



MEMORANDUM

Jean Monestime

Chairman

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor
Honorable Esteban Bovo, Vice Chair and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

Date: June 2, 2016

Cc: Christopher Agrippa, Director, Clerk of the Board

From: Jean Monestime, Chairman

Re: 2016 Florida Legislature
End-of Session Report

This legislative session, the Governor approved a state budget totaling approximately \$82 billion. The Governor vetoed a large number of projects in the budget totaling \$256 million. The line item vetoes were a result of the Legislature not funding the Governor's priorities, including \$250 million for an economic development enterprise fund and \$1 billion in tax cuts and approval of a Seminole Gaming Compact.

The following report provides the status of legislation and appropriations related to Miami-Dade County from the 2016 session of the Florida Legislature that concluded upon Sine Die on March 11, 2016.

The information compiled was provided by Miami-Dade's contract lobbyists, CAO Jess McCarty and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The sections are broken down as follows: "Section A" addresses Miami-Dade County Priorities as set by the Board of County Commissioners and other issues of significance; Sections B through H address issues in various policy areas.

A. **Miami-Dade Priorities & Other Key Issues:**

1. **Miami-Dade Transportation/Rail Funding/Transportation TIF/Express Bus funding - DIED-** SB 1372 by Sen. Anitere Flores (R-Miami); HB 1377 by Jeanette Nunez (R-Miami); Miami-Dade Transportation/Rail Funding/Transportation TIF/Express Bus funding. These bills were filed without reflecting the language that was originally submitted. As filed, the bills directed funding and oversight on each of these County priorities to MDX. The County maintained that the County is the proper entity, since MDX is not a taxing authority. This issue was a County priority and the subject of Motion: 04-21-15 BCC.
2. **Home Rule Charter/Elected Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector -DIED-** SJR 648; HJR 165: Home Rule Charter/Elected Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector. HJR 165 would have amended the state constitution to require that the offices of sheriff, property appraiser, and supervisor of elections, tax collector and clerk of the court be elected offices and carry four year terms.
3. **Economic Development/Film Incentives-DIED-** SB 1646 by Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater); HB 1325 by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) Early in the Session, the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations subcommittee debated an omnibus economic development bill, SB 1646 (Latvala), that would have restructured the state's economic incentive and development programs. In the House HB 1325 passed and included several incentives but with the lack of budget negotiations, the bills did not pass. This issue was a County priority and subject of Resolution No. R-743-15 and Resolution No. R-782-15.
4. **Medical Examiner Fee Preemption -DIED-** SB 620 by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring); HB 315 by Rep. Kenneth L. Roberson (R-Port Charlotte). These bills would have capped what medical examiners could charge the public for certain examinations, investigations, or autopsies.
5. **Trails Funding** –
 - a. Ludlam Trail: \$3 million -
 - b. The Underline: \$2 million
 - c. Black Creek Trail: \$0
 - d. Biscayne-Everglades Park-to-Park Greenway: \$0
 - e. SunTrail: \$25 million

It is anticipated that \$25 million from the *current* state fiscal year 2015-16 will be combined with \$25 million for 2016-17 for a total of \$50 million that will be available for grants to trails, with funding going first to the Central Florida Coast-to-Coast Connector, a second regional trail and then to individual trails. Projects that are the subject of a line item veto are not eligible for funding through other programs for the applicable fiscal year per section 216.179, Florida Statutes.

This issue was a County priority and the subject of Resolution No. R-617-15 and Resolution No. R-915-15.

6. **Elderly Meals/Local Service Programs -FUNDED-** All recurring meals and local services projects in the base in the Department of Elder Affairs were fully funded. Several Miami-Dade programs also received additional non-recurring funds. Projects which received additional funding are:

- City of Hialeah Gardens-Hot Meals \$215,000
- City of Hialeah Meals Program- \$1,150,000
- Little Havana Activities Center- Local Services Program \$50,000

7. **Local Government Budgeting/Maximum Millage Rate -DIED-** HB 1015 by Rep. Jeanette Nunez (R-Miami); SB 1222 Sen. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) would have imposed new requirements on taxing authorities for posting information on its websites. As originally filed, HB 1015 would have required a supermajority votes to set millage rates that would generate more revenue from property taxes than was collected in the prior year, with adjustments for per capita Florida personal income and other factors. However, this language was removed.

