

Memorandum



Date: March 16, 2012
To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
From: Jess M. McCarty *JMM*
Assistant County Attorney
Subject: Report on 2012 State Legislative Session

Agenda Item No. 6(B)1
March 20, 2012

Following up from Chairman Martinez's memorandum dated March 15, 2012, the following report identifies legislation and appropriations that impact Miami-Dade County from the 2012 session of the Florida Legislature that ended Friday.

The next step is for bills and budget conference reports to be transmitted by the Senate and House presiding officers to the Governor. This process typically occurs over the next several weeks to a month, as groups of bills are sent to the Governor every few days. Once the Governor receives each bill, he has 15 days to sign, veto or allow each bill to become a law without his signature.

Section A consists of Miami-Dade County Priorities as set by the Board and other key issues. Sections B through G set forth additional issues in various policy areas.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about these bills or any other bills passed or considered during the 2012 session.

A. Miami-Dade County priorities and other key issues:

1. **Miami-Dade Home Rule Charter – DIED** - SJR 720 by Senator Rene Garcia and HJR 349 by Rep. Lopez-Cantera would have proposed a constitutional amendment for the 2012 statewide ballot to authorize Miami-Dade Delegation members to file special laws to propose amendments to the Miami-Dade Home Rule Charter subject to approval by countywide vote. Targeted at BCC term limits, but could have applied to any Charter change. Senator Oscar Braynon voted against the SJR 720 in Senate committee, and Senator Anitere Flores voted for it. Reps. Frank Ariles and Jeanette Nunez voted for HJR 349 in committee.
2. **County Medicaid contributions – PASSED** - HB 5301 budget conforming bill - Requires monthly deductions from county revenue sharing equal to 85 percent of unpaid county Medicaid billings over the last decade according to state data through April 30, 2012 (or 100 percent if billings are appealed) for 60 months, with a higher amount during the first year. Going forward, county Medicaid billing is deducted from revenue sharing monthly based on revenue estimates. Revenue sharing deductions may not impair outstanding debt obligations. OMB estimates the fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County to be around \$31 million. Senators Oscar Braynon and Miguel Diaz de la Portilla voted against HB 5301 on the Senate floor, with Senator Diaz de la Portilla leading the debate against the bill. Reps. Dwight Bullard, Daphne Campbell, Luis Garcia, John Julien, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson voted against HB 5301 on the House floor. HB 5301 was presented to the Governor on Thursday, March 15, and he has until March 30 to act on HB 5301.
3. **Port of Miami Deep Dredge - PASSED** – Expedites administrative review process on the Port of Miami Deep Dredge Project and other deepwater seaport projects. Passed in the conference report to SB 1998, which is a budget conforming bill. This language also passed in HB 599, an omnibus transportation package. All members of our delegation voted for SB 1998 except Senator Nan Rich and Reps. Dwight Bullard, Daphne Campbell, Luis Garcia, John Julien, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson. All members of our delegation voted for HB 599 except for Reps. Dwight Bullard, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson.

