



2022 Legislative Session Week 2

Redistricting

Senate Passes Map Proposals

The Senate voted 34-3 to pass its State Senate district map ([Redistricting Plan S027S8058](#)) proposal and 31-4 to pass its Congressional district map proposal ([Redistricting Plan S000C8040](#)). The Senate Democratic Leader issued a statement saying that, while the caucus would have preferred changes in certain areas, the overwhelming majority voted in support because the maps stay within the legal parameters and spirit of the Fair Districts amendments. Earlier, the Governor's Office threatened to shake up the redistricting process by putting forward a competing Congressional map proposal. However, the Senate did not include the map in any amendments to its proposal. The Governor's proposal was generally characterized as unconstitutional by elections watch groups noting it would dilute or eliminate minority representation in some areas. To some, the competing proposal was an indication that he would consider vetoing the maps the Legislature is putting forward.

Meanwhile, the House State Legislative Redistricting committee voted 13-7 to advance a [State House map proposal](#)

All submitted plans can be viewed at: <https://www.floridaredistricting.gov/>

Intergovernmental Relations

Local Ordinances

Senate Rules voted 14-2, along party lines, to approve SB 280 after adopting an amendment that granted further concessions to local governments. SB 280 is a Senate Leadership priority that creates an expedited legal process for challenging local ordinances that includes an automatic stay and priority docketing. It also requires a "business impact estimate" prior to the passage of certain local ordinances.

The committee adopted another strike-all amendment that addressed several of the concerns that local governments raised in the prior committee hearing. Again, the sponsor committed to continue to work with local governments to address their remaining concerns. The amendment exempted further ordinances from business impact statements to include: fire code; building code; part II of Chapter 163 related to growth management, zoning, and land development regulations; administration or enforcement of contracts; budgets and budget amendments; refinancing of debt; etc. The strike-all also: addressed concerns the bill would alter the rational basis test by removing business impact statements from consideration on whether an ordinance was arbitrary or unreasonable; provided an impact statement may be prepared on a local governments behalf; requires parties to certify that they are not filing a suit for frivolous or



improper purposes; provides a court may lift a stay if the local government won in lower court, addressing concerns that a business can simply drag out an appeal to keep an ordinance from taking effect; and exempting the creation or termination of Community Development Districts from the business impact statement and court challenge. The Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties thanked the sponsor for working with them on the bill. Due to the Senate granting 80% of what they requested, they formally dropped opposition to the Senate bill as it was amended. The Senate is expected to pass SB 280 off the Senate floor in week 3 (next week) after the Senate President fast-tracked the bill. The Senate may combine SB 280 with the more controversial and concerning SB 620.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 403](#) - Civil Justice & Property Rights; State Affairs
- [SB 280](#) - Senate floor

Business Claims against Local Governments

Senate Appropriations voted 11-7 to advance SB 620. The Senate Leadership priority would create a Bert Harris-style business claims process that would allow businesses to claim damages when a charter amendment or ordinance causes at least a 15 percent loss of profit. The business must have conducted business in the state for at least three years prior to the ordinance. Like Bert Harris, the bill provides for a 180-day presuit notice and settlement period. Local governments have 120 days to accept, reject or counteroffer a settlement amount put forward by the business. Should a settlement not be reached, the business may file suit to recover damages, attorneys fees, and costs. A significant portion of the bill is dedicated to assessing attorneys fees paid to the business under the different scenarios of reaching a settlement or undergoing litigation. It applies to ordinances enacted or amended after July 1, 2022. It would exempt emergency ordinances; temporary emergency ordinances; growth management and land use; fire code; building code; contractual agreements, including grants; refinancing of debt; and budgets and budget amendments.

The committee adopted an amendment intended to compromise with local governments. In addition to expanding the ordinances exempted (listed above), the amendment gave local governments the ability to cure ordinances by repealing the ordinance or grandfathering existing businesses or posting an intent to repeal/amend within 30 days; narrowed the definition of business loss to apply to a loss of profit per location and located within the jurisdiction (i.e. a local Red Lobster rather than the statewide Red Lobster chain); and provided business damages may not exceed 7 years lost profit or, if a total loss of profit, an amount equal to 60 months of gross receipts preceding the loss.

