



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Bill Lupfer, President and CEO, Florida Attractions Association

**FROM:** Jennifer J. Green, CAE, DPL, President  
Tim Parson, DPL, Vice President  
Adam Potts, DPL, Director of Government Affairs  
Ethan Merchant, DPL, Governmental Affairs Manager

**DATE:** January 16, 2024

**RE:** First Week of Session Summary – Week of January 8 – January 12, 2024

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After months of anticipation, the 2024 Legislative Session began on Tuesday, January 9. The 60-day Legislative Session will give the House and Senate an opportunity to continue moving bills through the committee process before legislation is considered on the House and Senate floors.

Despite inclement weather, the Senate started the day with opening ceremonies, followed by opening ceremonies in the House. In their respective addresses, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) and House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast) recapped the work done by their chambers last session and laid out their priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session.

Strengthening the state's healthcare system, including increasing the state's workforce, are top priorities of Speaker Renner and President Passidomo. Additional legislative priorities of the leaders include supporting school choice expansion and reinforcing the Legislature's support for law enforcement.

Following Tuesday's Senate and House Sessions, Governor Ron DeSantis delivered his State of the State Address. During his remarks, Governor DeSantis highlighted legislative victories from the 2023 session, including a permanent tax cut on baby items, the Toll Relief Program, career and technical education expansion, and increased support for law enforcement. Governor DeSantis also looked ahead to the 2024 Legislative Session and laid out his legislative priorities, including environmental protections and water quality improvements.

Several pieces of legislation that could impact the state's tourism industry are moving forward in the legislative process. Below is a summary of bills that have been filed that are of interest to FAA and that we are monitoring closely.

### **Employment and Curfew of Minors**

[HB 49](#) by Representative Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) would revise certain employment restrictions for minors 16 & 17 years of age; revise age at which employment restrictions apply; require curfew adopted by county or municipal ordinance to include certain exceptions. The bill passed the House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee by a vote of 12-5 on Wednesday, January 10. The Senate companion – [SB 1596](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

### **Acceptance of Cash Payments by Businesses**

[HB 35](#) by Representative Joel Rudman (R-Navarre) would require certain businesses to accept cash payments for certain transactions; prohibit fees or conditions for such transactions; provide applicability & civil penalties; require DACS to adopt rules. The bill is awaiting its first hearing in the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 106](#) – by Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) is scheduled to receive its second hearing during the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and General Government Appropriations Committee meeting Wednesday, January 17.

### **Workplace Heat Exposure Requirements/Employment Regulations**

[HB 433](#) by Representative Tiffany Esposito (R-Fort Myers) would preempt the regulation of heat exposure requirements in workplace to the state; provide certain local laws, ordinances, resolutions, regulations, rules, codes, policies, & amendments are void & prohibited; require Department of Commerce to adopt rules relating to workplace heat exposure requirements if OSHA has not done so by date certain; prohibit local governments from mandating or imposing requirements or seeking information from persons relating to certain requirements. The bill passed the House Regulatory Reform and Economic Development Subcommittee unanimously on Thursday, January 11. The Senate companion – [SB 1492](#) – by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee.

### **Tourist Development Tax**

[HB 1599](#) by Representative Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) would prohibit the allocation of more than a certain percentage of tourist development tax (TDT) revenue from an individual project without a supermajority vote by a specified entity. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1748](#) – by Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) awaits its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

### **Tourist Development**

[HB 1081](#) by Representative Juan Porras (R-Miami) would require certain counties to use revenue received from tourist development tax in a specified manner; require that charter county convention development moneys be distributed to certain entities for specified purposes; delete a specified notification requirement.

The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Regulatory Reform and Economic Development Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 1072](#) – by Senator Bryan Avila (R-Miami Gardens) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

### **Tourist Development Tax**

[HB 1453](#) by Representative Susan Valdes (D-Tampa) would authorize proceeds of tourist development tax to be used toward funding incentives for the production of films & television series by certain

production companies. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 872](#) – by Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando) is awaiting its first hearing in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

**Appointment of Courtroom Animal Advocates**

[HB 297](#) by Representative Lindsay Cross (D-St. Petersburg) would authorize a court to order a separate advocate be appointed in interests of justice for certain criminal proceedings regarding cat or dog's welfare or custody; provide judge's decision denying appointment is not subject to appeal; authorize appointed advocate to take certain actions involving proceedings and provide requirements for advocate. The bill awaits its first hearing in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee. The Senate companion – [SB 272](#) – by Senator Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, January 16.

**2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SCHEDULE**

<del>September 18 – September 22, 2023</del>	<del>1<sup>st</sup> House Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>October 9 – October 13, 2023</del>	<del>1<sup>st</sup> Senate Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>October 16 – October 20, 2023</del>	<del>2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>November 6 – November 9, 2023</del>	<del>3<sup>rd</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>November 13 – November 17, 2023</del>	<del>4<sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>December 4 – December 7, 2023</del>	<del>5<sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>December 11 – December 15, 2023</del>	<del>6<sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week</del>
<del>January 9, 2024</del>	<del>Regular Session Convenes</del>
<b>February 27, 2024</b>	Last Day for Regular Committee Meetings
<b>March 8, 2024</b>	Last Day of Regular Session

We will continue to monitor these issues for FAA members and provide regular updates.