



MEMORANDUM

Esteban Bovo, Jr.

Chairman

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Date: August 4, 2017

Cc: Christopher Agrippa, Director, Clerk of the Board

From: Esteban Bovo, Chairman

Re: 2017 Florida Legislature
End-of Session Report

This legislative session, the state legislature adopted a state budget totaling approximately \$83 billion. The Governor vetoed a large number of projects in the budget totaling \$409 million. The line item vetoes were a result of the legislature not funding the Governor's priorities. However, a Special Session was called in order to revisit specific budget issues, which resulted in the restoration of \$60 million towards higher education, \$76 million to Visit Florida and \$85 million to the newly created Florida Job Growth Grant.

The following report provides the status of legislation and appropriations related to Miami-Dade County from the 2017 session of the Florida Legislature that concluded upon Sine Die on May 8, 2017 and the Special Session held June 6 to June 9, 2017.

The information compiled was provided by Miami-Dade's contract lobbyists, County Attorney's Office 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 G address issues in various policy areas.

A. Miami-Dade Priorities & Other Key Issues

1. **Conference Report on SB 2500: General Appropriations Act -APPROVED-**The House and Senate passed the Conference Report on SB 2500, which is the state fiscal year 2017-18 budget.
Trails Funding:
 - **Ludlam Trail (County Priority)** – \$5 million - **APPROVED.**
 - **Underline** – \$5 million – **APPROVED.**
 - **SunTrail Funding** – \$25 million recurring for trails through the SunTrail program. Individual trails that are funded as line items but then vetoed may not be eligible for SunTrail funding for state fiscal year 2017-18.

2. **South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (County Priority) -APPROVED-** SB 842 by Sen. Bill Galvano and HB 695 by Rep. David Santiago addresses insurance liability issues related to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFTRA) which operates commuter rail service in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. The bill primarily addresses liability regarding the use of a rail corridor, provides SFRTA's ability to indemnify the Florida East Coast Railway (FECR), and All Aboard Florida (AAF). This was the subject of Resolution No. R-717-16.

3. **Conference Report on SB 2514: Health Care/Low Income Pool -APPROVED-** The House and Senate passed the Conference Report on SB 2514, related to health care. Among other provisions, it would provide funding authorization in the amount of \$1.5 billion for the Low Income Pool program in the Agency for Health Care Administration, with payments being contingent upon the non-federal share of funding being made available through intergovernmental transfers. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-939-16.

4. **Surplus MDX Toll Revenue/Transit/South Florida Turnpike Revenue -APPROVED-** The Senate passed HB 1049 by Representative Bryan Avila with a Senate strike-all amendment by a vote of 38 yeas, 0 nays. HB 1049 then went back to the House and the House concurred in the amendment by a vote of 117 yeas, 0 nays.
HB 1049 allocates between 20 and 50 percent of surplus MDX toll revenue for transit projects approved by the TPO, and extends from 2017 to 2027 the sunset of a provision requiring 90 percent of toll revenues generated on the Turnpike within Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties to stay within these counties. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-62-17.

5. **SB 90: Solar Devices/Amendment 4 Implementation -PASSED-** This bill provides an 80% tax abatement for tangible personal property, allowing a 20% share to go to the county local government. Also, a number of disclosure requirements are included in the bill for residential customers leasing or financing solar systems. This bill awaits action by the Governor. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-937-16.

6. **HB 17: Preemption -FAILED -** HB 17 by Representative Fine and SB 1158 by Senator Passidomo, while different in substance, both would have significantly eroded local government home rule authority. HB 17 received one hearing that was lengthy and

contentious. The bill passed this committee but was not heard again. SB 1158 did not receive a hearing. This is the subject of Resolution No. R- 274-17.

