



Legislative Update - Week 2

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Several of Governor's DeSantis' environmental priorities were heard in Senate bills this week while a House legislative preemption bill cleared another hurdle.

Water Quality and Preemption: SCCF is tracking the Sunscreen preemption bills - **SB 172** by Bradley and **HB 113** by Roach that contain environmental ramifications for local governments ability to address solutions to their own unique natural resource challenges. Specifically, these bills propose to preempt local governments from enacting environmental protections by banning sun screens that contain 2 chemicals that studies indicate are harmful to coral reefs. Following a robust debate in committee, **HB 113** – FL Drug and Cosmetic Act, which preempts the regulation of over the counter proprietary drugs or cosmetics to the state, passed its second committee of reference by a vote of 9-6. The Senate bill is on 3rd reading and will be voted on by the full Senate next. The House bill will be heard next in the Health and Human Services committee but has not yet been scheduled.



Water Quality: SB 712 – Water Quality Improvements by Mayfield was passed as amended in its second committee of reference on Wednesday. Also referred to as the Clean Waterways Act, this bill highlights actions to address sources of pollution Governor DeSantis committed to address. The bill broadly includes some recommendations of the Blue Green Algae task force. A 79 page amendment to the bill that, among other things, extends agricultural landowner reporting requirements from every year to every two years, was posted less than 24 hours before the committee meeting. [Click here for link to SCCF comment letter.](#) The amendment and the bill as amended passed the committee 9-0. This bill will be heard next in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This bill addresses:

- the responsibility of onsite sewage to be transferred from the Dept. of Health to the Dept. of Environmental Protection
- requires Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP's) for nutrient total maximum daily loads (TMDL's) to include wastewater treatment and onsite sewage treatment system remediation plans to meet certain requirements
- requires certain reporting on Best Management Practices (BMP's) from Agriculture
- establishes real time water quality monitoring
- provides for waste water matching grants
- requires updated storm-water design by 2025

Gov. Budget Recommendations and Climate Resiliency: SB 7016 by Lee and **HB 1073** by Stevenson establishes a Statewide Office of Resiliency, creates the Resiliency Task Force and requires the Environmental Regulatory Commission (ERC) to take action on the task force recommendations.

The house version of the bill, **HB 1073** passed its first referenced committee by a vote of

15-0 on Tuesday. The Senate version, **SB 7016**, was to be heard for the second time in its last committee of reference on Thursday in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill was not considered as the committee ran out of time – due to an extended discussion on a scheduled presentation on the Governor’s Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Recommendations.

The Governor’s budget recommendations include the second year of a recurring \$625 million for funding water and Everglades restoration. DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein, spoke on the importance of these funds to be reoccurring to provide a dedicated funding source to complete the planned water quality improvement programs implemented last year. Secretary Valenstein provided a comprehensive outline on the Governor’s water quality initiatives, some of which are to be implemented through **SB 712**. If you would like to view the discussion, there is a video link to the meeting on the SCCF tracker.

Exotic Species: SB 906 – Prohibited Reptiles passed its first Senate committee of reference this week. Non-native reptiles are a growing problem for many of Florida’s native habitats including Sanibel and Captiva Islands. This bill adds green iguana and black and white tegus to the list of prohibited species and strengthens existing provisions that prohibit the possession, importation, sale, trade and breeding of a variety of exotic invasive reptiles. This bill will be heard next in Senate Community Affairs and the identical House companion, **HB 1415** by Daley, has yet to be scheduled in its first committee of reference.

We are including links to our current and past 2020 session action alerts in our [legislative bill tracker table](#) next to the corresponding bills to make quick reference easier. We welcome any feedback you have on the tracker that will help you to follow and participate in this legislative process.

SCCF Legislative Tracker

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