



2022 Legislative Session Interim Committee Week 10-18-21

November Special Session: In response to new Federal mandates, the Governor held a campaign-style press conference with the Lt. Governor Nunez, Attorney General Moody, Surgeon General Dr. Ladapo, and citizens impacted by mandates- including a battalion chief with Orange County who was recently fired for not issuing reprimands to unvaccinated fire fighters. During the press conference, Governor DeSantis informally called on the Legislature to hold a Special Session in November on vaccine mandates and mask mandates in schools. His office later sent out [talking points](#) clarifying the protections the Governor would like to see the Legislature address, including to “reaffirm”public employers may not fire an employee based on COVID-19 vaccine status and ensure accountability for violations.

He is also asking the Legislature to:

- Ensure employees terminated due to COVID-19 vaccine mandates are eligible for reemployment assistance and establish a specific DEO program to connect them with new employment.
- Private/public employers that fire someone due to COVID-19 vaccine mandates would lose COVID-19 liability protections and may not enforce non-compete clauses against the employee.
- Require workers comp benefits for adverse medical reactions to a employer-required COVID-19 vaccine.
- Require all employers to provide notice of religious and health exemptions. Failure to do so would result in a cause-of-action for fired employees.
- Adding more protections to the Parents’ Bill of Rights, specifically to hold school districts accountable that will not allow parent opt-outs for mask requirements.

Shortly after, the Speaker and Senate President issued a [joint memo](#) adding to the list the possibility of Florida withdrawing from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration and crafting its own health and safety standards to “to alleviate onerous federal regulations placed on employers and employees.” An official Special Session call has not yet been issued.

2022 proposals addressing vaccine and mask mandates have already been filed in the Senate, which may serve as a starting point (below.) There are concerns that SB 452 could impact existing vaccine requirements for other infectious diseases outside of COVID-19.

- [SB 452 - Public Health](#)
Prohibiting counties and municipalities from requiring citizens of the United States to submit to any medical procedure or receive any medical treatment; prohibiting counties and municipalities from conditioning access to public property or services on whether a citizen has submitted to any medical procedure or received any medical treatment; prohibiting counties and municipalities from requiring the wearing of a face covering; prohibiting district school boards from adopting, implementing, or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022
- [SB 592 Face Covering Mandates](#)



Prohibiting counties and municipalities from requiring that a citizen of the United States wear a face covering; prohibiting district school boards from adopting, implementing, or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering; prohibiting a district school superintendent from implementing or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering; prohibiting a school principal from implementing or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

2022-2024 Senate President Designate: Senate Republicans officially voted to elect Senator Kathleen Passidomo as Senate President Designate. She will take the Presiding Officer reins alongside Speaker Designate Paul Renner in the 2022-2024 term and be the third woman in Florida history to do so. In her remarks to the caucus and press, she committed to investing in affordable housing; ensuring a business-friendly regulatory environment; and reforming the Guardianship program to protect vulnerable senior citizens. She noted that she's been a consistent advocate of affordable housing programs and has been waiting for the chance to bolster them. She also stated the Legislature is focused on developing new training programs for nurses and health care workers to combat workforce shortages.

Notably, she also spoke about protecting the unborn but is against Florida adopting a Texas-style abortion law. She cautioned that any abortion law must also balance the constitutional right to privacy. She is very concerned about any law being enforced by "vigilante" citizens, recalling the account of Anne Frank being turned in by her neighbor and the impression it left her with as a child. She is open to restricting abortions occurring after ten weeks of pregnancy rather than the heartbeat timeframe adopted in Texas. She shared that 75% of abortions occur within the first six weeks of pregnancy and 85% occur within the first ten weeks. She also believes that any abortion law conversation should include bipartisan initiatives to strengthen adoption programs and other alternatives.

