Florida Legislative Session: Week 6 Report

The Senate passed its General Appropriations Act, implementing bill and conforming bills -- legislation collectively known as the budget. The House will take up the Senate's plan Thursday, which is roughly $4 billion higher than the proposed House budget, attach amendments that will delete the text and then pass the bills. Having passed a different version of the bills than the Senate, the chambers will enter into conference budget negotiations.

The chambers will negotiate over the line-items and language until they agree to the exact same budget, then attach their agreement in the form of amendments to the budget bills and send it to the governor for vetoes and his signature.

But the first thing the chambers will haggle over is allocations -- a nonbinding agreement between the House and Senate providing a specific amount of money each budget category has to spend going into budget conference negotiations.

House Speaker Richard Corcoran said he would like to see allocations come out five to seven days after the House passes the budget, based on a statement to the Florida Channel.

Aside from the wide gap in dollars, the chambers are at odds over property taxes, education programs, hospital funding, state workers' salaries, environmental projects and economic development agencies.

The complete FAC analysis of the Proposed SFY 2018 Senate and House budget can be found below:

Florida Association of Counties Analysis: 2017-18 Proposed Budget

ISSUE OF THE WEEK
The major issue facing county and local governments this week is the preemption on local communities to control local taxpayer facilitates from private wireless companies (SB 596/HB 687). Both SB 596 /HB 687 limit the fees counties can charge the for-profit wireless companies, like AT&T and Verizon, to just $15 per item on county infrastructure. Wireless companies made billions in profit last year and pay private property owners and even other government entities outside Florida much, much more than just $15. By limiting what counties can charge these companies for their use of taxpayer-funded and maintained utilities poles amounts to a taxpayer subsidy to private for-profit companies.

Counties want to bring new and faster technology to their communities but it shouldn't be on the back of taxpayers. These private for-profit companies need to pay their fair share and defer to public safety experts on where these facilities should go.

Local right-of-way regulations are needed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, while maintaining community design standards. Under these bills, counties would be unable to apply basic safety and aesthetic standards to the collocation of small cells.

TRACKING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Legislative meetings can be viewed on The Florida Channel. Click the Live Stream Button
- Committees and Bills can be accessed at the following sites - Florida Senate - Committees/Members/Meeting Notices/Materials
As always, please see below for an update (updates are in BLUE) on legislation the lobby team is tracking this session and let me know if you need any additional information. I am proud to be your voice in Tallahassee.

Thank you,
Devon West
Legislative Coordinator
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

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2017 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS FOR MARTIN COUNTY

APPROPRIATIONS

The proposed General Appropriations Bills and Implementing Bills can be found here:

Senate Bill 2500 – General Appropriations
Senate Bill 2502 – Implementing the 2017-18 General Appropriations Act

House PCB APC 17-01 GAA – General Appropriations
House PCB APC 17-02 – Implementing the 2017-18 General Appropriations Act

ENVIRONMENTAL/EVERGLADES APPROPRIATIONS COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>HOUSE</th>
<th>SENATE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Dispersed Water Management</td>
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<td>$20,000,000 (IRL/SLE only)</td>
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Florida House members outlined $165.7 million for restoration. That's $94.9 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan or CERP and $32 million for restoration strategies regional water quality plan (line 1594 of HB 5001); $29.9 million goes for Northern Everglades and estuaries (line 1594A). But they also include $5 million for dispersed water storage for the South Florida Water Management District (line 1589) and $3.9 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed (1356A).

A press release from the Senate says it has $144 million for Everglades restoration, but if they used the more inclusive definition from the House, SB 2500 has $193.6 million.

$112 million would go to CERP while the House has $94.9 million.
Both have $32 million for the restoration strategies regional water quality plan. $34 million would go to the Northern Everglades and estuaries while there is $29.9 million in the House plan.

The Senate has $10.6 million for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed compared to the $3.9 million in the House.

It appears the Senate’s budget does not fully contemplate SB 10 as line 1595 offers $1 million for the C-51 reservoir. The House budget, of course, has no line for the reservoir.

### MARTIN COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL NUMBER</th>
<th>PROJECT TITLE</th>
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### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**OPIOID ABUSE**

**SUPPORT** Emergency Services for Unintentional Overdoses - HB 61 - (Rep. Lee, Jr)

Pertaining to treatment one should receive if hospitalized for an unintentional overdose was heard in the House Health Innovation Subcommittee on Tuesday, 3/14/17 and passed its first committee of reference.

**SUPPORT** SB 588 (Sen. Passidomo) is the companion bill to HB 249 (Rep. Rommel) encourages first responders to report certain overdose incident data to the Department of Health within 120 hours of the incident through the existing state Emergency Medical Service Tracking and Reporting System (or other appropriate method) and requires the Department to make the information available to local government agencies no later than 120 hours after receipt. **SB 588 is scheduled to be heard on Monday, 4/17/17 in the Senate Criminal Justice committee. HB 249 is on 2nd reading calendar in the House.**

**SUPPORT** SB 150 (Rep. Steube) / HB 477 (Rep. Boyd) creates crimes of trafficking in fentanyl and synthetic drugs and increases penalties for some drug related offenses. **This is the priority legislation for the Florida Sheriffs Association. SB 150 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Judiciary committee on Wednesday, 4/19/17. HB 477 has been placed on the special-order calendar for Tuesday 4/18/17 and will be heard on 2nd reading.**
NOTEWORTHY ARTICLE

Aronberg wants to speak with Scott about opioid emergency – PALM BEACH POST

Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg has joined a growing list of officials trying to get Gov. Rick Scott to declare the opioid crisis a public health emergency. Aronberg, as head of the Palm Beach County Sober Home Task Force, sent a letter on Thursday to Dr. Alina Alonso, director of the Palm Beach County Health Department, asking her to contact the state surgeon general to arrange a meeting with Scott. "To put this ongoing epidemic in perspective, the 2016 opioid overdose death toll in Florida should far exceed the tragedies of 9/11 and Pearl Harbor," Aronberg wrote in the letter, which was distributed at a meeting of the Sober Home Task Force on Friday.

SOBER HOMES

SUPPORT Marketing Practices for Substance Abuse Services - SB 788 (Clemens)/HB 807 (Hager)
Marketing Practices for Substance Abuse Services were heard in their first committees last week and both passed unanimously.

SB 788 will be heard in its fourth and final committee stop on 4/19 in the Senate Rules Committee.

MONITOR Firefighters – SB 158 (Sen Latvala) / HB 143 (Rep Fitzhenagan)
The bills create a presumption that certain types of cancers causing partial or total disability to or the death of a firefighter were contracted in the line of duty unless competent evidence is shown to the contrary. It seeks to increase the FRS rate for Special Risk Class employees by 0.01 percentage point to fund the benefit change. FAC is currently working to determine the fiscal impact to local governments associated with the bill.

SUPPORT Civil Citation Program for Juveniles – SB 196 (Sen. Flores) / HB 205 (Rep. Ahern) –
The bill requires that every county establish either a juvenile civil citation program or other "similar diversion program" and mandates law enforcement use one of the programs in lieu of arrest for certain misdemeanor offenses (but still permits law enforcement to issue a simple warning in lieu of cc or diversion).

SB 196 was passed in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice on April 13.

SB 448, related to Adult Civil Citations, was unanimously passed on 4/13/17 by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

FINANCE & TAX

HOUSE PROPOSED TAX CUT PACKAGE – HB 7109
The proposed 2017 House tax cut package was passed unanimously by the Ways and means Committee on 4/5/2017 and is intended to provide for a wide range of tax reductions and modifications designed to directly impact both households and businesses, and to improve tax administration. The proposed concepts contain several provisions related to sales tax including a reduction of the sales tax on commercial leases from 6% to 4.5% for the first two years and then permanently by 0.5%. For property tax purposes, the proposed concepts provide property tax relief for certain property used to provide affordable housing and amends the definition of inventory to include certain construction and agricultural equipment. Based on FAC's analysis of the proposed tax cut concepts, Counties will experience an estimated $33 million recurring impact statewide.

MONITOR AMENDMENT 4 IMPLEMENTATION
Renewable Energy - SB 90 (Brandes)/HB 1351 (Rodrigues)
SB 90 was passed unanimously on 4/13/2017 by the Senate Finance and Tax committee and will be considered in its last committee stop during week 7 in Senate Appropriations.

HB 1351 (Rep. Rodrigues) is similar to SB 90 (Sen. Brandes) except that it applies the assessment exemption to devices installed after 1/1/2018. The house bill also offers language providing for greater protections for consumers of solar installations.

**OPPOSE Local Government Fiscal Transparency**– HB 7065 (Ways & Means Comm.)
Among various provisions, the bill provides for:
- Voting records related to Board actions to increase taxes and the issuance of tax supported debt.
- The provision of online access to historical TRIM notices by parcel.
  Additional requirement for public meetings and notice for local option tax increases and tax-supported debt issuances.
- The requirement for local governments to conduct a debt affordability analysis prior to approving new long-term tax-supported debt.
- The requirement that local governments include compliance with transparency requirements in their annual audit.

**LOCALREGULATIONS**

**OPPOSE Vacation Rentals** – SB 188 (Steube) / HB 425 (LaRosa)

*The Senate Bill was replaced on the Committee agenda - Community Affairs, 04/18/17, after it was temporarily postponed during week 5.*

In 2011, the Florida Legislature passed HB 883, which blocked local governments from "regulating, restricting, or prohibiting" vacation rental properties. Recognizing that the 2011 legislation went too far in removing local authority to regulate vacation rentals, the Legislature passed SB 356 in 2014, restoring partial Home Rule authority to counties. In effect, current law allows counties to enact certain regulations (parking, occupancy standards, local registration) but prohibits them from passing regulations that prohibit vacation rentals or limit the duration and frequency of stays.

Under SB 188 (Sen. Stuebe) / HB 425 (Rep. LaRosa) counties would have few measures to regulate the uses of short term rentals in a way that would maintain the character of a residential neighborhood. Current law allows counties to enact certain regulations (parking, occupancy standards, local registration) but prohibits them from passing regulations that prohibit vacation rentals or limit the duration and frequency of stays - Let’s keep it that way!

HB 425 was passed on in the House Careers and Competition Subcommittee at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. FAC staff is asking for members to express their beliefs of the impact that this legislation would have on their local communities.

**MONITOR Limitations on Property Tax Assessments** - SB 76 (Lee)/HB 21 (Burton)

HB 21 Proposes amendment to State Constitution to remove future repeal of constitutional provisions that limit amount of annual increases in assessments, except for school district levies, of specified nonhomestead real property.

**OPPOSE Local Regulation Preemption “Super Preemption”** - HB 17 (Fine) / SB 1158 (Passidomo)

In summary, HB 17 proposes to PREEMPT the home rule powers of local governments with regards to the regulation of businesses, professions, and occupations unless it is EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED by the State. The PREEMPTION is extended to associated regulatory, licenses, and/or permit fees.
**The bill’s next stop will be the House Commerce Committee. It was not heard last week.**

Although not identical or a companion to HB 17, SB 1158 is very similar in that it proposes to also PREEMPT the home rule powers of local governments with regards to the regulation of commerce, trade and labor. The bill would prevent counties from adopting ordinances that have an adverse impact on commerce, trade or labor, unless it is EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED by the State.

The PREEMPTION specifically prevents counties from:
1. Banning the sale of a good or service;
2. Imposing a penalty on the sale of a good or service;
3. Requiring an employer to pay any or all of its employees a wage rate not otherwise required under a special, general, or federal law; or extended to associated regulatory, licenses, and/or permit fees.

**The bill’s first stop will be the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.**

FAC staff is asking for members to express their beliefs of the impact that this legislation would have on their local communities.

**OPPOSE Local Business Taxes – SB 330 (Steube) / HB 487 (Renner)**

HB 487 - Authorize counties & municipalities to continue to levy local business taxes if resolution or ordinance was adopted by specified date; provides maximum amount of business tax & transfer fees that may be imposed; removes authority for counties & municipalities to increase business tax rates & to impose additional business taxes; removes exemption from apportionment requirements for certain counties; provides exemptions for veterans, veterans’ spouses, active-duty military servicemembers’ spouses, & low-income persons.

**OPPOSE SB 330 –** Would prohibiting the governing bodies of counties and municipalities, respectively, from levying a local business tax that was not adopted before a specified date; deleting certain provisions that, for counties and municipalities, limit the rate of the tax and authorize increases of the tax; providing an exemption from the business tax, subject to certain conditions, to specified veterans, spouses of veterans and active servicemembers, and low-income individuals, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

SB 330 was unanimously passed by the Senate Finance and Tax committee on 4/13/17.

**SUPPORT Taxation (Communication Services Tax) – SB 378 (Flores)**

SB 378 (Sen. Flores) has been filed and proposes to repeal existing insurance premium tax credits and utilize corresponding cost savings to reduce the state communications services tax (cst) rate by 2%. The proposal also includes enough funding to hold local governments, who share in state cst revenues, harmless or without any negative fiscal impact.

