



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: February 15, 2022

RE: Fifth Week of Session Summary – Week of February 7 - February 11, 2022

The Florida Legislature has officially passed the halfway point of the 2022 Legislative Session and with only four weeks remaining, legislators and advocates are preparing for a busy final month in Tallahassee. During the upcoming weeks, legislative committees and the House and Senate chambers will consider and pass substantial bills before the legislation goes to Governor Ron DeSantis for final approval.

The House and Senate are also ready to debate and consider their respective budgets for FY 2022-23. The proposed House budget of \$108.5 billion is \$3.3 billion higher than the Senate's proposal of \$105.2 billion. Over the next three to four weeks, House and Senate leaders will seek to close the funding gap and align the Legislature's final proposed budget with Governor DeSantis' \$99.6 billion budget recommendation.

We are pleased to report that \$50 million for VISIT FLORIDA is contained in both the House and Senate budget proposals and Governor DeSantis has been supportive of the continued funding of the tourism marketing agency. Key budget issues that remain include the final funding level for cultural and museum grant programs, as well as the funding level for state park renovations and maintenance. These issues will be ironed out during the budget conference process.

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 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 awaits consideration on the House floor. The Senate companion - [SB 434](#) – by Senator Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor) is awaiting action in the House.

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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 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 passed the House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee on Tuesday, February 8th and awaits its second hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1542](#) – by Senator George Gainer (R-Panama City) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce & Tourism 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.

Local Tax Referenda Requirements

[HB 777](#) by Representative Will Robinson (R-Bradenton) would require referenda elections related to tourist development taxes, tourist impact taxes, children's services & independent special district property taxes, increases in county & municipal ad valorem tax millages, ninth-cent fuel tax, local option fuel taxes, & certain school district millage elections to be held on day of general elections. The bill awaits its final hearing in the House State Affairs Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1194](#) – by Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) is awaiting its final hearing in the Senate Appropriations 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 passed the House Commerce Committee unanimously on Thursday, February 10th. 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 awaits its second hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 512](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) awaits a final hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Evidentiary Standards for Actions Arising During an Emergency

[HB 411](#) by Representative Lauren Melo (R-Naples) would provide specified actions taken by businesses during declared emergencies may not be used as evidence in certain civil causes of action. The bill awaits consideration on the House floor. The Senate companion – [SB 542](#) – by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) has passed the Senate and is awaiting action in the House.

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.