Redistricting

Redistricting committees focused on drawing natural district boundaries based upon roads, bodies of water, etc. The public has already begun submitting maps to the joint House/Senate redistricting website: <https://www.floridaredistricting.gov/> The website features a map of Florida with details about each district. The map also can display Florida cities and natural boundaries to reform districts. The district map still needs to be in compliance to the normal standards for a district such as equal opportunity. The map can be imported or exported and even be used with other programs. The district maps can be submitted without limit.

Appropriations

House Appropriations also discussed the budget outlook. The state has an expected balance of \$7 billion once minimum needs are met, over 70% of which is non-recurring. Medicaid is the number one driver of the state's budget, with an expected increase to 5 million beneficiaries in the 2022 fiscal year necessitating an increase of \$1.2 billion in state general revenue. 23% of the state's population is expected to be enrolled in the state's medicaid program this year.



The Division of Bond Finance presented on the state bonding and debt outlook. He noted the state's quick recovery from the COVID-19 downfall. On the FRS pension system, he highlighted strong progress on assumptions and methodologies that has led to state being in the top quartile financial position and reduced unfunded liabilities. The FRS system is 85% funded. He also noted the risks rating agencies are paying attention to in Florida, including structural budget balance and the outsize risk of hurricanes and sea level rise. House Ways & Means heard an overview and update on state revenue. The Chair noted that "a lot of uncertainty remains" particularly as inflation outpaces job growth.

[House Appropriations](#) [House Ways & Means](#)

Health & Human Services

Healthcare Staffing

House Health & Human Services heard from the Florida Association of Community Health Centers (FACHC), the Florida Hospital Association (FHA), and Southern Health Care Management on Healthcare Staffing.

The Workforce Development Manager of FACHC updated the committee on its "Grow Your Own" initiative of developing new training programs for nursing and health care workers. They are encouraging the state to invest in developing programs as the Federal government is paying up to \$1 million in loan repayment for health care education with no match requirement. They are focused on helping workers to pursue a healthcare career path, not just a certain position. Later in questions, he shared that the trend of local nurses traveling appears to be temporary and nurses are returning after a period of time. He also shared apprenticeships address capacity while helping sustain retention. It's important to address the need for provider support staff who support the nursing staff, not just nurses. Career pathways allow easy entry points for those who may not have considered the healthcare field and provide needed PR for the industry, particularly after the reputational damage done by the pandemic.

The Florida Hospital Association: President & CEO Mayhew shared that Florida hospitals currently have an 11% RN vacancy vs. the national average of 9.9%, which is not unusual. However, Florida is experiencing an unprecedented turnover rate averaging 25% with some hospitals much higher. 1 in 4 RNs and 1 in 3 Critical Care Nurses left their positions this past year. In questions, she acknowledged that creating the right workplace environment is key. Administrative burdens prevent professionals from fulfilling their role at the bedside. Enabling the ability of nurses to provide actual care helps to improve morale, commitment, and retention. She also highlighted that mentorship programs improve retention rates.

Memorial Health Care: President & CEO Aurelio Fernandez also spoke about Memorial's experience with staff shortages. He said that, despite being listed as one of the best health care systems to work at in the country, they are struggling to retain qualified personnel. Nurses are leaving to join staffing agencies and there is a critical shortage in faculty staff. Every raise in pay leads to a raise in pay by the staffing agencies. He called the shortage a "monumental task for all health care providers." He believes it could take up to 3-4 years to right the ship and there



are no short term solutions to the crisis. Last year, Memorial had 825 open positions; this year, they have 2,200 open positions that they are having to fill up with traveling nurses that cost three times as much- at a recurring cost of \$20 million. In July 2020, 49% of Memorial patients were COVID patients. He shared the burnout many are experiencing and warned that human beings can only take so much stress. He recommended partnerships with colleges and universities to expand the faculty base and graduate more nurses, respiratory therapists, and support staff. Memorial has a successful partnership with Broward College that provides scholarships and loan repayments. They also have a residency program and fellowship programs, which provide critical mentorship and significantly improve retention.