7. **County Elected Officers -FAILED-** SB 130, SB 132, SB 134, SB 136, and SB 138, By former Sen. Frank Artiles were withdrawn from consideration by the Senate. Other bills addressing elected constitutional officers are HB 187 by Rep. Manny Diaz, HJR 721 by Rep. Bryan Avila and Rep. Jason Fischer, HB 271 by Rep. Bob Cortes, HB 1129 by Rep. Brad Drake. These bills would have provided for a statewide constitutional amendment requiring voters in Florida to decide whether these various officers should be elected. Each bill addressed a different aspect of County appointed officers, sheriff, tax collector, clerk of the court, and property appraiser in that this clarifies that the property appraiser should be a constitutional officer.

B. Education, Library, Cultural Affairs and Parks & Recreation

8. **Library Grants to Local Governments** – \$22.8 million statewide, which includes an increase over the base budget amount of \$800,000 –**APPROVED**.
9. **Library Construction Grants** – \$0. This funding was zeroed out towards the end of conference – **FAILED**.
10. **Library Technology Grant Program** – \$3 million statewide - **VETOED**.
11. **Charter School Land Use Preemption** – **APPROVED-** HB 7069 by Rep Manny Diaz passed as part of the budget package. This includes a preemption for the siting of certain charter schools that locate in existing buildings. Initially, the preemption was contained in HB 7101 and included special exceptions “or any other form of approval.” This applied to all charter schools. It was also contained in HB 5105, but applied only to “schools of hope”. HB 7069 contains provisions that apply to all charter schools, as well as the “schools of hope” language. However, the “any other form of approval” language was dropped. While not a perfect solution, this leaves the County room to address impacts, including requiring site plan approval, a building permit, a concurrency certificate, or any other kind of development order, such as a conditional use permit.
12. **Camp Matecumbe Historic Chapel** – \$275,000 – **VETOED**.
13. **Zoo Miami Animal Hospital/Rehab** – \$1 million – **VETOED**.
14. **Cultural Affairs** – **APPROVED** - Cultural and Museum Grants were funded at \$13.5M. This fully funds the list at just over \$11M, with the remaining money going to a list of projects. Miami-Dade County will receive funds for the following projects on the list:
 - Museum of Science, Inc. New Construction - \$500,000
 - Miami City Ballet, Inc. Renovation - \$360,000
 - Miami-Dade County Renovation - \$500,000
 - Miami Children’s Museum, Inc. - \$500,000
 - City of Homestead Renovation - \$500,000
 - Jorge M. Perez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County, Inc. Renovation - \$95,562
 - City of Miami Renovation - \$48,000

- Institute of Contemporary Art Miami, Inc. New Construction - \$68,243

15. Historic Preservation Grants – \$1.2 million statewide – **APPROVED.**

C. Transportation & Economic Development Issues

16. Transportation Network Companies/Uber/Preemption –APPROVED**-** HB 221 by Rep. Chris Sprowls (R – Clearwater) regulates transportation network companies such as Uber or Lyft at the state level. HB 221 preempts local regulation with limited exceptions for airports and seaports. HB 221 is effective July 1, 2017.

17. Tri-Rail State Funding Limitations -FAILED**-** Proviso language was removed from the budget that would have provided that SFRTA would receive no state funding for contracts, renewals or extensions without prior FDOT approval.

18. Financing of Fixed-Guideway Public Transit Projects- **FAILED-** HB 315 by Rep. Nicholas Duran and SB 752 by Sen. Anitere Flores would have revised the amount by which the Department of Transportation may contribute to public transit projects. Current law states that DOT may contribute up to 12.5% in funding. This bill would have amended that language to state that DOT may contribute up to 25% in funding. However, Senator Flores asked that DOT issue a letter to indicate that funding for the SMART plan would not be subject to the 12.5% limitation. In the letter DOT issued, it indicates that since it is an extension of the existing Metrorail line, it would not be subject to the 12.5% funding limitation. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-69-17.

19. Road Namings -APPROVED**-** SB 368 by Sen. Bill Monford, and HB 73 by Rep. Halsey Beshears were successfully amended to include the County’s requested roads for renaming. This is the first time in several years that a road naming bill passes the legislature.

