

# Broward SLI

State Legislative Information

December 22, 2015

Interim Committee Week 6 & Pe-Session Overview  
2016 Session

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## Governor & Seminole Tribe Sign Gaming Compact (updated)

As reported previously, on Monday, December 7, 2015, Governor Rick Scott announced his office had reached a deal with the Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe) over a new gaming compact (to review the proposed compact [click here](#)). The proposed compact must still be ratified by the Legislature before taking effect. In consideration for this new compact, the Tribe has agreed:

- To pay \$3 billion over a 7-year minimum guarantee;
- Revenue Share up to 25 percent from gaming revenue;
- Create 4,800 new direct and indirect jobs and 14,500 direct and indirect jobs construction jobs;
- Invest \$1.8 billion in capital investments;
- To limit the amount of gaming positions at the Tribe's facilities or its Reservations;
- Allow 16 hours of inspection over the course of two days per facility, per month, capped at 1,600 hours annually and pay \$400,000 in oversight payments;
- Make an annual \$1,750,000 donation to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling

In return, the Tribe is authorized to host Live Table Games, such as craps and roulette. Furthermore, the proposed compact states that the following do not violate the Tribe's exclusive right to operate covered games (i.e., Class III games including Slot Machines, banking or Banked Games, Raffles & Drawings, Live Table Games or other state authorized games) in Florida:

- Lower taxes for pari-mutuels as low as 25% on slot machine revenues;
- Decoupling for pari-mutuels;
- Additional slot machine licenses in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties;
- 15 Blackjack tables at the four existing Pari-mutuel facilities in Broward and Miami-Dade subject to specific limitations and conditions, including approval by voters at a countywide referendum after the proposed compact takes effect. Subject to additional conditions being met, 10 more Blackjack tables may be added at each facility;
- Expansion of hours;
- Placement of ATMs on slot floor;
- New point-of-sale system for Florida Lottery for sales at gas pumps; and
- Class III gaming pursuant to a tribal-state compact with another federally recognized tribe, if the tribe had land in federal trust as of July 1, 2015.

The compact generally limits gaming to the Tribe's seven facilities statewide, including the

Seminole Indian Casino in the City of Coconut Creek, the Seminole Indian Casino in the City of Hollywood, and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino also in the City of Hollywood. However, the proposed compact allows the Tribe to relocate, expand, or replace any of its facilities that are on Indian lands upon 60 days' notice to the state. The compact authorizes the operation video race terminals and slot machines at one additional pari-mutuel facility in Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County. The compact limits the number of terminals and slots that can be operated at the additional facility prior to, and after, October 1, 2018. Moreover, voters must approve these new pari-mutuel facilities in a countywide referendum conducted after the compact takes effect.

The compact also provides for three (3) percent of the amounts paid to the state to be distributed to local governments affected by the Tribe's operations. The actual revenue percentage distributed to each affected county and/or city government will be determined by the Florida Legislature through the enacting legislation ratifying the compact.

### **Solar Energy Bills Advance**

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, the House Finance and Tax Committee considered HJR 193 and HB 195, by Rep. Rodrigues. HJR 193 proposes amendments to Sections 3 and 4 of Article VII to the state Constitution relating to renewable energy source devices. If Florida voters approve the amendment, HB 195 amends general law to implement the constitutional changes proposed in HJR 193.

The first change proposed by HJR 193 exempts the assessed value of a renewable energy source device, or a component thereof, subject tangible personal property tax, from ad valorem taxation. The second amendment authorizes the Legislature to prohibit, by general law, a property appraiser from considering the installation of a renewable energy source device, or a component thereof, in the determining the assessed value of real property for the purpose of ad valorem taxation. This change expands the current constitutional provision by specifying it applies also to a component of a renewable energy source device and by extending the present exemption to all real property, instead of simply residential property. Under current law, the renewable energy property tax exemption applies to renewable energy source devices installed on or after January 1, 2013, on new and existing residential property.

Both bills were passed out of the House Finance and Tax Committee unanimously. HJR 193 and HB 195 now move to the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. On the Senate side, companion measures, SJR 170 and SB 172, by Sen. Brandes, received unanimous approval in the Senate Community Affairs Committee and next go to the Senate Finance and Tax Committee for consideration.