Local government advocates from across the state testified against the bill with examples of ordinances, ranging from pill mills to septic tanks to noise ordinances to food dessert incentive programs, enacted for the safety and welfare of the public which could result in business damages under the bill. Without local action, the state would be forced to call Special Sessions to deal with issues as they arise. They also pointed to several examples of policies recently enacted or under consideration at the state level which would result in business damages should the state apply the same logic to itself. Committee members noted that often a policy



that may benefit one industry will have an equal and opposite reaction on other businesses who could then seek damages and force all other businesses to pay higher taxes to afford the resulting litigation. Sen. Brandes called the bill “luddite” and warned that the bill would result in local governments afraid to take any action on anything, holding them paralyzed in a static state. Local governments would be afraid to expand ordinances (such as hours of operations) knowing that they couldn’t retract them without expensive litigation. He said that no other government in the world has a similar law and for the same reason the state would not place the same rules on itself. He also noted that a potentially miniscule loss could result in hundreds of thousands in litigation costs- as we see in the insurance world and other areas. Sen. Pizzo opposed the bill but shared that he understood the intent of the bill as his family’s development business was forced to litigate against arbitrary ordinances in NJ. He said he would support a bill that only impacted punitive, arbitrary, and capricious ordinances with retaliatory intent against certain businesses with claims rather than a blanket catch-all approach which captures too many unknowns. He argued that SB 620 should be a simpler, less expensive reform of the business claims process.

The sponsor said he would continue to work with local governments but also doubled down on the underlying bill. He stated he was agreeable to putting in prevailing party language on attorneys fees to allow taxpayers to recoup their costs should the local government prevail. He also stated he would be open to further carve outs - such as for ordinances that fall under the pill mill examples. He continually stated that he felt the 15% threshold would be a difficult bar to reach and said his local governments have all told him that they can’t think of an action they could take that would rise to that level. He wanted to hear from local communities about ordinances they may be planning on that would reach that level. He argued that a local government, upon discovering an ordinance would rise to such a high impact on a business, could then grandfather existing businesses or take partial action (i.e. rolling back hours of operation by one hour rather than two) that it could then later add to in such a way that each action would not result in a 15% loss.

In testimony, Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinley suggested that the state could pass SB 280, requiring business impact statements, and then allow the dust to settle before passing legislation like SB 620. As with SB 280, SB 620 is expected to be taken up by the full Senate next week and passed out of the Chamber after the Senate President fast-tracked the legislation in his promise to pass it. The Senate may also potentially combine the bills.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 569](#) - Local Administration & Veterans Affairs; Judiciary
- [SB 620](#) – Senate Floor

Individual Freedom

Senate Education voted 6-3 to advance SB 148. The bill is a House Speaker and Governor priority that would make employee training that “compels workers to believe concepts contradictory to the principles of individual freedom” unlawful discrimination under the Florida Civil Rights Act and would impose guidelines on school and employee training curriculums.



Curriculums would not be allowed to violate certain value statements, such as: “No individual is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex”; “No race is inherently superior to another race”; “No individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability or sex.” According to the Speaker, the bill is in response to “concerns that students and workers are being pushed to adopt the personal or political viewpoints of employers, teachers or textbook authors.” The Senate has fast-tracked the bill, giving it only two committee stops.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 7](#)- Judiciary; State Affairs; Education & Employment
- [SB 148](#)- Rules

Sovereign Immunity

House Civil Justice & Property Rights voted 16-1 to approve HB 985. The bill would raise sovereign immunity caps for public entities from \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident to \$1 million *per person*. It would also provide for the CFO to perform annual CPI adjustments to the cap, beginning in January 2023, and remove the statute of limitations on sexual battery of a minor 16 years or younger. The committee also adopted an amendment that would reduce the pre-suit period an entity must review and dispose of a claim from six (6) to three (3) months. Committee members expressed concern that 3 months would not provide enough time for the entity to gather evidence and investigate the claim, however the sponsor stated that entities generally know how they will respond in the first three months for the vast majority of claims. He also pushed back that the CFO raised no issues with the change.

