motor vehicle;
- o Removes the cap on the number of board members who can serve on a Metropolitan Planning Organization;
- o Promotes interoperable and multi-modal fare-payment technologies that must be compatible, universal, and accessible for use by all other technology systems; and,
- o Encourages the growth of carsharing services in the State of Florida by exempting carsharing program vehicles from the rental car surcharge.

Additional detail and key recommendations are included in the document, which will soon be posted to <http://www.mpoac.org/> or email sheri.coven@flregionalcouncils.org to obtain a copy.

Enterprise Florida, Inc.

In December, 2012, Enterprise Florida released the Florida Rural Economic Development Study, which was requested by the Florida Legislature. An outcome of that study was the development of the following rural legislative recommendations by Enterprise Florida for the 2014 Legislative Session:

- Renaming the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern to a more positive brand, such as:
- a. Rural Areas of Opportunity.
 - b. Targeted Rural Area of Economic Growth.
 - c. Rural Florida Areas of Strategic Opportunities.
 - d. Rural Florida First Regions.
2. Revise rural infrastructure awards and qualifications to be more competitive with competing states, including:
- a. Break the award program into two sections – Catalyst Site and Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern/Rural County locations.
 - b. Catalyst Site Program –
 - i. Project Requirement Removed (no more than 50% of the annual appropriation can be used on infrastructure projects not associated with job creation project).
 - ii. Increase percentage of costs covered to 50% (from 30%).
 - iii. Funds may be used to provide infrastructure up to the site.
 - c. Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern/Rural County –
 - i. Increase percentage of costs covered to 40% (from 30%).
 - ii. If an infrastructure grant is requested is not associated with a job creation project, a waiver can be applied for through Rural Economic Development Initiative (no more than 50% of the annual appropriation can be used on infrastructure projects not associated with job creation projects).
 - d. Add site certification costs to be covered (no job requirement).
 - e. Add the Florida Department of Transportation to review committee.
 - f. Increase funding.
3. Rural Targeted Industries –
- a. Each region shall designate targeted industries beginning in 2014 with the assistance of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida for all economic development incentives and at the time of the Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern re-designation.
 - b. Targeted industry waivers for economic development projects can be applied for through Enterprise Florida/Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for all economic development incentives.
4. Increase award amounts of the rural jobs tax credit to be more competitive with competing states (\$2,000 in rural county/ \$5,000 in Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern region) and add retail (SIC Codes 52-57 and 59- to match with urban). If a company does not have enough liability to fully utilize the credit they can apply for an ad valorem reimbursement through the state fund.
5. Remove award amount restriction on Qualified Target Industry awards when local match is waived.

6. Allow any county in a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern region to automatically be designated an Enterprise Zone.

American Planning Association, Florida Chapter:

The membership of the American Planning Association (APA), Florida Chapter, adopted their 2014 Legislative Program, Position, and Policy Statements at their annual meeting on September 10, 2013. The importance and value of regional governance, cooperation, planning, and visioning are prevalent throughout the document, which is available on the APA Florida Website at www.floridaplanning.org/ or download a copy at <http://www.floridaplanning.org/legislative/14docs/MemberAdopted2014Legislative%20Platform91013.pdf>.

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May 2, 2014: Last day of regular session

BILL TRACKING REPORT

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HB 0049	Relating to Springs Revival Act	Stewart
<p>Springs Revival Act: Requires water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, & submit certain reports; authorizes districts to adopt rules & issue orders. Effective Date: July 1, 2014 10/7/2013 HOUSE Now in Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee</p> <p>Bill Comments No comments.</p>		

**SB
0076**

Relating to Springs Revival Act

Soto

Springs Revival Act; Requiring water management districts to identify certain springs, develop certain plans, and submit certain reports to the Governor and the Legislature; authorizing the districts to adopt rules and issue orders, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

8/27/2013 SENATE Referred to Environmental Preservation and Conservation; Community Affairs; Appropriations; Rules

Bill Comments

By October 1 of each year, requires each WMD, with appropriate technical support, to identify first and second magnitude springs that are in decline based upon historic average water quality and flow levels, and which are not identified in DEP's rule for impaired water bodies. By July 1, 2015, each WMD must develop a five-year plan to restore historic average water quality flow levels to the springs that are identified as described above and in the rule for impaired water bodies. Also beginning July 1, 2015, quarterly progress reports are required. The authority to adopt rules pursuant to this legislation is provided.