8. **Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)/Uber -DIED-** SB 1118 by Sen. David Simmons (R-Orlando); HB 509 by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Okaloosa) would have preempted to the state the regulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and create a detailed regulatory framework for the operations of TNCs. This bill would have prohibited local governments from imposing taxes or licenses on TNCs relating to the provision of TNC service.

B. Library, Cultural Affairs and Parks & Recreation

9. **Library Grants to Local Governments -FUNDED-** \$24.4 million statewide. These funds are distributed by formula. This is the same amount as current year funding.

- Libraries -\$5 million
 - Library Construction Grant Ranked List -\$2 million
 - Library Construction Projects-\$1 million
 - Library Cooperatives-\$2 million

This issue was the subject of Resolution No. 782-15.

10. **Miami Military Museum -FUNDED-** \$1.5 million
This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-914-15.

11. **Cultural & Museum Grants -FUNDED-** \$20.6 million. Fully funds Department of State ranked list.

12. **Cultural Facilities Grants** -FUNDED- \$22.3 million. Fully funds Department of State ranked list.
13. **Historic Facilities Grants** -FUNDED- \$10.8 million. Funds 37 of 50 projects on ranked list, plus \$6.8 million in historic preservation projects.
14. **Culture Builds Florida** –FUNDED- \$1.7 million
15. **West End Tech Center/FIU** –FUNDED- \$1.25 million
16. **National Statuary Hall**- APPROVED- SB 310 by Sen. John Legg (R-Lutz) and HB 141 by Rep. Jose F. Diaz (R-Miami). provides that the Great Floridians Program within the Department of State (DOS) must select a prominent Florida citizen to replace General Edmund Kirby Smith's statue and be commemorated in the National Statuary Hall Collection. The Florida Council on Arts and Culture (council) must select a sculptor. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1121-15.

D. **Transportation & Economic Development Issues**

17. **Transportation/ Nonemergency Medical Transport Preemption/Seaport Grants/Tri-Rail** -APPROVED- HB 7061 by Rep. David Santiago (R- Deltona) provides the following:
 - a. An increase from \$15 million to \$25 million for the Florida Seaport and Economic Development (FSTED) grant program;
 - b. Language that would preempt local governments from limiting the types of vehicles that may be used for nonemergency medical transportation.

The final version of HB 7061 does not include language that would have facilitated Tri-Rail using FEC tracks into downtown Miami. The House passed HB 7061 with Tri-Rail language, but this language was removed on the Senate floor.
18. **Airport Zoning** –APPROVED- SB 1508 by Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey).The House and Senate passed SB 1508 limited only to airport zoning. Language related to tax increment financing districts and changes to growth management laws were amended out of SB 1508.
19. **Florida Department of Transportation**-APPROVED- HB 7027 by Transportation and Ports Subcommittee. HB 7027 is an omnibus bill related to the Florida Department of Transportation, that among other provisions:
 1. Reallocates \$10 million within the FDOT Work Program to the Florida Seaport and Economic Development (FSTED) Program, which increases the program's annual funding minimum from \$15 to \$25 million;
 2. Requires MPOs to consider infrastructure technological improvements necessary to accommodate advances in vehicle technology in long-range transportation plans;

3. Includes provisions related to autonomous vehicle technology and driver-assistive truck platooning technology;
4. Increases the length of time that a toll account must remain dormant before it is presumed unclaimed property.

20. Governor's Florida Enterprise Fund Economic Development Proposal -NOT FUNDED - This was issue was the subject of Resolution R-1168-15.