The Florida League of Cities shared that the per-incident cap is critical to controlling costs, particularly for self-insured entities, and pointed to California where there are no sovereign immunity caps and multiple CA cities have had to declare states of emergencies unable to afford police and fire as a result. They also raised concerns regarding the retroactive application of the bill, requesting that the bill apply a runway or apply to incidents going forward from October 1 2023 so that entities could purchase new insurance. Finally, they stated it was inappropriate to have DFS adjust the cap annually for CPI as the Legislature is the proper arena for sovereign immunity caps to be decided. School board representatives cautioned that significantly increasing the caps would have a “pot of gold at the end of the rainbow effect” not only increasing payouts but also leading to an increase in claims, as it did ten years ago when caps were raised from \$100,000/\$200,000. Several local governments also opposed the bill- Miami-Dade County testified that, as a self-insured entity, the bill could cost upward of \$20 million annually.

Multiple committee members stated they were voting for the bill but wanted to see changes. Several expressed concern that the \$1 million was too high and thanked the sponsor for being open to a lower number. The Chair also stated the point regarding the CFO not being the proper authority to automatically adjust the cap was well-taken and he would like to see that addressed. They stated that despite these concerns, however, they recognized a need to raise the cap due to the difficulty of passing a claims bill. One member noted that it also applies to



criminal conduct on the part of police officers and stated the cap was a “license for recklessness” forcing many cases to the federal level which requires them to plead higher culpability.

The sponsor shared that he personally litigates claims bills and has never encountered a public entity that does not have insurance up to \$1 million. He believes that if private businesses have no cap on civil claims and are able to purchase insurance and still operate in the state, then governments should be able to as well. If there’s issues, they are redressable through tort reform rather than a straight cap based upon the principle of “the king can do no wrong.” He said he sympathizes with arguments that it could harm taxpayers but believes that if we collectively benefit from the government we should also collectively bear the burden of the government’s harms rather than it falling on an individual who may not have access to civil justice. He also stated that per-incident caps don’t work- giving a school bus crash as an example where passengers would not be able to recover adequate compensation in cases of severe injury or death. For the CPI provision, he stated that CFO is given narrow direction to perform nothing more than a ministerial task delegated by the Legislature. However, he also stated more than once that he is open to a lower cap than \$1 million and any ideas that public entities may have in ensuring adequate compensation under a per-incident cap.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 985](#)- Appropriations; Judiciary
- [SB 974](#)- Judiciary; Community Affairs; Appropriations

Local Refrenda Requirements

Senate Community Affairs unanimously approved SB 1194. The bill would require local tax referenda elections to be held at a general election, including: tourist development taxes, children’s services independent special district taxes, county temporary excess ad valorem millage, municipal temporary excess ad valorem millage, county transportation motor fuel tax, local option fuel taxes, and school district millages. The intent of the legislation is to ensure high voter participation in questions of tax referendums.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 777](#) - Ways & Means, State Affairs
- [SB 1194](#) - Finance & Tax; Appropriations

Tree Trimming

Senate Community Affairs unanimously approved SB 518. The bill would make surgical changes to the 2019 tree trimming and removal preemption passed by the Legislature. The bill is supported by the Florida League of Cities, who have been working with arborists on the changes. The changes include: applying the bill to single-family detached residential buildings on existing lots; requiring documentation be an onsite tree assessment conducted in accordance with Best Management Practices: Tree Risk Assessment, Second Edition (2017) and signed by a licensed Florida landscape architect or ISA certified arborist; documentation must show that the tree shows an “unacceptable risk” and removal is the only means of mitigation.