4. **Human trafficking** – **PASSED** - HB 7049 by Rep. Will Snyder (R – Stuart) (companion bills SB 1880 by Senator Anitere Flores; SB 1816 by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (R – Ft. Myers)); increases penalties for people who engage in human trafficking from a second degree felony to a first degree felony; and provides additional powers to the Statewide Prosecutor to pursue human trafficking cases. All members of the delegation voted for HB 7049.
5. **Copper theft** – **PASSED** - HB 885 by Rep. Clay Ford (R – Pensacola) (companion bill SB 540 by Senator Chris Smith (D – Ft. Lauderdale)); increases penalties for secondary metals recyclers who buy stolen copper and other metals without proper documentation, for cash or in violation of other provisions of state law. Preempts local ordinances but grandfathers existing ordinances, and provides extension for Miami-Dade County to amend its scrap metal ordinance through July 1, 2013. All members of the delegation voted for HB 885.
6. **Jackson Health System funding** – The final state budget, which is the Conference Report on HB 5001, cuts the Medicaid rate to hospitals by 7.5 percent, but is mitigated by one-time revenues that adjust the first year impact of the cut to approximately 5.6 percent, which would reduce Jackson's expected Medicaid reimbursement by approximately \$35 million. Federal buy-backs would allow Jackson to further reduce the impact to approximately \$17 million. Jackson also has the potential to be reimbursed for an overpayment of the prior year's intergovernmental transfer. While the extent of that reimbursement is not yet confirmed, it could be as high as \$16 million. As such, Jackson has the possibility of closing this legislative session with no significant reduction in Medicaid funding. A number of delegation members played a key role in minimizing cuts to Jackson, including Delegation Chairman Carlos Lopez-Cantera, Senators Rene Garcia and Nan Rich, and Reps. Michael Bileca, Jose Felix Diaz and Jeanette Nunez.
7. **Pretrial release** – **DIED** - SB 1730 by Senator Rene Garcia; HB 875 by Rep. Carlos Trujillo; would have revised criteria for pretrial eligibility to the advantage of the bailbond industry and the detriment of pretrial supervision programs; carried a significant negative fiscal impact to the County. These bills did not receive a committee hearing.
8. **Elder meals/local service providers** – The final state budget, which is the Conference Report on HB 5001, included \$7.6 million for elder meal programs and Local Service Providers. This amount generally sustained funding for next year at the same level as the current fiscal year.
9. **Pit bull preemption** – **DIED** - SB 1322 by Senator Jim Norman (R – Tampa); HB 997 by Rep. Carlos Trujillo would have preempted Miami-Dade County's pit bull ordinance. The House bill died on the House floor and the Senate bill died in committee. Senators Anitere Flores, Rene Garcia and Gwen Margolis voted for the bill in Senate committees, and Reps. Dwight Bullard, Daphne Campbell, Luis Garcia and John Julien voted for the bill in House committees.
10. **Destination resort casinos** – **DIED** - SB 710, SB 712, SB 714 by Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff; HB 487, HB 489, HB 91 by Rep. Erik Fresen; would have authorized up to three destination resort casinos in South Florida, with up to two envisioned for Miami-Dade County. The Senate destination resort package passed the Senate Regulated Industries Committee with Senators Oscar Braynon, Miguel Diaz de la Portilla and Nan Rich voting for the package. The House destination resort package died in the House Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.
11. **Wage theft preemption** - **DIED** - SB 862 by Senator David Simmons (R – Altamonte Springs); HB 609 by Rep. Tom Goodson (R – Titusville) would have preempted the Miami-Dade County Wage Theft Ordinance. The House bill passed the House, but the Senate bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee chaired by Senator Anitere Flores. An attempt was made in the closing hours of the session to amend wage theft language onto HB 971, a judiciary bill, but the effort did not succeed. Senator Anitere Flores was instrumental in stopping this bill in the Senate. In the House, all members

of the our delegation voted for HB 609 except Reps. Dwight Bullard, Daphne Campbell, Luis Garcia, John Julien, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson.

12. **Local preference preemption** – DIED - SB 1460 by Senator David Simmons (R – Altamonte Springs); HB 673 by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R – Sanford) would have eliminated local preference for any contract where there is state funding in any amount as low as 1%. Both the House and Senate bills died in committee. Our delegation members did not get an opportunity to vote on this bill in the Senate, in the House, Reps. Jose Felix Diaz and John Julien voted for the bill and Rep. Cynthia Stafford voted against the bill.
13. **Sale/lease of public hospitals** – PASSED - HB 711 by Rep. Ed Hooper (R – Clearwater)(Senate companion bill SB 1568 by Senator Don Gaetz (R – Destin)) requires the governing board of every public hospital in Florida to initiate, by the end of 2012, an evaluation of the benefits of selling or leasing hospital facilities to a not-for-profit or for-profit entity. The evaluation must include public hearings. In addition, a CPA with expertise in hospital valuation must be retained to render an independent valuation of the hospital's fair market value. Within 160 days of the analysis being completed, the governing board must make its findings public and post them in local newspapers. HB 711 does not require a hospital to be sold or leased, but if the governing board determines that a sale or lease is in the best interest of the community, the bill spells out requirements that must be met and followed. All members of our delegation voted for HB 711 except for Reps. Dwight Bullard, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson.
14. **Senior homestead property tax exemption** - PASSED - HJR 169 by Rep. Jose Oliva (companion bill SJR 1740 by Senator Rene Garcia); proposes a constitutional amendment to provide counties and cities a local option to grant an additional homestead exemption to low income senior citizens in the amount of the entire assessed value of the homestead property. All members of our delegation voted for HJR 169.
15. **Community redevelopment agencies (CRAs)** – DIED - SB 840 by Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla; HB 547 by Rep. Erik Fresen; would have provided additional accountability for CRAs located in Miami-Dade County. SB 840 died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee; HB 547 died in the House Finance & Tax Committee on a tie 12-12 vote. Rep. Jose Felix Diaz voted for HB 547 in committee and Rep. John Julien voted against HB 547 in committee.

