2020 Legislative Updates Specific to Cities and Counties

Reginald Ofuani
City of Tallahassee; SWANA-Florida Legislative Committee Chair

Willie Puz
SWA; RFT Legislative Committee Co-Chair
Florida Senate

- 40 members
  - Republicans - 23
  - Democrats - 17
- Elected for four (4) years
- Term limited to eight (8) years
- Can extend to ten (10) years due to reapportionment years
Florida House of Representatives

- 120 members
  - Republicans - 73
  - Democrats - 47
- Elected for two (2) year terms
- Term limited to eight (8) years
Bills filed this session

- Senate - 964
- House - 3,404
Proposed bills for local governments

- **House Bill 237**: Agricultural Products
  - GENERAL BILL by Roth
  - Revises & provides definition.
  - Committee References
    - Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
    - Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
    - State Affairs Committee
  - **Why watch**: Could change the definition of solid waste and may cause concerns with your operation.
Proposed bills for local governments

- **House Bill 249: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving**
  GENERAL BILL by Slosberg; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Grieco
  Revises short title & legislative intent; prohibits operation of motor vehicle while holding or touching wireless communications device; provides exceptions; revises circumstances under which certain information may be admissible as evidence in proceeding to determine whether violation has been committed; revises procedures for collection & reporting by DHSMV of information recorded on citation; conforms provisions relating to use of wireless communications devices in school & work zones.

- **Committee References**
  - Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
  - Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee
  - State Affairs Committee

- **Why watch:** It advances the law from last year. The SWA staff drives millions of miles each year; your staff may as well.

- **FLC Position:** Watch  //  **FAC Position:** Monitor
Proposed bills for local governments

- **House Bill 1073**: Statewide Office of Resiliency
  - GENERAL BILL by Stevenson
  - Establishes office within EOG; provides for appointment of Chief Resilience Officer by Governor; creates Statewide Sea-Level Rise Task Force within office; requires DEP to serve as task force's contract administrator; requires Environmental Regulation Commission to take certain action on task force's recommendations; provides for task force repeal; provides appropriation. APPROPRIATION: $500,000

- **Committee References**
  - Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
  - Appropriations Committee
  - State Affairs Committee

- **Why watch**: This could be where counties get direction on climate change and sea level rise.

- **FLC Position**: Support  //  **FAC Position**: Support

- **Senate Bill 7016**: Statewide Office of Resiliency
  - GENERAL BILL by Infrastructure and Security
  - **Committee References**
    - Environment and Natural Resources
    - Appropriations
Proposed bills for local governments

- **House Bill 1149: Local Government Fiscal Transparency**
  GENERAL BILL by DiCeglie
  - Revises Legislative Auditing Committee duties; specifies purpose of local government fiscal transparency requirements; requires local governments to post voting record information on websites; requires property appraisers & local governments to post property tax information & history on websites; requires public notices for public hearings & meetings before new tax increases; requires local governments to conduct debt affordability analyses; provides method for local governments to post certain required information.

  - **Committee References**
    - Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
    - Ways and Means Committee
    - State Affairs Committee

  - **Why watch**: The increased posting requirements. This is the 5th year in a row it’s been filed.

  - **FLC Position**: Oppose-Mandate
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 144: Energy 2040 Task Force**
  
  GENERAL BILL by Brandes
  
  Creating the Energy 2040 Task Force within the Public Service Commission; requiring the task force to make recommendations, giving consideration to certain topics; requiring that state agencies assist and cooperate with the task force and any advisory committees; requiring the task force to submit recommendations to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor by a specified date, etc.

- **Committee References**
  - Innovation, Industry, and Technology (IT)
  - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (AEG)
  - Appropriations (AP)

- **Why watch:** Project the states energy needs and determine how to best meet those needs.
- **FLC Position:** Support  //  **FAC Position:** Monitor
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 196**: Electronic Payment of Governmental Fees
  
  GENERAL BILL by Taddeo
  
  Requiring clerks of the circuit court to provide an electronic option for payment of court-related fines and other fees; requiring an agency subject to ch. 119, F.S., to provide an electronic option for payment of fees associated with a public records request, etc.