The Vice President of Operations for Southern Health Care Management: She shared the cost of labor for her company had also surged to \$2 million in a recent quarter. Staffing agencies are taking advantage of the labor shortage by enticing nurses away with higher wages and then selling the same employee back at a higher cost, sometimes 100% over what the agency pays the nurse. Each time they have raised their wages, the staffing agencies raise their rates by \$10 over what the provider is offering. Lack of staff is leading to lower capacity at nursing homes. 52% of nursing homes have been forced to reduce admissions. She noted that this is particularly impacting VA veterans nursing homes, leading to a growing waitlist of veterans who need skilled nursing care. VA nursing homes usually operate at 98% capacity with only 10-12 open positions on average. Today, they only have 67% of beds occupied and 256 open positions, resulting in poor access for veterans in need of care. The higher labor costs are adding to the total increase in costs of providing care since the pandemic took hold. Nursing homes have begun declaring Ch. 11 bankruptcy and they fear the financial insolvency will continue to spread.

[HHS Meeting Packet](#)

Family First Prevention Services Act/ Out-of-Home Placements

House Children, Families & Seniors and Senate Children, Families & Elder Affairs heard presentations from the Department of Children & Families on changes to out-of-home care and implementation of new child welfare laws. The Senate also heard a panel on the needs of licensed caregivers. The committee heard from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Child Care on SB 80 and SB 96 implementation and the Director of Policy & Practice on FFPSA implementation. The Department has been working towards the conversion to FFPSA for a full two years, through rulemaking, trainings, subcommittees, grant applications, and more. The state moved into full FFPSA conversion on October 1st and have seen a 22% reduction in group care (which is the intent of the Act). This led to a cost savings of \$7.5 million from the original projected loss of 4E funding. They are approaching the system as a whole by identifying where out-of-home placements are occurring, how to prevent them, and individual assessments of children in need of placement. They leveraged existing resources and programs and aligned them with the Act. The next phase is capacity building and building out evidence-based preventative services arrays. They are building more kinship-focused infrastructure. The Department created a new Level 1 licensure for relative and non-relative caregivers that have a relationship with the children to allow them to better access benefits. They improved Level 2



foster care through gathering feedback from lived experiences and created a new congregate care setting for sex trafficking victims. Some committee members remarked that, while there was enthusiasm, the report overall wasn't so rosy as the state is finally implementing a program it deferred for two years. Asked if the state was still headed for a "train wreck" of \$70 million loss in Federal funding expected two years ago, DCF stated that the state was able to generate \$40 million of the potential shortfall through a three-pronged plan. They explained that the remaining gap cannot be overcome as the Federal government gives more funding if more people fall below the 1995 poverty line. They are focused on capacity building and preventative services to try to cover this remainder. Committee members balked that the Federal government has not raised poverty line standard for the funding since 1995 and commented that they would be reaching out to their Congressional partners.

[House Children, Families & Seniors](#)

Education

Education Appropriations

House PreK-12 Appropriation heard presentations on virtual learning and juvenile justice in the FEFP, Chair Fine delivered both presentations. The virtual learning presentation highlighted the implementation of the conforming bill from last year that clarified the number of out-of-district students a district can enroll and the new FEFP funding methodology for FLVS. Chair Fine shared that while there was a significant uptick last year in enrollment in online learning, we do not yet know what the trend has been since then. In questions, Chair Fine clarified that local funding does not follow the student if they choose to use the virtual option of another county. He also shared that funding is tied to completion rather than attendance unlike the brick and mortar schools. Chair Fine also mentioned that he believes virtual charter schools should not be tied to a particular district, but authorized and put on an open statewide platform by DOE.

[Committee Packet](#)

Early Learning

House Early Learning and Elementary heard a conversation on governance of early learning centers from Chancellor Mears. The Chancellor continued much of the conversations from previous weeks discussing the new oversight of the Division as a result of HB 409 and HB 7011. Representatives of the Association of Early Learning Coalitions and childcare providers then discussed challenges they face in ensuring greater access to high quality early learning environments. The providers discussed the importance of holding providers accountable by learning gains rather than by standardized assessments since children enter at all different stages. Committee members acknowledged that challenges of workforce needs especially in light of the need for high quality.