### **Value Adjustment Boards Faces Changes**

House Finance and Tax Committee also considered HB 499, by Rep. Avila, relating to ad valorem taxation. The bill amends s. 129.03, F.S., relating to the preparation of the county budget, to require the board of county commissioners' summary statement of the tentative budget to specify the proportionate amount of proposed county tax millage and gross amount of ad valorem taxes attributable to the sheriff, property appraiser, clerk of the circuit court, tax collector, and supervisor of elections, respectively. The bill also authorizes the board to publish the summary statement in a newspaper of general circulation more than once and to post the statement on the county's website.

In addition, HB 499 revises the procedures, oversight, and composition of value adjustment boards, including the following :

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- Requires that a petition to the VAB must be signed by the taxpayer or be accompanied by the taxpayer's written authorization for representation.
- Revises provisions relating to the exchange of evidence.
- Clarifies the confidentiality of information in the evidence exchange process.
- For the 2018 tax roll, requires the VAB to complete all hearings and certify the assessment roll to the property appraiser by June 1st following the tax year in which the assessments were made, or by December 1<sup>st</sup>, if the petitions in the county increased by more than 10 percent from the prior year.
- Restricts the qualifications of those who can represent a taxpayer before the VAB.
- ***Changes the VAB's composition by replacing one member from the County Commission with a licensed real estate appraiser appointed by the County Commission; except if no licensed real estate appraiser is available, then the County Commission must appoint a homestead or commercial property owner who is a resident of the county.***
- Prohibits the VAB, its attorney and clerk, when appointing or scheduling special magistrates for hearings, from considering the assessment reductions recommended by the special magistrate in the current or previous years.
- Specifies the VAB's findings of fact must be based upon admitted evidence or the lack of evidence.

The bill passed unanimously and is now in the House Local & Federal Affairs Committee. Its companion, SB 766 by Sen. Flores, has been filed but not yet heard in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

### **Medical Examiner Mandate Bill Passes 1<sup>st</sup> Committee**

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, HB 315 by Rep. Roberson, was heard in the House Health Quality Subcommittee. Originally as filed, HB 315 allows a county, by resolution or ordinance, to charge an approval fee of up to \$50 when a body is to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea, provided that the death does not occur under circumstances outlined under section 401.11(1)(a), F.S.

Currently, many counties charge fees for cremation approval, Broward County charges \$55. The bill would have afforded counties some discretion in establishing fees of up to \$50 for services that medical examiners must provide by law; however, it was amended to remove the \$50 cap on medical examiner approval fees, and now prohibits county medical examiners from charging any fee for examinations, investigations, or autopsies performed pursuant to section 406.11, F.S. This would include fees charged for cremation approval. As amended, the bill has an approximate \$4 million statewide impact and a negative impact of over \$50,000 countywide.

Despite some reservations expressed by subcommittee members, general public, and staff, the bill passed by the Health Quality Subcommittee with a 9-3 vote. The bill next moves to the House Local and Federal Affairs Committee. Meanwhile, the Senate companion, SB 620 by Sen. Grimsley, continues to move forward with a favorable vote in the Senate Health Quality Subcommittee. It is now in Senate Health Policy.

### **Life Support Services Legislation Pass 1<sup>st</sup> Committees**

SB 742 by Sen. Hutson amends s. 401.25, F.S., to require each county to adopt ordinances for the issuances of COPCNs to provide basic or advanced life support services or air ambulance services. Counties are not presently required to adopt such ordinances and certain counties have not done so. The bill requires that county COPCN ordinances include

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standards regarding trained personnel staffing, equipment, and response times to life support calls. Additionally, when developing standards for COPCNs, the bill adds the requirement that counties consider the recommendations of independent special fire control districts within their jurisdiction.

The bill creates an appeals process specific to COPCN denials. If a COPCN is denied, the bill allows the applicant to appeal the decision by filing a writ of certiorari with the circuit court that has jurisdiction over the county. The bill requires the court to grant the applicant's COPCN if the court record in the proceeding shows the applicant will provide a level of service superior to the current county provider, as measured by the county standards, at equal or lower cost.