- Committee References
  - Judiciary
  - Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
  - Appropriations

- Why watch: We all receive many public records requests.

- FLC Position: Watch
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 256: Renewable Energy**
  GENERAL BILL by Rodriguez; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Farmer
  - Defining the terms “renewable energy credit” and “renewable portfolio standard”; requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt rules for a renewable portfolio standard; directing the Office of Energy within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in consultation with other state agencies, state colleges and universities, public utilities, and other private and public entities, to develop a unified statewide plan to generate the state’s energy from renewable sources by specified dates, etc.

- **Committee References**
  - Innovation, Industry, and Technology
  - Governmental Oversight and Accountability
  - Rules

- **Why watch**: Renewable energy is a major part of what we do.

- **FLC Position**: Watch // **FAC Position**: Monitor

- **House Bill 97: State Renewable Energy Goals**
  GENERAL BILL by Eskamani; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Smith, C.
  - Requires that all electricity used in state be generated by renewable energy by specified date; directs Office of Energy within DACS to develop unified statewide plan; requires state & public entities to cooperate as requested; provides plan requirements; requires office to submit plan & updates to Governor & Legislature.

- **Committee References**
  - Energy and Utilities Subcommittee
  - Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
  - Commerce Committee
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 454**: Discharge of Domestic Wastewater
  
  **GENERAL BILL** by **Rodriguez**

  Prohibiting the construction of new deep injection wells for domestic wastewater discharge or the expansion of existing wells; requiring current ocean outfall and deep well injection permit holders to install a functioning reuse system within the utility’s service area by specified dates; **prohibiting the discharge of domestic wastewater through ocean outfalls and deep injection wells after specified dates, etc.**

- **Committee References**
  - Environment and Natural Resources (EN)
  - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (AEG)
  - Appropriations (AP)

- **Why watch**: Amends Subsection 9 of FS 403.086 regulating Ocean Outfalls. The proposed amendment adds deep injection wells to the scope, as an Ocean Outfall, with the intent of eliminating DIW disposal of WWTP effluent by 2023. It is requiring WWT facilities to beneficially reuse all the effluent and only allows DIW as a back-up to those systems. It does not appear to address DIW injection of Industrial Effluent at this time.

- **FLC Position**: Oppose-Mandate
Proposed bills for local governments

- Senate Bill 596: Florida Statutes
  REVISER’S BILL by Benacquisto
  - Deleting provisions that have expired, have become obsolete, have had their effect, have served their purpose, or have been impliedly repealed or superseded; replacing incorrect cross-references and citations; correcting grammatical, typographical, and like errors; removing inconsistencies, redundancies, and unnecessary repetition in the statutes, etc.

- Committee References
  - Rules

- Why watch: It mentions 403.703 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term: (40)(35) “Special wastes” means solid wastes that can require special handling and management, including, but not limited to, white goods, waste tires, used oil, lead-acid batteries, construction and demolition debris, ash residue, yard trash, and biological wastes.
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 664**: Verification of Employment Eligibility
  GENERAL BILL by Lee; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Gruters; Harrell
  - Requiring employers to register with and use the E-Verify system beginning on a specified date to verify the employment eligibility of new employees; requiring the Department of Economic Opportunity to order certain agencies to suspend an employer’s license under certain circumstances; requiring the department to notify the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and specified law enforcement agencies of certain violations, etc.

- **Committee References**
  - Judiciary (JU)
  - Commerce and Tourism (CM)
  - Rules (RC)

- **Why watch**: All public contractors will need to use E-Verify.

- **FLC Position**: Watch

- **House Bill 1265**: Verification of Employment Eligibility
  GENERAL BILL by Byrd; Fitzenhagen; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Sabatini

- **Committee References**
  - Commerce Committee
  - Appropriations Committee
  - State Affairs Committee

- **Senate Bill 1822**: Verification of Employment Eligibility
  GENERAL BILL by Gruters

- **Committee References**
  - Judiciary (JU)
  - Commerce and Tourism (CM)
  - Rules (RC)
Proposed bills for local governments