[Committee Packet](#)



Public Safety

Firefighter Inquiries & Investigations

House Government Operations unanimously approved HB 31, which extends the Firefighter's Bill of Rights to informal inquiries by requiring the inquiry to be reasonable in duration and allow for rest/necessities, prohibiting firefighters from being threatened into providing information, and preventing disciplinary action arising from an informal inquiry.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 31](#) - Civil Justice & Property Rights; State Affairs
- [SB 264](#) - Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight & Accountability; Rules

Environment

Environmental Protection

House Environment, Agriculture & Flooding heard from DEP on implementation of the state's assumption of the EPA's section 404 Clean Waters Act, which issues permits for dredging and filling in specific waters. DEP experienced a 300% increase in applications since assumption of the program. The Deputy Secretary emphasized that, while the state has sometimes struggled through the learning curve, they are making significant process improvements that are already yielding results. They are hosting more frequent trainings, which allows them to quickly address and brainstorm issues that arise. They are also partnering with the Water Management Districts on training as well. With more employees adequately trained, less people are required for each site visit and more site visits can be made in a shorter period of time.

[404 Permitting](#)

Transportation & Commerce

Electric Vehicles

Senate Transportation heard a presentation by the PSC and a panel discussion on electric vehicle infrastructure needs. The PSC gave an overview of its jurisdiction, which involves IOU rate setting, consumer safety, and electric grid planning/oversight. The PSC regulates investor-owned utilities (IOUs) but not municipal-owned. EV charging is exempted from PSC regulation on third-party retail sales of electricity. EV stations are regulated by FDACS similar to gas stations. He shared that a stakeholder survey on EV charging infrastructure showed a consensus that: current EV charging regulations were appropriate, the state needs flexibility in third-party and utility ownership models of infrastructure, and the state should avoid prematurely narrowing the definition of a public utility given the nascence of the market and need to address gaps.

They recommended the state consider the following: Make-Ready Installation: If third-party owners can't recover the cost of make-ready installation, it could result in stranded costs



imposed on general ratepayers. Demand Charges: Current utility rates have demand charges based upon a determination of peak demand for an area. This can discourage the installation of DC charging stations in low-demand areas and lead to higher ratepayer costs during peak hours. They recommended looking into regulating rates using a time-of-day basis to incentivize charging during times of less demand. Public Utility Participation: The state must weigh the competitive advantages utilities have in terms of cost and infrastructure with the speed and competition of the private marketplace. The stakeholder consensus is a policy of neutrality to allow site hosts to choose the right vendor, model, cost, and services that fit their needs. The state will have to decide if charging stations remain exempt from PSC regulation as electricity rates are based on the cost of generating electricity under the state's vertical model. Pilot Programs: The PSC is monitoring pilot programs across the state to gather information and gain experience on usage, charging times, and cost of service. FP&L was granted a tariff of \$0.30/kWh and implemented a general services demand rider that limits demand charges for lower demand areas. Committee members were concerned with whether demand would lead to need for costly upgrades of the grid. The PSC stated they do not anticipate an immediate major increase in need but that more charging could necessitate upgrades. He likened it to PSC experience with solar net-metering. More residents installing solar in a neighborhood eventually does require upgrades that are paid for by the users generating the need for it. A similar scenario could be seen with EV charging.

Panel Discussion on EV infrastructure needs:

Orlando Utilities Commission (municipal-owned utility): OUC shared multiple issues for the state to consider: 1.) Collaboration- It's a team sport to ensure charging stations are at travel destinations and routes across Florida. 2.) Maintenance- Stations are notoriously down due to maintenance issues and must be maintained to ensure operability and customer access. OUC is installing hubs set up with 24/7 maintenance and diagnostic tools that can detect issues before they become problems. Hubs must have a plan to ensure customers can arrive safely and achieve their goal of charging. 3.) Equitable and predictable rates per gallon. This addresses some of the challenges mentioned with demand charges, commercial vs. residential, etc. Current customers create hedge funds for their diesel years out and need the predictability 4.) Timeliness and unpredictability of permitting the infrastructure statewide.