B. Additional tax & finance issues:

16. **Repeal of local business tax** – DIED - SB 760 by Senator Alan Hays (R – Umatilla); HB 1063 and HB 4025 by Rep. Marlene O'Toole (R – The Villages); would have repealed the local business tax, resulting in a substantial annual fiscal impact to the County, the Beacon Council and cities. HB 1063 was heard in the House Finance & Tax Committee, and was temporarily postponed when it became clear that the votes were not there to get the bill out of the committee. SB 760 and HB 4025 also died in committee.
17. **Senior freeze homestead property tax exemption** – DIED – SJR 838 by Senator Diaz de la Portilla; HJR 55 by Rep. Jeanette Nunez; would have frozen assessed value of homestead property of low income seniors. HJR 55 passed the House by a vote of 116-0, but died in messages to the Senate. SJR 838 died in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance & Tax. All House members of our delegation voted for HJR 55 on the House floor; Senators Oscar Braynon and Anitere Flores voted for SJR 838 in committee.

18. **“Super” homestead property tax exemption – DIED** – SJR 312; SB 314 by Senator David Simmons; HJR 1289, HB 1291 by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R – Sanford); intended to reduce inequities among homestead properties, would have proposed a statewide ballot question to create a new “super exemption” on homestead properties, worth 30 percent of each home’s value between \$75,000 and \$200,000 and 15 percent of the value. This proposal would have had a substantial fiscal impact on the County and cities. These bills died in committee. Senator Anitere Flores and Rep. Jose Felix Diaz voted for this proposal in committee; Rep. John Julien voted against it.
19. **Tangible personal property exemption – PASSED** – HJR 1003 by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R – Orlando)(Senate companion bill SJR 1064 by Senator Nancy Detert (R – Venice)); proposes a constitutional amendment for the 2012 statewide ballot that would double the \$25,000 exemption for businesses paying tangible personal property taxes. If passed by voters, OMB estimates that HJR 1003 will have a negative fiscal impact on Miami-Dade County of approximately \$1.1 million annually across the four county taxing jurisdictions. All members of our delegation voted for HJR 1003 except Rep. Barbara Watson.
20. **Online travel – DIED** – SB 1888 by Senator Andy Gardiner (R – Orlando); HB 1393 by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R – Sanford); would have allowed online travel companies such as Expedia, Travelocity and hotels.com, to pay sales and bed taxes on the wholesale price they pay for hotel rooms, rather than the retail price they charge customers for hotel rooms. Negative fiscal impact on County bed taxes, as well as Jackson and Transit half-penny sales surtaxes. These bills died in committee.
21. **Communications Services Tax – PASSED** – HB 809 by Rep. James Grant (R – Tampa)(Senate companion bill, SB 1060 by Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff (R – Ft. Lauderdale)); revises definitions various definitions related to the communications services tax, has a negative fiscal impact on local governments that impose the tax, including Miami-Dade County. All members of our delegation voted for HB 809.
22. **Marlins stadium parking garages property tax exemption – PASSED** – HB 7097, a property tax administration committee bill by the House Finance & Tax Committee (Senate companion bill, SB 1256 by the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance & Tax); included language providing that the parking garages ancillary to the Marlins stadium are exempt from property taxation. All members of our delegation voted for HB 7097.

C. Additional procurement, administration, library & elections issues:

23. **Accessible Parking Reform – PASSED** - SB 226 by Senator Gwen Margolis (House companion bill HB 27 by Rep. John Julien); implements recommendations of the Miami-Dade Accessible Parking Report, requires a disabled parking permit holder to provide a certificate of disability less than a year old and provides for random reviews of permit holders, in an effort to reduce fraud and misuse. All members of our delegation voted for this bill on the floor.
24. **State/local government relations with Cuba/Syria – PASSED** – HB 959 by Rep. Mike Bileca (Senate companion bill SB 1144 by Senator Rene Garcia); prohibits state agencies and local governments from doing business with companies that do business with Cuba or Syria. All members of the delegation voted for this bill on the House and Senate floor except Rep. Dwight Bullard.
25. **Local bids and contracts – DIED** - SB 1186 by Senator Alan Hays (R – Umatilla); HB 825 by Rep. Charles McBurney (R – Jacksonville); would have removed an exception that currently allows local governments to perform public construction projects using their own in-house employees and

equipment upon findings that this is the most cost effective way to proceed. Neither SB 1186 nor HB 825 received a committee hearing.