**OPPOSE Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption – SJR 1774 (Lee)**

SJR 1774 by Senator Tom Lee proposes a constitutional amendment that would increase the homestead exemption by $25,000, creating a super-exemption of $75,000 for the first $100,000 of the value of homestead property. While homestead property owners may appreciate the exemption, it shifts the tax burden to our local business and non-homesteaded property owners.

Roughly the impact to Martin County with the additional homestead would be $8 million. These monies would have to be made up by increasing our tax rate, or reducing expenditures to the General Fund for Sheriff, and county operations (including libraries, public buildings, beaches and parks) and to our other services funded by mostly ad valorem, which include Fire Rescue, Parks and Recreation, Road Maintenance, and Stormwater This cut is approximately 5% of our total ad valorem, which could potentially
be a huge reduction.

1. This is a tax SHIFT not a tax CUT. The tax burden will be placed on local business owners and non-homestead property owners who must choose between more taxes or fewer services.
2. Small counties hit the hardest: Florida’s 29 fiscally constrained counties that are at or near the 10 mill cap will have no choice but to cut the limited services they are barely able to provide today.
3. Citizens will get less with less: The additional exemption means that counties that choose to maintain their current millage rates must make tough choices about the services provided to their citizens.

**OPPOSE Local Government Fiscal Responsibility -- HB 7063**

Among various provisions, the bill provides for:

- **Local governments, except schools, can’t adopt over millage rolled-back rate unless they spend down “excess unencumbered fund balances” in special funds below 10%.** In effect, this prohibits property tax increases unless excess fund balances are spent down.

- Prohibits cities and counties (exempts schools) from enacting, extending or increasing local option taxes other than property taxes, if they had adopted a millage rate in excess of the rolled-back rate (with certain specified exceptions) in any of the three previous years.

- Requires any local option or property tax (including special districts) that require voter approval to be on a general election ballot with a 60% threshold for passage. For example- CST, local business tax, local option surtaxes, TDT, public service tax, gas taxes.

- Requires voter approval for any new tax-supported debt (beyond 5 years) and must be on a general election ballot with a 60% threshold for passage.

- Except, in an emergency (defined by ch. 252 --Emergency Management) the governing board, by a 4/5 vote, can authorize a vote at an election other than the general election, while still requiring 60% voter approval with the proceeds only being used for said emergency.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**EFI AND VISIT FLORIDA**

**OPPOSE Economic Programs (Enterprise Florida) - HB 7005 (Renner)**

> HB 7005 passed the House Rules Committee by 15 to 3 vote and was subsequently placed on the Special Order calendar for Thursday, March 9. The bill was successfully passed off the house floor on Friday, March 10, 2017 and now awaits Senate action.

**OPPOSE Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (Visit Florida) - HB 9 (Renner)**

> HB 9 passed the House Rules Committee (its only committee reference) and rolled to third reading on Thursday as was also successfully passed off the House floor and now awaits Senate action.

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

**MONITOR AMENDMENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION**
Current Filed bills

- SB 406 (Bradley) – Compassionate Use of Low – THC Cannabis and Marijuana
- SB 614 (Brandes) – Medical Marijuana
- SB 1666 (Braynon) – Medical Use of Marijuana
- SB 1758 (Grimsley) – Medical Use of Marijuana
- SB 1388 (Artiles) – Medical Cannabis

FAC Staff has prepared a side-by-side analysis of all of the bills for your review.

SB 406 (Sen. Bradley) is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, 4/18/17 during a meeting of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. HB 1397 (Rep. Rodrigues) is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, 4/18/17 in the House Appropriations Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

SUPPORT Beaches and Inlets – SB 1590 (Latvala) / HB 1213 (Peters)

SB 1590 passed unanimously on 4/13/17 in the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources.

SUPPORT Water Resources - SB 10 (Bradley)/HB 761 (Altman)

SB 10 Water Resources passed off the Senate floor and is now in House messages.

A comprehensive summary of SB 10 amendments were provided from the Senate President’s office.

