

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Burt L. Saunders

DATE: May 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Legislative Update for the Week Ending May 1

Introduction

The 2015 legislative session concluded on a dramatic note this week, with the House of Representatives' abrupt departure from Tallahassee on Tuesday. The Senate continued to meet through Friday, although it was effectively unable to pass any legislation that had not been approved by the House by the end of the day on Tuesday. This resulted in the unplanned death of a number of issues: These include cuts to the communications services tax, the Florida Health Insurance Exchange, the implementation of Amendment 1 (although all of the trust funds were established, the source of the funding was not), the renewal of the Enterprise Zone program, the re-distribution of juvenile justice costs, changes to the state's water resources legislation, the comprehensive transportation package, law enforcement officer body cameras, local government pension reform, and the requirement that counties pay for the relocation of utilities. In addition to that, the House and Senate will be required to meet sometime prior to July 1 for a special session to discuss the state's looming budget crisis, which has resulted from the disagreement between the two Houses over the expansion of Medicaid and the end of the Medicaid Low Income Pool. On April 30, Senate President Andy Gardiner proposed a special session to be held between June 1 and June 20; House Speaker Steve Crisafulli has yet to officially respond to this proposal, although it seems likely that he will agree to meet on those dates.

Proposed Tax Cuts

HB 7141: Relating to Taxation

HB 7141, formerly known as PCB FTC5 in the House Finance and Tax Committee, would have provided for a range of tax reductions designed to directly impact both households and businesses. The bill would have cut the communications services tax rate from 6.65% to 3.05% and the state sales tax rate on rental of commercial real estate from 6% to 5.8%. It also would

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have created sales tax exemptions for agricultural items, irrigation equipment, repairs of farm equipment, sales at school book fairs, college textbooks, recycling machinery, gun club memberships, and motor vehicles brought into Florida by military service members deployed outside the United States. The bill would have created a three-day sales tax holiday for “back to school” clothing, footwear, school supplies, and computers; a one-day sales tax holiday on November 28 (Black Friday) for sales of items priced at \$1,000 or less by certain small businesses; and a one-day sales-tax holiday on July 4 for firearms, ammunition, camping tents, and fishing supplies. The property tax exemption for widows, widowers, the blind, and the permanently and totally disabled would have been increased from \$500 to \$5,000, and the partial homestead exemption for military service members deployed overseas would have been expanded. The total tax credit available for the voluntary cleanup of brownfields would have been increased, and the bill would have created a corporate income tax credit for defense contractors that hire Florida subcontractors. The Community Contribution Tax Credit program would have been expanded by \$13.3 million for one year. The obsolete Florida estate tax and the \$5 fee to register certain vehicles to transport alcoholic beverages would have been eliminated.

Overall, the bill would have provided for \$642.4 million in tax cuts, which is slightly less than the Governor’s recommended \$670 million in cuts. HB 7141 passed in the House of Representatives, and it was referred to the Senate Appropriations and Rules committees. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard, although its language may go into the budget implementation bill.

HB 391: Location of Utilities

HB 391, sponsored by Representative Ingram, would require municipalities and counties to pay for the relocation of utilities for the development of public property. Historically, this had been paid for by the utility companies, and currently most states continue to have utilities pay for those costs. HB 391 was filed on January 20, passed in the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee on March 3, passed in the House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee on March 12, and passed in the Regulatory Affairs Committee on April 14. HB 391 will now move to the floor of the House. A companion Senate bill, SB 896, by Senator Brandes, was filed on February 13, passed in the Senate Community Affairs committee on March 23, and passed in the Senate Transportation Committee on April 2. It passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 21, and it passed in the House on April 24. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard.

An amendment filed on April 13 by Representative Ingram changed the requirements for counties to pay for the costs of utility relocation. Counties would have been required to pay for utility relocation unless the project were a road project, in which case the utility company would have had to pay for the relocation.

