



2017 Legislative Session – Week 4
March 26 - March 31, 2017

The House and Senate rolled out their subcommittee budget recommendations as well as their full budget proposals. The House budget is approximately \$81.2 billion as compared to the Senate budget that is almost \$83.2 billion. Both full budgets and implementing bills will be considered during Week 5 in the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. They are still expected to pass these from their chambers to position themselves for conference during Week 6.

The broad-spectrum \$296.8 million tax cut package from the Florida House would eliminate sales taxes on diapers, feminine hygiene products, offer tax “holidays” for purchasing school and hurricane supplies as well as trim a commercial lease tax. The [concept package](#), introduced by the House Ways & Means Committee, is smaller than the \$618 million worth of tax cuts proposed by Gov. Rick Scott. The future of these proposals will depend on upcoming budget negotiations between both Chambers of the House and Senate.

The CRC began its nine-city circuit ride around the state starting with a four-hour meeting in Orlando. CRC Chair Carlos Beruff explained that these public meetings are a "listening tour" during which CRC members will hear directly from members of the public about what they think should and should not be included in Florida's Constitution. On the front end of the meeting the League of Women Voters expressed a long list of concerns over the CRC's accelerated meeting schedule, and less than transparent application of the Public Records and Sunshine Laws to its proceedings. After that, the public shared their ideas on everything from thwarting the administration of Sharia law; to protecting LGBT rights; to preventing the erosion of local governments' Home Rule authority; to restoring the voting rights of felons who have served their sentences. The CRC will hold its second public meeting in Miami on April 6.

FES/FICE Bills of Specific Interest Update

- **House Bill 789** (Relating to Procurement of Professional Services - CCNA) was considered by the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee. The bill passed the committee on a vote of 10 yeas to 5 nays. FES/FICE was present in the committee and publicly spoke in opposition of the legislation. There is no Senate companion but we have to remain alert because the House Bill language can now qualify as amendatory language if the sponsor can find a germane bill.
- **Senate Bill 860** (Relating to Florida Building Code) was considered this week. It passed its second of four committee stops on a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. This bill along with HB 901 and SB 7000 (all FBC bills) are being carefully monitored by your legislative team. At this time, none of the bills current language matches each other.
- **Senate Bill 582** (Relating to Regulatory Boards) was heard this week and unanimously passed its second committee (Judiciary) of three references on a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. The bill is now scheduled in Senate Committee - Appropriations, 04/06/17, 8:00 am.
- **House Bill 377** (Relating to Limitations on Actions other than for the Recovery of Real Property) was read in the third time and passed (Vote: 114 Yeas / 0 Nays). The bill clarifies when the completion of a construction contract occurs. Senate Bill 204 is now scheduled in Regulated Industries, 04/06/17, 1:00 pm.