SB 742 passed through the Senate Health Policy Committee by a 7-2 vote and is now in Senate Community Affairs. Meanwhile, HB 517 by Rep. Renner, the House companion, was heard and passed unanimously in the House Health Quality Subcommittee. It is now in the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee.

### **County Officers Constitutional Amendment Moves in Senate**

Following like-action in the House, the Senate Community Affairs Committee approved, by a 4-1 vote, SJR 648 by Sen. Hutson. The measure amends Article VIII, Section 1(d) of the state Constitution to remove from voters the authority to establish in a county home-rule charter how constitutional county officers (Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector and Clerk of the Circuit Court) are selected, or how such offices may be abolished and another office designated to carry out the offices' duties.

If passed by the Legislature and approved by 60 percent of Florida's electors, the amendment would require each county to have all five elected constitutional county officers. In addition, future changes to these county offices could only be accomplished by special act of the Legislature subject to voter approval. The practical effect in Broward County, should the measure pass, is two-fold: (1) The establishment of an elected Tax Collector; and (2) The transfer of all financial, auditing, records, and ex-officio Board clerk functions, now performed by the Finance and Administrative Services Department, County Auditor, and the County Administrator, to the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The measure is an unprecedented attack on local home-rule authority and the right of local citizens to determine how their government should be organized and function. Several counties oppose the proposal, including Broward, Miami-Dade, and Orange Counties along with the Florida Association Counties. The Florida Tax Collectors Association spoke in favor of the measure. SJR 648 is now before the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee. The companion joint resolution, HJR 165 by Rep. Artiles, is in the House Judiciary Committee.

### **Court Costs Flexibility Bill Approved Despite Court Opposition**

Pursuant to Section 939.185(1), F.S., each county may, by ordinance, authorize an additional court cost of up to \$65, to be imposed against an individual who pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or is found guilty of, or adjudicated delinquent for, any felony, misdemeanor, delinquent act, or criminal traffic offense. Revenues collected from this additional court cost must be allocated equally and used to supplement state and local funding of the following purposes:

- ✓ 25 percent to fund Court innovations, as determined by the chief judge of the circuit, to supplement state funding for the elements of the state courts system.
- ✓ 25 percent to fund legal aid programs required by law.

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- ✓ 25 percent to fund personnel and legal materials for the public as part of a law library.
- ✓ 25 percent to fund teen court programs, juvenile assessment centers, and other juvenile alternative programs, except as provided in Section 939.19(7), F.S.

Unspent revenues in each category at the end of the County’s fiscal year must be transferred to the court innovation fund.

HB 573, by Rep. Stone, a key priority for the Florida Association of Counties and most counties statewide, eliminates the mandatory 25 percent split prescribed in Section 939.185(1)(a), F.S., and allows the county commission to determine the appropriate allocation of revenues for each purpose authorized in the statute. Any unspent monies at the end of the county’s fiscal year is carried forward to be allocated for one or more of the authorized purposes at the county commission’s discretion.

HB 573 passed favorably in the House Civil Justice Subcommittee by a vote of 11-1, despite strong opposition from the state’s judiciary. The bill now moves to the House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. To date, no Senate companion bill has been filed.

### **TNC Preemption Bill Moves in House**

HB 509 by Rep. Gaetz would create statewide regulatory requirements in order for transportation network companies to operate in the state. In brief, the bill addresses the following:

#### Insurance Provisions

The bill provides that the following automobile insurance requirements apply while a driver is engaged in TNC service (i.e., the driver is connected to a rider):

- Primary automobile liability insurance that provides at least \$1 million for death, bodily injury, and property damage; and
- Personal injury protection benefits that provide the minimum coverage amounts for a limousine under the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law. Pursuant to 627.733(1)(a), F.S., limousines are exempt from the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law; however, if the Legislature removes this exemption or makes certain parts of the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law applicable to limousines, the changes in that law would also apply to TNCs and their drivers.

