

# TALLAHASSEE WEEKLY REPORT

## October 10-14, 2011

### Bills of Interest Filed This Week

Below, please find a list of bills of possible interest to Miami-Dade County filed this week for consideration during the 2012 legislative session:

- **HB 327, Fraud, Rep. Trujillo** - Requires that mortgage loan application include fingerprints of loan originator & borrower; requires that borrower certify accuracy of information, that oral application be audio recorded, & that if primary language of borrower is Spanish, application be on specified application form; revises classification of certain offenses relating to mortgage fraud; provides period of limitation for commencing actions; authorizes certain extensions of limitation period; specifies when limitation period does not run. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0327>
- **HB 329, Parole Interview Dates for Certain Inmates, Rep. Trujillo** - Extends from 2 years to 7 years period between parole interview dates for inmates convicted of committing specified crimes; requires periodic parole interview for inmate convicted of kidnapping, robbery, burglary of dwelling, or burglary of structure or conveyance in which human being is present & sexual act is completed or attempted. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0329>
- **HB 349, Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, Rep. Lopez-Cantera** - Proposes amendment to s. 6, Art. VIII of State Constitution to authorize amendments or revisions to Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter by special law approved by vote of electors of county; requires that such special law be proposed & approved at meeting of local legislative delegation & filed by member of that delegation; conforms references to reflect county's current name. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0349>
- **HB 355, Public Meetings, Rep. Kiar** - Requires that members of public be given reasonable opportunity to be heard before board or commission takes official action on item of significant interest to public under certain circumstances; provides exceptions; requires that board or commission adopt specified rules. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0355>
- **HB 357, Homestead Exemptions for Seniors, Rep. Oliva** - Authorizes board of county commissioners of county or governing authority of municipality to adopt ordinance granting additional homestead tax exemption up to assessed value of property to owner who has maintained permanent residency on property for specified duration, who has attained age 65, & whose household income does not exceed specified amount; provides definitions applicable to additional exemption; provides applicability of requirements relating to adoption of local ordinance granting exemption; provides for annual cost-of-living adjustments of household-income limitation relating to additional homestead exemption;

provides contingent effective date. Effective Date: upon the approval of House Joint Resolution 169, or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specific intent and purpose, at the general election to be held in November 2012 or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0357>

- **HB 361, Exemptions from Local Business Taxes, Rep. Roberson** - Specifies individual licensed & operating as broker associate or sales associate is not required to apply for exemption from local business tax or take certain actions relating to local business tax; prohibits local governing authority from holding exempt individual liable for failure of principal or employer to comply with obligations related to local business tax or requiring exempt individual to take actions related to local business tax; prohibits local governing authority from requiring principal or employer to provide personal or contact information for exempt individuals in order to obtain local business tax receipt. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0361>
- **SB 514, Public Safety Telecommunicators, Sen. Dean** - Providing for sworn state-certified law enforcement officers to serve as temporary 911 public safety telecommunicators; providing training requirements. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0514>
- **SB 516, Early Voting, Sen. Rich** - Expanding the list of available sites at which early voting may be held to include specified facilities or any other location designated by a supervisor of elections as meeting the requirements of state law; deleting a requirement that an early voting site be designated and used as such for at least 1 year before an election; requiring that each county operate a certain total number of voting sites; revising the beginning and ending dates of early voting; revising the hours of early voting to 12 hours per weekday and 12 hours in the aggregate each weekend at each site during the applicable periods; deleting provisions that authorize the supervisor of elections to provide early voting for certain elections and to determine the hours of operation of early voting sites in those elections. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0516>
- **SB 538, Preference to Florida Businesses in Procurement of Personal Property and Services, Sen. Bogdanoff** - Cites act as the "Buy Florida Act"; requiring an agency, county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision of the state to grant a specified preference to a vendor located within the state when awarding a contract for printing; specifying the percentage of preference to be granted; requiring, rather than authorizing, an agency, county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision of the state in making purchases of personal property through competitive solicitation to award a preference to the lowest responsible and responsive vendor having a principal place of business within this state under specified circumstances; specifying the percentage of preference to be granted; providing nonapplicability. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0538>

## Governor Scott's Legislative Agenda

Governor Rick Scott began rolling out his legislative agenda by presenting the economic development portion earlier this week at a materials company in Central Florida. The governor is looking for the legislature to raise the corporate tax rate exemption to \$50,000 and propose a constitutional amendment creating an exemption on the tax on tangible personal property by the same amount, a move that would eliminate the tax for about half the companies that pay it now.