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SB 264: Relating to Traffic Enforcement Agencies and Traffic Citations

SB 264 and its House companion, HB 421, would prohibit counties and municipalities from establishing or maintaining traffic citation quotas. It would also require auditing reports to be made on local governments' traffic citation revenues and expenses. SB 264 was filed on January 7, passed in the Senate Transportation Committee on February 5, and passed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development on February 18. SB 264 was found favorable in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on March 5, and it passed in the Senate on April 8. It passed on the House floor on April 22. Its identical House bill, HB 421, has passed in the House Highway and Waterway Safety Subcommittee, the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee, and the House Economic Affairs Committee. It was substituted for SB 264 on April 24, which passed in the Senate. It will now go to the Governor for signing.

SB 7044: Health Insurance Affordability Exchange

SB 7044, filed in the Senate Health Policy Committee, would have provided an alternative funding method for charity hospitals in the event of the cancellation of Federal Medicaid Low Income Pool funding. The bill would have established the Florida Health Insurance Affordability Exchange (FHIX), which would have provided healthcare coverage to individuals in households that make less than 138% of the Federal poverty level. In effect, the program would have served as an alternative to the Medicaid expansion provision of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Participants in the program would have been required to provide proof of employment, continuing education, on-the-job training, or placement activities, and they would have been required to apply for high-deductible traditional health insurance plans. Enrollees would have been required to make monthly premium payments, which would have been supplemented by the state based on their personal income, with the maximum monthly premium being capped at \$25. SB 7044 was filed on March 5, passed in the Senate Health Policy Committee on March 10, passed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services on March 17, and passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 25. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard, although it will be a major component of the budget negotiations in June.

Regional Planning Councils

HB 933: Relating to Growth Management

HB 933, sponsored by Representative La Rosa, makes a number of significant changes to Florida's growth management regulations.

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The first change would be to require all projects that qualify as “developments of regional impact” (DRIs) to be reviewed under the State Coordinated Review Process before being accepted. New projects would not be subject to the current DRI review process.

In addition to that, the bill would overhaul the state’s existing system of Regional Planning Councils (RPCs). The bill designates 10 new RPCs, and it removes the requirement that developers propose their projects to the RPCs for approval before commencing construction. HB 933 removes the governor’s power to make and amend the boundaries of the RPCs, with that duty being transferred to the State Legislature. RPCs would no longer be required to review urbanized area transportation plans, and the bill deletes the requirement that RPCs hold informational public meetings if their local governments refuse to do so. HB 933 eliminates the requirement that RPCs participate in the land use and certification hearings regarding new power plants, and it removes the requirement that RPCs assist the Department of Environmental Protection in site selection for hazardous waste disposal sites. RPCs would be appropriated \$2.5 million in General Revenue funds for their operations. Finally, it removes the requirement that RPCs make joint reports to their legislative committees, although RPCs would still be required to report to the state land planning agency.

Mitigation and share payments would be limited to 125% of the applicable mobility or impact fees, and the bill eliminates local governments’ ability to charge developers for the removal of vegetation from roadway right-of-ways.

Local governments that have comprehensive zoning plans would be required to include, “...a property rights element that protects private property rights”, as a part of those plans. These local governments would be required to adopt land development regulations consistent with the property rights element of their comprehensive zoning plans.

Other sections of the bill amend provisions relating to sector plans, constrained agricultural parcels, and the Property Assessed Clean Energy program. HB 933 was filed on February 23, passed in the House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee on March 25, and passed in the House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee on April 7. It passed in the Economic Affairs Committee on April 14, and it was substituted for its Senate companion bill, SB 1216, and passed on April 23. It will now go to the Governor for signing.

HB 7067: Relating to Economic Development

HB 7067, filed in the House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and sponsored by Representative La Rosa, would have radically re-structured the state’s economic development incentive tax refund and grant programs. This comes in response to the scheduled end of the Enterprise Zone program at the end of 2015. The bill required “cumulative capital investment” to be considered as part of the tax incentive applications, clarified that the model used to determine

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a project's "economic benefits" must include all state funds spent on a business, prohibited incentive agreements with terms lasting longer than ten years, specified that the average wage used to determine incentive eligibility is the average wage of the county where the project is located, defines "rural areas of opportunity", exempted certain new developments from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency, or proportionate share requirements for three years, created the Startup Florida Initiative, made minor wording changes to the New Markets Development Program and the Florida Development Finance Corporation, and created a new state-administered enterprise zone certification program

This bill would also have re-started the Enterprise Zone program. Local governments would have been permitted to adopt resolutions creating local enterprise zones, which would have exempted all newly established businesses from business taxes, impact fees, business, professional, and occupational regulatory fees, green utility fees, building permit fees, and many special assessments for a minimum of 24 months. Local governments would have been required to submit an application to the Department of Economic Opportunity for certification of an area as an enterprise zone.

