



State Legislative Update

January 14, 2022



The 2022 Session of the Florida Legislature began on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Following is a brief update on some of the legislative issues identified as important to the Martin County Board of County Commissioners. Governor DeSantis submitted his FY22/23 budget proposal and the State of the State address on Tuesday morning to mark the start of the session. Your staff are tracking over 500 bills at this point and will provide updates on relevant bills that remain eligible for passage.

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MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES UPDATE

FUNDING REQUESTS

Septic to Sewer:

- \$2 million for Seven J's Industrial Park Force Main Project
- \$8 million for Coral Gardens Vacuum Sewer Project
- **Progress:**
 - Filed by Senator Harrell awaiting Senate budget development

Martin County REACH Center:

- \$1 million for Building 17 REACH Center at the Martin County Airport to provide workforce training and economic development
- **Progress:**
 - Filed by Senator Harrell awaiting budget development
 - HB 2977 referred to Infrastructure and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

Cypress Creek Floodplain Restoration Project:

- \$750,000 to restore the historic floodplain of Cypress Creek, one of the main tributaries to the Loxahatchee River
- **Progress:**
 - HB 2079 unanimously approved in Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
 - HB 2079 referred to Appropriations Committee

WATER QUALITY

SB 832 Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force

- Requiring periodic inspection of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) that are not required to have an operating permit. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer an OSTDS inspection program and to adopt rules that include the following:
 - A schedule for a five-year inspection cycle;
 - A county-by-county implementation plan phased in over a ten-year period, with priority given to those areas within a priority focus area for springs;
 - Minimum standards for a functioning system;
 - Requirements for the pump-out or repair of a failing system; and
 - Enforcement procedures for an owner's failure to obtain an inspection of the system or a contractor's failure to timely report inspection results to DEP and the system owner.
- The bill also requires basin management action plans (BMAPs) to include a prioritized list of spatially focused suites of projects in areas likely to yield maximum pollutant reductions. Each project with a total cost exceeding \$1 million must be monitored to determine if it is working to reduce nutrient pollution or water use, or both, as intended. The bill requires the monitoring assessments to be completed expeditiously and included in each BMAP update.
- **Progress:**
 - Favorable vote in Senate Environment and Natural Resources
 - Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Govt.

HB 0349 Water Resources Management

- Authorizing the Board to grant easements on sovereignty submerged lands for mitigation banks to ensure the protection and restoration of natural resources and to offset the unavoidable impacts of projects when mitigation banks meet the public interest criteria related to state owned lands.
- **Progress:**
 - 13-4 Favorable vote in Environment, Agriculture and Flooding Subcommittee
 - Referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 1019 Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments

- Requiring coastal counties to conduct vulnerability assessments analyzing effects of saltwater intrusion on water supplies & preparedness to respond to threats & provide copies to DEP & water management districts; requires water management districts to submit certain projects to DEP; requires DEP to update comprehensive statewide flood vulnerability & sea level rise data, make certain information available online, & provide cost-share funding to coastal counties.
- **Progress:**
 - Referred to Environment, Agriculture and Flooding Subcommittee

SB 1418 Soil and Groundwater Contamination

- Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules for statewide cleanup target levels for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in soil and groundwater; prohibiting such rules from taking effect until ratified by the Legislature; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a specified analysis of certain assessment and cleanup programs and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date, etc.
- **Progress:**
 - Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Committee

TOURISM

SB 512 Vacation Rentals

- Requiring advertising platforms to collect and remit taxes for certain transactions; revising the regulated activities of public lodging establishments and public food service establishments preempted to the state to include licensing; expanding the authority of local laws, ordinances, or regulations to include requiring vacation rentals to register with local vacation rental registration programs; authorizing local governments to adopt vacation rental registration programs and impose fines for failure to register; requiring advertising platforms to require that persons placing advertisements for vacation rentals include certain information in the advertisements and attest to certain information, etc.
- **Progress:**
 - Favorable vote in Regulated Industries Committee
 - Referred to Community Affairs Committee

HOME RULE

SB 0620 Local Government

- Authorizing certain businesses to claim business damages from a county or municipality if the county or municipality enacts or amends certain ordinances or charter provisions; authorizing businesses to recover costs and fees in a specified manner and if certain requirements are met; requiring courts to consider certain factors and follow specified guidance when assessing costs; specifying requirements for the courts in determining and awarding attorney fees; requiring attorneys and businesses to submit certain documentation relating to attorney fees, etc.
- **Progress:**
 - 7-4 Favorable vote in Judiciary Committee
 - Referred to Appropriations Committee

SB 0280 Local Ordinances

- Authorizing courts to assess and award reasonable attorney fees and costs and damages in certain civil actions filed against local governments; requiring a board of county commissioners to prepare a business impact estimate before the enactment of a proposed ordinance; requiring a governing body of a municipality to prepare a business impact estimate before the enactment of a proposed ordinance, etc.
- **Progress:**
 - 6-2 Favorable vote in Community Affairs Committee
 - Referred to Rules Committee

SB 1266 Homestead Property Exemption

- Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to provide for the periodic increase of the \$25,000 exemption on a homestead property's assessed value that is greater than \$50,000, etc.
- **Progress:**
 - Referred to Community Affairs Committee

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Everglades Restoration	Funding Request (millions) +/-
Restoration Strategies (1647)	\$86.5
CEPP/EAA Reservoir (1647)	\$69.0
C-43 Reservoir (1647)	\$125.0
Other Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects (1647)	\$72.1
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Plan (1650)	\$50.0
Subtotal	\$402.6

Items of Interest	
Florida Forever, land acquisition (1602)	\$75.0
Northern Everglades and Estuaries Program (1648) (includes: \$6.2 mil for C-23/24 interim storage water farm, \$3 mil. for Caulkins, \$4.5 mil for Bluefield water farm and additional \$ for other present and future dispersed projects in the St. Lucie watershed)	\$73.3
Dispersed Water Management (1643)	\$5.0
Alternative Water Supply (1649)	\$40.0
TMDL/BMAP funds (1677)	\$50.0
Blue-Green Algae Task Force (1640)	\$10.8
Innovative Technologies, HABs (1646)	\$15.0
Wastewater Grant Program (1671)	\$125.0
Resilient Florida Trust Fund (transfer from General Revenue)	\$500.0

GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/1-11-22-state-of-the-state-address-by-governor-ron-desantis/>