**SB
0136**

Relating to Freight Logistics Zones

Ring

Freight Logistics Zones; Defining the term "freight logistics zone"; authorizing a county, or two or more contiguous counties, to designate a geographic area or areas within its jurisdiction as a freight logistics zone; requiring the adoption of a strategic plan that must include certain information; providing that certain projects within freight logistics zones may be eligible for priority in state funding and certain incentive programs; providing evaluation criteria for freight logistics zones, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/14/2013 SENATE Now in Commerce and Tourism

Bill Comments

The bill requires the freight strategic plan to be compatible with the applicable local government comprehensive plan and adopted long-range transportation plans of an MPO. Should the bill be amended to require consistency with the applicable SRPP as well?

**HB
0141**

Relating to Florida Enterprise Zone Act

Powell

Florida Enterprise Zone Act: Revises date of repeal of Florida Enterprise Zone Act. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/5/2013 HOUSE Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee

Bill Comments

Changes the date to repeal the Florida Enterprise Zone Act from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2025.

**HB
0189**

Relating to Growth Management

Boyd

Growth Management: Revising restrictions on initiative or referendum process in regard to local comprehensive plan amendments & map amendments. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

11/22/2013 HOUSE Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee

Bill Comments

The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that

the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land."

SB 0230 Relating to Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority Simmons

Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority; Providing for the transfer of governance and control, legal rights and powers, responsibilities, terms, and obligations to the authority; providing conditions for the transfer; extending, to 99 years from 40 years, the term of a lease-purchase agreement; limiting the authority's authority to enter into a lease-purchase agreement; removing the authority and criteria for an authority to waive payment and performance bonds for certain public works projects that are awarded pursuant to an economic development program, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2015

10/10/2013SENATE Referred to Transportation; Community Affairs; Appropriations
Bill Comments

Renames the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to the Central Florida Expressway Authority and creates the Central Florida Expressway Authority, serving Orange, Seminole, Lake, and Osceola Counties. Removes requirement that the route of a project must be approved by a municipality in Orange County before the right-of-way can be acquired. Revises membership of the Wekiva River Basin Commission by removing the Seminole County Expressway Authority.

HB 0235 Relating to Department of Economic Opportunity Combee

Department of Economic Opportunity: Requires DEO to create web page accessible through its Internet website that provides certain information; provides purpose of web page; requires DEO to collect all local business information available to DEO; requires DEO to request relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requires local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by department; authorizes local government entities to provide summary that includes certain information for DEO's web page. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/22/2013HOUSE Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee
Bill Comments

The bill creates Section 288.112, F.S., requiring the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to create a new web page on its website devoted solely to the collection and publication of data and information relevant to the creation or expansion of new businesses within the state, for the following purposes: (a) provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that exist within cities and counties that are conducive to the creation and expansion of new businesses; (b) enable prospective employers to effectively and accurately evaluate the business climate in various locations throughout the state; and, (c) provide prospective business owners and operators within the state with immediate access to specific charges and costs related to the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a business. The bill provides the specific list of criteria to be collected. The Department is given until January 1, 2015 to collect the information and post it as soon as possible thereafter on its website.

HB 0241 Relating to Developments of Regional Impact Gaetz (M)

Developments of Regional Impact: Deletes certain exemptions for dense urban land areas. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/22/2013HOUSE Now in Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee

Bill Comments

The bill deletes s. 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., F.S., removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in s. 163.3164, F.S., and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area.

**SB
0264**

Relating to Inflation and Deflation

Brandes

Inflation and Deflation; Requiring each state agency, including the judicial branch, to identify all statutes relating to the agency which contain a reference to a monetary amount; requiring each state agency to submit an initial report relating to those findings and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by a certain date as to whether those amounts should be adjusted; requiring each agency to submit a final report containing final recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by a certain date and include a fiscal impact statement for each recommended statutory change to the monetary amount, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/4/2013 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations

Bill Comments

This bill applies to statutory references that identify a "fixed" monetary amount. A draft report is due by August 1, 2015 and between that date and September 15, 2015, a public comment period occurs. Final recommendations to the Governor and Legislature are due October 31, 2015.