HB 7067 was filed on March 9 as PCB EDTS3. It passed in the Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee on March 31, and it passed in the Economic Affairs Committee on April 14. It passed on the House floor on April 24. A companion bill in the Senate, SB 1214, by Senator Latvala, was filed on February 24, passed in the Commerce and Tourism Committee on March 10, passed in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development on March 19, and passed in the Appropriations Committee on April 21. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, these bills will not be heard during this session. In effect, the failure to pass this bill signals the end of the Enterprise Zone program; however, this issue may be brought up during the special session.

HB 7003: Relating to Water Resources

HB 7003, sponsored by Representative Caldwell, was a bill that would have revised a large number of provisions of Florida's water resource management policies. These revisions included designating the state's first and second magnitude springs as Priority Florida Springs (PFSs), requiring water management districts to improve their spring preservation policies regarding PFSs, requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to develop and implement a new uniform water supply, permitting, and resource plan with each of the state's water management districts, and requiring the DEP to provide a five-year funding plan for each of its water resource development projects. The bill was filed on February 12, and it passed in the House Appropriations Committee on February 19. It passed on the floor of the House on March 5. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard during this session, although parts of it may be discussed again during the budget negotiations.

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SB 918: An Act Relating to Environmental Resources

SB 918, sponsored by Senator Dean, would have created a public database containing information on all of the state's public lands. The bill also would have allowed for the expansion of the Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network, which is a network of hiking and biking trails throughout the state's conservation lands. The state would have been authorized to contract with private, not-for-profit entities to patrol and maintain the network of trails. SB 918 would have expanded the requirements for the Consolidated Water Management District Annual Report, requiring the districts to list and prioritize all of their water quality projects, in order to provide better accounting of exactly how each of those projects would have benefited the community. In addition to this, the bill would have created a consolidated water resources work plan, which would have assisted in the process of planning and prioritizing water quality projects in all of the state's water management districts. Finally, the bill would have created special water quality management zones for the state's historic first magnitude springs, in order to allow for a consolidated effort between water management districts to maintain the water quality of those springs. SB 918 was filed on February 13, and it passed in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on March 24 and the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on April 8. It passed in the Appropriations Committee on April 21. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard.

Implementation of Amendment 1

Amendment 1 is an amendment to the Florida state constitution that was passed in 2014. It fundamentally alters the way that documentary tax stamp revenues are spent by redistributing 33% those revenues to the Department of Environmental Protection's Land Acquisition Trust Fund, and it consolidates the vast array of environmental protection trust funds that the state currently maintains into a smaller and better organized set of funds within the Department of Environmental Protection, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Department of Transportation. The amendment also prohibits those funds from becoming mixed with other sources of revenue, which previously made it virtually impossible to accurately determine how much money was going into the environmental protection trust funds.

SB 586

SB 586 would have provided for the distribution of 33% of the state's documentary tax stamp revenues directly to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund of the Department of Environmental Protection. It also would have eliminated the funding provisions for all of the now-obsolete environmental trust funds, and it would have required that all future disbursements to the new set

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of environmental trust funds will come directly from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. This was the primary goal of Amendment 1, which passed with nearly 75% of the vote in November 2014. SB 586 was filed on January 30, and it was found favorable in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on February 18. It passed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on March 11 and in the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 18. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard during the regular legislative session, although its language may be included in the budget implementation bill that will be drafted sometime in June or July.

SB 584

SB 584 covers the trust fund restructuring requirement of Amendment 1. It stipulates that documentary tax stamp funding will no longer be mixed with other sources of revenue and fees, and that the revenue from the documentary tax stamp will only be deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. SB 584 would also restructure or terminate a number of existing environmental trust funds, with the majority of those funds being consolidated into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. SB 584 does not terminate any programs that currently receive state funding; it simply consolidates them into a smaller set of funds, which will ease the accounting and distribution process. SB 584 was filed on January 30, and it was found favorable in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on February 18. It passed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on March 11 and in the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 18. It passed on the floor of the Senate on April 1 and on the floor of the House on April 2. It will now go to the Governor for signing.

Creation of New Land Acquisition Trust Funds

Four bills filed by Senator Dean on January 30 will create several divisions of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of State, and the Department of Transportation. Documentary tax stamp revenues deposited within the Department of Environmental Protection's Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) will be further appropriated to these trust funds, and from there they will be appropriated to various state environmental programs. This will allow every dollar deposited into the LATF at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to be easily tracked to its final destination. Senate Bills 576, 578, 580, and 582 were found favorable in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on February 18. These bills all passed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on March 11, and they passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 18. They passed the floor of the Senate on April 1 and on the floor of the House on April 2. It will now go to the Governor for signing.

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Transportation Bills

HB 7075: Relating to Transportation

HB 7075, filed in the House Transportation and Ports Subcommittee, is a committee bill that would have consolidated the language of numerous transportation bills into a single piece of legislation. Notably, it included some of the language that was formerly a part of HB 231, by Representative Passidomo, which would have re-defined the state's existing bicycle safety legislation to include pedestrians and people riding virtually every form of non-motorized vehicle in a bicycle lane. The bill would also have defined what constitutes a bodily injury in the case of an accident with a bicyclist or anyone else using a non-motorized vehicle. In addition to all of this, HB 231 would have clarified that every part of the vehicle, including parts that extend from it, such as the side mirrors, must be no closer than three feet from a bicyclist when passing him or her. The bill would have prohibited drivers from making right-hand turns in front of bicyclists or pedestrians, and it would have prohibited harassing, taunting, or throwing objects from a car at bicyclists or pedestrians. The bill also would have proscribed misdemeanor penalties for any of these violations that do not cause bodily injury, and additional criminal penalties if they do cause bodily injury. Finally, the bill would have required that anyone applying for a driver's license be tested on his or her knowledge of bicycle and pedestrian safety laws before being granted a Florida driver's license.

HB 7075 kept HB 231's language referring to noncriminal traffic infractions leading to injury or death, which stated that any individual that commits a noncriminal traffic violation leading to serious injury or death within five years of committing a previous violation shall have his or her license suspended for a period of one year. HB 7075 also retained HB 231's definition of "serious bodily injury". Notably, HB 7075 did not include any references to bicycles or other non-motorized vehicles, which were the main focus of Passidomo's bill.

HB 7075 was filed as PCB TPS2 on March 12, passed in the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee on March 24, passed in the Economic Affairs Committee on April 2, and passed in the House on April 16. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard.

SB 908: Relating to Transportation

SB 908, sponsored by Senator Altman, would have strengthened the state's current transportation safety regulations regarding pedestrian safety. The bill required that all every part of a motorized vehicle maintain a passing distance of at least three feet when passing nonmotorized vehicles, and it prohibited motorized vehicles from making right turns in front of nonmotorized vehicles unless they could be made at a safe distance. It established that these violations were punishable

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as non-criminal moving violations. The bill also prohibited taunting or harassing pedestrians or bicyclists, and it established that a first offence is a first-degree misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of at least \$250 or no more than thirty days in jail. SB 908 was filed on February 13, and it passed in the Senate Transportation Committee on March 26. It passed in the Criminal Justice Committee on April 7, and it passed in the Fiscal Policy Committee on April 15. It passed in the Senate on April 24. It was not heard in the House, and thus the bill has died.

Its companion bill in the House, HB 231, by Representative Passidomo, was filed on January 12, passed in the Highway and Waterway Safety Committee on March 11, passed in the Criminal Justice Subcommittee on March 24, passed in the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee on April 7, and passed in the Economic Affairs Committee on April 14.

Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, HB 231 will not be heard in the House or the Senate, thus killing the bicycle safety issue for this legislative session.

