



March 19 – 24, 2017  
2017 Legislative Session – Week 3

The thirty-seven newly appointed members of Florida’s Constitution Revision Commission held their first meeting last week. This meeting was organizational in nature, where they reviewed the rules, heard a presentation on the Florida Sunshine/Public Records Law as it relates to their positions on the CRC. Chairman Carlos Beruff announced the dates and times for their [first three public meetings](#) – March 29th in Orange County, April 6th in Miami Dade County and April 7th in Palm Beach County. There were some comments about the inconvenience these daylong meetings will pose for Commissioners, five in total, are also members of the Legislature, because they are during the current active Legislative Session.

Governor Rick Scott has appointed Erin Rock to serve as the interim Secretary for the Department of Management Services. The former Secretary, Chad Poppell, resigned to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. Erin has been the Chief of Staff of DMS.

The House and Senate are scheduled to release their initial budget spreadsheets during their scheduled budget subcommittee hearings in Week 4. The House Appropriations Committee will consider the full House proposal on April 5th and plans to take it up on the floor April 12th and 13th. This will put the two chambers into the conference position.

On Thursday the House voted 91-22 on HB 6007, relating to Traffic Infraction Detectors. This bill would ban the use of red light cameras throughout Florida starting in July 2020. Repealing this law has been a multi-year effort. The next stop for this legislation is the Senate, where a similar bill, SB 178, was rejected in the Senate Transportation Committee by a 2-2-tie vote.

Week 4 will be the last week for House subcommittee hearings. This will essentially “kill” many bills that have not been considered if they do not make it on the agenda next week. Also, Senate President Joe Negron announced that the substantive Senate committees would not meet during Week 6 in order to observe the upcoming Easter/Passover holiday.

House Bill 789 (Relating to Procurement of Professional Services - CCNA) was again not considered by the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee last week but will be considered on Tuesday, March 28th at 3:30 p.m. All members are urged to light up the phones and contact the [Oversight, Transparency, & Administration Subcommittee](#) urging them to OPPOSE this bill.

Senate Bill 204 (Relating to Limitations on Actions other than for the Recovery of Real Property) was not considered by the Senate this week. The bill clarifies when the completion of a construction contract occurs. The House bill was unanimously passed by all its committees of reference and will now go to the Senate floor for consideration.

Neither Senate Bill 7000 nor Senate Bill 860 (Relating to Florida Building Code) was considered last week. However, SB 860, which has the language from SB 7000 included, is scheduled to be heard April 4 in Regulated Industries. FES/FICE staff and along with several committee members from the association met last week by teleconference with Senator Lee’s office to discuss the bill language as proposed. After dialogue with the Senator’s staff and a representative from the homebuilders, it became clear that all



stakeholders had the same mission of protecting the integrity of the Florida Building Code (FBC). The proposed bill simply streamlines the process by which the International Code amendments are integrated into the FBC. FES/FICE will continue to work with all stakeholders to amend the bill language. Possible amendments to be considered would be a five year code cycle as well as lowering the vote threshold to 2/3 to include the full Commission not just the TAC's.

Senate Bill 582 (Relating to Regulatory Boards) was heard this week and unanimously passed its first committee (Regulated Industries) of reference. It is scheduled to be heard Tuesday in its second committee. It is a possibility that Representative Beshears (Chair of the first committee of reference) will not hear the Regulatory Board bill in the House, which would kill the topic for this Session based on House Rules regarding first committee of reference hearing.