



## Legislative Update Week 8

### 2020 Legislative Update-Week 8

#### Budget

With a slightly extended session expected, it was announced Friday on the House Floor that budget conference meeting times would be posted late Friday afternoon. Legislators plan to stay in town over the weekend to begin negotiations on the \$1.4 billion dollar gap between the budgets proposed by the two chambers. Those differences include salaries and raises for teachers, funding for affordable housing and the \$105 million dollar difference in funding for **Florida Forever** Land Acquisition.



As of Friday the Senate has budgeted \$125 million for **Florida Forever** compared to the Governor's budget of \$100 million and the House budget of \$20 million. Stay tuned for another Action Alert to support full funding for Florida Forever.

This week the following bills advanced:

#### Water Quality

**SB 712** – Water Quality Improvements by Mayfield was debated on the Senate floor Thursday and moved to third reading after an amendment was approved that appeared to weaken some of the springs and bio solids protections contained in the bill. Sen. Mayfield moved to dispel those perceived weaknesses and overall the consensus of the Senators was that this bill was a step forward in addressing a wide array of water quality problems in Florida. The bill was brought up for final vote late Friday afternoon and was approved 39-0. Several Senators spoke in support of this “landmark” legislation and although some recognized that this doesn’t resolve all of our water quality issues, it’s certainly an improvement from years past as Sen. Berman stated in support – “We haven’t been able to discuss this for 10 years”. The House version, **HB 1343** by Payne is nearing final debate as well and was temporarily postponed on Friday and remains on second reading.

#### Endangered and Threatened Species

**SB 680** – Shark Fins by Sen. Hutson which bans the import, export and sale of shark fins with an exception until 2025 for current FL Fisheries permit holders was amended on the Senate Floor on Thursday. The amendment assigned the

FL Fish and Wildlife Commission to undertake a fisheries study rather than the State Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accounting (OPPAGA) as approved by a previous amendment. The final bill was approved by the Senate on Friday by a vote of 37-1. The equivalent House bill, **HB 401** by Jacobs is on second reading.

### **Environmental Fines and Enforcement**

**HB 1091** – Environmental Enforcement by Randy Fine, which raises fines and penalties on environmental violations passed the full House Friday by a vote of 106-0. The Senate version, **SB 1450** – Environmental Accountability by Gruters, was debated by the full Senate on Thursday and placed on third reading.

### **Sea Level Rise and Resiliency**

**SB 7016** – Statewide Office of Resiliency by Lee, establishes the Office of Resiliency within the Governor’s Office and creates the Statewide Sea-Level Rise Task Force. The bill passed the full Senate by a vote of 38-0 Friday. The House version, **HB 1073** by Stevenson was last approved unanimously by the State Affairs Committee on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.

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