

Doing Things!

Legislative Updates – State April 11, 2017



Issue	Position
Article V Court Funding	Support eliminating the requirement that counties increase certain court expenditures by
	1.5 percent over the prior county fiscal year.
Beach Nourishment	Support the continuation and increase of funding for beach nourishment projects.
Building Permits	Support legislation allowing homeowners acting as their own contractors to pull online
	permits for additional projects instead of having to appear in person.
Construction Licensing	Support updating of the Special Act establishing the Pinellas County Construction Licensing
Board	Board.
Defense Contractor	Support legislation that makes incentives for defense contractors an outright reward.
Incentives	Currently state dollars may offset federal incentives.
Energy Policy	Support the development of a statewide energy policy.
Entertainment Tax Credit	Support entertainment tax credit incentives. On-location and indigenous commercial, film,
Incentives	and media production generate over \$25 million per year in Pinellas County.
Flood Insurance	Support efforts to support flood mitigation and encourage the private marketplace.
Healthcare Expansion	Support efforts to expand healthcare in Florida and draw down federal resources to
	expand Medicaid eligibility.
High Impact Veteran	Support legislation establishing a "High Impact Veteran County" designation that allocates
County	state funds to hire Veterans Service Officers in designated counties to increase services
	and federal benefits for Florida veterans.
High Prescriber Database	Support legislation that requires physicians to input data into the state monitoring
	database rather than leaving it a voluntary program.



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Issue	Position
Homelessness Funding	Support a steady source of state funding for homelessness issues that is not subject to the annual appropriations process.
Medicaid Dental Care	Support legislation to incentivize participation by the dental community.
Medicaid Managed Care	Support continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure timely and full payment cycles for providers.
Mosquito Control Funding	Support increased mosquito control funding available to all mosquito control districts.
Regional Transportation	Support regional transportation coordination and funding, including funding for a study of the best regional models.
Sewer Infrastructure	Support creation of a state program to assist with the replacement of private laterals, support funding for a regional inflow and infiltration study of all sewer systems countywide and other recommendations from the Wastewater/Stormwater Task Force.
Vacation Rentals	Support removing the pre-emption of local regulation of vacation rental properties
Vehicles for Hire	Support statewide regulation of vehicles for hire.
Local Tax Referenda	Oppose efforts to raise the approval threshold or restrict local control over the scheduling of local tax referenda.
Open Carry	Oppose any efforts for open carry of firearms
SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing Trust Fund)	Oppose money from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund being used for any purpose other than housing.



Update on Priority Items

Beach Nourishment

HB 1213 has passed 2 of 3 committees, SB 1590 has passed 1 of 3 committees.
 Both bills update the beach nourishment ranking criteria, focus efforts on inlet sand management, and require DEP to develop a 3-year work plan.

Construction Licensing Board

 HB 1441 has passed all committees of reference. Was amended to allow the appointment of an individual from County Consumer Protection to the PCCLB.

Flood Insurance

 SB 420 has passed 2 of 3 committees. The bill extends current law that enables companies selling private flood policies to set their own rates without needing approval from state regulators, and increases intervals for revisions to the flood loss projection models to every 4 years.

Regional Transportation

SB 1672 and HB 1243 reform TBARTA's membership structure. Both have passed 1
of 3 committees.



Update on Priority Items

Vacation Rentals

 HB 425 prohibits any regulations by local government and has passed 2 of 3 committees. SB 188 allows local regulations as long as they are applied universally. SB 188 was postponed in its second committee, but may be heard at a future committee meeting.

Vehicles for Hire (Transportation Network Companies)

• SB 340 and HB 221 would provide statewide regulatory guidance for transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft. HB 221 passed the full House, SB 340 passed all committees and was placed on Senate floor calendar.

Local Tax Referenda

 HB 139 and SB 278 require local government sales tax referenda to be held on the date of a general election and receive a supermajority vote. HB 139 has been amended to provide an effective date of July 1, 2018. The Senate bill was amended to take effect July 1, 2019.

SHIP/SAIL (Affordable Housing)

 Although the trust funds will collect about \$292 million for affordable housing, the draft Senate budget only allocates \$162.4 million of the funds into affordable housing while the House and the Governor propose spending only \$44 million, diverting the rest to other projects.



Other Items of Interest

Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs)

 HB 13 creates new reporting requirements for existing CRAs, changes criteria for use of redevelopment trust fund proceeds, and phases out existing CRAs. HB 13 passed 2 of 3 committees, and SB 1770 passed 1 of 4 committees.

Cell Phone Tower Preemption

SB 596 and HB 687 prohibit the Department of Transportation and local government entities from prohibiting, regulating, or charging for the collocation of small wireless facilities in public rights-of-way under certain circumstances. SB 596 has passed 2 of 3 committees. HB 687 has passed 1 of 2 committees.

Homestead Exemption

- HB 7105 and SJR 1774 propose an amendment to the Florida Constitution to increase the current homestead exemption for non-school property taxes by \$25,000 (creating an exemption of \$75,000 for the first \$100,000 of the value of homestead property).
- According to OMB's analysis and the Property Appraiser's analysis, this could result in at least a \$21M impact to Pinellas County.



Appropriations Requests

- Request for Lealman Community and Recreation Center appears in the Senate Budget for \$2M.
- Request for the Tampa Bay Center for Innovation appears in Senate Budget for \$3M.
- Other Items
 - \$10M for Lake Seminole Sediment Removal (not in Senate Budget)
 - \$1.5M for Sanitary Sewer Improvements in City of St. Pete Beach (In Senate Budget)
 - Treasure Island Pinellas County Shore Protection Project is on track for funding in the amount of \$2,530,000



Questions?