County Road Naming Requests:

- Muhammad Ali Boulevard
- Stanley G. Tate Boulevard
- Herman Echevarria Way
- Reverend Wilner Maxy

This was the subject of Resolutions No. R-744-16, R-849-16, R155-17 and R-321-16.

20. Transportation Disadvantaged - **APPROVED -** \$55.9 million statewide, with proviso language that reallocates transportation disadvantaged funding, a portion of which is distributed equally among the 67 counties, resulting in a \$2 million negative fiscal impact to Miami-Dade County.

21. Smart City Challenge Grant Program - \$325,000 - **VETOED** -. FDOT is directed to establish a Smart City Grant Challenge Grant Program for innovative transportation technology.

22. Miami-Dade International Agriculture, Horse & Cattle Show – \$98,850 - **VETOED.**
This was the subject of Resolution No. R-73-17.

23. South Dade Marketing -FAILED- \$0 initially funded at \$100,000, this funding was zeroed out as the conference process progressed. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-1096-16.

24. HB 1A (special session) – Funding for Visit Florida/Florida Job Growth Grant Fund – APPROVED. HB 1A restores funding to Visit Florida in the amount of \$76 million. HB 1A also creates the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund and provides funding in the amount of \$85 million, consisting of \$60 million from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and \$25 million from the Florida Department of Transportation. HB 1A authorizes the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to be used for:

- State and local public infrastructure projects to promote economic development; and
- Workforce training grants to support programs at state colleges and technical centers.

D. Public Safety, Regulatory, Animal Services & Procurement

25. Public Record Exemption/Identity of a Witness to a Murder -APPROVED- HB 111 by Rep. Kionne McGhee makes confidential and exempt the personal identifying information of a witness to a murder. The exemption applies for two years after the date the murder was observed. HB 111 is effective July 1, 2017. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-157-17.

26. Public Records Exemption/Former Firefighters Personal Identifying Information - APPROVED- SB 1108 by Sen. Greg Steube expands a public records exemption to cover personal identifying and location information of current and former firefighters and their spouses and children. SB 1108 is effective October 1, 2017.

27. Law Enforcement Body Cameras -APPROVED- HB 305 by Representative Shawn Harrison (R–Tampa) requires law enforcement agencies to develop guidelines authorizing an officer's review of camera footage of an incident before writing a report or providing a statement. HB 305 is effective July 1, 2017.

28. Domestic Violence/Enhanced Penalties -APPROVED-The Senate passed HB 1385 by Speaker Pro Tem Jeanette Nunez by a vote of 37 yeas, 0 nays. HB 1385 would increase mandatory jail time of domestic violence offenders, with further increased jail time if the domestic violence offense is committed in the presence of a child. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-1218-16.

29. Distracted Driving -FAILED- SB 144 by Sen. Rene Garcia would have made texting while driving a primary offense for all drivers. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-520-16.

30. Dogs in Court -APPROVED- HB 151 by Representative Brodeur allows therapy dogs or facility dogs to be used in court for children in cases involving abuse, neglect, and abandonment and for adults with intellectual disabilities or in sexual offense cases. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-271-17.

31. Animal Abuser Registry - FAILED -HB 871 by Representative Ingoglia and SB 1628 by Senator Young would have created a statewide animal abuser registry. HB 871

received a hearing but died in its second of three committees. SB 1628 did not receive a hearing.

