



Broward SLI

State Legislative Information

2017 Session – Week One
March 6-10, 2017

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The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards (OIAPS) continues to provide updates and tweets to keep you up-to-date. We encourage you to follow us at @BrowardSLI.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TAX EXEMPTIONS

On Monday, March 8th, the Senate Commerce and Tourism committee unanimously voted to move [CS/SB 664](#) relating to Disaster Preparedness Tax Exemption, by Senator Bean to its next committee of reference. As amended, the bill will provide for a 7-day sales tax exemption period for the purchase of specific items bought for disaster preparedness and protection. The tax exemption dates will run from May 30, 2017 through June 5, 2017.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILLS MOVE FORWARD

Also on Monday, the Senate Criminal Justice Committee voted on several bills reforming the criminal justice system. Sen. Thurston presented [SJR 270](#), relating to the restoration of civil rights. This constitutional amendment would authorize the Legislature to prescribe additional circumstances under which certain fines and forfeitures may be suspended or remitted, reprieves may be granted (pardons), civil rights restored, and punishments may be commuted. The committee unanimously voted to move the joint resolution to its next committee of reference – the Judiciary Committee. However, the implementing substantive bill, [SB 934](#) by Sen. Thurston, was temporarily postponed.

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CS/SB 788 by Sen. Clemens – relating to Marketing Practices for Substance Abuse Services – passed out of committee unanimously. The bill, as amended, creates new criminal offenses and amends existing criminal offenses (prohibited acts), relating to patient brokering and marketing practices, that create or increase fines and potential prison sentences. The bill also provides assistance to law enforcement and prosecutors by:

- ✚ Extending the jurisdiction of the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor to investigate and prosecute patient brokering offenses;
- ✚ Adding patient brokering to the list of predicate offenses that may be prosecuted as RICO offenses which could result in higher penalties; and
- ✚ Adopting federal law with regard to the timing of law enforcement giving notice to a patient regarding obtaining the patient's records pursuant to a court order.

Additionally, the bill requires that substance abuse treatment service provider personnel, who provide direct clinical treatment services, be certified through a Department of Children and Families-recognized certification process. CS/SB 788 addresses the problem of fraudulent patient brokering and deceptive marketing practices in the business of substance use addiction services, particularly related to the economic relationship between service providers and recovery residences – also known as sober homes.

Because of federal fair housing laws and guidance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development governing group home regulations, there is no state licensing or regulation of sober homes in Florida, and local regulatory attempts in some communities have run afoul of the same federal fair housing anti-discrimination prohibitions. However, fraudulent activity in the recovery residence industry continues to be a serious problem to local communities, law enforcement, and prosecutors. This legislation is intended to afford additional tools in addressing sober home abuses.

The bill now moves on to its next committee of reference – Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs. The House companion, HB 807, unanimously passed (13-0) the House Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee on Wednesday and now goes to the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

VISIT FLORIDA REFORM & ENTERPRISE FLORIDA REPEAL PASS IN HOUSE

On Monday March 6th, HB 9 by Rep. Renner – relating to VISIT Florida and HB 7005 – relating to Enterprise Florida (EFI), was voted out of the House Rules and Policy Committee. Initially, HB 7005 contained language eliminating EFI and significantly reducing the budget of VISIT Florida. After debate during committee weeks, there was a suggestion to split the two issues into two separate bills, resulting in the filing of HB 9 – relating to Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (VISIT Florida). EFI is the state's nonprofit corporation established by the legislature to serve as the state's main economic development organization. Similarly, VISIT Florida (VF) is the state's nonprofit corporation established by the legislature to serve as a direct support organization of EFI.

HB 9 makes VISIT Florida a direct-support organization of DEO and allows VISIT Florida to enter into an agreement with DEO to continue any existing program, activity, duty or function necessary for its operation. The bill will also provide VF

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with a \$25 million recurring appropriation, only if all transparency and accountability terms, set by the House Speaker, were followed. Unlike HB 9, HB 7005 allows current certified participants to continue partaking in the programs in accordance with current contract provisions. In addition, the bill provides that all duties, functions, records, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other public funds relating to the programs in EFI are transferred to the Department of Economic Opportunity – thus eliminating EFI – placing all dollars in the state’s general revenue fund.

