



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Lupfer, President and CEO, Florida Attractions Association

FROM: Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL, President
Tim Parson, DPL, Vice President
Adam Potts, DPL, Director of Government Affairs
Ethan Merchant, DPL, Governmental Affairs Manager

DATE: January 17, 2022

RE: First Week of Session Summary – Week of January 10-14, 2022

The 2022 Legislative Session officially began last week, as thousands of Floridians made the trip to Tallahassee last week to advocate for their issues and attend opening day ceremonies. Committees and subcommittees met to consider a wide range of bills that have been filed, with 3,570 total bills filed for the 2022 session.

In addition to committee meetings, Representatives and Senators convened in their respective chambers on Tuesday to officially begin the 2022 session. Legislators also participated in a joint session on Tuesday, during which Governor Ron DeSantis provided his State of the State address and outlined his priorities for session. In his speech, Governor DeSantis highlighted the importance of keeping our state open and the steps taken to preserve individual freedom during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the House opening session, Speaker Chris Sprowls challenged his colleagues to be bold and take risks to better the lives of all Floridians. Speaker Sprowls touted the state's balancing act during the pandemic, ensuring that children and adults had the tools and resources needed to maintain educational, social and mental wellbeing.

Senate President Wilton Simpson presided over the Senate's opening day ceremonies, recognizing the Senate's success last session and highlighting this session's priorities. During the 2022 Legislative Session, President Simpson will look to enhance state infrastructure, strengthen public safety and grow the state's economy.

Several pieces of legislation that could impact the state's tourism industry are moving forward in the legislative process. Below is a summary of bills that have been filed that are of interest to the Florida Attractions Association (FAA):

Florida Tourism Marketing

[HB 489](#) by Representative Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) would revise the scheduled repeal date of the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation; revise scheduled repeal date of Division of Tourism Marketing within Enterprise Florida, Inc. The bill is scheduled to receive its first hearing in the House Tourism, Infrastructure and Energy Subcommittee on Tuesday, January 18. The Senate companion - [SB 434](#) – by Senator Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor) is awaiting its final hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Tourist Development Taxes

[HB 6075](#) by Representative Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) would remove a provision requiring a specified percentage of all tourist development tax revenues to be used to promote & advertise tourism. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee. The Senate companion - [SB 1898](#) – by Senator Gary Farmer Jr. (D-Fort Lauderdale) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee.

Tourist Development Taxes

[HB 673](#) by Representative Jason Shoaf (R-Blountstown) would authorize certain coastal counties to be reimbursed for use of tourist development tax revenues for tourism training; revise the percentage of tourist development tax revenues that may be used to reimburse for expenses incurred in providing public safety services; authorize certain rural counties to be reimbursed for use of tourist development tax revenues for certain purposes regardless of whether certain other requirements are met. The bill is awaiting its first hearing in the House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 1542](#) – by Senator George Gainer (R-Panama City) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee.

HB 9 - Consumer Data Privacy

[HB 9](#) by Representative Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota) would require collectors to provide notice to consumers about data collection, sharing, & selling practices; provide consumers the right to request data be disclosed, deleted, or corrected & to opt-in or opt-out of sale or sharing of such data; provide nondiscrimination measures, methods for requesting data & opting-in or opting-out of sale or sharing of such data, private cause of action, enforcement, & jurisdiction; preempt regulation of consumer data collection, sharing, & selling to the state. The bill is awaiting its first hearing in the House Commerce Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1864](#) – by Senator Jennifer Bradley (R-Orange Park) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

Acceptance of Cash Payments by Businesses

[HB 233](#) by Representative Matt Willhite (D-Wellington) would require certain businesses to accept cash payments for services; prohibit fees or conditions for such transactions; provide exceptions, penalties, & rulemaking authority. The bill is awaiting its first hearing in the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 408](#) – by Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) is awaiting its first committee stop in the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee.

Vacation Rentals

[HB 325](#) by Representative Jason Fischer (R-Jacksonville) would require advertising platforms to collect & remit taxes for certain transactions; revise regulated activities of public lodging establishments & public food service establishments preempted to state; expand authority of local laws, ordinances, or regulations to include requiring vacation rentals to register with local vacation rental registration programs; preempt regulation of advertising platforms to state; authorize division to issue & deliver notice to cease & desist for certain violations; provide that such notice does not constitute agency action for which hearings may be sought; authorize division to collect attorney fees & costs; authorize division to impose fine on advertising platforms for violations. The bill is awaiting its first hearing in the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 512](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) is awaiting its first stop in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee. The Senate bill is awaiting its second hearing in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

Evidentiary Standards for Actions Arising During an Emergency

[HB 411](#) by Representative Lauren Melo (R-Naples) would provide specified actions taken by business during declared emergencies may not be used as evidence in certain civil causes of action. The bill is scheduled to receive its second hearing in the House Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee on Wednesday, January 19. The Senate companion – [SB 542](#) – by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) is scheduled to receive its final committee hearing on Thursday, January 20 in the Senate Rules Committee.

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 20 – September 24, 2021	1 st Interim Committee Week
October 11 – October 15, 2021	2 nd Interim Committee Week
October 18 – October 22, 2021	3 rd Interim Committee Week
November 1 – November 5, 2021	4 th Interim Committee Week
November 15 – November 19, 2021	5 th Interim Committee Week
November 29 – December 3, 2021	6 th Interim Committee Week
January 11, 2022	Regular Session Convenes
March 1, 2022	Last Day for Regular Committee Meetings
March 11, 2022	Last Day of Regular Session

We will continue to monitor these issues for FAA members and provide regular updates.