32. **Fentanyl/Opioids** -APPROVED- HB 477 by Rep. Jim Boyd creates new penalties and enhances existing penalties relating to synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and its derivatives. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-404-17.
33. **Vacation Rentals** – FAILED- SB 188 by Senator Steube and HB 425 by Representative LaRosa would have further preempted local government regulations pertaining to vacation rentals. HB 425 passed the House. SB 188 was significantly amended throughout the committee process because many Senators were uncomfortable with the scope of the bill. SB 188 was laid on the table and HB 425 was taken up in the Senate. Several amendments were filed in the Senate to HB 425 and ultimately the Senate chose not to spend the time on this bill and it died on the calendar. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-64-17.
34. **Cell Towers** –APPROVED- HB 687 by Rep. De La Rosa. This bill creates the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act, which establishes a process by which wireless providers may place certain “small wireless facilities” on, under, within, or adjacent to certain utility poles or wireless support.
35. **Linear Facilities** -FAILED- SB 1048 by Sen. Tom Lee was a local preemption bill that would have limited the ability of local government to enforce local guidelines for utility pole infrastructure installation and siting.
36. **Autism Awareness** -APPROVED- HB 39 by Evan Jenne requires law enforcement training in how to deal with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-275-17
37. **Juvenile Civil Citations** -FAILED- SB 196 by Sen. Anitere Flores and HB 301 by Rep. Frank White would have authorized FDLE to adopt rules to provide for expunction of certain non-judicial records of arrests of minors upon successful completion of certain diversion programs. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-153-17
38. **Public Works Projects** -APPROVED- HB 599 by Rep. Jay Williamson states that when at least 50% of state funds are used in a local project, local governments are prohibited from requiring in a bid solicitation that a contractor pay employees a predetermined amount of wages, or recruit, train, or hire employees from designated, restricted, or single source.
39. **Cancer Presumption** – FAILED- SB 158 by Sen. Jack Latvala and HB 0143 by Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen proposed to establish a presumption as to a firefighter's condition or impairment of health caused by certain types of cancer he or she contracts in the line of duty.
40. **Condominiums** -APPROVED- SB 1237 by Rep. Jose Felix Diaz prohibits contracts between the association and any company related to an officer or director and requires disclosure of potential conflicts of interest and prohibits condominium association officers, directors, managers, and agents from using a debit card of the association. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-276-17.

41. HB 181: Natural Hazards -APPROVED- HB 181 by Rep. Kristin Jacobs creates a natural hazards interagency working group for the purpose of sharing information on current and potential impacts of natural hazards through the state, coordinating ongoing efforts of state agencies in addressing impacts of natural hazards, and collaborating on statewide initiatives to address natural hazards. The bill requires the Division of Emergency Management, on behalf of the workgroup, to prepare and submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature beginning January 1, 2019, and requires agency liaisons to ensure the report is posted on their agency websites. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-312-17.

E. Housing, Health & Human Services

42. Elder Affairs/Meals -APROVED- \$6.3 million in additional non-recurring countywide funds was approved as follows:

- Hialeah Gardens Elder Meals Program - \$292,000
- Hialeah Elder Meals Program - \$1.4 million
- Community Coalition Hot Meals Programs - \$250,000
- Easter Seals of South Florida – Kendall Adult Day Care - \$150,000
- Easter Seals of South Florida – Hialeah Adult Day Care - \$150,000
- Little Havana Activities & Nutritional Centers of Dade County -1.5 million
- North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizens- At Risk Meals -\$50,000
- North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizens - \$1 million
- Southwest Social Services Program – Dr. Armand Badia Center -\$1.1 million
- Silver Club at WOW - \$170,000
- United Home Care Assisted Facility -\$245,000

This was the subject of Resolution No. R-916-16.

43. Firefighter Cancer Research -APPROVED- \$1 million to the University of Miami, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center to expand firefighters access to cancer screenings across the state; enable prevention and earlier detection of the disease; identify exposures that account for increased cancer risk; and field test new technology and methods that measure exposure in the field. Sylvester is directed to develop a report for the Legislature on cancer research outcomes and cancer mitigation efforts being examined.

44. Farm Share -APPROVED- \$3 million, with proviso language prohibiting Farm Share from allowing any candidate for elective office to host a food distribution event from the last day of qualifying to Election Day if the candidate has an opponent.

45. Affordable Housing/State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) -APPROVED- \$100 million statewide, which includes \$5.2 million for services to homeless persons.

46. Crisis Outplacement Beds -\$354,640 - This item is funded in the base budget of the Department of Children and Families and under the new rules no House bill is required. No cuts were proposed to this recurring program.