On Friday, March 10th, the House voted 87-28 in favor of HB 7005; and HB 9 was also approved with an 80-35 vote. Presently, there is no Senate companion to either bill. The House, Senate, and Governor’s opinion on economic programs, specifically EFI will come to a head as Session continues.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AT ISSUE

In a close vote (9-6), the House Local, Federal, & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, moved HB 13, relating to Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) to its next committee of reference – the House Ways and Means Committee. As passed, HB 13 increases accountability and transparency for CRAs by:

- ✚ Requiring the governing board members of a CRA to undergo 4 hours of ethics training annually;
- ✚ Requiring each CRA to use the same procurement and purchasing processes as the creating county or municipality;
- ✚ Expanding the annual reporting requirements for CRAs to include audit information and performance data and requiring the information and data to be published on the agency website;
- ✚ Providing that moneys in the redevelopment trust fund may only be expended pursuant to an annual budget adopted by the board of commissioners of the CRA and only for those purposes specified in current law beginning July 1, 2017;
- ✚ Requiring a CRA created by a municipality to provide its proposed budget, and any amendments to the budget, to the board of county commissioners for the county in which the CRA is located by a time certain; and
- ✚ Requiring counties and municipalities to include CRA data in their annual financial report.

Further, the bill prohibits the creation of new CRAs on or after July 1, 2017 and phases out existing CRAs at the earlier of the expiration date stated in the agency’s charter or on September 30, 2037, with the exception of those CRAs with any outstanding bond obligations. Finally, the bill establishes a process for the Department of Economic Opportunity to declare a CRA inactive if it has no revenue, expenditures, and debt for three consecutive fiscal years.

The Senate companion, SB 1770, by Sen. Lee has been filed; however, has not been referred to any committees yet.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL TRANSPARENCY & RESPONSIBILITY BILLS INTRODUCED

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee voted to move two local government fiscal transparency and responsibility reform bills forward. WMC 1701 – Fiscal Government Transparency requires easy public access to local government governing boards’ voting records related to tax increases and issuance of tax-supported debt (phased in over 4 years). In addition, the bill requires easy online access to property tax TRIM notices and a 4-year history of property tax

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rates and amounts at the parcel level, which will be phased out over a 3-year period. Further, a 4-year history of property tax rates and total revenue generated at the jurisdiction level must be provided on government websites (phased in over 4 years).

The bill also requires additional public meetings and expands public notice requirements for local option tax increases, other than property taxes, and new long-term, tax-supported debt issuances. Public notices for proposed tax increases would have to contain information regarding the rate and total annual amount of revenue expected from a tax increase, the annual additional revenue expressed as a percent of annual general fund revenue, detailed explanation of intended uses of the levy, and an indication of whether or not the tax proceeds will be used to secure debt. Public notices for proposed new, long-term debt issuance such as: debt with duration of more than five years, would have to disclose the total lifetime costs of the debt, annual debt service, and effects of the new debt on a government's debt affordability measures.

WMC 17-02 – Local Government Fiscal Responsibility creates a new statutory maximum millage rate for local governments other than school districts. A county, municipality, special district dependent to a county or municipality, municipal service taxing unit, or independent special district may not levy a millage rate above its rolled-back rate, unless the government does not have excess unencumbered fund balances in any of its special revenue funds, as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which the millage rate is being considered or, if there are excess balances, appropriations are made to reduce any such balances. This prohibits property tax increases, unless certain excess fund balances are spent down. The bill also allows the above special revenue fund excess balances to be used for any public purpose, except for funds subject to restrictions imposed by the federal government or revenues that were approved by vote of the electors.

Further, the bill requires voter approval for any new tax-supported debt that pledges revenues beyond 5 years. The voter approval would be subject to the same election restrictions described above for local option and property taxes. An exception to this requirement in certain emergency situations, is allowed when the governing board, by a 4/5 majority votes to authorize a vote at an election other than the general election, while still requiring 60 percent voter approval.