Remaining Committees:

- [HB 1555](#) - Civil Justice & Property Rights; Local Administration & Veterans Affairs; Judiciary
- [SB 518](#) - Governmental Oversight & Accountability; Rules

Financial Disclosures for Elected Local Officers

Senate Community Affairs unanimously approved SB 510 - which would require municipal elected officials, city/town managers, and county administrators to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests (Form 6). Currently, city commissioners must file a Form 1 financial disclosure. It would also require financial disclosures to be electronically filed and would go into effect on January 1, 2023. The bill is being pushed by the Florida Commission on Ethics. The bill sponsors argue that cities handle millions of dollars and hand out procurement contracts and point to recent accusations of corruption in the panhandle and with the City of Tamarac. They also note that state legislators, county commissioners, school board members, and others fill out Form 6. The Florida Commission on Ethics testified that they have supported this change for a number of years. In a push-back to questions on the complexity of a Form 6, the Ethics Commission previously testified that they have a 99% compliance rate from all Form 6 filers and the office provides for an amendatory process and resource for questions and concerns. The Senate sponsor has also argued that the Form 6 is actually more simple than a Form 1- since it removes the ability to perform certain calculations and instead requires all assets above a certain amount.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 301](#) - Local Administration & Veterans Affairs; State Affairs
- [SB 510](#) - Rules

U.S. Produced Iron & Steel in Public Works Projects

House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs unanimously approved HB 619. The bill would require all contracts for iron and steel materials used in public works projects for the materials to be domestically-sourced. Contracts would be exempt from the requirements if: it would increase cost of the project over 20%; iron and steel products produced in the United States aren't of sufficient quantity or quality; compliance is inconsistent with public interest. Labor advocates praised the bill for supporting a "foundational" industry in a way that traverses economic and labor markets. Americans For Prosperity testified against the bill on the grounds it is anti-free market and would drive up government costs- calling the 20% increase cap irresponsibly high. One committee member wondered if the Surfside collapse would have occurred if the building had used American-made iron and steel. The sponsor shared that American-made products are safer, taxpayer dollars should be supporting the country's economy, and other jurisdictions with this mandate have never had to apply the 20% carve-out so it doesn't increase costs as much as opponents fear.

Remaining Committee:

- [HB 619](#) - State Administration & Technology Appropriations; State Affairs
- [SB 1336](#) - Governmental Oversight & Accountability; Community Affairs; Appropriations

Alarm Systems



Senate Regulated Industries unanimously approved SB 1140. The bill would streamline continuing education for fire alarm professionals and simplify the permitting process for certain fire alarm components. Specifically, the bill would prohibit local agencies from requiring alarm contractors from submitting plans for a permit. Local agencies would still be allowed to require completed permit applications and payments. The committee adopted an amendment that clearly defines “fire alarm system project”, addresses closed-circuit TVs, requires local building officials to require at least one inspection of fire alarm system projects, and requires fire alarm contractors to maintain plan records. The bill is supported by alarm companies.

Remaining Committee:

- [HB 669](#) - Commerce
- [SB 1140](#) - Banking & Insurance; Rules

Building Permits

House Regulatory Reform unanimously approved HB 635 after adopting a committee substitute. The bill is somewhat intended to help resiliency and hardening efforts of single-family buildings in a flood zone by restricting local government permit authority. The bill would prevent local governments from restricting private property owners from demolishing single family homes in a flood zone; streamline the review process for demolition permits; and prevent additional building requirements on new homes constructed on the site of the demolished ones. Historic buildings are exempted. It would also prohibit local governments from making substantive changes to plans after permits are issued- except for building code or fire code compliance. It would require building and fire officials to notify local governments of non-compliance with a detailed explanation of why it is not in compliance. Local governments must notify permit holders of the specific reasons for changes.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 635](#) - Local Administration & Veterans Affairs; Commerce
- [SB 1020](#) - Community Affairs; Banking & Insurance; Rules

Affordable Housing

Taxation of Affordable Housing

Senate Community Affairs unanimously approved SB 1150. The bill would authorize local governments to grant ad valorem tax exemptions for property used for affordable multi-family housing with at least 50 dwellings. The government may grant an exemption up to 75% if 10% of the property is used for affordable housing and up to 100% if 100% is for affordable housing.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 495](#) - Local Administration & Veterans Affairs; Ways & Means; State Affairs
- [SB 1150](#) - Finance & Tax; Appropriations