Governor Scott also hopes to create a one-stop registration for startups and offer temporary permits to new and expanding companies. Other priorities include improving the state's transportation infrastructure with a focus on toll roads and ports, and ramping up the production of degrees in science and engineering.

For more information on the governor's economic development priorities, please click the following link: <http://www.flgov.com/2011/10/13/2012-job-creation-economic-growth-agenda/>.

## State Budget

This week, the state's General Revenue Estimating Conference predicted the state would have a \$1.6 billion less revenue to work with for the upcoming fiscal year. This gap, which will have to be filled by legislators during the upcoming session, includes a \$600 million decline in projected revenue for the current fiscal year and \$968.3 million in 2012-2013.

These new projections mean that the \$275 million surplus state forecasters had predicted earlier in the summer is now a \$1.3 billion shortfall, which is expected to be compounded with higher projected expenditures because of growth in Medicaid and a drop in ad valorem tax revenue, which is used to support the required local effort for school funding.

## Gaming

Central Florida's tourism interests are beginning to make their opinions known with regards to possible destination gaming casinos in South Florida. Some in the area feel it must follow suit, or risk losing convention business to Miami-Dade and Broward.

Harris Rosen, who owns three sprawling hotels in the heart of the convention center area in Orlando, has asked the area's tourism bureau to study the feasibility of casinos.

Walt Disney World, however, joined the Florida Chamber of Commerce this week in expressing its opposition to expanding gambling in Florida.

As of yet, the relevant bills have yet to be filed.

# Foreclosure

A report issued by RealtyTrac, a California based company that tracks foreclosures, one in every nine foreclosures in the country took place in Florida during the third quarter. This is thought to be part of a nationwide trend in resurging foreclosure activity that had lullled as a result of the “robo-signing” revelations of October 2010. Banks imposed voluntary moratoriums on foreclosures for a short period after it was discovered that several law firms had rushed faulty and sometimes fraudulent paperwork in an effort to push through foreclosures. Lenders have tentatively restarted their foreclosure processes since then.

James Saccacio, CEO of RealtyTrac, foresees foreclosure activity increasing, even though the levels were lower than they were years ago.. Even though an increase likely, the news led to Governor Scott approving a \$45.6 million loan to the state’s court system to close shortfalls resulting from a lack of anticipated foreclosure filing fees. RealtyTrac’s report also showed that the average foreclosure case spent 749 days in the system.

# National Governors Association

Florida joined Idaho, Ohio and Texas in skipping payment on their fees to the National Governors Association (NGA). The NGA provides lobbying services and policy assistance, including help with implementing President Obama’s national health care overhaul. All four states are led by Republican governors, and are among the 26 states involved in the lawsuit trying to fight the overhaul.

# Job Opening

Commissioner Rebeca Sosa currently has an opening in her office for “Chief of Staff”. Anybody interested in applying should send a resume and cover letter to Betty Aguirre at [BETTYA@miamidade.gov](mailto:BETTYA@miamidade.gov). For any questions, please call 305-375-5696.

# Interim Committee Meetings

Below, please find issues of relevance to Miami-Dade County that will be taken up during next week’s committee meetings in Tallahassee:

- Senate Transportation Committee will hear a discussion on the enforcement of red light cameras on Monday.
- Senate Military Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will take up SB 148 by Sen. Bullard, related to Community Redevelopment on Tuesday. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0148> (The Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Moss, related to this issue)

- Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee will take up SB 182 by Sen. Garcia, related to Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0182>
- House Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee will take up HB 33 by Rep. Ahern, related to Traffic Control Signals. <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2012/0033>
- The following House committees will not be meeting: Health and Human Services Quality Subcommittee, PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, Federal Affairs Subcommittee, State Affairs Subcommittee.
- The following Senate committees will not be meeting: Select Committee on Protecting Florida's Children, Banking and Insurance, Government Oversight and Accountability, Health Regulation, Higher Education, Agriculture, Communications, Energy and Public Utilities, Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriations.