

Broward SLI

State Legislative Information

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Budget Conference

The House and Senate began appropriations negotiations on Wednesday and these meetings are expected to run through Friday. Any unresolved issues will be bumped to the respective House and Senate budget chairs and ultimately to Speaker Cannon and President Haridopolos to settle. Priority highlights include:

Health and Human Services

Adult Mental Health and Adult Substance Abuse services funding line items have been bumped to the Conference Chairs due to the committee's inability to come to agreement; as will all proviso, conforming and implementing language. Child Protection Team (CPT) funding remains a concern; Community Care for the Elderly funding has been fully restored.

Natural Resources and General Government:

Beach Nourishment is funded at \$26 million as of the last offer by the Senate; however, Broward County did not request any specific project requests associated with this year's funding. Maintaining dedicated doc stamp revenues for beach nourishment is still in play. ***Commission Priority***

Tourism, Trade and Economic Development

- Economic Gardening, which includes technical assistance companies, is funded at \$2 million;
- Revolving Loan Fund has not yet been funded but the Senate is pushing it to be funded in a last minute compromise with the House;
- Road Funding, as part of Broward County's overall economic development program, has \$14 million but may get increased funding in the final budget.
- Trust Fund Sweeps – Budget Conferees redirected the following funds to the State Economic Enhancement and Development (SEED) Trust Fund (TF):
 - \$26.3 million (annualized) from the Rental Car Surcharge TF in 2011-12.
 - \$171.8 million from the State Transportation TF.
 - \$228.4 million from the State Housing Doc Stamp TF
- Library funding is now at \$16.2 million.

Other Highlights

- State Administrative funds include an across-the-board 3% employee contribution to FRS. Issues of DROP and COLA have yet to be resolved.
- Crime Lab Funding – The criminal justice budget conforming bill, SB 2118, containing changes to the discretionary \$100 assessment on persons convicted of a controlled substance violation, has been bumped to the House and Senate budget chairs as an unresolved issue. As amended by Senator Bogdanoff, the bill makes the assessment mandatory and requires the court to impose the assessment on each person convicted of a crime under chapters 775-896, F.S., where the services of the crime law were used in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal violation.
- Detention cost share, SB 2112, allowing counties who opt to take over detention facilities do not have to participate in county cost share for their youth, has been bumped.
- District Medical Examiners' access to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID) is being amended by Rep. Moraitis to CS/CS/CS/HB 1353, a department bill on the House Calendar. The Senate measure is CS/CS/SB 1150 which passed the Senate 38-0 on April 28th. There are critical differences between the House and Senate that will need to be resolved if the one of the bills is to pass this Session.
- Truth-In-Millage (TRIM) Notices language was included within a proposed committee substitute for SB 2042 by Sen. Bogdanoff. However, the proposed bill was not heard in the Senate Finance and Tax Subcommittee and has not moved since April 13th. The bill is probably dead for the Session as there is no similar House measure. ***Commission Priority***
- Collective Bargaining / County Constitutional Officers language was amended onto legislation that was not favorably approved out of committee. ***Commission Priority***

Floor Action

Arrestee Medical Expenses	Pending in the Senate Budget Committee with amended language carving out charter counties with population more than 1.7 million thus carving out Broward County.
Bert Harris	Passed the House 98-15 on 4/15 and the Senate today 39-0. The bill now goes to the Governor for approval.
Citizens Insurance	The bill was significantly amended on the Senate floor on April 28 th and passed 25-12. It makes numerous changes to laws related to property insurance and makes some changes to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation which are also included within CS/SB 1714 and CS/CS/HB 1243 relating to Citizens. CS/SB 1714 has been scheduled but not heard in the Senate Budget Committee on three occasions, while CS/CS/HB 1243 is on the House calendar. Both these bills are likely dead for the Session.

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Employee Severance	On the House calendar. CS/CS/CS/SB 88 passed the Senate 38-1 after being amended to limit severance payments to government officers, agents, employees and contractors to no more than 6 weeks. The bill also prohibits any severance payments when the individual has been fired for misconduct or other cause. The House bill allows up to 20 weeks of severance.
Free Trade *Commission Priority*	On the House Special Order Calendar for today.
Gaming	Destination Resorts – stalled and does not appear to be moving.
Government Reorganization	Pending in the Budget Conference Committee. Visit Florida would be under contract to Enterprise Florida and Space Florida would retain a level of independence in the latest budget offer. The proposed Department of Economic Opportunity will merge the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Community Affairs and the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development and is intended to guide the state’s economic development efforts.
Growth Management *Commission Priority*	Passed the House 86-31 and is now in Senate messages; although, HB 7129 passed by a significant margin, it did not receive a two-thirds vote. SB 1122, the Senate companion, is now in the Senate Budget Committee. Language defining Adaptation Action Area has been amended onto this legislation.
Economic Development *Commission Priority*	Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program – passed Senate Budget on Monday 20-0. CS/CS/HB 879, the House companion, is on the House Special Order Calendar for 4/29/11.
	Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative – is on Third reading in the Senate awaiting a final vote.
Medicaid Reform *Commission Priority*	With just one week left in the 2011 Legislative Session, Senate President Haridopolos announced that the Legislature still plans to push through Medicaid reform, despite speculation that such action would be postponed, and specified that SB 1972 by Sen. Negrón would be the ultimate vehicle for reform. As of now, several unresolved issues remain between the House and Senate plans, including how many regions would be created, whether or not a medical loss ratio should be imposed on participating plans, and whether or not the state would pull out of the Medicaid program altogether in the event that the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) refuses to issue a waiver. Additionally, an agreed-upon plan is necessary as soon as possible, as CMS has

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stated that it could not grant Florida a waiver to move forward with any Medicaid overhaul until it submits a proposal containing specifics about how such a plan would be implemented and demonstrating that Medicaid beneficiaries would receive quality care under the plan. CMS also indicated that federal approval will likely require more time than currently allotted in either of the proposals, which are predicated on receiving a waiver this year. The House bills, HB 7107 and HB 7109, have already been approved. SB 1972 has been placed on the Special Order calendar for Saturday.

Ocean Outfall	Passed the House 93-18 and is pending in House messages to the Senate. CS/CS/SB 796 will be withdrawn from the Senate Budget Committee soon and heard on the Senate floor next week.
Online Travel Companies *Commission Priority*	Pending in the Senate Budget Committee and CS/CS/HB 493 was heard today, heavily debated, and rolled to third reading.
Pill Mills	CS/CS/HB 7095 passed the House 116-1 and is pending in Senate messages. CS/CS/SB 818 is on the Senate Calendar, on third reading.
Pretrial	Passed the House Judiciary Committee 10-8, with two of Broward's three members dissenting. SB 1398, the Senate companion by Sen. Bogdanoff, has been withdrawn from Senate Rules and is pending on the Special Order Calendar for Saturday.
Prison Privatization	Budget Conference Committee has bumped this legislation to the Conference Chairs for resolution.
Seaport Security	passed the House 117-1 and is pending in Messages to the Senate. CS/SB 524 is on the Special Order Calendar for April 30 th . Continued disagreement between the House and Senate sponsor over the issue of recognizing Port Citrus as one of Florida's public ports is likely to result in the Senate bill passing to the House instead of the Senate passing the House bill.
TABOR/Smart Cap *Commission Priority*	Homestead/Nonhomestead Property Tax Cap – the bill was amended on the House floor today in order to align the bill with its Senate companion, CS/CS/SB 658, raising the new proposed cap from 3% to 5%. It is on Second reading. Local governments are strongly opposed to this legislation that grants business owners, landlords and investors a lower limit on how much their property tax bills can increase. The proposed cap on tax increases of 5 percent is a big reduction from current law, which says that for non-homestead properties property taxes can go up no more than 10 percent a year, meaning cities and

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Transportation Packages

counties could see a \$452 million reduction in tax revenue in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

On the House calendar after passing the House Economic Affairs Committee unanimously. CS/CS/SB 1180 is on the Senate calendar awaiting floor action.

Water Policy

Water Quality/Numeric Nutrient Criteria – passed the House 90-27. SB 1490, the Senate companion, has not been heard in any of its committee references.