ChargePoint (largest EV infrastructure provider in U.S. and Canada): Justin Ackley stated that Florida is a leader in EV charging infrastructure. The state must decide what sort of market place it wants during the coming years. The EV market is a "Three Legged Stool" - First leg: OEM/Manufacturers, Second leg: utility partners, Third leg: EV charging providers/competitive retailers/commercial space. ChargePoint is concerned IOUs are going beyond third-party service providers with Make-Ready installations and will dominate the market place. He urged the legislature to adopt a policy of competition that directs the PSC to set electricity rates through a more holistic approach and not rate setting hearings.

The Florida Petroleum Marketers Association (FPMA) (gas stations): FPMA members, as experts in the transportation refueling space and believes the industry has a model worth replicating: it is consumer-facing and hypercompetitive, leading to the embrace of new



technologies, consumer options, and competitive prices. He also believes FPMA members are key to solving range anxiety. He stressed that fuel retailers solved the big challenges and built reliable, convenient refueling infrastructure because they had a profit incentive to do so- not because of government incentives or mandates. He warned that private investment dollars and risk taking won't happen unless the state resolves issues with the electricity market. He spoke against allowing public utilities to dominate the market by allowing them to own and operate infrastructure using ratepayer funds to undercut costs. He stated this will lead to limited options and a regressive system where low-income ratepayers bear the cost. He also expressed concerns with how electricity is sold- he said that they need to be allowed to buy electricity wholesale with no added demand charges. His final concern is the loss of tax revenue used to build roads and maintain infrastructure.

Drive Electric Florida: The Executive Director explained they are a diverse coalition with members ranging from Shell Oil to local governments to the Sierra Club to small businesses to major IOUs. The diverse input is an asset that gives visibility into issues and markets. Drive Electric's vision is to "advance the energy, economic and environmental security of the state of Florida by promoting the growth of EV ownership and accompanying infrastructure." He maintained that Florida had landed in a competitively neutral sweet spot and pushed back on the idea that IOUs were cornering the market with regressive ratepayer funding. He explained the state of Florida is so large and diverse that no single market participant could hope to dominate and the fastest most equitable approach involves all types of ownership/investment models. He also argued downward pressure of rates caused by selling more of the product is the opposite of regressive and would benefit every homeowner, gas station, and low-income area. The question is how does the state move forward in a strategic, holistic way with this mixture of ownership models and the "three legged stool." He encouraged the state to adopt formal mechanisms to make the transition more seamless. In terms of where stations ought to be sited, it will take a variety of different business models with a variety of different owners to make a variety of different deployments. It makes sense there should be a formal mechanism within the state government to coordinate those deployments in an equitable way that can facilitate adoption. On EV fees, he noted former FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad had penned an op-ed advocating for an EV fee, which is an approach that Drive Electric's members don't necessarily agree on. He cautioned that a \$500 registration fee for EVs would only solve part of the problem and not address the long term insolvency of the State Transportation Trust Fund created by fuel efficient standards, policy interventions, and consumer demand. He also stated the biggest challenge to EVs is a lack of education and coordination among stakeholders at the state regulatory and local government level. He also stated that the most important step the state can take is to set an EV goal for its fleets- noting the lower cost of ownership.

In questions, the panel continued to disagree on the exact cost-benefit of allowing IOUs to own and operate charging infrastructure through rate setting.

- FPMA quoted Elon Musk that the grid would have to double capacity, noting commercial trucks and buses will be users as well. He claimed that grid upgrades and demand surcharges would be borne by the 80% low-income population that does not own EVs.



