



Media Release

Date: June 30, 2014

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St. Pete-Clearwater International (PIE) Wins 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards in Airport Council International-North America (ACI-NA) Excellence in Airport Marketing and Communications

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport received 1st place in the annual ACI-NA Excellence in Airport Marketing and Communications Contest for **Partnering with Carriers** for its partnership with Allegiant Air in co-sponsoring the Tampa Bay Rays professional baseball team for the 2013 season. The promotion featured co-branded advertising in all 81 home games, including "Pop-Fly Fridays" with a lucky contestant given the opportunity to catch pop-fly balls to win Allegiant Air tickets.

PIE also received a 2nd place award in **Newsletters** for its bi-annual Fly2PIE News and 3rd place for **Websites**. PIE debuted its new logo and rebranding in February 2013 and its redesigned Fly2PIE News published in the spring. A new mobile responsive website launched in October 2013. The airport worked with FKQ Advertising & Marketing on both projects.

ACI-NA revealed the winners in 20 categories at the ACI-NA Marketing & Communications Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This year, 56 airports submitted 287 entries, with 31 North American airports winning awards. ACI-NA President and CEO Kevin M. Burke said "The results...vividly illustrate the innovation and creativity needed in telling the important story of airports. From our large hubs to our small airports, the imagination and skill on display throughout all the entries of this year's contest are testament to the commitment airports make to engaging and connecting with the communities that they connect to the rest of the world."

Airport Director Noah Lagos said "I am very proud of our airport team and our partnerships. The Allegiant Air/ Tampa Bay Rays promotion was a creative and fun way to feature a leisure service airline at an easy, relaxed airport with America's favorite pastime, baseball. Additionally, our website (www.fly2pie.com) and newsletter (Fly2PIE News) are our primary way to connect with our passengers and our community. Receiving recognition by our peers in the airport industry is very rewarding."

The complete list of winning entries is available at <http://www.aci-na.org/2014-marcomm-contest-winners>. Photo (attached) shows Airport Air Service Development/Marketing Director Jeff Clauss receiving award from Myrna White, ACI-NA Marketing & Communications Committee Chair (left) and Johanne Gallant, ACI-NA Marketing & Communications Committee Vice-Chair (right).

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COMMISSION AGENDA:
7.15.14 Presentation

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Joe Lauro, Interim Assistant County Administrator
Pinellas County Office of the County Administrator

FROM: Pete Dunbar and Martha Edenfield

DATE: June 30, 2014

RE: POST-SESSION REPORT
SUMMARY OF 2014 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF INTEREST

The final post-Session report follows below. We have included several additional issues of interest that were mentioned in public delegation hearings and/or may be of general interest to the County. The Governor has now taken final action on all legislation and the appropriate Session Law numbers follow the summary of the bill in bold type. The full texts of each enrolled bill, as well as applicable legislative staff reports, are available on the legislative web sites (www.flsenate.gov; www.myfloridahouse.com; and www.leg.state.fl.us). A brief summary of the measures of interest that passed appears below.

Overview

The House and the Senate adjourned Sine Die on Friday evening, May 2, 2014, the last day of the Regular Session pursuant to Article III, Section 3(d) of the Florida Constitution. Of the 1811 bills filed, only 264 bills passed both chambers. The Governor approved a total of 254 bills and vetoed only 1 bill. There were 9 resolutions and memorials that have been filed with the Secretary of State.

The 2015 Regular Session will convene on March 3, 2015 and will last 60 consecutive days until May 1, 2015.

Legislation of Interest

911 Fees on Prepaid Phones/Cards: HB 175 by Rep. Steube deletes the moratorium on collection of the E911 fee from the sale of prepaid wireless service. The bill was supported by a wide array of stakeholders including landline, wireless and prepaid carriers as well as retailers and law enforcement. Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-196 Laws of Florida*).

Abandoned or Unclaimed Property: SB 218 by Sen. Grimsley allows for the disposition of unclaimed property found on a public transportation system, for example abandoned bicycles found on busses. Unclaimed property found by a public transportation system must be held for 90 days, but there previously was no method of disposal in statute. This provision mirrors the 90 day time frame used in other instances in statute, such as abandoned property in airports, and universities. **SB 218 was approved by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014- 169, Laws of Florida).**

Affordable Housing: The Florida Housing Finance Corporation is funded at \$167,660,000, with \$100,000,000 to fund SHIP and \$67,660,000 provided to fund SAIL. SHIP provision language requires each local government to use a minimum of 20 percent of its allocation to serve persons with special needs. \$4 million is appropriated to provide services for homeless persons. **Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (HB 5001 - Line Item 2247, Chapter 2014- 51, Laws of Florida).**

Brownfields: HB 325 by Rep. Stone revises the procedures for designation of brownfield areas by local governments.

