



April 23 – 30, 2017
2017 Legislative Session – Week 8

It was believed by many in the process that budget negotiations, or lack thereof, were going to result in an extended or special session. Although now everything is on track to end on time after the House and Senate agreed to [budget allocations](#) and quickly began the conference process by announcing conferees ([Senate/House](#)). At the time of this report, the budget subcommittees bumped all of the issues they couldn't agree on to the Appropriation Chairmen – Senator Latvala and Representative Trujillo. They are expected to bump any remaining issues to presiding officers.

The Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) has continued taking its program on the road, holding public meetings in Gainesville and Jacksonville. While each stop on the CRC's listening tour is different, Commission members now have certain expectations about what they'll encounter along the way. They are likely to hear from citizens who will criticize the CRC for not fully flushing out its rules and procedures before beginning its tour around the State. Fortunately, Commissioners also get to hear from some citizens who share a well-thought-out plan to update the document to include provisions that would benefit the state as a whole and whose time has come. The CRC members often extend meetings beyond the scheduled close to accommodate anyone who wants speak. Only then do they adjourn and get ready for their next stop. The CRC goes next to Panama City on May 3, Ft. Myers on May 10, and will convene in a soon-to-be named venue in Hillsborough County on May 17.

The Senate Appropriations Committee announced a last minute meeting for Monday morning at 8 a.m. to take care of several bills that were stuck in committee. Legislation that has been put on the agenda includes a large transportation bill, the House tax package and the State group insurance bill that is believed to be a part of the budget deal the House and Senate agreed upon during the budget negotiations. Senate committees, with the exception of the Senate Rules Committee, usually do not meet after Day 50.

We are in the final week of Session and FES/FICE continues to monitor and take immediate action on multiple bills as they move through the final stages. A full report will be compiled at the close of Session. If you have a specific bill in question or need more information, please contact shobbs@fleng.org.