CONSTITUTIONAL COUNTY OFFICER LEGISLATION APPROVED

On Thursday, the House Local, Federal, & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee unanimously voted to move two Selection and Duties of County Officers bills to their next committee of reference – the House Judiciary Committee. Amended versions of [HJR 721](#) and [HJR 187](#) relate to the creation of an elected Sheriff and an elected constitutional Property Appraiser, respective, in Miami-Dade County. Broward County has both elected offices, and respects the right of Miami-Dade county citizens to decide whether to create these two elected constitutional county officer positions in Miami-Dade. However, the County opposes to doing so at the expense of Broward County's and other counties home rule authority to change these offices in the future, as constitutionally allowed pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1(d) of the Constitution.

As passed in committee, HJR 187 is a proposed constitutional amendment that creates a Property Appraiser constitutional office in each county including Miami-Dade County. This proposed amendment, however, removes the power that

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currently exists for voters to modify or abolish that office pursuant to an amendment to the county charter or by special law approved by the voters in Broward County. In fact, the bill provides that the exclusive manner for selecting, abolishing, or transferring the duties of the property appraiser or the can only be by a statewide constitutional amendment in the future. HJR 721 makes the same changes relating to the constitutional office of the Sheriff, similarly removing the above home rule authority from citizens. The Senate companion bills, SB 134 and SB 136, are awaiting to be heard in their respective committees.

FRACKING BAN GETS APPROVAL

On Tuesday, the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation passed [SB 442](#) unanimously. This legislation creates a statewide prohibition on fracking or advanced well-stimulation treatments. The bill defines advanced well-stimulation treatments as all stages of well intervention performed by injecting fluids into a rock formation:

- At pressure that is at or exceeds the fracture gradient of the rock formation and the purpose or effect is to fracture the formation to increase production or recovery from an oil or gas well, such as hydraulic fracturing or acid fracturing; or
- At pressure below the fracture gradient of the rock formation and the purpose or effect is to dissolve the formation to increase production or recovery from an oil or gas well, such as matrix acidizing.

The bill explicitly excludes from this definition techniques used for routine well cleanout work, well maintenance, or removal of formation damage due to drilling or production; or acidizing techniques used to maintain or restore the natural permeability of the formation near the wellbore.

The environmental groups supported the measure while advocates of the petroleum industry voiced opposition to the bill, questioning the correlation between groundwater pollution and fracking. One advocate even raised the specter of landowners filing suit under the Bert Harris Act due to the potential loss of their ability to exploit the mineral rights on their lands. However, Sen. Simmons, a supporter of the bill argued that the bill would not prohibit other forms of oil exploration, and thus should not interfere with private mineral rights. Sen. Simmons also pointed out that Florida's porous karst limestone bedrock was so unique and fragile that stricter measures were in order.

SB 442 will next be taken up in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources. The House measure, HB 451, is currently in the Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee.

WATER RESOURCES LEGISLATION APPROVED

In 2000, Congress, as part of the Clean Water Act, approved implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) as a means of bringing all major water projects tied to Everglades restoration under one state-federal umbrella. Many of the current reservoirs, the Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) systems, Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) and other projects that have been built or are under construction are integrated parts of CERP.

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In 2008, then Gov. Charlie Crist signed the River of Grass agreement with the US Sugar Corporation, which contained options to buy more than 187,000 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) for purposes of constructing a more historical “flow-way” from the lake to the Everglades. Because of the magnitude of this acquisition, many CERP projects were put on indefinite hold to re-evaluate their design aspects to account for this prospective purchase. Eventually the SFWMD, citing lack of available funding, opted to buy only 26,800 acres of land. Under an amended agreement with US Sugar that same year, the SFWMD retained the right under three different options to purchase the remaining 153,200 acres. The first two options have since expired. The remaining third option allows the SFWMD to purchase the land at “fair market value” in competition with other buyers.

