



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: March 7, 2022

RE: Eighth Week of Session Summary – Week of February 28 - March 4, 2022

With only one week remaining in the 2022 Legislative Session, policy bills that have not been passed by the House and Senate must do so during the final week for the bill to have a chance to be signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis. During the final week, the House can only consider bills on third and final reading or bills sent over from the Senate, while the House and Senate can also consider bills that have been passed by the other chamber or bills that are sitting in messages. If a bill is amended on the floor, the other chamber must adopt the amendment or the legislation will not pass.

Joint Budget Conference Committees began meeting last week and made progress in closing the \$3.3 billion funding difference between the House and Senate budget proposals. From Tuesday-Thursday, Joint Budget Conference Subcommittees met numerous times to bridge the funding gaps. Unresolved budget items were “bumped” up to the Budget Conference At-Large Committee, led by Representative Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) as Chair and Senator Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) as Vice Chair. After convening on Friday night, the Budget Conference At-Large Committee met again on Saturday and Sunday, with Chair Trumbull and Vice Chair Stargel negotiating budget issues that were unresolved by their respective subcommittees.

One budget item that is important to FAA and its members is funding for VISIT FLORIDA in FY 2022-23. Chair Trumbull and Vice Chair Stargel have reached an agreement to fund VISIT FLORIDA at \$50 million in nonrecurring revenue for FY 2022-23. The House and Senate have also agreed on \$37.9 million for cultural and museum grants.

If unresolved budget issues remain following Representative Trumbull's and Senator Stargel's negotiations, those budget items will get bumped to House Speaker Chris Sprowls (R-Clearwater) and Senate President Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) for final consideration. Once the House and Senate have closed all funding differences and settled on a balanced budget, the final product enters a 72-hour "cooling

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off' period before the House and Senate floors can vote on it.

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 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 has been substituted for its Senate companion - [SB 434](#) – by Senator Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor), which extends the VISIT FLORIDA sunset until 2028. SB 434 awaits final consideration on the Senate floor.

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 has not received a final hearing in the House Commerce Committee, meaning the bill is likely dead. The Senate companion – [SB 1542](#) – by Senator George Gainer (R-Panama City) never received a committee hearing.

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 never received a committee hearing. The Senate companion - [SB 1898](#) – by Senator Gary Farmer Jr. (D-Fort Lauderdale) never received a committee hearing.

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 passed the House and Senate and awaits action by Governor DeSantis.

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 floor on March 2nd and awaits action in the Senate.

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 never received a committee hearing. The Senate companion – [SB 408](#) – by Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) never received a committee hearing.

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 did not receive a second hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 512](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) did not receive 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 business during declared emergencies may not be used as evidence in certain civil causes of action. The bill has been substituted for the Senate companion – [SB 542](#) – by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and SB 542 awaits action on the Senate floor.

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.