



2021 Legislative Session Update

The 2021 Legislative Session is in full swing!! Our Legislative Committee Chair, Stephen Timberlake, has created an overview to help you understand the issues and to see how FGFOA works with lobbyist from the Florida League of Cities to effect change in Tallahassee.

We have entered the four weeks of 2021 Session, which continues to be relatively quiet for an impact in our areas. As we approach the end of Session, some bills are moving closer and closer to the Governor's desk. Several of the bills we are watching have either been approved by their respective chamber or are on the Special-Order Calendar for approval this week to be sent to the other chamber for its consideration. In any event, final action on all legislation should occur by Sine Die on April 30th.

The most impactful bill to FGFOA members continues to be House Bill 1.

HB 1 Combating Public Disorder – This bill passed the House on 3/26/2021 and was received in the Senate and was referred to the Appropriations Committee and is pending in that committee. Based on the current status of the bill, any advocacy to promote changes should be focused on the Senate. Its Senate companion, SB 484, was introduced, but has not moved.

Look at last week's update for review of the bill as it currently stands.

Additional bills of note:

HB 35 Legal Notices – This bill allows for a governmental agency to publish legally required advertisements on a website instead of newspaper. It has already passed the House and was received in the Senate and referred to the Appropriations Committee and pending in that committee. Its companion is moving in Committee, and is scheduled for a hearing April 8th in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

SB 84 Retirement – This bill provides for compulsory membership in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) Investment Plan for new employees. Governmental entities participating in the FRS should pay close attention to this bill. It is currently on the Senate’s Special-Order Calendar for 4/7/2021. There is no House companion.

Update on bills of note previously reported:

SB 50 Taxation – This bill requires that “out-of-state retailers and marketplace providers with no physical presence in Florida (i.e., online sales) to collect Florida’s sales tax on sales of taxable items delivered to purchasers in Florida if the out-of-state retailer or marketplace provider makes a substantial number of sales into Florida.” (Florida Senate Analysis of SB 50, March 8, 2021) This bill would include both state and local sales taxes. It is projected to increase local government revenue by more than \$229 million annually. SB 50 passed out of the Senate. The House companion bill was laid on the table and was replaced by the SB 50. The SB has been placed on the Special-Order Calendar for 4/7/2021 for the House of Representatives. This bill could be in front of the Governor before the end of next week.

SB 1924 Emergency Management Powers of Political Subdivisions – This bill is currently still in committee. It is scheduled to be heard by the Rules Committee on 4/06/2021.

HB 337 Impact Fees – This bill would add layers to how Impact Fees can be collected and increased. The bill is still in committee.

This is just a sampling of the bills currently under consideration that may have an impact of FGFOA members.

To keep informed, the committee recommends you subscribe to email blasts sent by The Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, and the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers.

If you have any questions, feedback, or concerns please let us know.