26. **Posting of local contracts on state website** – DIED - SB 1626 by Senator Don Gaetz (R- Destin); HB 1409 by Rep. Ben Albritton (R – Bartow); would have required local governments to submit to the state all contracts entered for posting on the state’s website, even if the local government had its own transparency website. Certain information would have to be redacted prior to submission of such contracts. These bills were amended in committee to remove the requirement that local governments submit contracts. SB 1626 eventually died in messages to the House without the local government language, and HB 1409 died in a House committee.
27. **Website public notices** – DIED (bill passed but with language removed) - SB 292 by Senator Mike Bennett (R – Bradenton); HB 937 by Rep. Ritch Workman (R – Melbourne); as initially filed would have allowed local governments to use their websites for legal notices in lieu of newspapers. As filed, these bills would have resulted in a significant cost savings to the County. The bills were largely gutted in committee and amended to continue to require newspaper legal notices and additionally require newspapers to post such notices on their websites. HB 937 eventually passed in this form.
28. **Repackaged drugs** – DIED - SB 668 by Senator Alan Hays (R – Umatilla); HB 511 by Rep. Matt Hudson (R – Naples); would have limited the amount doctors can charge for workers compensation drugs dispensed at their offices (there is currently no limit and abuses exist). Significant positive fiscal impact to the County had this bill passed. SB 668 died in the Senate Budget Committee and HB 511 died on the House calendar. Senators Miguel Diaz de la Portilla and Rene Garcia voted for the bill in committee; Senators Gwen Margolis and Nan Rich voted against. Reps. Frank Artilles, Eddy Gonzalez, John Julien, Ana Rivas Logan, Jeanette Nunez, Richard Steinberg, Carlos Trujillo and Barbara Watson all voted for the bill in committee.
29. **Elections** – DIED - SB 1596 by Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla was the omnibus elections package. Efforts were made to amend elections issues requested by the Elections Department into SB 1596, including expanding eligible sites for early voting. SB 1596 was laid on the table and died.
30. **Library funding** – The final state budget included \$23.7 million for state aid to libraries, which is sufficient to draw down federal matching funds.

D. Additional public safety & animal services issues:

31. **Internet cafes** – DIED - SB 380 by Senator Diaz de la Portilla; HB 3 by Rep. Scott Plakon (R – Longwood). HB 3 would ban internet cafes, SB 380 would legalize and regulate them. The House passed HB 3, but it died in messages when the Senate refused to take it up because the Senate did not support a ban. Reps. Dwight Bullard, Erik Fresen, Luis Garcia, Ron Saunders, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson voted against a ban on internet cafes on the House floor.
32. **Crane/hoisting equipment preemption** – PASSED – HB 521 by Rep. Frank Artilles (Senate companion bill SB 992 by Senator Mike Bennett (R – Bradenton)); preempts local regulation of cranes and other hoisting equipment. All members of the delegation voted for this bill.
33. **Red light camera repeal** – DIED – SB 1542 by Senator Greg Evers (R – Crestview); HB 4177 by Rep. Scott Plakon (R – Longwood); would have repealed the law authorizing the use of red light cameras passed by the Legislature during the 2010 session. SB 1542 did not receive a committee

hearing and HB 4177 was heard in the House Economic Affairs Committee, but was temporarily postponed and died.

34. **Juvenile services respite beds** – PASSED – As initially filed, HB 5401, a budget conforming bill, would have made counties responsible for funding alternatives to secure detention, including, but not limited to respite beds for youths charged with domestic violence charges. This language was later revised in the budget conference process to limit county funding responsibility only to respite beds for such youth. The budget conference report to HB 5401 with the revised language passed both chambers. All members of our delegation voted for the conference report to HB 5401.
35. **“No kill” policy by Animal Services Depts.** – DIED - SB 818 by Senator Mike Bennett (R – Bradenton); HB 597 by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo (D – Wellington); would have required animal control agencies that euthanize animals to maintain a registry of animal rescue groups willing to accept animals that are subject to euthanization. Both SB 818 and HB 597 died in committee.
36. **Flexibility in animal control/cruelty surcharges** – DIED - SB 488 by Senator Nan Rich; HB 527 by Rep. Scott Randolph (D – Orlando); would have provided greater flexibility in the use of surcharge on fines for violations of animal control and cruelty ordinances. This was a departmental request by the Animal Service Department. The bill also increased surcharges on such animal control and cruelty ordinances. SB 488 passed the Senate, but died in messages to the House. The House bill, HB 527, did not receive a committee hearing. All Senate members of the delegation voted for SB 488 on the Senate floor.