- Drive Electric noted that each pilot project from public utilities has a rural component to place chargers in places that the market would take longer to provide. This not only makes market-sense for everyone if service in areas where drivers are originating but also moral-sense as low-income areas will benefit from lower overall rates, improved health due to air & environmental quality, and still have access to new job opportunities.
- ChargePoint pushed back that even the rural component in IOU pilot programs are locating stations in the more concentrated areas that FPMA members would target, not equitable areas. For at-risk private infrastructure investments, they must make the business-case to their board members on how costs will be recouped. In fairness, IOU shareholders and not ratepayers should be paying for the infrastructure. FPMA agreed that the lack of transparency of the true cost of electricity makes it impossible to make that investment case as they must rely on a guaranteed return from IOUs.
- OUC said it was a myth that utilities push the cost to low-income ratepayers, rather they look at rate recovery at the high-speed hubs. Further electrification will drive down rates for all of the ratepayers, including low-income. It is also a myth that utilities want to permanently own and operate the infrastructure. The hubs OUC is building is because there is a current void in the private-market, by building the initial infrastructure they are accelerating electrification for the private market place and will eventually turn over the ownership/operation to FPMA members.

[Meeting Packet](#)

2022 Legislative Tracking

[SB 512 Vacation Rentals](#) (New)

Requiring advertising platforms to collect and remit taxes for certain transactions; revising the regulated activities of public lodging establishments and public food service establishments preempted to the state to include licensing; expanding the authority of local laws, ordinances, or regulations to include requiring vacation rentals to register with local vacation rental registration programs; authorizing local governments to adopt vacation rental registration programs and impose fines for failure to register; requiring advertising platforms to require that persons placing advertisements for vacation rentals include certain information in the advertisements and attest to certain information, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law

[SB 518 Residential Home Protection](#) (New)

Revising conditions under which a local government may not require a notice, application, approval, permit, fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree on a residential property; specifying when a tree poses an unacceptable risk, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

[SB 452 - Public Health](#) (New)

Prohibiting counties and municipalities from requiring citizens of the United States to submit to any medical procedure or receive any medical treatment; prohibiting counties and municipalities from conditioning access to public property or services on whether a citizen has submitted to any medical procedure or received any medical treatment; prohibiting counties and municipalities from requiring the wearing of a face covering; prohibiting district school boards from adopting, implementing, or enforcing a



policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 592 Face Covering Mandates (New)

Prohibiting counties and municipalities from requiring that a citizen of the United States wear a face covering; prohibiting district school boards from adopting, implementing, or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering; prohibiting a district school superintendent from implementing or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering; prohibiting a school principal from implementing or enforcing a policy, a rule, a code of conduct, or an order requiring the wearing of a face covering, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

SB 476/ HB 297 Aggressive Careless Driving (New)

Provides additional violations that constitute aggressive careless driving; provides criminal penalties for violations resulting in damage to property or person of, serious bodily injury to, or death of another. Strengthens texting while driving and hands-free regulations among other things. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

HB 301 Financial Disclosures for Elected Local Officers (New)

Requires specified local officers to file full & public disclosure of financial interests. I.e. municipal elected officials and managers must file Form 6. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

SB 478 Suicide Prevention (New)

Directing the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention within the Department of Children and Families to conduct a study for specified purposes; specifying requirements for the study; requiring the office to submit the report to the Legislature and the Secretary of Children and Families by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 544 Drug-related Overdose Prevention (New)

Drug-related Overdose Prevention; Requiring the Florida Public Health Institute, Inc., in consultation with the Department of Health, to educate the public regarding the use of emergency opioid antagonists; authorizing pharmacists to order certain emergency opioid antagonists; providing certain authorized persons immunity from civil or criminal liability for administering emergency opioid antagonists under certain circumstances; authorizing civilian personnel of law enforcement agencies to administer emergency opioid antagonists under certain circumstances, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

HB 303 Sanitary Sewer Lateral Inspection Programs (New)

