

THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY'S POLITICAL ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER

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THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE WEEK 8

As we enter the final stretch of the 2022 Florida Legislative Session, time is ticking down with the **Session scheduled to end on Friday, March 11**. With only one week left, legislators are attempting to push through bills involving data privacy, congressional redistricting maps, and tourism marketing funding. Budget conference started last week and after some successful negotiations between the House and Senate budget chiefs, there are only a few issues that remain unsolved.

Additionally, the number of bills available for lawmakers to consider shrinks after today. House Rule 10.18 says that after the 55th day, the House can no longer take up bills on second reading. This means that any House bill that is going to get a vote, must have already been rolled over to third reading. Much of the final week of session will be taken up with bills that have already passed one chamber or the other and are in messages, or are bouncing back and forth between the chambers as they pass amendments.

There are also rule changes affecting amendments that come into play after the 55th day as well, with floor amendments required to be filed no later than two hours before the start of session and amendments to floor amendments and substitute amendments required to be filed by an hour before session.

Lastly, the Legislature will take up a finalized budget this week, after the

City of Sanford

required 72-hour public review, or "cooling-off" period, along with any other bills that are on third reading and in messages.

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.

<u>HB 6075</u> - *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 then voted unanimously in the House Ways & Means Committee on February 17, 2022. The bill is now awaiting a final hearing in the House 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 reauthorizes and extends the scheduled repeal date of Florida's Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (VISIT FLORIDA) until October 1, 2028.

Great News! The bill passed the Florida House last Wednesday by a vote of <u>98-17</u>. The Senate has indicated that it will approve the House's version this week, once it returns in messages.

Additionally, while the Senate fought for VISIT FLORIDA to receive \$50 million in recurring funds for the FY 2022-2023 Budget, the House preferred to only give a non-recurring \$50 million. Ultimately, the House prevailed in budget negotiations, as the Senate accepted the House's offer of \$50 million in non-recurring dollars late Sunday night.

HB 489 - Representative Cheney and Co-Sponsored by Representatives Arrington, Brown, and Morales - The bill passed the full House, by a vote of 98-17, on March 2, 2022, and is now returning to the Senate for final approval.

SB 434 - Senator Hooper and Co-Sponsored by Senator Stewart and Senator Torres - No action taken in the Senate last week. The bill passed the full Senate, by a vote of 36-2, on February 3, 2022, and is expected to be approved and sent to the Governor for signing, once the amended version returns from the House this week.

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 <u>House Ways & Means</u> <u>Committee</u> 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 and the Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls, this bill would allow consumers to control how their personal data is shared and sold.

Please contact your State Senator TODAY and tell them that you oppose HB 9! <u>CLICK HERE</u> to find your State Senator.

HB 9 - Representative McFarland - The bill passed the full House, by a vote of 103 - 8, on March 2, 2022. This bill still includes a private right of action clause that we oppose.

<u>SB 1864</u> - Senator Bradley - **So far, no action has been taken in the Senate.** 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, 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've worked with our legislators to ensure that the measures in this bill, are fair and tailored to meet their objectives.

HB 1439 - Representative Toledo - The bill was amended into SB 772 and was passed the full House, by a vote of 114-1, on March 2, 2022.

SB 1852 - Senator Bradley - The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate Regulated Industries Subcommittee on February 8, 2022. The bill is now in the Senate's Returning messages.

CFHLA SUPPORTS

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 owners 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.

<u>HB 575</u> - Representative McClain - No action by the House last week. 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.

<u>SB 1216</u> - 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

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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.



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

<u>Visit Florida gets five-year extension -- but funding uncertain</u> (Orlando Business Journal)

<u>Countdown: Here are 40 unresolved issues heading into last week of the Legislative Session</u> (Florida Politics)

Senate breathes life into DeSantis' top priorities (Politico)

Florida Supreme Court approves legislative maps for 2022 election (Florida Politics)

<u>Consumer Reports, American Conservative Union back data privacy</u> <u>bill</u> (Florida Politics) Orange County resort tax collections recover in January 2022 (Orlando Business Journal)

Orlando International Airport overseas travel surges to start 2022 (Orlando Business Journal)

<u>Do not disturb: How Central Florida stacks up against the top U.S. convention hotel markets</u> (Orlando Business Journal)

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