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February 21, 2022

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## THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 6

As the 2022 Legislative Session begins to wind down, lawmakers are now starting to make a final push towards the finish line. Last week, several major bills were debated including a proposed tax package, congressional redistricting maps, and even changes to Bright Futures.

On Thursday, the Florida House Ways and Means Committee unanimously passed the proposed tax package, [WMC 22-01](#). This proposal would bring back the Freedom Week tax holiday for the second year in a row (running from July 1 - July 7) and would waive sales tax on many items, including skilled trade (mechanics, carpenters, plumbers and electricians) tools. Chair Bobby Payne explained that this addition would address "the cost of necessary items for education and training, along with the items needed for their entry into the workforce and the barriers that they may be presented." Additionally, the back-to-school sales tax holiday was extended from 10 to 14 days and there was an increase of the acceptable value of several items (\$60 to \$100 for school clothes). Furthermore, the disaster preparedness tax holiday was also extended to 14 days for items such as smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers. Lastly, there was a proposed exemption on the purchase of baby and toddler clothes, shoes, and diapers for the entire year.

Moreover, the Florida Supreme Court has now canceled all oral arguments regarding the newly proposed legislative maps, after no objections were filed by either party. This is the first time that these legislative maps have

[City of Orlando](#)[City of Kissimmee](#)[City of Sanford](#)

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been unopposed this late into the process since 1968, when the review of maps by the Florida Supreme Court was mandated. The combined Senate map ([8058](#)) and House map ([8013](#)) are now in the hands of the Supreme Court to consider.

Lastly, there was a discussion regarding changes to Florida Bright Futures, the well-known scholarship program that helps high school students with their college tuition, in [HB 461](#) by Rep. Melo and Rep. Valdes. Currently, this program requires 100 volunteer hours, a combination of certain SAT/ACT scores, and a certain grade point average. The proposed legislation is seeking to change the requirement of the service hours, to now include paid work. The House's version allows 75 to 100 hours of paid work, while the Senate's version ([SB 1060](#)) by Sen. Gruters specifies at least 300 hours of paid work. The House floor will now hear this measure.

## CFHLA ADVOCACY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Last week, several of our CFHLA members and community partners traveled to Tallahassee for CFHLA's Advocacy Day at the Capitol!

With the support of our CFHLA member [Florida Bus Service](#), we rode up to Tallahassee and met with numerous legislators and appointed leaders from across the state, as we educated them on the important issues facing the hospitality and tourism industry.

These issues included the long-term funding and continuation of VISIT FLORIDA, protecting the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) for its intended use in tourism marketing, ensuring that "shared lodging" businesses practice the same safety standards as traditional lodging, data privacy and more.

CFHLA would like to thank all of our members and partners who joined us for this incredibly important advocacy day and we appreciate our elected and appointed leaders who took the time to meet with us and listen to our concerns.



CFHLA Members with State Senator Randolph Bracy (Orlando, FL)





CFHLA Members with State Representative Jason Fischer (Jacksonville, FL)



CFHLA Members with State Senator Danny Burgess (Zephyrhills, FL)



CFHLA Members with Senate Majority Leader Debbie Mayfield (Melbourne, FL)



CFHLA Members with newly appointed Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation Secretary, Melanie Griffin



CFHLA Members with State Senator Jason Brodeur (Lake Mary, FL)



CFHLA Members with State Representative Thomas Leek (Ormond Beach, FL)

## TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX (TDT)

A bill in each chamber proposing changes to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) statute that would remove a provision that would require a specific percentage of all tourist development tax revenues to be used to promote and advertise tourism.

**HB 6075** - Representative Eskamani - **No action** taken in the House last week.

**SB 1898** - Senator Farmer Jr. - **No action** taken in the Senate last week.

**HB 673** - Representative Shoaf - **No action** taken in the House last week. The bill was passed by a vote of **16-2** by the House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee on **February 8, 2022** and is awaiting a reading in the House Ways & Means Committee and Commerce Committee.

**SB 1542** - Senator Gainer - **No action** taken in the Senate last week.

## CFHLA OPPOSES

## VISIT FLORIDA

A bill filed in each chamber that revises the scheduled repeal date of Florida's Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (VISIT FLORIDA) **until**



at least October 1, 2028.

**Great News! The bill is now scheduled for a final vote on the House floor on Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Please contact your State Representative TODAY and tell them that you support the reauthorization of VISIT FLORIDA, until at least October 1, 2028!**

**HB 489** - Representative Cheney and Co-Sponsored by Representative Morales - **The bill is scheduled for a final vote on the House floor on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.**

**SB 434** - Senator Hooper - **No action** taken in the Senate last week. The bill passed the full Senate, by a vote of **36-2**, on February 3, 2022. **The bill is scheduled for a final vote on the House floor on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.**

Additionally, we are optimistic about the future of tourism in Florida, and **CFHLA will continue to advocate for VISIT FLORIDA funding to be recurring in the FY 2022-23 budget and beyond.**

## CFHLA SUPPORTS

## VACATION RENTALS

A bill in each chamber to require advertising platforms, such as **Airbnb** and **Vrbo**, to remit specified taxes imposed on some transactions. It also requires all licenses issued by the Division of Hotels & Restaurants of DBPR to be displayed conspicuously. Additionally, these bills would preempt regulation of vacation rentals to the State of Florida, which would prohibit local law, ordinance, or regulation from allowing or requiring inspections or licensing of public lodging establishments.

**Please contact the members of the House Ways & Means Committee TODAY and tell them that you SUPPORT HB 325!**

**HB 325** - Representative Fischer and Co-Sponsored by Representative Morales - **No action** taken in the House last week. The bill was passed by a vote of **10-6** in the Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on January 27th, and is now awaiting a hearing in the House Commerce and Ways & Means Committee.

**SB 512** - Senator Burgess - **No action** taken in the Senate last week. The bill was passed by a vote of **6-3** in the Senate Community Affairs Committee on February 2, 2022. The bill has now been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee for its final committee stop.

## CFHLA SUPPORTS

## DATA PRIVACY

A priority of Governor DeSantis, this bill would allow consumers to control how their personal data is shared and sold.

**Please contact the members of the House Judiciary Committee TODAY and tell them that you OPPOSE HB 9!**

**HB 9** - *Representative McFarland* - The bill was **passed unanimously** by the House Commerce Committee on **February 10, 2022**. This bill still **includes a private right of action clause that we oppose**. The bill has been added to the House Judiciary Committee agenda for **February 23, 2022**.

**SB 1864** - *Senator Bradley* - **No action** taken in the Senate last week. The bill was filed in the Florida Senate on January 7, 2022 and it has been referred to the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, the Senate Regulated Industries Committee and the Senate Rules Committee.

## CFHLA OPPOSES

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A bill in each chamber, named the Human Trafficking Reduction Act, that proposes a slew of provisions, including a prohibition of hourly rate offerings at hotels and motels, seeks to raise Florida's criminal penalties, and establishes a statewide human trafficking data repository at the University of South Florida. We are working with our legislators to ensure that the measures in this bill, if passed, are fair and tailored to meet their objectives.

**HB 1439** - *Representative Toledo* - The bill was **passed unanimously** by the House Judiciary Committee on **February 8, 2022**. **The bill is now ready for a final vote on the House floor.**

**SB 1852** - *Senator Bradley* - The bill was **passed unanimously** by the Senate Regulated Industries Subcommittee on **February 8, 2022**. The bill has now been referred to the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

## CFHLA MONITORING

## FLORIDA TIMESHARE ACT

A bill filed in each chamber that seeks to clarify and modernize several provisions in the **Florida Timeshare Act**. The bill includes beneficial revisions for owners' associations including the option for meetings to be held virtually, an exemption from current requirements to deliver notices to an owner's unit rather than address of record, clearer authority to act in an emergency, and streamlining the trustee foreclosure process to make it less time consuming. The proposal would also allow developers to deliver certain documents to purchasers electronically and clarify provisions regarding the delivery and filing of other required documents. These proposed changes would help bring the statute up to date relative to the current business model and available technology.

**HB 575** - *Representative McClain* - The bill was **passed unanimously** by the House Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee on **February 16, 2022** and is now awaiting its final hearing in the House Commerce Committee.

**SB 1216** - *Senator Hutson* - **No action** by the Senate last week. The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on January 25th, and is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

## CFHLA SUPPORTS



## DONATE

**CFHLA MEMBERS** - Please consider making a donation of \$50 via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA continue its efforts in supporting and endorsing Hospitality-Friendly candidates for local and state offices.

**DONATE NOW** 

As a reminder, all CFHLA Board Members, PAC/PC Board Members, and ARC Board Members have committed to contributing \$100 to the CFHLA PAC/PC in 2022. If you are a part of one or more of these groups, please consider fulfilling your commitment today.

## IN THE NEWS

[Florida Tops 30 Million Tourists In Fourth Quarter, Higher Than Before Pandemic](#) (CBS 4 Miami)

[Bill allowing businesses to sue and stop local ordinances heads to final House committee](#) (Florida Politics)

[Data privacy measure emerges from contentious first hearing](#) (Florida Politics)

[House tax package includes 'skilled trades' tax break holiday, longer school and disaster holidays](#) (Florida Politics)

[Senate, House look to bridge \\$3.3 billion divide in budget talks as Gov. DeSantis' agenda looms](#) (Florida Politics)

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