Sanitary Sewer Lateral Inspection Programs: Authorizes counties & municipalities to access sanitary sewer laterals within their jurisdiction for specified purposes; requires counties & municipalities to notify private property owners within specified timeframe if county or municipality intends to access owner's sanitary sewer lateral; provides that counties & municipalities that establish programs are legally & financially responsible for all work done; requires counties & municipalities that establish programs to consider economical methods for counties & municipalities; authorizes program established by county or municipality to evaluate & rehabilitate sanitary sewer laterals on residential & commercial properties to use state or local funds allocated for environmental preservation or protection of water quality. Effective Date: July 1, 2022



SB 280 Local Ordinances

Authorizing courts to assess and award attorney fees and costs and damages in certain civil actions filed against local governments; requiring a board of county commissioners to prepare a business impact statement before the adoption of a proposed ordinance; requiring a governing body of a municipality to prepare a business impact statement before the adoption of a proposed ordinance, etc. Effective Date: 10/01/2022

SB 224/ HB 105 Regulation of Smoking in Public Places

Authorizing counties and municipalities to further restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks under certain circumstances; prohibiting smoking within the boundaries of a state park, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 242/ HB 57 Racial and Sexual Discrimination

Requiring each agency head to take certain measures to prevent the use of training for agency employees which espouses certain concepts; authorizing municipalities to provide certain training, workshops, or programming; prohibiting municipalities from providing mandatory employee training that espouses certain concepts; requiring contracts with an agency which are entered into or renewed on or after a specified date to include the option to terminate if the contractor provides workforce training that espouses certain concepts; requiring public K-20 educational institutions to ensure certain diversity and inclusion efforts and to prohibit certain discrimination, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

HB 117 Communicable and Infectious Diseases

Provides presumption to specified workers that impairment of health caused by COVID-19 or infectious disease happened in line of duty; requires certain actions in order to be entitled to presumption; requires emergency rescue or public safety workers to file incident or accident report under certain conditions. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

SB 200 First Responder Employment-related Accidents And Injuries

Revising the definition of the term "first responder" to include certain correctional officers and 911 public safety telecommunicators; expanding eligibility for certain workers' compensation benefits for first responders to include certain correctional officers and 911 public safety telecommunicators, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 266/ HB 139 Service as a Law Enforcement Officer

Revises definition of term "law enforcement officer" to specify that time spent on certain activities is part of service as an officer. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

HB 11 Impeding, Provoking, or Harassing Law Enforcement Officers

Prohibits approaching law enforcement officer or remaining within specified distance of such officer with specified intent after receiving warning not to approach. Effective Date: October 1, 2022

SB 264/ HB 31 Firefighter Inquiries and Investigations

Provides firefighters have certain rights during informal inquiry; provides firefighter may not be subjected to certain disciplinary action during informal inquiry or interrogation. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

SB 342/ HB 195 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction

Requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to expunge the nonjudicial arrest record of certain minors who successfully complete a diversion program for specified felony offenses, rather than only for misdemeanor offenses; authorizing a minor who successfully completes a diversion program for any



offense, rather than only for a first-time misdemeanor offense, to lawfully deny or fail to acknowledge certain information, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 256/ HB 121 Animal Cruelty

Revising the elements necessary for a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2022

HB 103 Carrying of Firearms Without Licenses

Removes requirement that license to carry concealed firearm is required in order to carry such firearm; limits areas in which concealed carrying of firearm is prohibited; revises criminal penalties; revises provisions relating to carrying of concealed weapons or firearms by nonresidents; provides for issuance of concealed carry licenses for reciprocity purposes; specifies person not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing firearm or other weapon may own, possess, & lawfully use firearms & other weapons, ammunition, & supplies for lawful purposes. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

HB 75 Limiting COVID-19 Restrictions

Prohibits state or any political subdivision from enacting mask mandate; provides any such mandate is void; prohibits state & local governments from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, issuing vaccine passports or other standardized documentation to third parties, or otherwise publishing or sharing COVID-19 vaccination records; prohibits businesses from requiring customers to provide documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination or COVID-19 post-transmission recovery or discriminating against customers on basis of their COVID-19 vaccination status or COVID-19 post-transmission recovery status; declares certain actions based on vaccination status or having immunity passport are unlawful discriminatory practices. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