21. State Transportation Trust Fund -FUNDED- \$9.8 billion. Reflects full funding of FDOT Work Program.

22. Miami Design District Public Infrastructure Improvements -FUNDED- \$750,000. Funding is contingent on the City of Miami and/or Miami-Dade County providing a 50 percent match.

23. Seaport/Intermodal Grants- FUNDED- \$217 million

24. Aviation Development Grants-FUNDED-\$251 million

25. Rail Development Grants/Quiet Zones -FUNDED-\$10 million

27. Port Miami / Funding for Super Post Panamax -APPROVED- SB 756 by Department of Transportation – Increases the minimum amount that must be made available annually from the State Transportation Trust Fund to fund the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program; authorizing the department to enter into certain agreements related to the federal surface transportation project delivery program under certain federal law. The bill also authorizes the department's Pinellas Bayway System to be transferred by the department and become part of the turnpike system under the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Law. Finally, the bill creates a nonprofit corporation to be known as the "Florida Department of Transportation Financing Corporation".

E. Public Safety, Regulatory, Animal Services & Procurement

28. Gun Legislation- DIED- HB 163 by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Okaloosa). This bill would have allowed individuals with concealed carry permits to carry guns openly. Additionally, as amended, the bill would have also allowed those with concealed carry permits to take concealed weapons into the legislative chambers, as well as, university and college campuses. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1043-15 and Resolution No. 1044-15.

29. Sanctuary Cities/Federal Immigration Enforcement -DIED- HB 675 by Rep Larry Metz (R-Groveland) and SB 872 by Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville) would have created the "Rule of Law Adherence Act" which would require state and local governments and law

enforcement agencies, including their officials and employees to support and cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.

30. **Persons Subject to Final Deportation Orders -DIED-** HB 9 by Rep. Carlos Trujillo (R-Miami) and SB 118 by Sen. Travis Hudson (R-Palm Coast) would have created a felony in the first degree for anyone who remains in the state after an order of deportation.
31. **Security Measures at Gas Stations -APPROVED-** SB 912 by Sen. Anitere Flores (R-Miami), Revises the felony classification for unlawful conveyance of fuel; requires retail petroleum fuel measuring devices fitted with scanning devices to have certain security measures; requires the owner or operator of a device to have certain security measures in place within a specified timeframe upon notice from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
32. **Severe Injuries Caused by Dogs-APPROVED-** HB 91 by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota); SB 334 by Sen. Bill Montford (D-Quincy) HB 91 was approved by the Governor. It requires all severe injury cases for previously unclassified dogs to go through the dangerous dog classification process. This bill addressed constitutional problems with the dangerous dog statutes.
33. **HB 93: Police Body Cameras -APPROVED-** HB 93 by Rep. Shevrin D. Jones (D – West Park) exempts police body camera recordings from statutory prohibitions on interception of oral communications, allowing law enforcement officers to wear body cameras during patrol without first having to inform each individual they come in contact with that they are being recorded. This was a departmental request from Miami-Dade Police. HB 93 also requires law enforcement agencies to adopt policies and procedures related to body cameras and provide training.
34. **Police Body Cameras Funding -FUNDED-** \$250,000 statewide grant program.
35. **Forfeiture of Contraband -APPROVED-** SB 1044 by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg), Clarifies that seizure of property cannot occur until there is an arrest; and that forfeiture cannot occur until a conviction occurs.
36. **Traffic Infraction Detectors -DIED-** SB 168 by by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) and HB 4027 Rep. Frank Artiles (R-Miami) would have repealed the use of red light cameras, with an effective date to July 1, 2019, in order to allow for current contracts with municipalities to expire.
37. **Balance Billing-PASSED-**HB 221 by Rep. Carlos Trujillo (R-Miami), Requires hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, specialty hospitals, and urgent care centers to comply with certain provisions as a condition of licensure; requires a hospital to post on its website certain information regarding its contracts with health insurers, health maintenance

organizations, and health care practitioners and medical practice groups and specified notice to patients and prospective patients.

