



April 3 – 7, 2017
2017 Legislative Session – Week 5

The budget process continues to move along as both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved their respective budgets. The Senate budget was amended with almost 100 amendments to be in a position to conference with the House on various projects. This is in response to a joint budget rule that was adopted that states that a project must be contained in at least one budget to be included in the final adopted budget that will be agreed upon through the conference project. As a reminder, passing a balanced budget is the only constitutional requirement of the Legislature during the 60-day session.

With the Easter and Passover holidays during Week 6, the House and Senate have a limited schedule. They will be on the floor on Wednesday (Budget Questions and Amendments) and Thursday (Budget Debate and Final Vote) where both chambers plan to pass their budget proposals and conforming bills.

Both the House and Senate considered their respective workers' compensation reform bills last week. Both bills provide for an increase in Temporary Total Disability Benefits paid to injured workers from 104 weeks to 260 weeks. Additionally both bills require greater specificity in the information that must be included in a claimant's petition for benefits. The similarities end there. SB 1582 caps attorneys' fees at \$250 an hour, and replaces the current rate filing mechanism relied on by workers' compensation insurers with a "loss cost" rating scheme that would require each insurer to seek rate approval based on an individual company's data. HB 7085 holds the line on attorney's fees at a \$150 an hour, and rolls back reimbursements to hospitals treating injured workers. The House bill is now ready for floor action. The Senate bill has two more committee stops in the Appropriations and Rules Committees before it's ready for consideration by the full Senate.

FES/FICE Bills of Specific Interest

[HB 789](#) Relating to Procurement of Professional Services (Stone)

Procurement of Professional Services: Removes requirement for agencies to encourage certain firms to submit annual statements of qualifications & performance data; clarifies provisions relating to selection of firms & authorizes rejection of submissions received in response to public announcement under competitive selection process; creates best value selection process; removes requirement that agency terminate negotiations with most qualified firm when agency is unable to negotiate satisfactory contract & undertake negotiations with second most qualified firm; authorizes DMS to adopt rules; exempts certain projects. Effective Date: July 1, 2017

Current Committee of Reference: Government Accountability Committee
(To date has not been placed on the agenda)

[SB 860](#) Relating to Florida Building Code (Brandes)

Florida Building Code; Creating an internship path to certification as an inspector or plans examiner; specifying that a county or municipal government, school board, community college board, state university, or state agency is not prohibited from entering into a contract for the services of a building code administrator or building code official; requiring the Florida Building Commission to use the 6th and subsequent editions of the Florida Building Code as the foundation for the development of and updates to the code, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2017

Current Committee of Reference: Appropriations

[Compare](#)



florida Institute of Consulting Engineers
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF FLORIDA
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE OF FLORIDA

[HB 909](#) Relating to Building Code Administrators and Inspectors (Goodson)
4/07/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed

[SB 7000](#) Relating to Florida Building Commission (Community Affairs)
03/17/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations

[SB 204](#) Relating to Limitations on Actions other than for the Recovery of Real Property (Passidomo)
Limitations on Actions other than for the Recovery of Real Property; Specifying the date of completion for specified contracts, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2017
4/6/2017 SENATE Favorable by Regulated Industries; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays
4/7/2017 SENATE Now in Rules

Identical

[HB 377](#) Relating to Limitations on Actions other than for the Recovery of Real Property (Leek)
04/05/2017 SENATE Received; Referred to Judiciary; Regulated Industries; Rules

[SB 250](#) Relating to High-occupancy Toll Lanes and Express Lanes (Artiles)
High-occupancy Toll Lanes and Express Lanes; Specifying that the Department of Transportation may only collect tolls on high-occupancy toll lanes or express lanes for the discharge of certain bond indebtedness on a project existing before a specified date; requiring that the tolls be eliminated after discharge of the project's bond indebtedness, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2017
Current Committee of Reference: Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Similar

[HB 777](#) Relating to High-occupancy Toll Lanes and Express Lane (Willhite)
03/28/2017 HOUSE Unfavorable by Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee, laid on Table; 6 Yeas, 8 Nays

[HB 1049](#) Relating to Expressway Authorities (Avila)
Expressway Authorities: Requires toll increases by authorities in certain counties to be approved by independent study & vote of authority board; limits extent of increases; limits amount of toll revenues authorities may use for administrative expenses; requires certain distance between tolling points on transportation facilities constructed after specified date; requires authority to reduce tolls paid by SunPass customers; requires authorities to post certain information on website. Effective Date: July 1, 2017
Current Committee of Reference: Government Accountability Committee
4/6/2017 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Government Accountability Committee; 21 Yeas, 0 Nays
4/7/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

Compare

[HB 961](#) Relating to Expressway Authority Revenue (Nunez)
04/07/2017 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed

Similar

[SB 1562](#) Relating to Expressway Authorities (Garcia)
03/28/2017 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

[SB 582](#) Relating to Regulatory Boards Latvala (J)
Regulatory Boards; Requiring the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless from claims, actions, demands, suits, investigations, damages, and liability all



current and former board members and any companies or businesses with which they have or had specified affiliations, but only if their service meets a specified requirement, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

Current Committee of Reference: No Current Committee

4/6/2017 SENATE Favorable by Appropriations; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays

4/7/2017 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

[Compare](#)

[HB 1193](#) Relating to Regulatory Boards (Raulerson)

Regulatory Boards: Requires DBPR to indemnify, defend, & hold harmless from claims, actions, demands, suits, investigations, damages, & liability all current and former board members & any companies or businesses with which they have or had specified affiliations, but only if their service meets a specified requirement. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

Current Committee of Reference: Careers & Competition Subcommittee