This bill would require the SFWMD to implement one of three options:

- ✚ Option A requires the SFWMD to seek out proposals from willing sellers within the Everglades Agricultural Area to purchase enough land to build one or two reservoirs equaling 360,000 acre-feet of water storage.
- ✚ Option B requires the SFWMD, if they are unable to purchase the necessary land from independent sellers under Option A, to purchase the land from US Sugar under the terms of the 2010 River of Grass Agreement.
- ✚ Option C, to be exercised if the SFWMD is unable to purchase any land under Options A or B, requires funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for CERP to be increased by \$50 million per year, with a portion of those funds going towards future land acquisitions in the EAA for reservoir construction purposes.

Under each option the SFWMD, unless other funding is available, is required to begin the planning study under CERP for the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir project component by certain dates. If land is acquired under Options A or B, the bill authorizes the distribution of \$1.2 billion in Florida Forever bonds and provides contingent appropriations for the debt service payments on such bonds. The bill requires that the SFWMD seek any applicable federal credits towards the reservoir project.

On Wednesday, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources adopted a strike-all for [SB 10](#) before passing the bill on a 5-1 vote. The strike-all makes the following changes to the bill:

- ✚ Creates the Coast-to-Coast Comprehensive Water Resource Program and transfers \$3.3 billion of bonding authority from the Florida Forever Trust Fund to this newly created program. The duration of each series of bonds issued cannot exceed 20 annual maturities, and the amount of documentary stamp tax that may be pledged to service these bonds is also limited.
- ✚ Specifies that the SFWMD, in exercising Option A, may not exercise eminent domain for the purpose of implementing the reservoir project.
- ✚ Requires the SFWMD to give preferential consideration to hiring agricultural workers displaced as a result of the reservoir project, consistent with their qualifications and abilities, for the construction and operation of the reservoir project.
- ✚ Reduces the amount that can be bonded by Florida Forever for land acquisition and improvement from \$5.3 billion to \$2 billion.

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- ✚ Requests the Army Corps of Engineers, in re-evaluating its Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, to consider the effect of repairs made to the Herbert Hoover Dike as well as the construction of any new storage south of the lake.
- ✚ Creates the Water Protection & Sustainability Program Trust Fund, a new water storage facility revolving loan fund. The DEP would be authorized to award loan amounts for up to 75 percent of the cost of planning, designing, constructing, upgrading, or replacing water resource infrastructure or purchasing land for water storage facilities. Alternative water supply and water sustainability projects would be given priority under this program.
- ✚ Makes the payment of debt service or funding of debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts payable to water resource protection and development bonds issued under this bill's provisions a 1st priority for LATF funding.
- ✚ Designates the EAA Reservoir Project, C-34 West Basin Storage Reservoir, C-44 Reservoir, Western Everglades Restoration Project, C-111 South-Dade Project, and Picayune Strand Restoration Project as priority projects for LATF funding under CERP.
- ✚ Appropriates \$35 million LATF funds annually to the St. Johns WMD for St. John's River and Keystone Heights' restoration projects, and \$2 million for projects in the Florida Keys relating to water supply, stormwater collection, sewage treatment and disposal, and canal restoration & muck removal.
- ✚ Appropriates \$20 million to offset damages to property owners incurred due to retrofitting onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems in order to cleanup Indian River Lagoon, and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee estuaries.
- ✚ Creates a water reuse grant program. The DEP would be authorized to grant up to 100 percent of the cost for planning, designing, constructing, upgrading, or replacing infrastructure designed to expand a facility's capacity to make reclaimed water available for reuse.

The measure now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee, its last remaining committee stop before the Senate floor. The House companion, HB 761, is currently in the House Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee.

TNC LEGISLATION READY FOR FLOOR VOTE

CS/HB 221 – relating to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) creates s. 316.68, F.S., which establishes a regulatory framework and preempts to the state the regulation of TNCs. Specifically, a county, municipality, special district, airport authority, port authority, or other local governmental entity or subdivision *may not*:

- ✚ Impose a tax on or require a license for a TNC, TNC driver, or TNC vehicle if such tax or license relates to providing prearranged rides;
- ✚ Subject a TNC, TNC driver, or TNC vehicle to any rate, entry, operation, or other requirement of the county, municipality, special district, airport authority, port authority, or other local governmental entity or subdivision; or
- ✚ Require a TNC or TNC driver to obtain a business license or any other type of similar authorization to operate within the local governmental entity's jurisdiction.