E. Additional transportation issues:

37. **Seaport funding** – The final state budget included additional funding for deepwater ports, including an increase to the statutory minimum for the Florida Seaport Transportation & Economic Development (FSTED) program from \$8 million to \$15 million, and the creation of the Strategic Port Investment Initiative with a minimum statutory amount of \$35 million.
38. **Road right-of-way transfer by deed or map** – PASSED – Language allowing local governments to transfer road rights-of-way by either deed or map passed in HB 599 by Rep. Ray Pilon (R – Sarasota). This statutory change was a departmental request by the Public Works & Waste Management Department. It will have a positive fiscal impact on the County by reducing costs associated with transferring local roads to cities following incorporation and annexation. The deed or map language was included in the omnibus transportation package, SB 1866/HB 1399, but when it became clear that these bills were not going to pass on the last day of the session, the deed or map language was included in a large amendment to HB 599 consisting of transportation issues. All members of the delegation voted for HB 599 except Reps. Dwight Bullard and Barbara Watson.
39. **Taxicab accessibility** – DIED - SB 1392 by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (R – Fort Myers); HB 1201 by Rep. Jeanette Nunez; as initially filed, this pair of bills would have required the issuance of a significant number of additional taxicab licenses in Miami-Dade County to comply with the accessibility requirements contained in the bill. This language was amended out of the bills in committee. SB 1392 without this language passed the Senate, but died in messages to the House. HB 1201 died in committee in the House.
40. **Taxicab credit card surcharge** – DIED - SB 1452 by Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla; HB 675 and HB 4095 by Rep. Daphne Campbell; would have exempted for-hire vehicles from state law prohibition on imposing credit card surcharges and preempted cities and counties from prohibiting owners and operators of for-hire vehicles from imposing credit card surcharges on passenger fares. SB 1452

passed the Senate Transportation Committee, but died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee. HB 675 and HB 4075 did not receive a committee hearing in the House.

41. **National background checks of for-hire drivers** – DIED – Language was included in SB 1866 by Senator Jack Latvala (R – St. Petersburg) that would have authorized national background checks of for-hire drivers. This was a departmental request and SB 1866 was the Senate omnibus transportation package. SB 1866 died in committee.
42. **Motor vehicle insurance personal injury protection (PIP)** – PASSED – HB 119 by Rep. Jim Boyd (R - Bradenton)(Senate companion bill SB 1860 by Senator Joe Negron (R – Palm City)); is a comprehensive reform of PIP insurance that makes various changes to statutes governing PIP. HB 119 precludes courts from awarding attorneys fee multipliers in PIP cases. It also limits the \$10,000 in benefits now included in PIP policies by limiting the benefit to \$2,500 for non-emergency care, and capping death benefits at \$5,000. Physical therapy still is a covered benefit so long as the care is referred by a doctor or chiropractor. HB 119 requires clinics to be licensed if they are to receive any reimbursement for auto-related claims, with exceptions such as physician clinics, dentists and chiropractors. Language surfaced during the course of the session as a possible amendment to HB 119 that would have preempted local PIP ordinances, and was targeted at the ordinances in place in Miami-Dade and Hillsborough Counties. This preemption language was not included in the final version of HB 119. HB 119 was a priority for the Governor, and passed both the House and Senate on the last day of the session by a vote of 80-34 in the House and 22-17 in the Senate (a key vote on the strike-all amendment passed by an even narrower 21-19 margin in the Senate). From our Senate delegation, Senators Anitere Flores and Gwen Margolis voted for HB 119, and Senators Oscar Braynon, Larcenia Bullard, Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, Rene Garcia and Nan Rich voted against HB 119. All members of our House delegation voted for HB 119 except Reps. Dwight Bullard, Daphne Campbell, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson.