38. **Waste Management/Flow Control** -APPROVED- SB 1052 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla); HB 589 by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-Sebring). HB 589 passed both chambers and was approved by the Governor. As filed, this bill would have prevented the County from exercising flow control after entering into a resource recovery contract with a facility that is not owned by the County. However, the bill was amended to remove this provision.
39. **Waste Management /Waste Hauler Permits** -DIED- SB 1192 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla); HB 1387 by Rep. David Santiago (R-Delton). SB 1192 and HB 1387 could have prevented the County from requiring and providing waste hauler permits. HB 1387 never received a hearing. SB 1192 died on the Senate calendar on second reading. We successfully amended this bill to resolve the County's concern.
40. **HB 535: Building Codes/Calder Sloan** -APPROVED-HB 535 by Rep. Dan Eagle (R - Cape Coral) is an omnibus building code bill, and includes language creating the Calder Sloan Swimming Pool Electrical-Safety Task Force. HB 535 in its final form expressly preserves a Miami-Dade ordinance preempted in previous versions by language exempting employees of large apartment communities from contractor licensing requirements if making minor repairs to water heaters or HVAC systems. HB 535 provides that failure of a building official to provide a rationale for denial, revocation or modification request of a building application shall subject the official to disciplinary action against his or her license. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1123-15.
41. **HB 1361: Growth Management** -APPROVED- HB 1361 by Rep. Mike La Rosa (R-Saint Cloud) relates to growth management and developments of regional impact (DRIs). Language related to tax increment financing districts that appeared in earlier version of HB 1361 was amended out of the bill and doesn't appear in the final version.

F. **Housing, Health & Human Services**

42. **SB 12; HB 7097: Mental Health and Substance Abuse/Marchman Act** -APPROVED- The House and Senate passed SB 12 by Sen. Rene Garcia (R - Hialeah) after the bill bounced back and forth between the two chambers. This issue was the subject Resolution No. R-74-16.
43. **State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP)** -FUNDED- \$135.5 million for SHIP statewide, reflecting a \$30 million increase over current year funding for SHIP of \$105 million. This includes \$5.2 million allocated for homeless Challenge Grants.
44. **State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL)** -FUNDED- \$64.6 million, which includes at least 50 percent to be used for the SAIL program, \$10 million for competitive grant program for housing for those with developmental disabilities, and \$ 20 million for

workforce housing to serve low-income persons in the Florida Keys Area of Critical Concern.

45. Housing and Community Development Programs, Projects, and Initiatives-
FUNDED- \$33.2 million which includes Housing and Community Development and Initiatives -\$31.9 million and Technical and Planning Assistance and -\$1.3 million Competitive Florida Partnership Program.

46. Low Income Pool (LIP)-FUNDED-\$607 million statewide. This amount reflects a reduction of approximately \$400 million from the current state fiscal year. The impact to Jackson Health System has been estimated to be between \$12 and \$30 million, but will ultimately depend on local intergovernmental transfers (IGTs), which could reduce the impact.

47. Certified Public Expenditure/Fire-Rescue EMS -FUNDED-\$15 million statewide. There is proviso language directing the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek a state plan amendment/waiver to implement this program pursuant to 42 CFR 433.51.

48. Miami-Dade Homeless Trust/GAP Funding/Jail Diversion -FUNDED-\$250,000.

49. Miami-Dade Homeless Trust/Crisis Outplacement Bed Program-FUNDED-\$189,794.

50. Medicaid Homeless Mental Health Transitional Housing-FUNDED-\$10.3 million.

51. Homeless Continuum of Care/Challenge Grants -FUNDED-\$5.2 million.

52. Department of Children and Families -FUNDED-

- Crisis Outplacement/Miami-Dade Homeless Trust- This is a recurring project which was fully funded in the Department of Children and Families budget with an increase of \$189,000.
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services - \$20.5 million
- Grant Program for Central Receiving Systems- \$10 million
- Community Teams Providing Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services- \$9.8 million
- Expansion of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health/and Substance Abuse- \$6 million
- Additional Staff at the State Mental Health facilities- \$1.4 million GR; \$3.1 million TF
- Challenge Grant Program for Homeless Assistance - \$1.2 million
- Homeless Coalitions - \$1 million
- Surveillance System for State Mental Health Facilities - \$1.6 million
- Automated Medicated Dispensing System for State Mental Health Facilities- \$1.5 million

54. Agency for Health Care Administration

- Florida KidCare Covergae for Lawfully residing Children - \$28.8 million

- Medicaid Homeless Mental Health Transitional Housing- \$4.0 million GR; \$6.3 million TF

55. Infectious Disease Elimination Pilot Program/Needle Exchange Program

-APPROVED- SB 242 by Sen. Oscar Braynon (D-Miami Gardens) and its House companion HB 81 by Rep. Katy Edwards (D-Sunrise), creates the Miami-Dade Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA). The IDEA authorizes the University of Miami and its affiliates to establish a needle and syringe exchange pilot program in Miami-Dade County. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1016-15.

56. Kidcare/Waiting Period Legal Immigrant Children-APPROVED- HB 5101; HB 89 by Rep. Jose Felix Diaz (R - Miami). The House and Senate passed the conference report to HB 5101, which included the substance of HB 89 re: KidCare for lawful immigrant children. HB 5101 removes the 5-year waiting period for immigrant children lawfully present in Florida for Kidcare eligibility. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1163-15.

G. Agriculture, Natural Resources & Zoning

57. HB 1051: Overnight Anchoring Biscayne Bay -APPROVED- HB 1051 filed by Rep. Matt Caldwell (R - Lehigh Acres) prohibits overnight anchoring or mooring of vessels in specified recreational boating zones, including areas near the Venetian Causeway and Sunset Lake in Miami Beach.

58. SB 1174; HB 885: Community Residential Homes -APPROVED- SB 1174 by Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R - Miami) specifies siting distance requirements for certain community residential homes. The House companion bill was carried by Rep. Bryan Avila (R - Hialeah). This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-84-16.

59. Natural Gas Rebate Program-PASSED- SB 90 Sen. Wilton Simson (R-New Port Richey) and HB 285 Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) to receive applications for additional rebates from the natural gas fuel fleet vehicle rebate program, giving preference to governmental applicants. Any remaining funds may be expanded for commercial applicant rebates.

60. Farm Share -FUNDED- Farm share was funded at \$2.2M in GR, \$1.8M of which is nonrecurring. Farm Share was initially funded at \$1.7M, but was supplemented with \$500,000 in additional leadership funds

61. Water Projects -FUNDED at \$82 million statewide, including the following Miami-Dade County projects:

- NW 12 Street/NW 117 Avenue Flood Control - \$33,750 **APPROVED**
- NW 58 Street/NW 117 Avenue Flood Control - \$225,000 **APPROVED**
- Water service connection/contaminated wells - \$452,977 **VETOED**

Many other water projects for Miami-Dade cities also were funded. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1127-15.

62. Beach Renourishment -FUNDED- \$32.5 million statewide. Proviso language states that funds shall not be provided for any activities related to beach renourishment utilizing offshore sand sources from Martin and St. Lucie counties for the Miami Beach Segment/Dade County Shore Protection Project. Any funds to the Miami Beach Segment/Dade County Shore Protection Project included in the Department of Environmental Protection's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Local Government Funding Requests may only use upland sand sources.

63. Legacy Florida – Everglades Funding -APPROVED- HB 989 by Rep. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart); SB 1168 by Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City). HB 989 by Representatives Harrell and Caldwell provides a minimum of 25% of the Amendment 1 allocation or \$200M annually, whichever is less, for Everglades Restoration. This includes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the Long-Term Plan (often referred to as "Restoration Strategies"), and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program. The bill also provides a minimum of 7.6% of the Amendment 1 allocation or \$50M annually, whichever is less, for Springs Protection and \$5M annually for Lake Apopka. This issue is the subject of Resolution No. R-1173-15.