HB 113: Relating to Local Government Construction Preferences

HB 113, sponsored by Representative Perry, prohibits local governments from establishing ordinances that restrict a contractor's right to bid for construction contracts if that contractor does business primarily in the state of Florida. It also requires that public entities, such as state colleges and universities, public school districts, and other political subdivisions, disclose information about the use of funds appropriated by the state for construction projects that require a competitive bidding process, as long as at least 20% of the funding for the project comes from the state. It establishes a preference for Florida-based contractors in the bidding process, even if an out-of-state contractor is able to provide a slightly better bid. The bill was filed on December 16, and it passed the House Government Operations Subcommittee on February 4. It passed in the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee on March 3, and it passed in the House Appropriations Committee on March 19. It passed in the House State Affairs Committee on April 8, and it will now move to the House floor. Its companion Senate bill, SB 778, was filed on February 13, passed in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on March 4, and passed in the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on March 17. It passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 25, and it was substituted for SB 778 on April 23. It will now be sent to the Governor.

HB 383: Relating to Private Property Rights

HB 383 would fundamentally change the way that property use settlements are handled at the county level. It requires that any governmental entity wishing to make use of private property prove that the use of that property provides some sort of benefit to the county or municipality in question. It also stipulates that a property owner may bring legal action against the county or

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municipality if he or she feels that the governmental entity is not using his or her property for a purpose that benefits the jurisdiction in question. The bill also allows for the reward of damages if the property owner feels that his or her property was used in an unconstitutional manner, even if the issues were previously resolved. HB 383 was filed on January 20, and it passed in the House Subcommittee on Civil Justice on February 10. It passed the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee on March 18, and it is now in the House Appropriations Committee, where passed on March 31. It passed in the House Judiciary Committee on April 8, and it passed on the House floor on April 24. A companion bill in the Senate, SB 284, by Senator Diaz de la Portilla, was filed on January 7, passed in the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on March 24, passed in the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on April 14, and passed in the Appropriations Committee on April 21. It passed in the Senate and was sent to the Governor on April 28.

This section does not apply to any actions taken by a county with respect to the adoption of a Flood Insurance Rate Map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, unless such adoption incorrectly applies an aspect of the Flood Insurance Rate Map to the property, in such a way as to, but not limited to, incorrectly assess the elevation of the property.

HB 623: Relating to Weapons or Firearms

HB 623, sponsored by Representative Rouson, would have prohibited discharging a firearm on any residential property, which is currently legal in Florida, provided that the homeowner provides a proper berm. There are currently no restrictions on the acreage of the property required or the proximity to major roadways, railways, or canals. The bill was filed on February 5, and it has been referred to the House Criminal Justice, Local Government Affairs, Local and Federal Affairs, and Judiciary Subcommittees. It was assigned to the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee on February 18, and it failed on March 24. There is currently no Senate companion.

A compromise has been reached between the House of Representatives and the NRA that may allow this issue to be brought back to life in a future bill. The ban has been loosened to apply only to property that is zoned for one unit per acre or more.

Pension and Health Insurance Reform

SB 516: An Act Relating to Health Insurance Coverage for Emergency Services

SB 516, sponsored by Senators Bean and Garcia, would have prohibited insurance companies from requiring prior authorization before providing coverage to EMS personnel. The bill would have required that the service be provided regardless of whether or not the provider was a

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participating provider under the insurance company's policy. The bill was filed on January 26, and it has since been referred to the Senate Banking and Insurance, Health Policy, and Appropriations committees. It was scheduled to be heard in the Banking and Insurance Committee on March 31, but it was postponed. It had a companion House bill, HB 681, which was filed on February 10 and passed in the House Insurance and Banking heard on March 18. It passed in the Appropriations Committee on March 31, and it passed in the Health & Human Services Committee on April 9. Notably, HB 681 had been amended to remove counties as the required health insurance providers. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, these bills will not be heard during this legislative session.