HB 127 First Responder Roadway Safety

Applies prohibition against texting while driving & prohibition against using wireless communications device in handheld manner in certain areas to motor vehicle that is stopped until authorized emergency vehicle has passed; prohibits person from operating motor vehicle while using wireless communications device in handheld manner in immediate vicinity of certain first responders; authorizes law enforcement officer to issue warnings or citations; provides that billing records or certain testimony are admissible as evidence in certain crashes; authorizes first-time offenders to participate in driving safety program; authorizes clerk of court to dismiss case & assess court costs; requires law enforcement officers to record certain information when issuing citation; requires report to DHSMV, Governor, & Legislature. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

HB 157 Transportation Projects

Revises amount of state revenues committed by DOT for public transportation projects; provides that document that reveals identity of potential bidder on transportation project is public record; authorizes DOT to enter into agreement with FHP to pay for work zone speed enforcement using moneys in State Transportation Trust Fund. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

SB 258 Racing Motor Vehicles

Revising prohibitions on persons driving motor vehicles in any race, speed competition or contest, drag race or acceleration contest, test of physical endurance, or exhibition of speed, a stunt, agility, or acceleration or for other specified purposes on any highway, roadway, or parking lot; prohibiting a person from coordinating via social media any such race, competition, contest, test, or exhibition; prohibiting a person from operating a vehicle for the purpose of filming or recording activities of participants in any such race, competition, contest, test, or exhibition, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 270 Funds for Student Transportation



Modifying requirements for determining student membership in a school district in order to determine the annual allocation for funding for student transportation, etc. Effective Date: 07/01/2022

SB 182 Renewable Energy

Authorizing owners of commercial or industrial businesses, or third parties contracted by such owners, to install, maintain, and operate a renewable energy source device on or about the structure in which the business operates or on a property that the business owns or leases; authorizing owners or contracted third parties to sell electricity generated from the device to certain businesses regardless of whether the device is located in a utility's service territory; exempting the sale of electricity produced by such devices from regulation, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 228/ HB 101 Resiliency Energy Environment Florida Program

Authorizes certain notices of lien to be recorded in public records of specified counties; provides that certain liens are not enforceable; revises types of items which local government or program administrator must reasonably determine before entering into assessment financing agreements with residential & nonresidential real property owners; provides additional requirements to be met by program administrators when administering REEF program for qualifying improvements on residential real properties; provides guidelines to be used by program administrators dealing with certain contractors; provides marketing & communications guidelines for use by program administrators; prohibits contractors from taking certain actions related to pricing of qualifying improvements; requires program administrators to appropriately develop & implement procedures to handle complaints & monitor contractors. Effective Date: July 1, 2022

SB 282 Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Providing that the use of peer specialists is an essential element of a coordinated system of care in recovery from a substance use disorder or mental illness; revising background screening requirements for certain peer specialists; requiring the Department of Children and Families to develop a training program for peer specialists and to give preference to trainers who are certified peer specialists; authorizing the department to certify peer specialists, either directly or by approving a third-party credentialing entity, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2022

SB 328/ HB 129 Insurance Coverage for At-home COVID-19 Test Kits

Defining the term "at-home COVID-19 test kit"; requiring health insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide 100 percent coverage for at-home COVID-19 test kits; providing for expiration of the insurance coverage, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

HB 135 Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility

Increases income eligibility threshold for coverage under Florida Kidcare program; requires applicant seeking coverage under program to provide specified documentation under certain circumstances; requires AHCA to examine graduated family contribution rates for newly qualifying families under program; requires agency to increase income eligibility threshold for coverage under program each fiscal year until meeting specified income threshold; authorizes agency to seek federal waiver approval or submit state plan amendments as necessary. Effective Date: July 1, 2022