**HB
0311**

Relating to Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority

Nelson

Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority: Creates Central Florida Expressway Authority; provides for that authority to assume governance & control of Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority System; revises membership of Wekiva River Basin Commission; provides criteria for transfer of Osceola County Expressway System to Central Florida Expressway Authority. Effective Date: July 1, 2015
11/14/2013HOUSE Filed

Bill Comments

Renames the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to the Central Florida Expressway Authority and creates the Central Florida Expressway Authority, serving Orange, Seminole, Lake, and Osceola Counties. Removes requirement that the route of a project must be approved by a municipality in Orange County before the right-of-way can be acquired. Revises membership of the Wekiva River Basin Commission by removing the Seminole County Expressway Authority.

**HB
0315**

Relating to Local Land Development Regulations

Stark

Local Land Development Regulations: Requires local land development regulations to include sinkhole testing. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

11/15/2013HOUSE Filed

Bill Comments

Amends s. 163.3202(2), F.S. by adding new subparagraph "j" as stated above.

- HB 0325 Relating to Brownfields** Stone
- Brownfields: Revises procedures for designation of brownfield areas by local governments; provides certain liability protection against property damages. Effective Date: July 1, 2014
11/18/2013HOUSE Filed
- Bill Comments**
The bill creates separate designation criteria for (a) jurisdictional local governments; (b) jurisdictional local governments if the brownfield area is within a specified redevelopment area; and, (c) for any person, organization, or company/corporation, designating a brownfield. In addition, certain criteria also apply to all three of these categories of designation, which pulls into the process the local pollution control program if applicable and puts in place notice and public hearing requirements under certain conditions.
- SB 0338 Relating to Community Redevelopment** Bullard
- Community Redevelopment; Renaming the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969; redefining the term "blighted area," as applicable to the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, to include land previously used as a military facility and adjacent to a county-owned zoological park, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014
11/7/2013 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations
- Bill Comments**
In addition to the expansion of the definition of blighted area described above, the bill renames the act from the "Community Redevelopment Act of 1969" to the "Senator Larcenia Bullard Community Redevelopment Act."
- SB 0372 Relating to Developments of Regional Impact** Galvano
- Developments of Regional Impact; Deleting certain exemptions for dense urban land areas; revising the exemption for any proposed development within a county that has a population of at least 300,000 and an average population of at least 400 people per square mile, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014
11/5/2013 SENATE Filed
- Bill Comments**
The bill deletes s. 380.06(29)a.2. and (29)a.3., F.S., removing the exemption for dense urban land areas that are within a county and located in an urban service area as defined in s. 163.3164, F.S., and which are in a county with a population of at least 900,000 but do not have an urban service area, which is identical to HB 241. However, it also revises the exemption in s. 380.06(29)a.4., to apply to a county with an average population of at least 400 people per square mile and a population of at least 300,000, and does not have to be located in an urban service area. It previously applied to a county with a population of at least one million, with no square mile requirement, although it did have to be located in an urban service area.
- SB 0374 Relating to Growth Management** Detert
- Growth Management; Revising restrictions on an initiative or referendum process with regard to local comprehensive plan amendments and map amendments, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law
11/6/2013 SENATE Filed

Bill Comments

The bill broadens the exception to the prohibition on using a referendum process in regard to a comprehensive plan or map amendment by deleting the limitation that the exception must involve "more than five parcels of land."

**SB
0376**

Relating to Local Land Development Regulations Soto

Local Land Development Regulations; Requiring local land development regulations to provide for sinkhole testing, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2014
11/6/2013 SENATE Filed

Bill Comments

Amends s. 163.3202(2), F.S. by adding new subparagraph "j" as stated above.

**SB
0382**

Relating to Springs Protection Awareness Month Dean

Springs Protection Awareness Month; Recognizing April 2014 as "Springs Protection Awareness Month" in Florida, etc.
11/6/2013 SENATE Filed

Bill Comments

This is offered as a Senate Resolution.