#### Permitting

The bill requires a TNC to obtain a permit from the DHSMV in order to operate. DHSMV is required to issue a permit to each TNC that meets the requirements of a TNC and pays DHSMV a \$5,000 annual permit fee. The annual permit fee is to be deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

#### Preemption

The bill also provides that TNCs, TNC drivers, and vehicles used by TNC drivers are governed exclusively by state law and any rules adopted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV). A county, municipality, special district, airport authority, port authority, or other local government entity or subdivision may not impose a tax on, or require a license for, a TNC or a driver, or a vehicle used by a driver, if such tax or license relates to providing TNC services, or subjects a company to any rate, entry, operation, or other requirement of the county, municipality, special district, airport authority, or other local governmental entity or subdivision. The bill prohibits trip fees charged by airports or seaports, but allows airports to charge an annual fee, not exceeding \$5,000 per transportation network company, for use of an airport’s facilities or designating

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locations for staging, pickup, and other similar operations of the airport.

Despite significant opposition, the bill was voted favorably out of the House Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee on a 10-1 vote and next goes to the House Economic Affairs Committee, its last committee stop before the House Floor.

On Monday, December 14, 2015, Sen. Simmons filed SB 1118 – relating to TNC insurance. The specifically outlines the insurance requirements a TNC driver must maintain when not engaged in a prearranged versus when the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride. When the driver is not engaged in a prearranged ride he or she must have primary automobile liability insurance coverage of at least:

- \$50,000 for death and bodily injury per person.
- \$100,000 for death and bodily injury per incident.
- \$25,000 for property damage.

When the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride he or she must have automobile liability insurance coverage of at least:

- \$1 million for death and bodily injury.
- \$50,000 for property damage.

SB 1118 also requires TNC companies to maintain the required insurance coverage should the driver's insurance lapse or does not provide for the coverage identified above. The bill has not been referred to any committees.

### **Fracking Regulation Legislation Passes Fiscal Scrutiny**

On Wednesday, December 2, 2015, HB 191 by Rep. Rodrigues was voted on, in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill preempts local governments from regulating oil or gas exploration activities. However, the bill allows local governments to keep existing zoning ordinances in place that were enacted prior to January 1, 2015, related to oil and gas exploration, development, production, processing, storage, and transportation.

The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a comprehensive study on high-pressure well stimulation. The study will be funded from the General Revenue in the amount of \$1 million. The study will:

- Evaluate the underlying geologic features present in the counties where oil wells have been permitted and analyze the potential impact that high-pressure well stimulation and wellbore construction may have on the underlying geologic features.
- Evaluate the potential hazards and risks that high-pressure well stimulation poses to surface water or groundwater resources, including an assessment of the potential impacts on drinking water resources, identification of the main factors affecting the severity and frequency of impacts, and an analysis of the potential for the use or reuse of recycled water in well stimulation fluids while meeting appropriate water quality standards.
- Review and evaluate the potential for groundwater contamination from conducting high-pressure well stimulation under wells that have been previously abandoned and plugged and identifies a setback radius from previously plugged and abandoned wells that could be impacted by high-pressure well stimulation.
- Review and evaluate the ultimate disposition of well stimulation fluids after use in well stimulation processes.

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The bill was opposed by environmental groups, supported by the business community, and passed by a vote of 9-3. The bill next goes to the House State Affairs Committee. The Senate companion, SB 318, by Sen. Richter has not been heard in its first committee of reference – Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.

## **Department of Transportation Bills Advance**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Senate Transportation Committee unanimously approved SB 756, as a committee substitute, relating to the Florida Department of Transportation. As passed, CS/SB 756:

- Increases from \$15 million to \$25 million the minimum annual funding for the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) program.
- Creates the FDOT Financing Corporation, a nonprofit corporation, for the purpose of financing or refinancing projects in the FDOT’s work program through one or more service contracts, under which the corporation is authorized to issue bonds and other forms of indebtedness secured by payments to the corporation by the FDOT.
- Requires the FDOT to consult with and provide information to the Division of Bond Finance (DBF) in connection with a proposal to finance or refinance a transportation facility through the FDOT’s authority to enter into public-private partnerships, and authorizes the DBF to make an independent recommendation.
- Expressly authorizes an existing, federally approved business development program for highway projects within the FDOT, which is intended to assist small businesses, increase competition, and reduce costs.
- Authorizes the FDOT to assume certain review responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with respect to highway projects, as authorized by federal law.
- Substantially revises Chapter 333, F.S., relating to airport zoning regulations.
- Allows commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operators to purchase temporary CMV registration permits at certain locations and provides for a reduced non-registration penalty under certain circumstances.
- Increases from three to ten years the period after which a dormant prepaid toll account is presumed unclaimed.

A similar bill in the House (HB 7027) has passed the House Transportation & Ports Subcommittee and is now in the House Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

## **Session Preview**

### **Discretionary Surtax Approval Legislation Filed**

HB 791 by Rep. Ingoglia – relating to the Local Tax Referenda – requires a 60% voter approval for all local option sales surtaxes authorized in Section 212.055, Florida Statutes. The bill also requires such surtax proposals be placed on a general election ballot as opposed to a special referendum election. In addition, the bill prohibits the expenditure of county funds for promotional material and publications about the proposed surtax measure (even if used for voter education), except expenditures associated with the advertisements required by law.

HB 791 is awaiting its first committee hearing before the House Local Government Affairs Subcommittee. An identical bill, SB 1100, was filed on December 10<sup>th</sup>, by Sen. Brandes. The Senate companion has yet to be assigned to any committees of reference.

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## **Mental Health Bills Move Forward**

HB 439 by Rep. McBurney – Mental Health Services in the Criminal Justice System, expands the authority of courts to use treatment-based mental health and substance abuse treatment programs. On December 2, 2015, the House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee unanimously voted in favor of the bill.

The bill also creates the Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program which diverts mentally incompetent incarcerated defendants into more therapeutic and community outpatient treatment settings. Broward County is included in the House version of the pilot program, but not in the Senate bill (SB 604 – Sen. Diaz de la Portilla). Staff continues to work with Sen. Rene Garcia’s office to be included in SB 604 when it is heard in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, which Sen. Garcia chairs.

SB 604 is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. HB 439 has not been scheduled for hearing on in its next committee of reference – House Appropriations Committee.

## **Regulation of Plastic Bags**

Sen. Bullard filed SB 306 – Relating to Disposable Plastic Bags. This bill authorizes specific municipalities to establish pilot programs to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags.

A municipality with a population of fewer than 100,000 which is a coastal community may establish a pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags. A municipality establishing a pilot program shall enact an ordinance for the regulation or ban of disposable plastic bags that takes effect no earlier than January 1, 2017, and expires no later than June 30, 2019. The bill is in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. Identical to Sen. Bullard’s bill is HB 143, by Rep. Richardson. HB 143 is in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee.

## **Public Works Projects Legislation**

Now in the House State Affairs Committee, HB 181 by Rep. Van Zant prohibits state & political subdivisions that contract for public works projects from imposing restrictive conditions on certain contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers.

The bill specifies the state or any political subdivision may not require a contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier engaged in the construction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of public works to:

- Pay employees a predetermined amount of wages or prescribe any wage rate;
- Provide employees a specified type, amount, or rate of employee benefits;
- Control, limit, or expand staffing; or
- Recruit, train, or hire employees from a designated, restricted, or single source.

In the Senate, SB 598, by Sen. Brandes has been filed and not heard in its first committee – the Senate Government Oversight and Accountability Committee.

## **Direct File Changes Move Forward**

HB 129 – Relating to Juvenile Justice, by Rep. Edwards is awaiting a vote in the House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill revises circumstances when the state attorney may file information when a child of a certain age range commits or attempts to commit specified crimes.

The bill amends the direct file transfer process by eliminating the mandatory direct file

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system and modifying the discretionary direct file system to a two-tiered system based on the juvenile's age at the time of offense:

- In the first tier, the State may direct file a juvenile who was 16 or older and younger than 18, at the time of the alleged offense, and who committed an enumerated offense within the first tier list.
- In the second tier, the State may direct file a juvenile who was 14 or older and younger than 16, at the time of the offense, and who committed an enumerated offense within the second tier list.