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The bill does not prohibit an airport from charging reasonable pickup fees consistent with any pickup fees charged to taxicab companies at that airport for their use of the airport's facilities or prohibit the airport from designating locations for staging, pickup, and other similar operations at the airport.

HB 221 has been placed on the House Calendar for consideration by the entire House. Meanwhile, the Senate companion, SB 340 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on March 14th.

PUBLIC MEETINGS BILL ADVANCES IN SENATE

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Ethic and Electors passed SB 914 without amendment. This bill seeks to codify certain judicial interpretations of Florida's Sunshine Law. Pursuant to Article 1, s. 24(b) of the State Constitution all meetings by a collegial body of the state or local governments must be open to the public. The implementing statutory law in §286.011, F.S., requires that any such meeting "at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed" must likewise be open to the public.

While the Legislature has not further defined the term "meeting" within the context of the Sunshine Law, the courts have. In *Sarasota Citizens for Responsible Gov't v. City of Sarasota*, the Florida Supreme Court stated:

[M]eetings within the meaning of the Sunshine Law include any gathering, formal or informal, of two or more members of the same board or commission where the members deal with some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the Board." (*Sarasota Citizens for Responsible Gov't v. City of Sarasota*, 48 So. 3d 755, at 764 (Fla. 2010).

The Court has also interpreted the intent of the Sunshine Law in relation to the types of assemblages that constitute a "meeting":

The obvious intent of the Government in the Sunshine Law...was to cover any gathering of some of the members of a public board where those members discuss some matters on which foreseeable action may be taken by the board." (*Bd. of Pub. Instruction v. Doran*, 224 So. 2d 693, at 698 (Fla. 1969).

The bill defines and addresses the application certain terms in relation to the Sunshine Law. The following terms are defined:

- ✚ De facto meeting – means the use of board or commission staff or third parties, acting as intermediaries, to facilitate discussion of public business between board or commission members;
- ✚ Discussion – means a conversation between or among board or commission members regardless of whether through oral, written, electronic or any other form of communication;
- ✚ Meeting – means a gathering, whether formal or informal, of two or more members of the same board or commission, even if they have not yet taken office;
- ✚ Official act – means the adoption of a resolution or rule or other formal action being taken by the board or commission; and

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- ✦ Public business – means any matter before, or foreseeably expected to come before, the board or commission.

The bill further specifies that members of a board may participate in “fact-finding” exercises or excursions to research public business, and may participate in meetings with a member of the Legislature if:

- ✦ The board provides reasonable notice;
- ✦ A vote, official act, or an agreement regarding a future action does not occur;
- ✦ There is no discussion of “public business” that occurs; and
- ✦ There are appropriate records, minutes, audio recordings, or video recordings made and retained as a public record.

Finally, the bill provides that if there is a gathering of two or more board members where no official acts are taken and no public business is discussed, then no public notice or access is required. SB 914 next goes to the Senate Community Affairs Committee. The House companion, HB 919, is currently slated for the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMISSION

The Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) meets every 20 years. The CRC is a group of 37 commissioners who examine the relevance and applicability of Florida’s Constitution to current and future needs. Specifically, Article XI, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution outlines the creation of the CRC: within 30 days of the convening of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session (March 7, 2017), the Constitution Revision Commission shall be established. It shall be composed of the Attorney General, 15 members selected by the Governor, 9 members selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 9 members selected by the President of the Senate, and 3 members selected by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Governor designates the chair. The CRC will have their first meeting in April. As of March 9th, the following individuals comprise the CRC:

1. Attorney General Pam Bondi

2. Governor Rick Scott

- ✦ Carlos Beruff, Chair – the son of Cuban immigrants, Carlos Beruff is a native Floridian whose business sense and hard work have allowed him to build an incredibly successful career in both his private business and the public sector. Currently, Mr. Beruff is a commissioner on the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority Board.
- ✦ Dr. Jose “Pepe” Armas – a distinguished physician and healthcare executive whose focus on patient-centered care has defined his career.
- ✦ Lisa Carlton – an eighth generation Floridian and the co-owner and manager of the Mabry Carlton Ranch, Inc. in Sarasota County. She spent much of her life in public service to the people of Florida including most recently as a Florida State Senator.

