



Legislative Update - Week 5

2020 Legislative Update – Week 5

We are officially past the half way point of the 2020 Florida Legislative Session. If a bill hasn't been heard in its first referred committee by now there is a strong chance it will not pass this session. Regular committees will meet for another two weeks and then we put on our seat belts for the flurry of bills to be voted on by the full House and Senate.



Water Quality

HB 1343 – Water Quality Improvements by Payne was heard by the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday. This bill most closely compares to the Governor supported water quality package in **Senate Bill 712** by Mayfield. With little debate, **HB 1343** passed by a vote of 28-0 and will be heard next in its last referred committee, State Affairs.

Endangered and Threatened Species

SB 906 – Prohibited Reptiles by Farmer passed 5-0 as amended through the Senate Community Affairs Committee on Monday. Should the bill become law, the amendment would exclude legally issued reptile permit holders from the ownership prohibition and allows for out of state sale. This bill will be heard next in the Rules Committee, the last of its three referrals. We are disappointed by the amendment exclusions.

HB 401 – Shark Fins by Jacobs was heard in House State Affairs on Thursday. Rep. Grall offered an amendment in cooperation with Rep. Jacobs to address the fisheries concerns of lost revenue. The amendment was to exempt currently valid Federal Shark fisheries permit holders until Jan. 2025. That time was intended to phase out the permit holders to sell fins and allow for alternative compensation to be installed. After much debate the Committee adopted the bill with the amendment 20-0. This was the House bill's last committee and they anticipate more discussion with the stake holders and potential amendments to be offered before it reaches the full house possibly next week. SCCF does not support the amendment's time extension. The Senate version, **SB 680** will be heard in the Commerce and Tourism Committee next Tuesday, Feb. 18th.

Everglades

This week, SCCF participated in **Everglades Action Day** at the Capitol with the Everglades Coalition. SCCF CEO and Policy Staff met with several legislators to support legislation that funds Everglades and water quality restoration, addresses sources of pollution, strengthens growth management and use of renewable energy. Joining our team was Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce CEO John Lai, Jessica Pinsky representing the Florida Economic Council and policy interns from The Conservancy of SWFL on their first trip to the Capitol. The Everglades Coalition is an alliance of 62 local, state, and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee and to the estuaries, through the River of Grass, out to Florida Bay and the Keys.

Thank you to all of the South Florida advocates that joined us to celebrate and support the restoration of one of earth's most special places, the Everglades.

SCCF Legislative Tracker

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