



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 29, 2024

RE: Third Week of Session Summary – Week of January 22 – January 26, 2024

With three weeks of the 2024 Legislative Session behind us, policy bills continue to make their way through the committee process before being considered on the House and Senate floors. Last week, the Senate and House announced their proposed budgets for FY 2024-25. The Senate is proposing a [\\$115.55 billion budget](#), compared to the House's [\\$115.94 billion proposal](#) – both of which are higher than Governor Ron DeSantis' proposed budget of [\\$114.45 billion](#). However, all three budget proposals are significantly less than the state's FY 2023-24 budget of \$119.1 billion.

Highlights of the Senate budget – SPB 2500 – include \$500 million for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund, up to \$455 million to retire outstanding state debt, and a 3% pay raise for all state employees. Additionally, the Senate is proposing \$39.4 million for Cultural and Museum Program Grants and Initiatives, as well as \$14.6 million for Historical Preservation Grants and Initiatives.

Governor DeSantis has proposed \$105 million for VISIT FLORIDA in his recommended budget, compared to \$30 million in the House proposal and \$50 million in the Senate proposal. This item will be negotiated between the House and Senate during the upcoming budget conference process, before being sent to Governor DeSantis for final approval.

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 has not received a committee hearing. The Senate

companion – [SB 106](#) – by Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) is awaiting its final hearing in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

The Liberty Partners team has been working with both bill sponsors and staff to address FAA’s concerns with this language, as 39% of FAA members are either “cashless” or “partially cashless” and this bill would be a new operating expense on attractions.

FAA members in opposition to these bills are encouraged to contact Senator Jones and Representative Rudman and express your concerns with this legislation. [Click here](#) to email Senator Jones or call his Tallahassee office at (850) 487-5034. [Click here](#) to email Representative Rudman or call his Tallahassee office at (850) 717-5003.

We look forward to continue working with Senator Jones and Representative Rudman on this issue.

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 has passed all committees and is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on February 1. The Senate companion – [SB 1596](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on January 30.

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 State Affairs Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1492](#) – by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) is awaiting its second hearing in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

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 awaiting its second hearing in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

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 scheduled to be heard in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on January 30.

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) 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.