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- ✦ Timothy Cerio – an accomplished attorney practicing at his own law firm in Tallahassee. Mr. Cerio has previously served as General Counsel to Governor Rick Scott from 2015 to 2016 and Chief of Staff and General Counsel at the Florida Department of Health from 2005 to 2007.
- ✦ Emery Gaaney – a member of the Attorney General’s senior executive management team and currently serves as the Director of Law Enforcement, Victim Services & Criminal Justice Programs and is the liaison between federal, state and local law enforcement administrators and the Attorney General.
- ✦ Brecht Heuchan - the Founder and CEO of ContributionLink, LLC, a leading political intelligence, data analytics and fundraising company which serves many of America’s most sophisticated corporations, trade associations and campaigns. Mr. Heuchan also owns The Labrador Company, a Florida based political and government affairs firm that since its start in 2001, has represented a wide array of clients from small non-profits to some of the largest and most respected industry leaders in the world.
- ✦ Marva Johnson – an accomplished member of Florida’s business community and leader in Florida education. Mrs. Johnson, the Regional Vice President of State Government Affairs for Charter Communications currently serves as the chair of the Florida State Board of Education.
- ✦ Darlene Jordan – the Executive Director of the Gerald R. Jordan Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports education, health and youth services, and the arts.
- ✦ Fred Karlinsky – a nationally recognized authority on national insurance regulatory and compliance issues, Fred Karlinsky is Co-Chair of Greenberg Traurig’s Insurance Regulatory and Transactions Practice Group.
- ✦ Belinda Keiser – devoted her career to advancing Florida’s economic and workforce development, global competitiveness, education and healthcare. In addition to serving on various governmental boards, Mrs. Keiser has been the vice chancellor of Keiser University for more than 20 years and is an advocate for students’ accessibility to higher education and workforce talent development.
- ✦ Frank Kruppenbacher – an accomplished attorney who has spent much of the past 10 years serving his community and the state through positions on various boards and commissions.
- ✦ Dr. Gary Lester – the Vice President of The Villages for Community Relations and has spent 34 years as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church.
- ✦ Jimmy Patronis – a lifelong Floridian, Jimmy Patronis has dedicated his career to public service and his family business in Panama City. Mr. Patronis is currently a commissioner on the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC), a position he was appointed to by Governor Rick Scott for a four-year term beginning January 2015.
- ✦ Pam Stewart – Florida Department of Education (DOE) Commissioner Pam Stewart has dedicated her life to ensuring Florida’s students have access to a high quality education that enables them to reach their full potential and achieve their academic and career goals. Commissioner Stewart has served 37 years in education, beginning her career as a school teacher.
- ✦ Nicole Washington – is a leader in higher education with more than 10 years of experience teaching, performing educational research and advocating for educational policy and has served as the Associate Director of Governmental Relations for the State University System Board of Governors, as well as the Budget Director for Education in the Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget (OPB).

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Alternate Members

Governor Scott has identified the following individuals to serve as alternates should one of the appointees not be able to fulfill their duties for the duration of the CRC:

- ✦ **Tom Kuntz**, Chairman of the Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida
- ✦ **Don Eslinger**, former Sheriff of Seminole County
- ✦ **Judge John Stargel**, Circuit Judge in the Tenth Judicial Circuit

