



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 22, 2024

RE: Second Week of Session Summary – Week of January 15 – January 19, 2024

Legislators convened in Tallahassee last week for the second week of the 2024 Legislative Session. Throughout the week, House and Senate committees and subcommittees met to consider numerous pieces of legislation, including legislation related to courtroom animal advocates, gaming, acceptance of cash payments by businesses, and vacation rentals.

The House is moving closer to passing a top priority of House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). On Wednesday, the House Judiciary Committee passed HB 1 - Social Media Use for Minors by Representatives Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota) and Tyler Sirois (R-Merritt Island) by a vote of 17-5. The bill would prohibit social media companies from allowing children under the age of 16 to create a social media account and would require social media platforms to institute an age-verification process for individuals 16 years of age and older. The House bill is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Tuesday, January 23. The Senate companion – SB 1788 by Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach) – awaits its first hearing the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Following Tuesday's Revenue Estimating Conference (REC), the Legislature's Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR) has increased the state's general revenue projections by approximately \$2.18 billion over the current and next fiscal year. With general revenue collections exceeding previous projections by more than \$1.2 billion since the beginning of FY 2023-24, the REC added \$1.59 billion to the projection for FY 2023-24. Additionally, the projected growth in general revenue during FY 2024-25 was increased by \$585.5 million by the REC, reflecting a two-year combined increase of \$2.18 billion. However, more than \$700 million has already been allocated for projects such as hurricane assistance and home-hardening. An increase to general revenue collections is important, as lawmakers begin crafting the state's budget for FY 2024-25.

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 and that we are monitoring closely.

Acceptance of Cash Payments by Businesses

[HB 35](#) by Representative Joel Rudman (R-Navarre) would require certain businesses to accept cash payments for certain transactions; prohibit fees or conditions for such transactions; provide applicability & civil penalties; require DACS to adopt rules. The bill is awaiting its first hearing in the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 106](#) – by Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) unanimously passed the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and General Government Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, January 17.

During Wednesday's committee meeting, Liberty Partners of Tallahassee Director of Client Relations Ethan Merchant testified before the committee in opposition to the bill. In his remarks, Ethan noted that 39% of FAA's members are either "cashless" or "partially cashless" and that this bill would be viewed as a new operating expense on attractions – many of which revised their payment system operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Thursday, the Liberty Partners team met with both bill sponsors. In their meetings with Senator Jones and Representative Rudman, Liberty Partners explained FAA's position on the bills and highlighted the new expense this mandate would have on attractions. Additionally, we talked through possible alternative solutions to the issues Senator Jones and Representative Rudman are seeking to address, and offered to be a resource as the bills move forward. We will continue working with both legislators to address FAA's concerns with the bill and remain in close contact with the legislators.

Employment and Curfew of Minors

[HB 49](#) by Representative Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) would revise certain employment restrictions for minors 16 & 17 years of age; revise age at which employment restrictions apply; require curfew adopted by county or municipal ordinance to include certain exceptions. The bill is scheduled to receive its final hearing in the House Commerce Committee on Tuesday, January 23. The Senate companion – [SB 1596](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

Workplace Heat Exposure Requirements/Employment Regulations

[HB 433](#) by Representative Tiffany Esposito (R-Fort Myers) would preempt the regulation of heat exposure requirements in workplace to the state; provide certain local laws, ordinances, resolutions, regulations, rules, codes, policies, & amendments are void & prohibited; require Department of Commerce to adopt rules relating to workplace heat exposure requirements if OSHA has not done so by date certain; prohibit local governments from mandating or imposing requirements or seeking information from persons relating to certain requirements. The bill is awaiting its second hearing in the House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 1492](#) – by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) is scheduled to receive its first hearing in the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee on Tuesday, January 23.

Tourist Development Tax

[HB 1599](#) by Representative Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) would prohibit the allocation of more than a certain percentage of tourist development tax (TDT) revenue from an individual project without a supermajority vote by a specified entity. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1748](#) – by Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) is scheduled to receive its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on Tuesday, January 23.

Tourist Development

[HB 1081](#) by Representative Juan Porras (R-Miami) would require certain counties to use revenue received from tourist development tax in a specified manner; require that charter county convention development moneys be distributed to certain entities for specified purposes; delete a specified notification requirement. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Regulatory Reform and Economic Development Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 1072](#) – by Senator Bryan Avila (R-Miami Gardens) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

Tourist Development Tax

[HB 1453](#) by Representative Susan Valdes (D-Tampa) would authorize proceeds of tourist development tax to be used toward funding incentives for the production of films & television series by certain production companies. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 872](#) – by Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

Appointment of Courtroom Animal Advocates

[HB 297](#) by Representative Lindsay Cross (D-St. Petersburg) would authorize a court to order a separate advocate be appointed in interests of justice for certain criminal proceedings regarding cat or dog's welfare or custody; provide judge's decision denying appointment is not subject to appeal; authorize appointed advocate to take certain actions involving proceedings and provide requirements for advocate. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 272](#) – by Senator Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) unanimously passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on January 16 and awaits its second hearing in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 18 – September 22, 2023	1st House Interim Committee Week
October 9 – October 13, 2023	1st Senate Interim Committee Week
October 16 – October 20, 2023	2nd Interim Committee Week
November 6 – November 9, 2023	3rd Interim Committee Week
November 13 – November 17, 2023	4th Interim Committee Week
December 4 – December 7, 2023	5th Interim Committee Week
December 11 – December 15, 2023	6th Interim Committee Week
January 9, 2024	Regular Session Convenes
February 27, 2024	Last Day for Regular Committee Meetings
March 8, 2024	Last Day of Regular Session

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