



## 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, Director of Client Relations

**DATE:** February 12, 2024

**RE:** Fifth Week of Session Summary – Week of February 5 – February 9, 2024

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We have passed the midway point of the 2024 Legislative Session. Lawmakers will continue to work on passing policy bills and a balanced budget for FY 2024-25 before adjourning Sine Die on March 8, 2024. More than 1,900 bills have been filed to date, however, with numerous committees and subcommittees no longer meeting this session, legislators and advocates are making their final push to get legislative priorities across the finish line.

Last week, the House and Senate passed their proposed budgets off their respective floors, putting both chambers in position to negotiate spending differences during the upcoming budget conference process. However, there are a couple of key differences in the Senate spending plan - [SB 2500](#) – which totals \$115.94 billion, compared to the House proposal - [HB 5001](#) - which totals \$115.55 billion. Contrasts include funding differences for capital improvements within the state prison system, as well as a 3% cost of living increase for state employees enrolled in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) before July 1, 2011.

The Legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis are also moving forward with addressing homelessness in the state. [HB 1365](#) by Representative Sam Garrison (R-Fleming Island) and [SB 1530](#) by Senator Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) would prohibit camping or sleeping on public property without a specific permit at the designated area. The bills would also give the state enforcement authority to ensure local governments comply with provisions in the legislation. Governor DeSantis is also supportive of increased funding for homeless shelters and substance abuse/mental health treatment.

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 of Tallahassee team continues to track and engage on this legislation on FAA’s behalf, as 39% of FAA members are either “partially cashless” or “cashless”. 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 passed the House floor by a vote of 80-35 on February 1. The House bill has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee for consideration. The Senate companion – [SB 1596](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) awaits its second hearing in the Senate Regulated Industries 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 State Affairs Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1492](#) – by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) awaits its final hearing in the Senate Rules 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) awaits its final hearing in the Senate Appropriations 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 second hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1072](#) – by Senator Bryan Avila (R-Miami Gardens) awaits its second hearing in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

**Affordable Housing in Counties Designated as Areas of Critical State Concern**

[HB 1297](#) by Representative Jim Mooney (R-Key Largo) would exclude land designated as area of critical state concern from county & municipality affordable housing provisions; provide for ad valorem property tax exemption of specified amount for certain property used to provide affordable housing; specify that certain housing units may be eligible for tax exemptions if certain requirements are met; add certain requirements to local comprehensive plans relating to hurricane evaluation study; revise powers of land authority; provide requirements for conveying affordable housing homeownership units; provide lien status prioritization for certain purposes; exclude land designated as area of critical state concern within specified time period from award requirements made to specified sponsors or persons for purpose of providing eligible housing as part of local housing assistance plan; authorize counties that have been designated as areas of critical state concern to use tourist development tax revenue & tourist impact tax revenue for affordable housing; require affordable housing financed with such funds to maintain its status for specified period of time; provide for distribution of such funds. The bill awaits its final hearing in the House State Affairs Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1456](#) – by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) is awaiting its second hearing in the Senate Finance and Tax 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**

<del>September 18 – September 22, 2023</del>	<del>1<sup>st</sup> House Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>October 9 – October 13, 2023</del>	<del>1<sup>st</sup> Senate Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>October 16 – October 20, 2023</del>	<del>2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>November 6 – November 9, 2023</del>	<del>3<sup>rd</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>November 13 – November 17, 2023</del>	<del>4<sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>December 4 – December 7, 2023</del>	<del>5<sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>December 11 – December 15, 2023</del>	<del>6<sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>January 9, 2024</del>	<del>Regular Session Convenes</del>
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.