

BROWARD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

NEWSLETTER

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Broward Legislative Delegation Office provides a communication resource between the Federal, State, local governments and Broward County citizens to facilitate the legislative process. Our responsibilities include maintaining an efficient means for the local bill process and monitoring bills approved by the Delegation Members through the Legislature. The Legislative Delegation has a responsibility to monitor the appropriations process, securing State Revenues and other allocated funds for programs, organizations and government agencies in Broward County.

Week 4: Jan. 29- Feb. 2

BEACH RENOURISHMENT

The **Senate Appropriations Committee** Wednesday unanimously approved a measure aimed to restore the state's beaches after removing a funding requirement from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. **SB 174** seeks to revise criteria the **Department of Environmental Protection** follows when evaluating annual funding priorities for beach management projects.

An amendment by bill sponsor **Sen. Dorothy Hukill** removed language that would have dedicated \$50 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for projects that repair and preserve beaches.

But that funding for beach nourishment hasn't disappeared. **Appropriations Chairman Rob Bradley**, R-Fleming Island, pointed to \$50 million for beach renourishment funding in the General Appropriations Act that was discussed later in the committee.

https://apps.lobbytools.com/tools/ch.cfm?a=article&id=38139806&utm_source=lt_user_current_email&utm_medium=article_link&utm_campaign=current_email

TOURISM BILL

Despite objections from members of the tourism industry, members of the **House Commerce Committee** approved a measure that would allow for local tourist development taxes to be used for infrastructure projects related to tourism business activities.

Rep. Randy Fine, R-Brevard County, is sponsoring **HB 585**, which would give local tourism development councils the option of spending money on roads, sewers or environmental clean-up projects that benefit tourist attractions, reports Gray Rohrer of the [*Orlando Sentinel*](#).

He filed the measure after his county's tourism board refused to spend money on cleaning up the Indian River Lagoon, even as it spent \$14.5 million on other projects, including \$5 million for soccer fields. "The only reason to oppose the bill is if you're worried that some of the ways you spend the money cannot stand up to scrutiny," Fine said.

Tourism industry groups oppose the measure, contending it would give local governments a loophole to spend tourist development taxes, a surcharge on hotels known as bed taxes, on expensive infrastructure projects only partially related to tourism.

Current law only allows bed taxes to be spent on tourism marketing, beach renourishment, convention centers, sports arenas, zoos, aquariums and other tourist attractions.

https://apps.lobbytools.com/tools/ch.cfm?a=article&id=38139806&utm_source=lt_user_current_email&utm_medium=article_link&utm_campaign=current_email

HURRICANE FUEL RESERVE PLAN

After runs on gas stations as people tried to flee Hurricane Irma, a Senate committee Thursday (2/1/18) approved creation of a task force to develop plans for stockpiling fuel across the state.

The proposal (SB 700) would set up the Florida Strategic Fuel Reserve Task Force within the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The task force would recommend a strategic fuel reserve plan to meet private and public needs during emergencies and disasters.

Sen. Victor Torres, an Orlando Democrat co-sponsoring the bill with **Sen. Gary Farmer**, D-Fort Lauderdale, said the proposal came from people who couldn't get away from areas that were expected to be hit by Hurricane Irma in September.

Florida strained to keep up with fuel demand as Hurricane Irma neared the state. As 6.5 million people were ordered to evacuate their homes, others scrambled for last-minute hurricane supplies. Motorists reported spending up to 12 hours on routes that typically are covered in six or seven hours.

The situation grew worse as ports, where fuel is delivered to the state, were closed due to storm winds.

Rushing fuel to South Florida before the storm, the Florida Highway Patrol served as escorts for tanker trucks.

The nine-member task force, appointed by the governor, the Senate president and the House speaker, would be required to make recommendations by April 30, 2019. The proposal has a one-time cost of \$569,000 for contractor and staff expenses.

The Senate bill doesn't have a House version, but it is similar to a recommendation from the House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness. That recommendation called for the Department of Transportation to contract for an independent study on the feasibility of establishing strategically located petroleum distribution centers.

Other select-committee recommendations included considering the use of railroads to speed fuel delivery into areas affected by storms.

The Senate bill drew unanimous support Thursday from the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee. It would need to get approved by two more committees before it could go to the full Senate.

Courtesy of <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/florida-senate-bill-would-create-panel-plan-hurricane-fuel-reserve/P9NYiuer64ILRMO6zXSY/>

February 7-8 in Tallahassee.

Join County, City, School Board, & Community Leaders, Broward Residents and Business Owners as we Bring Broward to Tallahassee. Details available at www.BrowardDays.com



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