SB 172: Relating to Local Government Pension Reform

SB 172, sponsored by Senators Bradley and Ring, is a bill that radically changes the way that insurance premium tax revenues would be applied to firefighter and law enforcement pensions under Chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes. Under the current system, all tax revenues equivalent to the 1997 insurance premium tax revenues must be applied to pensions for firefighters and law enforcement officers, while any revenues beyond the 1997 level are applied as "extra benefits", which may or may not be allocated to the pension system.

SB 172 makes a number of changes to this system. It raises the annual accrual rate on the state pensions from 2.0% to 2.75%, which significantly increases the interest accrued on those pensions. The bill also sets a cap of 300 overtime hours per year for pension benefits. This is significant because those benefits are currently calculated based on overall salary, which includes overtime. The bill clarifies that the 1997 tax revenue level constitutes the "minimum benefits" that must be provided under Chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes, and the remainder must be used to fund additional "special benefits", which are up to the discretion of the local agencies in charge of distributing the pensions.

SB 172 passed in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability committee, in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on February 17, and in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on March 26. It passed on the Senate floor on April 22, and it passed on the House floor on April 24. Its equivalent House bill, HB 341, passed in the House Governmental Operations Subcommittee on March 11. It passed in the State Affairs Committee on April 8, and it was substituted for SB 172 on April 24. It passed in the Senate, and will now be sent to the Governor.

HB 105: Relating to Publicly Funded Retirement Programs

HB 105 allows any municipal fire department that provides service to another municipality under an interlocal agreement to receive property insurance premium tax revenues from that municipality for the purpose of paying for retirement pensions for firefighters. Previously, areas served by an interlocal agreement did not pay those revenues to the fire department that served

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them; rather, those revenues went directly into the local general revenue fund. This bill eliminates that loophole in the existing statute, thus providing an additional source of revenue for local firefighter pensions. HB 105 passed in the House Government Operations Subcommittee on March 4, in the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee on March 18, in the House Finance and Tax Committee on March 3, and in the State Affairs Committee on April 8. It passed on the floor of the House on April 16, and it was substituted for SB 216 on April 24. SB 216, sponsored by Senator Bradley, passed in the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on March 10 and in the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 9. It passed in the Senate on April 24, and will now go to the Governor.

SB 1414: An Act Relating to Juvenile Justice Costs

SB 1414, sponsored by Senator Bradley, would have required that juvenile justice costs be split between county governments and the state government, with counties paying 60% of the costs and the state paying the remaining 40%. Fiscally constrained counties would have been exempt from this funding provision. SB 1414 was filed on February 26, and it passed in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice on April 8. It is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee. A similar committee bill in the House (albeit with a 57%-43% split between the counties and the state), HB 5201, was filed on March 19, and passed in the House Appropriations Committee on March 25. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard, although its language may go into the budget implementation bill.

On April 22, Florida Division of Administrative Hearings Judge David Watkins issued his ruling regarding juvenile detention cost share. While there were many arguments made during the course of this rule challenge, the judge ruled with counties on all but one of them. The judge ruled that DJJ should not automatically assume that a juvenile arrested within two days of impending incarceration has committed a new violation and charge counties accordingly, that if an adjudicated juvenile is on probation and is arrested for the new violation, the state is responsible for those costs, that the DJJ should use actual costs, not a legislative appropriation to determine the individual county cost share, that counties are required by law to be consulted when DJJ is estimating and reconciling billing costs, and that the existing law clearly states that DJJ is responsible for "preadjudicatory non-medical educational or therapeutic services", yet this was not a cost assumed in the rule.

HB 57: An Act Relating to Law Enforcement Officer Body Cameras

HB 57, sponsored by Representatives Jones and Williams, would have required that any law enforcement agency that allows its officers to wear body cameras establish proper policies and procedures for the use of those cameras. The agencies would also have been required to perform an annual review of the effectiveness of their body camera rules and procedures. HB 57 was filed

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on December 4, and it passed in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee on February 11, the House Appropriations Committee on March 19, and it passed in the House Judiciary Committee on April 14. It was never heard in the House. A similar committee bill in the Senate, SB 7080, was filed on April 2, and passed in the Fiscal Policy Committee on April 20. Due to the departure of the House of Representatives on April 28, this bill will not be heard.