F. Additional agriculture, environmental, land use & water issues:

43. **Ocean outfalls** – DIED - SB 724 by Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla; HB 989 by Rep. Eddy Gonzalez; would have allowed utilities to meet the 60 percent reuse requirement from their entire service area and extended certain deadlines; would have allowed utilities to continue to discharge peak flows up to 5 percent of utilities' baseline flows through ocean outfalls. HB 989 passed the House by a vote of 116-0, but died in messages to the Senate. SB 724 died in the Senate Budget Committee. Senators Diaz de la Portilla and Nan Rich voted for SB 724 in committee. All House member of the delegation voted for HB 989 on the House floor.
44. **Preemption of supermajority vote on comprehensive plan amendments/UDB** – DIED – Amendments were run in committee and on the floor of the House and Senate to various bills including HB 979, HB 4003 and SB 842, that would have preempted supermajority vote requirements on comprehensive plan amendments. These amendments appeared to be targeted at Miami-Dade County's urban development boundary supermajority vote requirement. These amendments were either ruled out of order or withdrawn after concerns were expressed to the amendment sponsor. Senators Gwen Margolis and Nan Rich were instrumental in stopping these amendments on the Senate floor.
45. **Lake Belt Mitigation Plan** – PASSED – HB 377 by Rep. Jeanette Nunez (Senate companion bill SB 182 by Senator Rene Garcia); redirects revenue intended for wastewater treatment upgrades in Miami-Dade County to seepage wall projects for Everglades Restoration for a limited period of time, and then returns this revenue stream to the County. HB 377 unanimously passed both the House and Senate, with all delegation members voting for the bill.

46. **Reclaimed Water** – **PASSED** – HB 639 by Rep. Dana Young (R – Tampa)(Senate companion bill SB 1086 by Senator Rene Garcia); implements the recommendations of the Reclaimed Water Working Group; provides incentives for local government utilities to invest in reclaimed water; prevents them from being penalized for making those investments. HB 639 unanimously passed both the Senate, with one no vote in the House. All of our delegation members voted for HB 639.
47. **Numeric Nutrient Criteria** – **PASSED** – HB 7051 by the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee (Senate companion bill SB 2060 by the Senate Environmental Preservation & Conservation Committee); directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to submit its numeric nutrient rules to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review under the Clean Water Act. HB 7051 unanimously passed both the House and Senate, with all of our delegation members voting for HB 7051. The Governor signed HB 7051 into law on February 16.
48. **Regulatory Reform** – **PASSED** – HB 503 by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R – Panama City)(Senate companion bill SB 716 by Senator Mike Bennett (R – Bradenton)); streamlines regulatory process, provides for creation of certain general permits, expands the use of internet self-certification. As initially filed, HB 503 would have repealed statewide septic tank inspection requirements, and allowed for waterfront boardwalks in the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, but these provisions were removed from HB 503 as it moved through committees. With these provisions removed from the bill, HB 503 unanimously passed both the House and Senate, with all delegation members voting for the bill.
49. **Environmental Resource Permitting** – **PASSED** – HB 7003 by the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee (Senate companion bill SB 1354 by Senator Nancy Detert (R – Venice)); provides for a consistent system of permitting for environmental resource permits among the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Water Management Districts and Miami-Dade County and other local governments that have delegated environmental authority. HB 7003 unanimously passed both the House and Senate, with all delegation members voting for the bill.
50. **Agritourism** – **DIED** – SB 1496 by Senator Greg Evers (R – Crestview); HB 1251 by Rep. Clay Ford (R – Pensacola); would have preempted local regulations pertaining to agritourism operations. Neither of these bills received a committee hearing.
51. **Beaches funding** – The final state budget included approximately \$21.7 million for the statewide beach program. Miami-Dade County does not have a project on the beaches list this year because County projects have been funded for the last two years and do not currently require any additional state funds. Nonetheless, it's important for the beaches program to continue to be funded so that funds will be available the next time the County requires funds for beaches. If it should ever be zero funded, it would be difficult to keep the program going.
52. **Petroleum storage tanks funding** – The final state budget included \$125 million for petroleum cleanup. This funding goes to projects on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's cleanup list by ranking. The final state budget also included \$7 million for the local government cleanup contracting program, and \$7 million for the storage tank compliance verification program. This funding goes to local governments, including Miami-Dade County, to hire local contractors for petroleum cleanup and to conduct compliance inspections. Early in the budget process, substantial cuts were proposed to these programs, but funding was restored to levels near the current fiscal year.
53. **Air pollution control funding** - The final state budget included \$5.4 million for air pollution control programs. This funding goes to local governments, including Miami-Dade County, to implement the federal Title V program. Funding was sustained for the upcoming fiscal year at the same level as the current fiscal year.