Public Safety



Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention Benefits

House Criminal Justice & Public Safety voted 13-1 to advance HB 3. The bill is a House Speaker priority. It creates the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program to provide one-time bonus payments to newly employed law enforcement officers in Florida; Creates the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to cover tuition, fees, and up to \$1,000 of eligible education expenses for trainees enrolled in a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program; Creates a reimbursement program to pay for up to \$1,000 of equivalency training costs for certified law enforcement officers who relocate to Florida or members of the special operations forces who become full-time law enforcement officers; Provides law enforcement officers who adopt a child from within the state child welfare system with a \$25,000 benefit for adopting a child with special needs or a \$10,000 benefit for adopting a child without special needs; Makes dependent children of law enforcement officers eligible to receive a Family Empowerment Scholarship to attend a private school; Increases the base salary for each county sheriff by \$5,000; Exempts veterans and applicants with an associate degree or higher from taking the basic skills test as a prerequisite to entering a law enforcement officer basic recruit training program; Requires that law enforcement officers receive training in health and wellness principles as part of their initial certification training and continued employment training; Allows law enforcement officers or former law enforcement officers to receive postsecondary credit at Florida public postsecondary educational institutions for training and experience acquired while serving; Encourages each district school board to establish public safety telecommunication training programs and law enforcement explorer programs in public schools; and Designates May 1 of each year as "Law Enforcement Appreciation Day."

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 3](#)- Appropriations; Judiciary

Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders

The bill provides that the time for notice of injury or death in the case of compensable PTSD is 90 days and is measured from the qualifying event that supports the claim or the diagnosis, rather than the manifestation, of the disorder, whichever is later. The bill further provides that the PTSD workers' compensation claim is barred if not properly noticed within one year of the qualifying event that supports the claim or the diagnosis of the disorder, whichever is later.

Remaining Committees:

- HB 689 - Insurance & Banking; State Administration & Technology Appropriations; State Affairs
- SB 1066 - Banking & Insurance; Community Affairs; Rules

Florida Kratom Consumer Protection Act

The Senate Commerce and Tourism unanimously passed SB 1076. This bill creates the "Florida Kratom Consumer Protection Act"; defining the terms "kratom extract," "kratom product," and "processor"; prohibiting processors from selling, preparing, distributing, or exposing for sale



certain kratom products; prohibiting processors from distributing, selling, or exposing for sale a kratom product to an individual under 21 years of age; providing civil penalties for an infraction.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 1071](#) - Regulatory Reform, Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations, Commerce
- [SB 1076](#) - Agriculture, Environment, and General Government Appropriations, Appropriations

Record of Physical Examinations of Officers

House Insurance & Banking unanimously approved HB 453 after adopting a committee substitute. The amended bill would require an employing agency to maintain records of pre-employment physical exams of police and correctional officers for at least five years after the officer separates from the agency. Should the agency not maintain records and then contest a workers comp claim by the officer under s. 112.18, F.S, it would result in the presumption that the officer's disability due to tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension is a compensable disease to be covered by workers comp. It also authorizes medical exams required for firefighter certification satisfy the pre-employment physical exam under s. 112.18, F.S.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 453](#) - Criminal Justice & Public Safety (On agenda 01/25/22); Appropriations; Commerce
- [SB 1736](#) - Criminal Justice (On agenda 01/25/22); Government Oversight & Accountability; Rules

Environment

Surface Water Discharges

DEP presented to the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources on the implementation of SB 64, which requires utilities to submit a plan for the elimination of non beneficial surface water discharges in ten years. DEP shared that all applicable utilities have submitted plans. DEP also shared that US Department of Defense facilities sent a letter stating they do not believe they meet the definition of utilities and, therefore, the bill does not apply. DEP stated that they are continuing the dialogue with them. They summarized the various options utilities are pursuing to reach the goal, including: Aquifer storage and recovery, Underground injection control disposal, Reclaimed or wetland creation/hydration. They also emphasized that if the utility is injecting discharges into the aquifer, it must meet drinking water standards.

Presentation

Private Mitigation Banks

Senate Environment & Natural Resources voted 3 yeas to 2 nays to approve SB 198 after adopting an amendment. The bill would allow for private mitigation banks on sovereign submerged lands, such as oyster, mangroves, seagrass mitigation banks, etc. It would address required financial assurances. The bill would also provide a presumption of compliance with mitigation requirements for certain floating boat lifts associated with a dock or parcel of land. Local governments are defined as a "charter county, a county that is required to implement a



manatee protection plan pursuant to state law, or a county or municipality that establishes and administers a local pollution control program under state law.” The Florida Association of Mitigation Bankers testified that the bill gives more authority to negotiate with private mitigation bankers and address private capital to help facilitate. Banks must be approved by the Army Corps before being allowed. Several environmental advocates opposed the bill out of concern the private mitigation measures will not be effective and instead spur more development. The Audubon Society recommended guardrails, such as narrowing to projects that only meet public interest, revising tools to assess seagrass loss, and prevention of motorboat traffic in mitigation bank areas.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 349](#)- Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations; State Affairs
- [SB 198](#) - Community Affairs; Appropriations

Comprehensive Review Study of the Central and Southern Florida Project

Senate Environment & Natural Resources unanimously approved SB 1326. The Central and Southern Florida Project was authorized by Congress over 70 years ago to provide for flood control, water supply, Everglades protection and more in all or part of 18 counties in south and central Florida. Congress twice authorized a C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study (restudy) in the 1990s to review the project and provide a framework for needed modifications. The sponsors shared that the Federal Government has been too slow and hasn't committed the resources necessary to bring the study to a resolution. Meanwhile, sea level rise and intense rainfall necessitate immediate upgrades to the system to protect millions of inland South Florida residents from flooding. For example, SFWD district identified 18 flood control structures within six inches of failure in 2009 and current projections anticipate sea level rising eight inches by 2030. The bill would require SFWMD to submit an annual report beginning in October 2023 on the status of the restudy, including: findings of SFWMD's sea level rise and resiliency plan; structures expected to fall below service levels in the next five years; recommendations for replacement or refurbishment of those structures; and a summary of state and federal funds expended for the restudy.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 513](#) - Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations; State Affairs
- [SB 1326](#) - Community Affairs; Rules

Resilience-related Advisory Committees

Senate Community Affairs unanimously approved SB 690. The bill permits certain resilience-related advisory committees to conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology pursuant to the rules of the Administrative Procedures Act. The bill provides that an advisory committee member who participates in a meeting or workshop by means of communications media technology is deemed to be present at such meeting or workshop. The bill also provides notice requirements and audible communication requirements for such meetings. Additionally, it clarifies that other public meetings laws must be liberally construed for such meetings.



Remaining Committees:

- [HB 691](#) - Government Operations Subcommittee; Public Integrity & Elections; State Affairs
- [SB 690](#) - Environment & Natural Resources; Rules

Transportation & Commerce

VISIT Florida

House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy unanimously approved HB 489. The bill would save VISIT Florida from repeal for another five years - from 2023 to 2028.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 489](#) - Commerce (on committee agenda 01/24/22)
- [SB 434](#) - Appropriations

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Senate Regulated Industries unanimously approved SB 920. The bill directs the PSC to develop competitively neutral rules that, among other things, would prohibit rate based investments in ownership and operation of EV charging stations. The bill would also allow any entity providing EV charging stations to the public to intervene in PSC rate hearings. Under the bill, the PSC must develop rules by January 1 2023 that address:

- Investment in publicly available Level 2 and direct-current fast-charging (DCFC) chargers that are competitively neutral, prioritizing and encouraging private investment and private ownership and operation of EV charging infrastructure;
- Policies that stimulate innovation, competition, private investment, and customer choice in EV infrastructure charging equipment and networks;
- Mechanisms, including incentives, supporting efficient and cost-effective use of the electric grid, in a manner that supports EV charging infrastructure;
- Incentives supporting private investment in charging equipment;
- Policies prohibiting IOUs from using rate base investment in the ownership and operation of EV charging stations and limit public utility cost recovery to distribution-level system infrastructure on the utility side of the meter; and
- Stimulation of fair and reasonable electricity pricing through IOU tariff provisions to promote widespread offering of EV charging.

The bill is being pushed by the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association (FPMA), a trade association which represents retail gas stations. The sponsor argued that capacity is “not there” for charging infrastructure and Florida must proactively establish a free-market based enterprise system that will help to facilitate private investment. Drive Electric Florida previously argued that IOU rate based investments in EV Charging were helping to create more EV infrastructure rather than preventing it.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 737](#) - Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations; Commerce
- [SB 920](#) - Transportation; Rules



Boating Safety

House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy unanimously approved HB 701, or “Ethan’s Law”. The bill would require the operator of a vessel used in instruction of a water sport or activity to use an engine cutoff switch with an operative link when participants are in the water. It also requires FWC to include several new items in its public safety campaign and education materials, including: the proper use and benefits of engine cutoff switches for personal watercraft, the danger of leaving the vessel running as passengers onboard and offboard, operating a vessel with people in the water, etc.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 701](#) - Environment, Agriculture & Flooding; Commerce
- [SB 1650](#) - Environment & Natural Resources; Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment & General Government; Appropriations

Florida Main Street Program and Historic Preservation Tax Credits

Senate Commerce & Tourism unanimously approved SB 1310. The bill would create the Main Street Historic Tourism and Revitalization Act, a program to provide tax credits against corporate income or insurance premiums for contributions to the rehabilitation of a certified historic structure.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 247](#)- Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy; Ways & Means; Commerce
- [SB 1310](#) - Finance & Tax; Appropriations

Photographic Enforcement of School Bus Safety

Senate Transportation unanimously approved SB 702. The bill would authorize school districts to contract with a private vendor to provide a side stop signal arm electronic enforcement system. The vendor must submit alleged violations within 30 days to law enforcement, who then must review and certify a notice of violation if the evidence is sufficient. Failure to pay or contest the violation would result in the inability to renew vehicle registration or transfer the vehicle title. Funds received from violations detected by the enforcement system would be provided to the school district in which the violation occurred and must be used for the installation or maintenance of the enforcement systems on school buses or for any other technology that increases the safety of the transportation of students.

Remaining Committees:

- [HB 179](#) - Criminal Justice & Public Safety; PreK-12 Approatrons; Judiciary
- [SB 702](#) - Judiciary; Approrations

Week 3 Schedule:

[HB 777](#) - Local Tax Referenda Requirements

[SB 1110](#)- Grease Waste Removal and Disposal

[SB 1434](#) - Public Financing of Potentially At-risk Structures and Infrastructures

[SB 1666](#) - Discharge and Use of Firefighter Foam

[SB 1418](#) - Soil and Groundwater Contamination



- [SB 840](#) - Residential Property Riparian Rights
- [HB 489](#) - Tourism Marketing
- [HB 669](#) - Alarm Systems
- [HB 499](#) - Agreements with Professional Sports Teams
- [HB 943](#) - Preemption of Local Government Wage Mandates
- [HB 105](#) - Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities
- [SB 1736](#) - Records of Physical Examinations of Offices
- [HB 1439](#) - Prostitution, Lewdness, Human Trafficking, and Public Lodging
- [HB 1005](#) - Advanced Air Mobility
- [HB 101](#) - Resiliency energy Environment Florida Program
- [SB 1764](#) - Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program
- [HB 899](#) - Mental Health of Students
- [HB 1143](#) - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- [HB 729](#) - Everglades Protection Area
- [SB 1610](#) - Ad Valorem Tax Abatement
- [SB 1702](#) - Mandatory Building Inspections
- [SB 1746](#) - Homestead Property Tax Exemption
- [SB 1748](#) - Homestead Property Tax Exemptions for Classroom Teachers, Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Child Welfare Professionals and Servicemembers
- [SB 644](#) - Building Inspection Services
- [SB 706](#) - School Concurrency
- [SB 1124](#) - Preemption of Local Government Wage Mandates
- [SB 962](#) - Mixed-use Residential Development Projects and Affordable Housing
- [SB 264](#) - Firefighter Inquiries and Investigations