



## 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:** February 5, 2024

**RE:** Fourth Week of Session Summary – Week of January 29 – February 2, 2024

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The Legislature is nearing the halfway point of the 2024 Legislative Session, as they have wrapped up Week 4. On Wednesday, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees met to consider various proposals, including the Chambers' proposed budgets for FY 2024-25 - [HB 5001](#) and [SB 2500](#). The House and Senate will reconcile their budget differences during the budget conference process in the coming weeks. Additionally, the House and Senate continue to hold committee meetings and floor sessions to move policy bills through the process.

It was great to have Florida Attractions Association (FAA) members in Tallahassee last week for Florida Tourism Day. After FAA held their Board meeting at our office on Tuesday, the Liberty Partners team met up with FAA for a wonderful group dinner on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday morning, tourism professionals from FAA, Destinations Florida, the Florida Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds, and the Florida Association of Museums gathered at the A.C. Marriott Hotel in downtown Tallahassee for a networking breakfast, followed by an insightful tourism day rally and partner briefing. During the briefing, VISIT FLORIDA Vice President of Content Marketing Dani DeStafney discussed tourism trends in Florida, highlighting that for every dollar spent by a visitor in the state, Florida keeps 97 cents. She also noted that the tourism industry helped Florida families save \$1,800 a year in local and state taxes, while highlighting VISIT FLORIDA's nature-based and rural tourism promotion.

FAA President & CEO Bill Lupfer also addressed participants on Wednesday morning. In his remarks, Bill shared several of FAA's legislative priorities, including support of Governor Ron DeSantis' \$105 million FY 2024-25 budget recommendation to fully-fund VISIT FLORIDA. Additionally, the preservation of tourism development taxes and their original statutory authority is an important priority to FAA and the tourism industry. Bill also discussed FAA's opposition to legislation that would require private businesses to accept cash payments. He noted that nearly 40% of FAA members are either partially or totally cashless, and that a new operating expense would negatively impact smaller attractions that

cannot afford "reverse ATM" cash-to-card kiosks.

After the networking luncheon, FAA members had the opportunity to meet with legislators and staff at the Capitol. In meetings with their legislators, FAA members were able to highlight their attraction or business and advocate for FAA's legislative priorities.

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.

### **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 has not received a committee hearing. The Senate companion – [SB 106](#) – by Senator Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) is awaiting its final hearing in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

The Liberty Partners team continues to work on behalf of FAA to address concerns with the bill, as 39% of FAA members are either “partially cashless” or “cashless”. FAA members in opposition to these bills are encouraged to contact Senator Jones and Representative Rudman and express your concerns with this legislation. [Click here](#) to email Senator Jones or call his Tallahassee office at (850) 487-5034. [Click here](#) to email Representative Rudman or call his Tallahassee office at (850) 717-5003. We look forward to continue working with Senator Jones and Representative Rudman on this issue.

### **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 floor by a vote of 80-35 on February 1. The House bill has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee for consideration. The Senate companion – [SB 1596](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) awaits its second hearing in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee.

### **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 is awaiting its second hearing in the House State Affairs Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1492](#) – by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) is scheduled to receive its second hearing in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on February 6.

### **Tourist Development Tax**

[HB 1599](#) by Representative Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) would prohibit the allocation of more than a certain a 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) is awaiting its second hearing in the Senate Finance and Tax 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 is scheduled to receive its first hearing in the House Regulatory Reform and Economic Development Subcommittee on February 6. The Senate companion – [SB 1072](#) – by Senator Bryan Avila (R-Miami Gardens) awaits its second hearing in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

### **Affordable Housing in Counties Designated as Areas of Critical State Concern**

[HB 1297](#) by Representative Jim Mooney (R-Key Largo) would exclude land designated as area of critical state concern from county & municipality affordable housing provisions; provide for ad valorem property tax exemption of specified amount for certain property used to provide affordable housing; specify that certain housing units may be eligible for tax exemptions if certain requirements are met; add certain requirements to local comprehensive plans relating to hurricane evaluation study; revise powers of land authority; provide requirements for conveying affordable housing homeownership units; provide lien status prioritization for certain purposes; exclude land designated as area of critical state concern within specified time period from award requirements made to specified sponsors or persons for purpose of providing eligible housing as part of local housing assistance plan; authorize counties that have been designated as areas of critical state concern to use tourist development tax revenue & tourist impact tax revenue for affordable housing; require affordable housing financed with such funds to maintain its status for specified period of time; provide for distribution of such funds. The bill is awaiting its second hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1456](#) – by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) is scheduled to receive its first hearing in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on February 6.

### **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) awaits its second hearing in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

## **2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SCHEDULE**

<b>September 18 – September 22, 2023</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> House Interim Committee Week
<b>October 9 – October 13, 2023</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Senate Interim Committee Week
<b>October 16 – October 20, 2023</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Interim Committee Week
<b>November 6 – November 9, 2023</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Interim Committee Week
<b>November 13 – November 17, 2023</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week
<b>December 4 – December 7, 2023</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Interim Committee Week

<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.