**The bill has yet to be heard in the House, but we expect a Proposed Committee Bill to be introduced in the next week.

NOTEWORTHY ARTICLE

Senate Signs off on Negron Water Plan – NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

Senate OKs Lake Okeechobee reservoir bill – FT MEYERS NEWS PRESS

Matt Caldwell: House will take Senate Everglades bill ‘seriously’ – FLORIDA POLITICS

SUPPORT Coral Reefs – HB 1143 (Jacobs) / SB 1624 (Farmer)

Establishes Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area

HB 1143 by Rep Jacobs was placed on the agenda for its final committee stop in the House, scheduled on April 19 in the Government Accountability Committee.

Coral Reefs are valuable natural resources. They protect coastlines by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes. They serve as a source of food, shelter and provide critical habitat for over 6,000 species. Many medicines are derived from marine plants, algae, and animals found on coral reefs. These ecological communities run along the coast from the northern border of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County north to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. People use coral reefs as a resource for recreation, education, scientific research, and public inspiration. Millions of tourists and residents enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling,
and fishing on Florida’s coral reefs which provides a great source of income and jobs for the state and its coastal communities.

The United States Coral Reef Task Force identified eight specific and widely accepted threats to coral reefs as being particularly important:
- Pollution, including eutrophication and sedimentation from intensive land use, chemical loading, oil and chemical spills, marine debris, and invasive species
- Overfishing and over-exploitation of coral reef species for recreational and commercial purposes and the collateral damage and degradation to habitats and ecosystems from fishing activities
- Destructive fishing practices, such as cyanide and dynamite fishing that can destroy large sections of reef
- Dredging and shoreline modification in connection with coastal navigation or development
- Vessel groundings and anchoring that directly destroy corals and reef framework
- Disease outbreaks that are increasing in frequency and are affecting a greater diversity of coral reef species
- Global climate change and associated impacts including increased coral bleaching, mortality, storm frequency, and sea level rise.

**SUPPORT Fracking Ban – SB 442 (Young) / HB 451 (Miller)**
Prohibiting the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments; clarifying that permits for drilling or operating a well do not authorize the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments

**Additional Environmental Policy Proposals of Note**
- SB 1748 (Stewart)/HB 285 (Fine) – Septic Tank Inspections **SUPPORT**
- SB 874 (Young)/HB 551 (Stone) – Septic Tank Remediation Plans **SUPPORT**
- SB 1738 (Perry)/HB 715 (Clemons) – Stormwater Management **SUPPORT**
- SB 532 (Galvano)/HB 1065 (Peters) – Public Notice of Pollution **SUPPORT**
- SB 1438 (Broxson)/HB 755 (Albritton) – Aquifer Replenishment **SUPPORT**

**ETHICS AND ELECTIONS**

**SUPPORT Public Records - SB 80 (Steube)**
The bill would allow judicial discretion when determining whether to award attorney’s fees to a requestor in a public records lawsuit. Currently the law provides that fees “shall” be awarded, this bill would say that fees “may” be awarded.

*SB 80 and HB 163 have both been placed on the House special order calendar for 4/18/17 and will be heard on 2nd reading.*

**MONITOR Local Government Ethics Reform - HB 7021 (Metz)**
The proposed bill language would establish a statewide local lobbyist registration system. Additionally, the proposed bill language would propose further restrictions upon local public officials when conflicts of interest arise.

**The bill was heard in the House Appropriations Committee meeting on 3/8/17 and it was passed unanimously. FAC is neutral on the legislation.**

**OPPOSE Local Referenda – SB 278 (Steube)/HB 139 (Ingoglia)**

*SB 278 is scheduled to be heard on Monday, 4/17/17 by the Senate Community Affairs committee.*
This bill requires local government discretionary sales surtax referenda to be held on the date of a general election and be approved by majority of the voters. Please let me know if this is something based on our policy statements that we would oppose. It would take the local ability away from the county from holding an election regarding discretionary surtaxes on any date other than a general election.

There is a more problematic "comparison" bill that exists proposed by Rep Caldwell. That is House Bill 7073 that the Florida Association of Counties strongly opposes. Among various provisions, the bill provides for Local governments, except schools, can't adopt over millage rolled-back rate unless they spend down "excess unencumbered fund balances" in special funds below 10%. In effect, this prohibits property tax increases unless excess fund balances are spent down. Prohibits cities and counties (exempts schools) from enacting, extending or increasing local option taxes other than property taxes, if they had adopted a millage rate in excess of the rolled-back rate (with certain specified exceptions) in any of the three previous years. Requires any local option or property tax (including special districts) that require voter approval to be on a general election ballot with a 60% threshold for passage. For example- CST, local business tax, local option surtaxes, TDT, public service tax, gas taxes.