- **CS/Senate Bill 712**: Water Quality Improvements
  GENERAL BILL by Community Affairs; Mayfield
  - Citing this act as the “Clean Waterways Act”; requiring the Department Health to provide a specified report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; transferring the Onsite Sewage Program within the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection by a type two transfer by a specified date; creating an onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems technical advisory committee within the department; requiring the department to adopt rules relating to the underground pipes of wastewater collection systems; requiring basin management action plans for nutrient total maximum daily loads to include wastewater treatment and onsite sewage treatment and disposal system remediation plans that meet certain requirements, etc.
  - **Committee References**
    - Community Affairs (CA)
    - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (AEG)
  - **Why watch**: It references biosolids management but does not exclude Class AA - 403.0855 Biosolids management.—The Legislature finds that it is in the best interest of this state to regulate biosolids management in order to minimize the migration of nutrients that impair waterbodies.
  - **FLC Position**: Watch  // **FAC Position**: Monitor

- **House Bill 1343**: Water Quality Improvements
  GENERAL BILL by Payne
  - **Committee References**
    - Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
    - Appropriations Committee
    - State Affairs Committee

- **Senate Bill 1382**: Environmental Resource Management
  GENERAL BILL by Albritton
  - Providing that basin management action plan management strategies may include certain water quality improvement elements; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the Department of Health or water management districts, to develop and implement a cooperative urban, suburban, commercial, or institutional water quality improvement element; requiring the Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences of the University of Florida, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to develop a research plan and a legislative budget request, etc.
  - **Committee References**
    - Environment and Natural Resources
    - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
    - Appropriations
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 996**: Displacement of Private Waste Companies
  - General Bill by Albritton
  - Revising the process for a local government to displace a private waste collection company in a county or municipality; requiring a local government to announce its intent to adopt an ordinance or a resolution for organized collection service through a resolution of intent; prohibiting a local government from commencing organized collection service for a specified time after adoption of a certain ordinance or resolution, etc.
  - Committee References
    - Community Affairs (CA)
    - Environment and Natural Resources (EN)
    - Rules (RC)
  - Why watch: This outlines all the steps necessary for a local government to do so and extends their notice.
  - FLC Position: Oppose // FAC Position: Monitor

- **House Bill 639**: Displacement of Private Waste Companies
  - General Bill by McClure
  - Requires local governments to pay specified amount of compensation to displaced private waste companies at end of specified notice period; removes provision relating to authorization of local governments to pay specified amount of compensation to private waste companies as an alternative to delaying displacement for specified period; removes provisions authorizing local governments & private waste companies to negotiate such compensation & notice.
  - Committee References
    - Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
    - Business and Professions Subcommittee
    - State Affairs Committee
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 1302**: Sovereign Immunity

  GENERAL BILL by Flores

  Designating the “Florida Fair Claims Act”; providing an exception to certain liability for the state and its agencies and subdivisions; increasing the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state and its agencies and subdivisions; revising when a state and its agencies and subdivisions may agree to settle a claim or judgment without further action from the Legislature; requiring certain final judgment amounts to be paid without further action by the Legislature, etc.

  **Committee References**
  - Judiciary (JU)
  - Community Affairs (CA)
  - Appropriations (AP)

  **Why watch**: It identifies the Florida Fair Claims Act and increases the pay limits - from $200,000 to $1M, then an this was amended to be $500,000.

  **FLC Position**: Oppose
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 1330**: Municipal Service Taxing Units and Municipal Service Benefit Units
  
  **GENERAL BILL by Gruters**
  
  Requiring that the establishment, merger, or abolition of a municipal service taxing or benefit unit be approved by majority vote of certain qualified electors in an election that is called for such purpose by the governing body of the county on its own motion; providing procedures for the dissolution of a municipal service taxing or benefit unit, etc.

- **Committee References**
  - Community Affairs (CA)
  - Finance and Tax (FT)
  - Rules (RC)

- **Why watch**: The municipal service taxing unit is paid through ad valorem taxes, assessments or charges that benefit from the service or project.

