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January 18, 2022

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THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 1

The 2022 Florida Legislative Session kicked off last Tuesday, January 11, 2022, with a joint Senate and House session for the Governor's annual State of the State speech. During his State of the State speech, Governor DeSantis laid out his priorities for 2022 legislative agenda, including increasing teacher pay, keeping tuition affordable, and supporting apprenticeship programs. Additionally, he urged the Florida Legislature to continue its efforts in safeguarding Florida's natural resources, supporting law enforcement, and enacting protections for consumer data privacy.

Prior to the Governor's address, both President Wilton Simpson and Speaker Chris Sprowls delivered their remarks and the legislators officially began the 60-day legislative session.

This session, CFHLA will be monitoring the progression of several bills that are important to our industry; including the expansions to the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)**, the long-term continuation of **VISIT FLORIDA**, the **regulation of vacation rentals**, **data privacy** and many others.

Lastly, the Florida Constitution directs the Florida Legislature to redraw district boundaries during the 2022 Regular Session, which began last week. The Senate Congressional Reapportionment Subcommittee narrowed its four maps down to two, SB 8038 and SB 8040 for Sen. Ray Rodrigues, Chair of Reapportionment, to consider during the final draft of the bill. Senator Rodrigues had been open about his concerns expressing that he intended to file one amendment. The drafts could allow an extra

congressional seat for the Democrats to gain, making the Florida Congressional Delegation 16 Republicans and 12 Democrats (11 prior). Ultimately, in last Thursday's Senate Reapportionment Committee meeting, Chair Rodrigues submitted his official recommendations as amendments to [Senate Joint Resolution 100](#) (Senate map based on S027S8058) and [Senate Bill 102](#) (Congressional map based on SB 8040).

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.

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).

[HB 489](#) - *Representative Cheney* - Scheduled for its first hearing on **Tuesday, January 18th** in the House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee.

[SB 434](#) - *Senator Hooper* - Passed **unanimously** by the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on November 2, 2021. The bill is now awaiting a hearing in its final committee assignment, the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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.

[HB 325](#) - *Representative Fischer* - **No action** taken in the House last week.

[SB 512](#) - *Senator Burgess* - Passed **unanimously** by the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on January 11, 2022. The bill is now awaiting its second stop, a hearing in Senate Community Affairs Committee.

CFHLA SUPPORTS

DATA PRIVACY

A priority of Governor DeSantis, this bill would allow consumers to control how their personal data is shared and sold. Last year, business interests strongly opposed this bill, stating it would cause substantial operational and legal expenses. Ultimately, the bill died last Session, however it has been filed again in 2022.

[HB 9](#) - *Representative McFarland* - Filed in the Florida House on January 10, 2022. The bill has been referred to the House Commerce and Judiciary Committees.

[SB 1864](#) - *Senator Bradley* - Filed in the Florida Senate on January 7, 2022. The bill has been referred to the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, the Senate Regulated Industries Committee and the Senate Rules Committee.

CFHLA MONITORING

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, requires hotel operators to make guests show ID at the time of occupancy, and establishes a statewide human trafficking data repository at the University of South Florida.

[HB 1439](#) - *Representative Toledo* - Filed in the Florida House on January 10, 2022. The bill has been referred to the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee, Commerce Committee, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee and the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 1852](#) - *Senator Bradley* - Filed in the Florida Senate on January 7, 2022. The bill has been referred to the Regulated Industries, Commerce and Tourism, and Rules Committees.

CFHLA MONITORING

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



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

IN THE NEWS

[Florida lawmakers consider regulatory changes around vacation rental properties \(WFSU\)](#)

[Wilton Simpson kicks off 2022 Legislative Session \(Florida Politics\)](#)

['What are you willing to risk?': Chris Sprowls says dream big for Session \(Florida Politics\)](#)

[Jackie Toledo unveils human trafficking crackdown proposal \(Florida Politics\)](#)

[Data privacy redux? House, Senate stake familiar positions on suing tech companies \(Florida Politics\)](#)

[Florida lawmakers face big issues as the 2022 legislative session gets underway \(WFSU\)](#)

[Incentives are proposed to lure more entertainment industry projects to Florida \(WFSU\)](#)

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