



March 12 – 17, 2017
2017 Legislative Session – Week 2

Another agency leadership member serving under Governor Rick Scott announced his resignation. Secretary for the Department of Management Services, Chad Poppell, resigned to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. A replacement has not been appointed at the time of this report.

The thirty-seven newly appointed members of Florida's Constitution Revision Commission prepares to meet for the first time on Monday, March 20th in Tallahassee. Chairman Carlos Beruff, who was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott on March 1st, will mediate the meeting along with the Chairman's appointed executive director to the CRC, Mr. Jeff Woodburn. Mr. Woodburn currently serves as Gov. Rick Scott's Policy Director. This meeting is the first of many that will help pave the way for the future of our state's Constitution.

The House heard almost 100 budget appropriation project bills to properly posture the funding to be eligible into the House budget. Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative Carlos Trujillo, allowed each of the budget subcommittee chairs to present their proposed budget reductions. The proposed reductions are only in concept at this point – official spreadsheet recommendations are expected during Week 4 or 5.

The House Public Integrity and Ethics Committee passed HJR 999, sponsored by Representative Jackie Toledo. This bill expands the House's impeachment authority to cover state attorneys and public defenders. PCB PIE 17-05 also passed in this committee; this bill imposes a six-year post-service ban on members of the Legislature as well as Cabinet Officers representing any person or entity before the Legislature or any executive branch agency. It also imposes a two-year post-service ban on agency heads and chief administrative officers representing any person or entity before any executive branch agency.

House Bill 789 (Relating to Procurement of Professional Services - CCNA) was to be considered by the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee. At the beginning of the meeting, Committee Chair, Representative Neil Combee, announced that the bill would not be considered during the committee meeting. FES was in attendance and prepared to stand in opposition of the legislation. Additionally, many other specialty professions were in attendance to also stand in opposition.

Senate Bill 204 (Relating to Limitations on Actions other than for the Recovery of Real Property) was considered by the Senate Committee on Judiciary. The bill clarifies when the completion of a construction contract occurs. The bill was unanimously approved by the committee.

Senate Bill 7000 (Relating to Florida Building Commission) was considered by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government. As a reminder, this piece of legislation would amend the Florida Building Code process by allowing the Florida Building Commission to adopt provisions from the international code every three years instead of automatically adopting the international code and making amendments that are Florida-specific. Our own Executive Director, Allen Douglas, addressed the committee and raised concerns about the legislation on behalf of FES. The bill was unanimously approved by the committee. The House bill has not been heard in any of its referenced committees. The sponsor, Senator Tom Lee, expressed his continued willingness to meet with and work with all concerned parties to address substantive concerns. During the Senate Committee on Community Affairs' meeting on Tuesday, Senator Tom Lee amended the entire language from Senate Bill 7000 into **Senate Bill 860** (Relating to Florida Building Code) sponsored by Senator Jeff Brandes. The amendment was considered favorable by Senator Brandes. With this action, the language is now included in two bills. House Bill 909, its companion, does not have this language included.