64. Everglades Restoration –FUNDED- This project was funded at \$132 million
Everglades spending totals \$205.9M and includes the following:

- \$100M for Everglades Restoration;
- \$32M for Restoration Strategies (Water quality improvements, including Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) and Flow Equalization Basins (FEBs);
- \$56.9M for Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection;
- \$15M for Lake Okeechobee Agricultural Restoration Projects; and
- \$2M for C-51 Reservoir Implementation;

Land acquisition totals \$92M and includes:

- \$35M for Agricultural Conservation Easements;
- \$27.7M for Everglades land acquisition;
- \$15.2M for Florida Forever;
- \$10M for Florida Communities Trust (earmarked for handicapped recreational access);
- \$1.5M for the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and
- \$2M for the Howell Branch Preserve.

65. Florida Forever/Conservation Lands/Land Acquisition –FUNDED-\$15.1 million

66. Land Acquisition/Everglades Restoration -FUNDED- This project was funded at \$27.7 million

67. **Laurel Wilt/Avocado Crop** –FUNDED- This project was funded at \$150,000 in Trust Fund dollars.
68. **Giant African Land Snail Eradication** –FUNDED- This project was funded at \$2.3M in Trust Fund dollars.
69. **Farm Share/Food Banks** –FUNDED- This project was funded at \$4 million.
70. **Zika/Mosquito Spraying** -NOT FUNDED- This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-170-16.
71. **Petroleum Storage Tanks** -FUNDED- The petroleum storage tank cleanup program received \$118M in Trust Fund dollars and the local government cleanup contracting program received \$14M in Trust Fund dollars.
72. **Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources /Fracking** -DIED- SB 318 by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples); HB 191 by Rep. Ray Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers). These bills would have required a study of fracking in Florida and prohibited the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing permits for fracking until administrative rules were adopted to regulate the practice. They also would have preempted local government regulations. The Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities stood down on the bill after the preemption language was amended to provide exceptions for zoning ordinances. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-1041-15.
73. **Historic and Archaeological Artifacts**-DIED- HB 803 by Rep. Charley Stone (R-Ocala); SB 1054 by Sen. Charles Dean (R-Iverness). These bills would have directed the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State to create a program to administer the discovery of certain historic and archaeological artifacts. They would have allowed citizens to pay for a permit to take and keep artifacts under certain circumstances and appeared to preempt county regulations. The state previously had a similar program which resulted in abuse. The program was so widely criticized that it was discontinued.
74. **Flood Mitigation** -DIED-SB 584 by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg); HB 929 by Rep. Larry Ahern (R-Seminole). The County supported SB 584. This bill would have authorized the Division of Emergency Management to administer a matching grant program, subject to appropriation, that provided up to \$50 million annually in technical and financial assistance grants to local governments to implement certain flood risk reduction policies and projects. The division also would have been authorized to contract with third parties to store elevation certificates and maintain a centralized database allowing the public to access elevation certificates. SB 584 would have added flood mitigation projects to the list of eligible projects under the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) program. It included language indicating the proper purpose of the flood mitigation

projects under FCT project guidelines. The bill would have added to the conditions of grants and loans that land acquired for flood mitigation projects must be maintained strictly for flood mitigation purposes or conservation. However, these provisions were removed from HB 929 in committee.

Both bills would have extended the informational filing of rates for flood coverage from October 1, 2019 to October 1, 2025, exempting insurers from the usual rate filing process. They also would have extended the expiration date of a provision which allows a surplus lines agent to obtain flood coverage through a surplus lines insurer without making a diligent effort to seek coverage from other authorized insurers from July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2025. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-83-16.

- 75. Sea Level Rise-DIED**- SB 1544 by Sen. Jeff Clemens (D-Lake Worth); HB 1223 by Rep. Kristin Jacobs (D-Coconut Creek). The County supported these bills, which would have created an interagency workgroup to share information, coordinate ongoing efforts, and collaborate on initiatives relating to weather impacts or natural hazards. SB 1544 passed two committees and was amended to make largely technical changes, but died in its last committee, Fiscal Policy. This issue was the subject of Resolution No. R-166-16.