The legislation:

- Clarifies the procedures for the public hearings on the proposed resolution required to be adopted by a local government proposing to designate a brownfield area.
- Removes inconsistent provisions relating to the size of the public notice for the newspaper. Pursuant to s. 376.80(1)(c), F.S., the bill requires counties and municipalities to follow the public notice and hearing requirements in ss. 125.66 and 166.041, F.S., respectively.
- Clarifies that a local government does not have to use the term “brownfield area” in the name of such area after the brownfield area has been designated by the local government.

HB 325 was approved by the Governor and is effective July 1, 2104. (Chapter 2014-114 Laws of Florida).

Commercial Parasailing: SB 320 by Sen. Sachs defines commercial parasailing and establishes minimum requirements for liability insurance, maintenance of a weather log, and safety briefings for parasailing participants. **Effective Date: October 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-70 Laws of Florida).**

Communication Services Tax: HB 803 by Rep. Boyd excludes certain data processing services delivered by electronic transmission from the communications services tax by including such services in the definition of “information services.” Information services are not included within the definition of “communication services,” and are not subject to communications services tax. The bill states that “the amendments made by this act to s. 202.11, Florida Statutes, are remedial in nature and apply retroactively, but do not provide a basis for the assessment of any tax not paid or create a right to a refund or credit of any tax paid before the effective date of this act.” The bill has no revenue impact because the change is a clarification that aligns the statutes with current administrative practice. **Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-36, Laws of Florida).**

Controlled Substances: HB 697 by Rep. Ingram expands the controlled substances register to include new formulas of synthetic drugs. **This bill was effective upon becoming a law on June 16, 1014. (Chapter 2014-159, Laws of Florida).**

Court Funding: HB 5003, the Budget Implementation Act, reenacts the one year exemption to s. 29.008, F.S., that would require counties to spend 1.5 percent more on county-funded court system obligations, thereby avoiding about a \$7 million negative fiscal impact to counties. **Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-53, Laws of Florida).**

Economic Development: HB 7023 by the Economic, Development, and Tourism Subcommittee relates to economic development and contains provisions intended to assist small business development, small cities, and rural areas; and modifies several programs administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity to assist employers, improve accountability, and conform to federal requirements. The bill:

- Exempts certain new small business development from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency or proportionate share requirements for transportation impacts for three years.
- Directs DEO to distribute Small Cities CDBG Program grants and loan guarantees through a competitive selection process established by rule and revises provisions in the program to provide greater flexibility in addressing the diverse community and economic development needs of Florida's rural communities.
- Allows eligible businesses to receive a sales tax refund on electricity purchased in rural areas. Tax refunds for all eligible businesses may not exceed \$600,000 per calendar year.
- Renames "rural areas of critical economic concern" as "rural areas of opportunity" throughout Florida Statutes.
- Requires the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to include the New Markets Development Program in the Economic Development Programs Evaluation required under ch. 288, F.S.
- Establishes requirements to increase accountability and improve performance of all loan programs administered by DEO under chapter 288, F.S.
- Makes Reemployment Assistance installment plans a permanent option. Employers will continue to have the option to make quarterly contributions to the UC Trust Fund for an annual \$5 administrative fee.
- Amends Florida's Short-Time Compensation program to bring the state into conformity with new federal requirements.
- Requires Space Florida to consult with VISIT Florida in developing a space tourism marketing plan and authorizes Space Florida to develop a Center of Excellence for Aerospace.
- Increases the administrative costs of the Florida Defense Support Task Force from \$200,000 to \$250,000.
- Corrects a cross-reference relating to land development regulations.

HB 7023 was signed by the Governor and has an effective date of July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-218, Laws of Florida).

The Department of Economic Opportunity was appropriated \$998 million in the 2014-15 Budget. This includes \$60 million appropriated for economic development tools. An additional \$17 million in unspent incentives from the 2013-14 Budget is expected to be carried over.

Energy/Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: HB 7147 by the Energy and Utilities Subcommittee revises DACS' duties for renewable energy resources and energy conservation, including alternative fueling stations and electric vehicle charging stations. It also defines an "eligible issuer" who is authorized to issue Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds for qualified projects. It also provides that the Commissioner of Agriculture may appoint a member to serve on the Southern States Energy Board. **HB 7147 was signed by the Governor and has an effective date of July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-154, Laws of Florida).**

