



## 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, Director of Client Relations

**DATE:** March 4, 2024

**RE:** Eighth Week of Session Summary – Week of February 26 – March 1, 2024

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As the Legislature begins the final week of the 2024 Legislative Session, the House and Senate are close to finalizing a balanced budget for FY 2024-25. Last week, multiple joint budget conference committees met to begin ironing out differences in the House and Senate proposals. Following these meetings throughout the week, unresolved budget issues were “bumped” up to Budget Conference Chairs Representative Tom Leek (R-Ormond Beach) and Senator Doug Broxson (R-Pensacola). Chairs Leek and Broxson met throughout the weekend to negotiate remaining differences, before any outstanding items are "bumped" to House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast) and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples). The budget will continue taking form as we continue through the week, before a Constitutionally-required 72 hour cooling off period and vote of the Legislature prior to *Sine Die* on March 8.

With nearly 1,732 general bills filed during the 2024 Legislative Session, time is running out for legislation to pass both chambers. With committees no longer meeting, the House and Senate will spend considerable time on their respective floors this week to pass legislation. Following Governor Ron DeSantis’ veto of [HB 1](#)- Online Protections for Minors on Friday, the Senate amended and passed [HB 3](#)- Online Access to Materials Harmful to Minors on Monday. This legislation would prohibit children ages 13 and younger from using social media platforms and would require parental consent for children ages 14-15 to access social media platforms. HB 3 is now in House messages and is expected to be voted on by the full House quickly. Once passed by the Legislature, the bill will then go to Governor DeSantis’ desk for final approval.

Please read below for a full summary on bills that have been filed that are of interest to FAA that we are monitoring closely.

## **Taxation**

On Friday, [HB 7073](#) passed the House floor by a vote of 88-17. The House tax package contains several positive provisions, but also contains various concerning provisions related to tourist development tax (TDT). Provisions in HB 7073 would sunset existing TDTs unless the TDT is renewed by a voter referendum in that County before July 2029, as well as require a voter referendum for a new TDT, which would limit all new TDT to six years and require voter referendums in the County to renew. Additionally, the bill would allow certain counties designated as an Area of Critical State Concern that levy a TDT and a tourist impact tax to use surplus tourism revenue to provide affordable housing. Since HB 7073 was filed, Liberty Partners of Tallahassee has urged the House to reconsider these changes to TDT and expressed FAA's longstanding policy that TDT should be used for their intended marketing purposes.

However, the Senate tax package – SB 7074 – does not contain the same harmful provisions related to the sunset of TDT. The only provision related to TDT in the Senate bill is the language from SB 1748 by Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary). This language would require a supermajority vote of a County's governing body before a tourist development plan can allocate more than 25% of TDT revenue to fund a specific project or a special use to construct, acquire, remodel, maintain, or operate a publicly owned and operated convention center.

The final tax package that will be passed by the Legislature is currently being negotiated by the House and Senate. We are hopeful that the harmful TDT provisions in HB 7073 will be removed before the complete tax package for FY 2024-25 is sent to Governor DeSantis for final approval.

## **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) was temporarily postponed during the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on February 27.

We are pleased to report that both of these bills appear they will not pass during the 2024 Legislative Session. However, we expect the issue to arise again during the 2025 Legislative Session. We look forward to working with both legislators during the summer to find a solution to the issue they are seeking to address, while ensuring an unnecessary mandate is not placed on FAA members.

## **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 Senate Rules Committee on February 26 but has not moved since, signaling the bill is dead. The Senate companion – [SB 1596](#) – by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) never received its second hearing in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee and also appears dead.

### **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 awaits its final hearing in the House Commerce Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1492](#) – by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) is scheduled to be considered on the Senate floor on Tuesday, March 5.

### **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 never received its first hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1748](#) – by Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) did not receive a final hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee, but the language contained in SB 1748 is included in the Senate tax package – SB 7074.

### **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 never received a second hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate companion – [SB 1072](#) – by Senator Bryan Avila (R-Miami Gardens) never received a 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 has passed all committees and awaits consideration on the House floor. The Senate companion – [SB 1456](#) – by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) is scheduled to be considered on the Senate floor on Tuesday, March 5.

**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>
<del>February 27, 2024</del>	<del>Last Day for Regular Senate Committee Meetings</del>
<del>March 8, 2024</del>	<del>Last Day of Regular Session</del>

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