H. **Finance & Tax / Elections**

- 76. Vote by Mail -APPROVED-** HB 361 by Lee, L. Williams (D-Fort Pierce) and SB 112 Geraldine Thompson (D-Orlando) amends the Florida Statutes to replace the phrase "absentee ballot" with the phrase "vote-by-mail."
- 77. Election Dates for Municipal Office -DIED-** HB 7059 by Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Lehigh) This bill would have preempted to the state, the authority to establish the dates of elections of municipal officers and provided the exclusive method for establishing those dates.
- 78. Florida Retirement System (FRS) -PASSED-** SB 7012 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability. This bill increases the monthly survivor benefits available to the spouses and children of FRS pension plan members in the Special Risk Class when killed in the line of duty from 50% of the member's monthly salary at the time of death, to 100%. These new benefits are funded through additional employer paid contributions to the survivor benefits account of the FRS Trust fund. The new survivor benefits are available to members in the Special Risk Class killed in the line of duty on or after July 1, 2013.
- 79. State-administered Retirement System -PASSED-** HB 5005 by Richard Corcoran(R-Lutz) as part of the overall budget process, this bill substantially revises the required employer retirement contribution rates for members of membership classes and

subclasses of FRS. Additionally, the bill revises employer assessment to offset costs of administering investment plan.

80. Tax Cut Package/Limitations on Tourist Development Tax -APPROVED- HB 7099 By Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar) the Tax Cut Package consisting of approximately \$129 million in tax cuts. All Tourist Development Tax (TDT) provisions were removed from HB 7099 except a provision allowing 10 percent of TDT revenues to be used for law enforcement limited only to three Panhandle counties.

81. HB 499: Value Adjustment Board -APPROVED- HB 499 by Rep. Bryan Avila (R - Hialeah) makes revisions to the VAB process, but the final version did not include changes to the composition of the VAB or reductions to BCC appointments to the VAB. The bill makes the following changes to the VAB process:

- Requires the VAB to resolve all petitions by June 1 following the assessment year. The June 1 date is extended to December 1 in any year that the number of petitions increases by more than 10 percent over the prior year.
- Limits the persons who may represent a taxpayer before the VAB to certain licensed professionals, an employee of the taxpayer, a person with power of attorney, or an uncompensated individual with a written authorization.
- Requires that a petition filed by someone other than a licensed professional or employee of the taxpayer be signed by the taxpayer or be accompanied by the power of attorney from the taxpayer or the taxpayer's written authorization for representation. Powers of attorney and written authorizations to petition the VAB are only valid for 1 assessment year.
- Changes the rate of interest for overpayments and underpayments from 12 percent to the bank prime loan rate and requires interest on an overpayment related to a petition to be funded proportionately by each taxing authority that was overpaid.
- Authorizes a petitioner or a property appraiser to reschedule a hearing a single time, for good cause only, and reduces the notice for rehearing from 12 to 15 days when the rehearing is requested by the petitioner.
- Prohibits the imposition of interest or penalty when an owner of non-homestead residential property or nonresidential property was improperly granted an assessment limitation due to a clerical mistake or omission.
- Clarifies that a property owner may petition the VAB concerning a property appraiser's determination that a change of ownership, change of control, or qualifying improvement has occurred for purposes of resetting the assessment limitation on the property.
- Specifies the property appraiser's treatment of erroneous or incomplete property tax returns, and requires returns to be timely filed in order to be contested before the VAB.

This issue is the subject of Resolution No. R-67-15

82. HB 277: Homestead Exemption/Senior, Low-income, Long-term Residents

HB 277 by Rep. Bryan Avila (R - Hialeah) is the implementing bill to HJR 275, which would propose a constitutional amendment for a statewide vote to correct a glitch where certain low-income seniors lose their property tax exemption when the value of their property rises above a \$250,000 threshold. HB 277 would implement this constitutional amendment upon approval by voters. HJR 275 does not require approval by the Governor. This issue was the subject of Resolution No R-1170-15.