47. Challenge Grants and Staffing Grants - \$5 million -**APPROVED.**

48. **Miami-Dade Veterans Court** -\$150,500 -**APPROVED**. This was the subject of Resolution R-1176-16.

49. **Miami-Dade Driver's License Reinstatement Pilot Program** –\$250,000 -**VETOED**.

50. **Miami-Dade County / Zika Response, Recovery and Mitigation** -**FAILED**- HB 4257 by Rep. David Richardson and Sen. Daphne Campbell requested funding in the amount of \$2.2 million for Zika response to provide for related P.C Software/Hardware, Vehicles, Education & Outreach, Vehicle (1), LV8 Turbines, Buffalo Turbine and Plotter Printer. Additionally, funds would have provided for Zika related security services such as exterminator and information technology service agreements. This is the subject of Resolution No. R 815-16 and R-851-16.

51. **Miami-Dade County / Economic Recovery Packages for Small Business Affected by Zika** -**FAILED** - HB 2859 by Rep. Cynthia Stafford would have appropriated \$874,358 to aid small businesses negatively impacted by Zika.

F. **Agriculture, Natural Resources & Zoning**

52. **Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring** – \$1 million - **APPROVED**.
This is the subject of Resolution No. R- 63-17.

53. **Everglades** -**APPROVED**- Everglades received a total of \$233M, including \$168M for Everglades Restoration and \$35M for Northern Everglades in the budget, and \$30M for water storage south of Lake Okeechobee in SB 10. This is subject of Resolution No. R-821-16.

54. **Land Conservation** -**FAILED**- The Rural and Family Lands Program received \$10M. However, Florida Forever and Florida Communities Trust were not funded. HB 7119 proposed to realign and reprioritize the Florida Forever program and provide future funding, but that bill surfaced late in session, did not have a Senate companion, and did not pass.

55. **Local Government Cleanup Contracting** – \$13M -**APPROVED**.

56. **Distribution to Counties from Motor Vehicle Proceeds** – \$8.7M - **APPROVED**.

57. **Construction/Water Connections/Signs/Preemption** -**APPROVED**- HB 1021 by Representative Bryan Avila HB 1021 would address various construction issues, including prohibiting a local government from:

- Requiring a separate water connection or charging a specified water or sewage rate related to certain fire sprinkler systems;
- Requiring a permit to paint a residence; and
- Adopting or enforcing building permit requirements that conflict with corporate trademarks, service marks, logos, color patterns or other corporate branding on real property in connection with business activities related to the sale of liquid fuels or other franchises (this provision was amended to apply only in counties with a population of more than 1.3 million).

58. Water Projects -FUNDED- \$55.6 million statewide, including the following County projects and the water projects of cities within Miami-Dade County listed:

- **Florida City Canal Outfall and Equalization Improvements** - \$500,000 – **APPROVED.**
- **South Miami-Dade Salt Intrusion Barrier Project** - \$600,000 – **APPROVED.**
- **Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project** - \$1,500,000 – **APPROVED.**
- **Miami River Commission/Restoration** – \$150,000 –**VETOED.**

This was the subject of Resolution No. R-197-17.

Many other water projects for Miami-Dade cities also were funded as follows:

APPROVED:

- City of Miami Stormwater Master Plan (HB 2429)- \$1,125,000.
- City of Sweetwater Stormwater Improvements: Phase 2B North (HB 2999) - \$224,756.
- Cutler Bay Saga Bay 1.2 Sub-Basin Water Quality Improvements (HB 2675) - \$165,000.
- Doral Stormwater Improvements at Sub-Basin H-8 (HB 4231) - \$ 461,708.
- Florida City Canal Outfall and Equalization Improvements (HB 4261) - \$500,000.
- Florida Ocean Alliance (HB 2349) - \$300,000.
- Hialeah Gardens Central District Drainage Improvements (HB 2769) - \$1,200,000.
- Homestead Pump Station and Plant Construction (HB 2973) - \$450,000.
- Medley Seawall Expansion Phase II (HB 2033) - \$200,000.
- Miami Gardens Culvert/Headwall Replacement Project Scott Lake (HB 2525) - \$150,000.
- Miami Gardens Vista Verde Drainage Improvement Project (HB 2319) - \$300,000.
- Miami Lakes Canal Bank Stabilization of Drainage Canal Phase II (HB 2047) - \$1,000,000.
- North Bay Village Drainage Improvement Project (HB 2779) - \$500,000.
- Pilot Projects for City of South Miami and Okeechobee County Septic to Sewer (HB 2885) - \$1,000,000.
- Sunny Isles Beach Drainage Improvement (Senate form 2126) - \$300,000.
- Village of El Portal - El Jardin Stormwater Improvements (HB 3341) - \$550,000.
- Village of Pinecrest Waterline Extension Project (HB 3355) - \$500,000.
- Virginia Gardens Stormwater Improvements (HB 3005) - \$125,000.
- West Miami Potable Phase I (HB 3659) - \$500,000.

VETOED:

- Aventura NE 191st Street Roadway and Drainage Improvements (HB 3393) - \$100,000.
- Bay Harbor Islands Sewer Lateral Lining Project (HB 3399) - \$500,000.
- Florida City Krome Avenue Water Line (HB 2671) - \$229,140.
- Miami Springs Erosion Control and Stabilization of Drainage Canal Phase II (HB 3001) - \$500,000.
- Surfside Biscaya Island Water Main Crossing (HB 3411) - \$124,000.

59. Laurel Wilt/Avocado Crop – \$250,000 - **VETOED.**

- 60. Beach Renourishment -APPROVED-** \$50 million statewide, including Sunny Isles beach project (\$2.5M). Proviso language that appropriations “shall not be provided for any activities related to beach renourishment utilizing offshore sand sources from Martin and St. Lucie Counties for the Dade County Shore Protection Project. Any funds in the beach renourishment line item to the Sunny Isles Segment/Dade County Shore Protection Project included in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Beach Management Funding Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Local Government Funding Requests may only utilize upland sand sources.”
- 61. Natural Hazards -APPROVED-** HB 181 by Representative Jacobs creates a natural hazards interagency working group for the purpose of sharing information on current and potential impacts of natural hazards through the state, coordinating ongoing efforts of state agencies in addressing impacts of natural hazards, and collaborating on statewide initiatives to address natural hazards. The bill defines “natural hazards” to include extreme heat, drought, wildfire, sea-level change, high tides, storm surge, saltwater intrusion, stormwater runoff, flash floods, inland flooding, and coastal flooding. The bill requires the Division of Emergency Management, on behalf of the workgroup, to prepare and submit an annual progress report to the Governor and Legislature beginning January 1, 2019, and requires agency liaisons to ensure the report is posted on their agency websites. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-312-17.
- 62. Blasting Mining Activities -FAILED-** HB 195 by Representative Manny Diaz and SB 354 by Senator Garcia would have reinstated funding through October 1, 2017 for the blasting study funded by the Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Mitigation Plan water treatment upgrade fee. This funding ceased December 1, 2016. The bills also would have established statewide ground vibration limits for construction aggregate materials mining activities to .15 inches per second. Additionally, it would have allowed the Chief Financial Officer to direct the State Fire Marshal to modify statewide regulations regarding the use of explosives in conjunction with construction aggregate materials mining, including the temporary cessation of blasting. Neither bill received a hearing. This is the subject of Resolution No. R-196-17.
- 63. Lake Okeechobee Reservoir -APPROVED-** SB 10 by Sen. Rob Bradley Establishes a southern reservoir to eliminate discharges from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchie and St. Lucie Rivers, and instead distribute the water southward to the Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.
- 64. Fracking -FAILED-** All five of the anti-fracking bills died this session (SB 99 by Sen. Gary Farmer; HB 35 by Rep. Evan Jenne; SB 108 by Sen. Gary Farmer; SB 442 by Sen. Dana Young and HB 0451 by Rep. Mike Miller). This was the subject of Resolution No. R-814-16.
- 65. HB 1A (special session) -APPROVED-** Funding for Herbert Hoover Dike Rehab/Lake Okeechobee. Before the House and Senate passed it, HB 1A was amended to appropriate \$50 million in nonrecurring funds to accelerate the rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-852-16.
- 66. SB 8A (special session) - Implementation of Amendment 2/Medical Marijuana - APPROVED.** The House and Senate passed SB 8A, which implements Amendment 2 re: medical marijuana passed by voters in November, 2016. Among other provisions, SB 8A