Requires voter approval for any new tax-supported debt (beyond 5 years) and must be on a general election ballot with a 60% threshold for passage. Except, in an emergency (defined by ch. 252 --Emergency Management) the governing board, by a 4/5 vote, can authorize a vote at an election other than the general election, while still requiring 60% voter approval with the proceeds only being used for said emergency.

**The bill limits flexibility of the elected officials to make decisions that they believe to be in the best interest of their residents. Additionally, combining a referendum for a special infrastructure sales tax gives it less attention as sometimes during a general election.**

GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

**SUPPORT** The Florida High-Speed Passenger Rail Safety Act – SB 386 (Mayfield) / HB 269 (Magar)

**OPPOSE** SB 940 - Relating to Growth Management

Senate Bill 940 is one of the measures the Legislature is hearing this year that would change how local governments regulate development. The measure, which cleared the Senate Community Affairs Committee with an unanimous vote, requires counties and municipalities to change their comprehensive plans, their blueprint for future growth, to add an element "that protects private property rights." They also would have to favor economic development when drafting local ordinances and development decisions.

While state law already protects property rights, the bill prevents local governments from enacting rules that are too burdensome on property owners and businesses, said Philip Leary, a lobbyist for the Alachua County Farm Bureau. He said the bill was prompted by excessive regulations Alachua has imposed on farmers.

**OPPOSE** Utilities (Cell Towers) – SB 596 (Hutson)/HB 687 (La Rosa)

**SB 596 is on the Committee Agenda in the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, April 19 and HB 687 is on the Committee Agenda in the House Commerce Committee on Wednesday, April 19.**

CS/CS/SB 596 creates the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act. Put very simply, it creates a process for gaining access to and use of public rights-of-way in connection with the installation of small wireless communications infrastructure. The bill creates a process and time limits for review and approval of applications by an authority. An authority is defined as a county or municipality having jurisdiction and
control of the rights-of-way of any public road. An authority does not include the Department of Transportation, and its rights-of-way are excluded from this bill. The authority must approve a complete application unless it does not meet the authority's applicable codes, defined to include "uniform building, fire, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical codes adopted by a recognized national code organization, or local amendments to those codes, enacted solely to address threats of destruction of property or injury to persons," and qualifying government historic preservation zoning regulations. This excludes consideration and application of zoning, land use, aesthetic ordinances, and of any other source of public safety protections. The bill provides for application or permit fees and collocation or pole attachment fees. Collocation fees cannot exceed $15.00 per year per authority utility pole. Collocation fees include the costs to alter a pole to strengthen it to support the installation of the wireless infrastructure, including costs to replace a pole if necessary. They do not include any consultant fees or expenses.

What are some of the problems with this bill?
1. Private-for-profit companies are using this legislation to force local governments to allow placement of their equipment and technology anywhere in the county.
2. Authority to regulate Local Right-Of-Ways is needed to protect public health, safety and welfare.
3. These are billion dollar company's requesting the fees be limited to $15 per year to utilize taxpayer owned infrastructure.

MONITOR Transportation Network Companies (Uber) -- SB 340 (Brandes)/HB 221 (Sprowls)
The bill provides for the preemption of the regulation of transportation network companies to the State.

SB 340 was passed on 4/6/2017 in the Senate Rules Committee. HB 221 was passed on third reading on the house floor on 4/5/2017.

OPPOSE SB 534 (Perry)/HB 599 (Williamson) – Public Works Projects
The bill prohibits the state and political subdivisions that contract for public works projects from imposing restrictive conditions on certain contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers; it also prohibits the state and political subdivisions from restricting qualified bidders from submitting bids or being awarded contracts.

OPPOSE Community Redevelopment Agencies - HB 13 (Raburn)
HB 13 creates new reporting requirements for existing CRAs, requires CRA commissioners to complete ethics training, and changes criteria for use of redevelopment trust fund proceeds. Additionally, the bill lays out a process for phasing out existing CRAs over the next two decades and prohibits existing CRAs from initiating new projects or issuing new debt after October 1, 2017. The bill would also prohibit the creation of any new CRAs after July 1, 2017.

SB 1770 is scheduled to be heard on 4/18/17 by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

HB 13 is scheduled to be heard on 4/20/17 by the House Government Accountability Committee.