While HB 277 was signed into law, it is not effective until voters approve HJR 275 on the November ballot.

83. Water Utility Financing -APPROVED- HB 347 by Rep. Chris Sprowls (R - Clearwater) establishes a new financing mechanism, "Utility Cost Containment Bonds", available to certain entities to finance or refinance, on behalf of a municipality, county or other entity, projects related to water or wastewater service.

84. Tax Cut Package -APPROVED- HB 7099 by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar) is the omnibus tax cut package that passed the last day of the legislative Session. The impact of this bill, combined with provisions in the approved budget, totals approximately \$400 million in cuts and savings, (achieved by combining upwards of \$290 million to be used to avoid local property taxes from otherwise being added into the state's school funding formula, this includes a portion of the required local effort). Major highlights of this legislation are as follows:

- Provides a three-day "back to school" sales tax holiday from August 5, 2016 to August 7, 2016 for clothing and footwear costing \$60 or less, and school supplies costing less than \$15.
- Makes permanent the sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment used in manufacturing and provides exemptions for machinery and equipment used in agricultural post-harvest activities or used by metal recyclers.
- Effective July1, 2019 eliminates a current aviation fuel tax exemption and reduces the aviation fuel tax rate from 6.9 cents per gallon to 4.27 cents per gallon.
- Clarifies that counties and municipalities may grant economic development property tax exemptions in areas which were previously designated as enterprise zones for projects that were preapproved before December 31, 2015.
- Provides a sales tax exemption for sales of food and drink by veterans' organizations to members of veterans' organizations.
- Reduces the beverage tax rate imposed on per cider to make it the same rate as apple cider.

- Allows purchasers of airplanes to retain and airplane in Florida while waiting for the airplane to be registered in a foreign country without having to pay sales tax.
- Clarifies the definition of "wholesale sales price" for purposes of the tax on other tobacco products.
- For purposes of the local option economic development property tax exemption for replacement data center equipment and extends the length of the exemption from 10 to 20 years for such equipment.

85. Renewable Energy Source Devices- APPROVED- SJR 170 by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) HJR 193 by Rep. Ray Wesley Rodrigues (R-Fort Myer). Amends the state constitution to require the Legislature, by general law, to exempt the assessed value of a renewable energy source device from the tangible personal property tax, to allow the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of the installation of such device in determining the assessed value of residential and nonresidential real property for the purpose of ad valorem taxation, and to provide effective and expiration dates.

86. Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares-APPROVED- SB 1202 by Sen. Joseph Abruzzo (D-Wellington); HB 1321 by Rep. Kevin Rader (D-Boca Raton). SB 1202 requires county and municipal departments of parks and recreation to provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to the following individuals:

- Current military service members;
- Honorably discharged veterans;
- Honorably discharged veterans with a service-connected disability;
- The surviving spouse or parents of a military service member who died in combat; and
- The surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic who died in the line of duty.

The bill also requires regional transportation authorities to provide disabled veterans with discounts on fares for use of fixed-route transportation systems.

87. State Park Entrance Fee Holiday-DIED- SB 570 by Sen. Charles Dean (R-Iverness); No House companion. SB 570 would have provided a one year fee holiday for all state parks. It would have allowed parks to be closed when they reach capacity, and was amended to provide a \$27.3 million appropriation to cover the cost of the fee holiday so that state parks would not be harmed financially. It died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

88. State Park Fee Discounts for Senior Citizens-DIED-HB 677 by Rep. Cynthia Stafford (D-Opa-locka); SB 1000 by Sen. Geraldine Thompson (D-Orlando). As filed, HB 677 provided a 25% discount for senior citizens on daily state park fees and annual passes for the state park system. It was amended in its first committee to provide a 25% discount for senior citizens only on state park annual passes. It was further amended in its second committee to provide this discount for a one-year period. This brought the fiscal note on the bill down to \$200,000. HB 677 died on the House calendar on second reading. SB 1000 never received a hearing.