G. Additional employment, housing, health and human services issues:

- 54. Transfer of County Health Departments to counties - DIED (bill passed but with language removed)** - HB 1263 by Rep. Matt Hudson (R – Naples) passed but only after language was removed from the bill that would have transferred County Health Departments from the Florida Department of Health to counties. The bill at one point would have required full transition of County Health Departments to counties by January 1, 2014. Reps. Eddy Gonzalez and Jose Oliva voted for the bill in committee when it was in a form that would have transferred County Health Departments to counties.
- 55. Workforce boards – PASSED** – HB 7023 by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R – Sanford)(Senate companion bill SB 1398 by Senator Andy Gardiner (R – Orlando)); allows the Governor to remove any board member or the executive director for cause, which includes fraud, neglect of duty, or lack of performance. The final version of HB 7023 does not include a provision that would have required the chair and executive director of the regional workforce board to serve at the pleasure of the Governor. HB 7023 unanimously passed the Senate and passed the House by a vote of 95-19. All members of our delegation voted for HB 7023 except Reps. Dwight Bullard, Daphne Campbell, Ron Saunders, Richard Steinberg and Barbara Watson.
- 56. Miami-Dade Blue premium assistance** - The final state budget included \$250,000 for the Miami-Dade Blue Premium Assistance program for health insurance.
- 57. Public housing/45-day rule – DIED** - SB 1182 by Senator Jim Norman (R – Tampa); HB 933 by Rep. Darryl Rouson (D – St. Petersburg); SB 1830 by Senator Anitere Flores; HB 921 by Rep. Kelli Stargel (R – Lakeland); would have extended the time during which a landlord may institute an action terminating a lease when the landlord has accepted rent subsidies from the government, and also would have required actual knowledge by the landlord of non-compliance. This was a departmental request from Public Housing. HB 921 passed the House but died in messages to the Senate. All members of our delegation voted for HB 921 on the floor except Reps Luis Garcia, Ron Saunders, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson. The remaining bills died in committee with Senators Oscar Braynon, Anitere Flores and Gwen Margolis and Reps. Frank Artiles, John Julien and Jeanette Nunez all voting for the bills in committee.
- 58. School readiness programs – PASSED** - HB 5103 by the House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee was a budget conforming bill (Senate companion bill SB 1974 by the Senate Budget Committee). HB 5103 revises the eligibility criteria for enrollment in the school readiness program, and limits school age care to children under age 13 who are at risk, from economically disadvantaged families or siblings of children in the program, but grandfathers children currently enrolled. For the most part, the final version of HB 5103 preserves educational standards, quality child care standards, local flexibility and provider accountability of the current system. The final version of HB 5103 was substantially scaled back from other school readiness legislation that would have adversely impacted the school readiness program, including SB 1758, HB 7119 and HB 7055. SB 1758 and HB 7119 did not pass and HB 7055 passed, but was amended to remove adverse sections. HB 5103 passed the House by a vote of 82-32, and passed the Senate by a vote of 37-1. All Senate members of our delegation voted for HB 5103, and all House delegation members voted for it except Reps. Dwight Bullard, Luis Garcia, John Julien, Cynthia Stafford and Barbara Watson.
- 59. Mental health & substance abuse grants** – The final state budget generally sustained mental health and substance abuse funding at the current fiscal year level, with a modest cut of around 2½ percent. The final state budget also restored from non-recurring to recurring funding \$8.1 million in substance abuse funding and \$24.3 million in mental health funding. Recurring funding is built into the base annual budget, while non-recurring funding must be appropriated each year.

- 60. Student athlete head injuries – PASSED** – HB 291 by Rep. Ronald “Doc” Renuart (R – Ponte Vedra Beach (Senate companion bill SB 256 by Senator Anitere Flores); requires the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws requiring youth athletes who sustain head injuries to be removed from play and not allowed to return until cleared by a healthcare practitioner, and to adopt guidelines to educate coaches, officials, youth athletes and parents about the risks of head injuries and concussions. HB 291 unanimously passed both the House and Senate, with all of our delegation members voting for the bill.

cc: Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor
Harvey Ruvín, Clerk of Courts
Robert A. Cuevas, County Attorney
Joe Rasco, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Christopher Agrippa, Division Chief, Clerk of the Board Division