Unlike current law, the bill does not require the court to impose adult sanctions. Instead, the bill provides that a juvenile transferred to adult court and who is found to have committed a violation of law may be sentenced as an adult, a youthful offender, a juvenile, or to a blended sentence consisting of both adult and juvenile sanctions. Its companion, SB 314, by Sen. Diaz de la Portilla is in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

### **Florida Building Code Bill Still in Committee**

Rep. Jacobs filed HB 51 – Relating to the Florida Building Code. This bill removes the requirement that certain technical amendments to the Florida Building Code adopted by local government are automatically repealed after 3 years. The bill is in the House Business & Professions Subcommittee with no companion bill filed in the Senate.

### **Everglades Restoration**

Sen. Negron has filed SB 1168 - Implementation of the Water and Land Conservation Constitutional Amendment. This bill requires the lesser of twenty-five percent or \$200 million of funds within the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to be appropriated for Everglades restoration projects. A companion bill in the House, HB 989, has been filed by Rep. Harrell. Neither bill has yet been referred to committee.

## **On the Calendar for Session**

### **House Calendar**

<http://apps.lobbytools.com/cgi-bin/files.cfm?fid=20441>

### **Bills of Interest**

**HB 41 by Rep. Combee** – Discharge of Firearms on Residential Property which prohibits recreational discharge of firearms in certain residential areas; provides criminal penalties; and provides exceptions.

**CS/HB 7005 by Rep. Caldwell**, relating to environmental resources – is the House's water policy bill which is ready for consideration by the full House and may be taken up during the first week of the Session. The bill:

- Creates the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act to expedite protection and restoration of the water flow and water quality in the aquifer and Outstanding Florida Springs;
- Ensures the appropriate governmental entities continue to develop and implement uniform water supply planning, consumptive water use permitting, and resource protection programs for the area encompassed by the Central Florida Water Initiative;
- Updates and restructures the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Act to reflect and build upon the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) completion of basin management action plans (BMAP) for Lake Okeechobee, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, and the St. Lucie River and Estuary, DEP's continuing development of a BMAP for the inland portion of the Caloosahatchee River watershed, and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' implementation of best

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management practices in the three basins;

- Modifies water supply and resource planning documents and processes in order to provide more robust representations of the state's water needs and goals;
- Requires the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to conduct an annual assessment of water resources and conservation lands;
- Requires DEP to publish an online publicly accessible database of conservation lands on which public access is compatible with conservation and recreation purposes; and
- Requires DEP to conduct a feasibility study for creating and maintaining a web-based, interactive map of the state's waterbodies as well as regulatory information about each waterbody.

#### ***Senate Calendar***

<http://apps.lobbytools.com/cgi-bin/files.cfm?fid=20436>

#### ***Bills of Interest***

**SB 416 by Rep. Flores** - Relocation of Utilities which revises the circumstances under which a board of county commissioners is authorized to grant to a person or private corporation a license for specified projects related to lines for the transmission of certain public utilities and communication services. The House companion bill, HB 461 by Rep. Ingram is in the House Appropriations Committee.

**SB 130 by Sen. Richter** – Discharge of Firearm on Residential Property is the Senate companion to HB 41 by Rep. Combee. This bill prohibits the recreational discharge of a firearm in certain residential areas; provides criminal penalties; and provides for exceptions.

**SB 194 by Sen. Hukill** – Redevelopment Trust Fund which adds certain hospital districts to the list of public bodies or taxing authorities that are exempt from appropriating certain revenues to the redevelopment trust fund; reenacting provisions relating to tax increment financing for conservation lands, to incorporate the amendment made by this act to section 163.387, F.S. Its companion bill is HB 565 by Rep. Spano and it is in the House Finance and Tax Committee.

**CS/CS/SB 552 by Sen. Dean**, relating to environmental resources, is the Senate companion to **CS/HB 7005**. The bill is identical to the House measure and also on the calendar ready for full Senate consideration.

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