includes language allowing local governments to ban medical marijuana dispensaries, but if a local government chooses not to ban dispensaries, then the local government is preempted from limiting the number of dispensaries and must treat dispensaries similar to pharmacies as to where they can be located. SB 8A also prohibits dispensaries from being located within 500 feet of schools and expressly allows local governments to ensure compliance with building and fire prevention codes, something that is not in existing law. SB 8A authorizes 10 new licensed growers in addition to the existing seven (initially a total of 17 growers), with each licensed grower authorized to open 25 dispensaries statewide. SB 8A divides the state into regions and caps the number of dispensaries in each region based on population. The number of authorized growers and dispensaries both increase as the number of patients increases. The caps on dispensaries expires on April 1, 2020 absent further action by the Legislature. Medical marijuana is exempt from sales tax under SB 8A.

G. Finance & Tax / Elections

- 67. HB 7109: Tax Cut Package/Commercial Lease Tax/Veterans Sales Tax Holiday/Enterprise Zone Boundaries -APPROVED-** The House and Senate passed HB 7109, which is the tax cut package. HB 7109 now consists of a significantly reduced number of tax cuts. The one-day annual veteran's sales tax holiday was eliminated from the package, the reduction to the commercial lease tax has been lowered from a 1.5 percent reduction to a 0.2 percent reduction (6 percent to 5.8 percent), and the back to school holiday was reduced from 10 days to 3 days. A 3-day disaster-preparedness holiday was added. HB 7109 includes a property tax discount for complexes with 70 or more affordable housing units. It also extends through December 31, 2020 enterprise zone boundaries for the purpose of local incentives program. This was the subject of Resolution No. R-1184-16.
- 68. Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption -PASSED-** HJR 1705 by Ways and Means Committee and Rep. Mike de la Rosa proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to provide a homestead exemption for all levies other than school district levies, on the assessed value greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000.
- 69. Canvassing of Vote-by-mail Ballots -APPROVED-** Modifying and clarifying provisions governing the canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots; authorizing use of the vote-by-mail ballot cure affidavit if an elector's signature does not match the signature in the registration books or precinct register; specifying that a Florida driver license or Florida identification card are acceptable forms of identification for purposes of curing a vote-by-mail ballot.
- 70. Conference Report on SB 7022: Florida Retirement System -APPROVED-** The House and Senate passed the Conference Report on SB 7022, related to the Florida Retirement System. Among other provisions, it would:
- Set FRS contribution rates for state fiscal year 2017-18;
 - Change the default from the pension plan to the investment plan for regular class members of FRS initially enrolled after January 1, 2018 if no election is made within 9 months of starting employment, members of the special risk class would continue to default to the pension plan;
 - Expand the survivor benefit for investment plan members killed in the line of duty to include all members of the investment plan, with the provisions, including those pertaining to the Special Risk Class, retroactive to 2002; and

- Allow for renewed membership in the investment plan for former FRS employees who have returned to an FRS employer.

These provisions will have a negative fiscal impact on the County.

A prior version of the FRS bill, SB 7030, provided a presumption re: disability benefits for certain forms of cancer among firefighters, but the firefighter cancer presumption was not included in the Conference Report on SB 7022. The budget does fund a University of Miami firefighter cancer presumption study in the amount of \$1 million.

This is the subject of Resolution No. R-150-16 and R-1101-16.