3. Senate President Joe Negron

- ✦ **Don Gaetz** – for more than 30 years, former Senate President Gaetz dedicated his life to expanding Floridians' access to quality health care services as a hospital administrator and co-founder of a successful hospice care business.
- ✦ **Anna Marie Hernandez Gamez** – Ms. Hernandez Gamez focuses her Miami-based law practice on complex real estate and commercial litigation. The daughter of Cuban immigrants, Ms. Hernandez Gamez is the past president of the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA).
- ✦ **Patricia Levesque** – As chief executive officer of the Foundation for Excellence in Education (ExcelinEd) and executive director of the Foundation for Florida's Future, Ms. Levesque has worked with federal and state leaders, teachers, parents, and students to advance education systems that maximize every student's potential for learning.
- ✦ **Sherry Plymale** – Ms. Plymale has served as chair of the State Board of Community Colleges, as chief of staff to Commissioner Frank Brogan in the Florida Department of Education, as a trustee of Florida Atlantic University and St. Leo University, and as a board member of the Martin County School Readiness Coalition.
- ✦ **William "Bill" Schifino, Jr.** – Mr. Schifino currently serves as president of The Florida Bar for the 2016-2017 term, and previously served as president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association.
- ✦ **Chris Smith** – former Senator Smith has been an active member of the Ft. Lauderdale community throughout his legal career. He served as president of the Fort Lauderdale Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Council and was later appointed to the City of Fort Lauderdale's Planning and Zoning Board, where he served as the youngest member.
- ✦ **Bob Solari** – As a former City of Vero Beach Council member and now Indian River County Commissioner, he has been a strong advocate for Indian River County taxpayers and a zealous defender of individual rights.
- ✦ **Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch** – Most recently served as a city commissioner and as mayor for the town of Sewall's Point. Her service on several local boards and her support of organizations like River Kidz has helped promote efforts to find solutions to the damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee.
- ✦ **Carolyn Timmann** – is the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller of Martin County.

4. House Speaker Richard Corcoran

- ✦ **Representative Jose Felix Diaz** – an attorney, husband, and father of two children. He currently represents House District 116 in Miami-Dade County.

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- ✦ Speaker pro tempore Jeanette Nuñez – Speaker *pro tempore* Jeanette Nuñez is a small business owner from Miami-Dade County where she currently represents House District 119.
- ✦ Representative Chris Sprowls – an attorney currently representing House District 65 in Pinellas County. Chris was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2014 and has consistently fought to improve health care and education in Florida.
- ✦ Senator Tom Lee – Currently serves Senate District 20, consisting of parts of Hillsborough, Pasco, and Polk counties. For over 30 years, he has been a licensed real estate agent and an owner of Sabal Homes of Florida where he currently holds the positions of Vice President and Director.
- ✦ Senator Darryl Rouson – Senator Darryl Rouson first moved to Florida in 1959. In 1977, he earned a bachelor’s degree at Xavier of New Orleans and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida Law School in 1980. He currently resides in St. Petersburg with his wife and their five children while practicing law with the Dolman Law Group.
- ✦ Sheriff Chris Nocco – Served the people of Pasco County since 2009. He is a graduate of the FBI- National Executive Institute, the Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School, and a graduate of the National Sheriff’s Association’s 101st National Sheriff’s Institute.
- ✦ Erika Donalds – Is the Chief Financial Officer / Chief Compliance Officer and Partner at Dalton, Greiner, Hartman, Maher & Co., LLC—a New York-based investment management firm—where she has worked for over 12 years. She has great experience managing financial reporting, budgeting, audit & tax, and compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards.
- ✦ Rich Newsome – Senior partner of the Newsome Melton law firm and represents individuals and families in complex civil litigation. Rich currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Guardian Ad Litem Foundation and is a past member of the St. James Cathedral Parish Council.
- ✦ John Stemberger – An AV Rated Orlando civil trial lawyer who has litigated and argued high-profile First Amendment and constitutional issues. In 2001, he was appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush to the Judicial Nominating Commission for the Ninth Judicial Circuit where he served eight years.

5. ***Appointments by Chief Justice Jorge Labarga***

- ✦ Henry “Hank” Coxe – A Jacksonville attorney who specializes in federal and state criminal matters, has served as president of The Florida Bar.
- ✦ Senator Arthenia Joyner – A Tampa attorney, represented her community in the Legislature for 16 years, first in the Florida House and then in the Florida Senate.
- ✦ Roberto Martinez – A Coral Gables attorney, has served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in South Florida, first as an assistant U.S. attorney and then, later, as the U.S. Attorney. He has a record of active service in education, both in his home county of Miami-Dade and also on a state level, serving as a member of the state Board of Education for several years.