- **FAC Position**: Oppose
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 1340: Legal Notices**
  GENERAL BILL by Gruters
  - Providing for the publication of legal notices on certain publicly accessible websites; allowing a governmental agency to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website under certain circumstances; removing provisions relating to the publication of legal notices in newspapers; providing that an advertisement of a sale or disposition of property may be published on certain websites for a specified time period, etc.
  - Committee References
    - Judiciary (JU)
    - Community Affairs (CA)
    - Rules (RC)
  - Why watch: It adds “governmental agency website” to the acceptable legal notice method.
  - **FLC Position:** Support

- **House Bill 7: Legal Notices**
  GENERAL BILL by Fine; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Beltran; Roach; Sabatini
  - Committee References
    - Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
    - Judiciary Committee
    - State Affairs Committee
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 1450**: Environmental Enforcement
  
  GENERAL BILL by Gruters

  Increasing the civil penalties for violations of certain provisions relating to beach and shore construction, the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, aquatic preserves, the state water resource plan, artesian wells, pollution, operating a terminal facility without discharge prevention and response certificates, discharge contingency plans for vessels, the Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Control Act, the Clean Ocean Act, the pollution of surface and ground waters, the regulation of oil and gas resources, the Phosphate Land Reclamation Act, sewage disposal facilities, pollution control, reasonable costs and expenses for pollution releases, necessary permits, dumping litter, small quantity generators, the abatement of imminent hazards caused by hazardous substances, hazardous waste generators, transporters, or facilities, and coral reef protection, respectively, etc.

- **Committee References**
  - Environment and Natural Resources
  - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
  - Appropriations

- **Why watch**: For increase in penalties by 50% for waste violations
- **FLC Position**: Watch

- **House Bill 1091**: Environmental Enforcement
  
  GENERAL BILL by Fine

  **Committee References**
  - Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
  - Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
  - State Affairs Committee
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 1524**: Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms
  GENERAL BILL by Gainer
  Authorizing elected members of specified governing bodies who are concealed weapon or firearm licensees to carry a concealed weapon or firearm to a meeting of the governing body of which he or she is a member, etc.
  **Committee References**
  - Infrastructure and Security (IS)
  - Judiciary (JU)
  - Rules (RC)
  **Why watch**: As elected board member could be carrying if they hold a license to carry concealed weapons or firearms. If all are amended to be the same.
  **FLC Position**: Watch // **FAC Position**: Monitor

- **House Bill 183**: Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms
  GENERAL BILL by Ponder
  **Committee References**
  - Criminal Justice Subcommittee
  - Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
  - Judiciary Committee

- **Senate Bill 428**: Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms
  GENERAL BILL by Braynon
  **Committee References**
  - Infrastructure and Security (IS)
  - Judiciary (JU)
  - Rules (RC)
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 1654: Biosolids Management**
  GENERAL BILL by Mayfield
  - Prohibiting the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing or renewing certain permits after a specified date; prohibiting the land application of biosolids on certain sites after a specified date; authorizing municipalities and counties to enforce or extend certain ordinances, regulations, resolutions, rules, moratoriums, or policies regarding the land application of biosolids, etc.
  - **Committee References**
    - Environment and Natural Resources (EN)
    - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (AEG)
    - Appropriations (AP)
  - Why watch: Noting any change in reference of (b) This section does not apply to Class AA biosolids that are marketed and distributed as fertilizer products in accordance with department rule.

- **House Bill 1267: Biosolids Management**
  GENERAL BILL by Grall
  - **Committee References**
    - Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee
    - Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
    - State Affairs Committee
Proposed bills for local governments

- **Senate Bill 112: Capital Relocation Study**
  GENERAL BILL by Rader
  - Requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study regarding the relocation of the state capital; prescribing requirements for the study; requiring OPPAGA to submit a report to the Legislature by a specified date, etc.

- **Committee References**
  - Governmental Oversight and Accountability
  - Community Affairs
  - Rules

- **Why watch**: The relocation of the capital to central Florida has been proposed for a number of years.
How to research or follow bills

- Florida House
  - MyFloridaHouse.gov/; “Tracking”

- Florida Senate
  - FlSenate.gov/; “Go to Bill” at top of page

- Florida League of Cities
  - FloridaLeagueOfCities.com; “Advocacy”

- Florida Association of Counties
  - fl-counties.com; “Advocacy”
Please hold questions till the end