Ethics and Lobbying. SB 846 by Senator Latvala extends the Code of Ethics for public officers and employees to certain quasi-governmental entities. The bill requires elected municipal officers to complete four hours of annual ethics, public records, and open meetings training and requires all individuals required to complete the training to certify completion of the training on annual financial disclosures. The bill specifies that failure to certify completion of training does not constitute an immaterial, inconsequential, or de minimis error or omission on an annual financial disclosure. The bill increases penalties for failure to file disclosure forms. The bill also provides that state, county, and municipal officers may abstain from voting when presented with a conflict of interest established in an additional or more stringent standard of conduct adopted pursuant to s. 112.326, F.S. The disclosure requirement is satisfied by compliance with the agency, county, or municipal disclosure requirement. The bill also provides that a member of a board may abstain to assure a fair proceeding that is free from potential bias or prejudice. The bill expands lobbyist registration requirements to water management districts and expressway authorities. **Note:** The provision prohibiting local officers from lobbying legislative and executive branches was removed from the bill. **SB 846 was signed by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-183, Laws of Florida).**

Finance and Tax: HB 5601 by the House Finance and Tax Subcommittee contains \$105 million in tax cuts in addition to the \$395 million cut to vehicle registration and title fees contained in SB 156 for a total of \$500 million in tax cuts.

HB 5601 includes the following:

- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) - the bill includes a provision that transfers energy tax revenues to help the PECO fund which pays for construction and maintenance projects at schools and universities.
- Local Business Tax – Also included in this bill, is language that would allow local governments to repeal or reduce the level of local business taxes by a simple majority vote of the governing body. Currently, the law requires the creation of an equity study commission of the local business community, requires this commission to review and study the reduction and make a recommendation to the local government. All requirements that are in place to raise the local business tax, remain the same.

Additionally, the bill includes the following tax cuts:

- A three-day back-to-school sales tax holiday on clothes and school supplies from Aug. 1-3, saving shoppers \$40 million
- Sales tax holiday on energy-efficient appliances from Sept. 19-21
- Sales tax holiday on hurricane preparedness supplies from May 31-June 8 for items such as generators worth \$750 or less
- Eliminates sales tax for child car seats and bicycle helmets
- Eliminates sales tax for college meal plans
- Eliminates sales tax medicinal pet food
- A three-year exemption of the sales tax on cement trucks
- Increases tax credits to aid Habitat for Humanity
- Increases tax credits to aid the New Markets incentive program
- Reduces the tax on prepaid calling plans
- Cuts taxes on uncollectable debt on credit cards issued by retailers
- Premium tax cuts for title insurers (\$5.5 million) and bail bonds (\$700,000)

HB 5601 was approved by the Governor with an effective date of May 12, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-38, Laws of Florida*).

Flood Insurance: SB 542 by Sen. Brandes encourages private insurance companies to cover flood damage in the place of federal flood insurance. SB 542 as amended by the House creates s. 627.715, F.S., governing the sale of personal lines, residential flood insurance. Authorized insurers may sell four different types of flood insurance products:

- Standard coverage, which covers only losses from the peril of flood as defined in the bill, which is the definition used by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The policy must be the same as coverage offered from the NFIP regarding the definition of flood, coverage, deductibles, and loss adjustment.
- Preferred coverage, which includes the same coverage as standard flood insurance and also must cover flood losses caused by water intrusion from outside the structure that are not otherwise covered under the definition of flood in the bill.
- Customized coverage, which is coverage that is broader than standard flood coverage.
- Supplemental coverage, which supplements an NFIP flood policy or a standard or preferred policy from a private market insurer. Supplemental coverage may provide coverage for jewelry, art, deductibles, and additional living expenses. It does not include excess flood coverage over other flood policies.

SB 542 requires prominent notice on the policy declarations or face page of deductibles and any other limitations on flood coverage or policy limits.

SB 542 allows flood rates filed before October 1, 2019, to be established through a rate filing with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) that is not required to be reviewed by the OIR before implementation of the rate ("file and use" review) or shortly after implementation of the rate ("use and file" review). Specifically, the flood rate is exempt from the "file and use" and "use and file" requirements of s. 627.062(2)(a), F.S., and the OIR's authority to require the insurer to provide information necessary to evaluate the company and the reasonableness of the rate. The OIR is able to, however, examine a rate filing at its discretion. To assist the office in conducting such examinations, the insurer must maintain actuarial data related to flood coverage for 2 years after the effective date of the rate change. Upon examination, the OIR will use actuarial techniques and the standards of the rating law to determine if the rate is excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory.

Sections 627.062, F.S., and 627.0628, F.S., are amended to allow projected flood losses for personal residential property insurance to be a rating factor. Flood losses may be estimated using a model or straight average of models found reliable by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology.

SB 542 allows surplus lines agents to export flood insurance without making a diligent effort to seek coverage from three or more authorized insurers. Expires July 1, 2017.

Insurers that write flood coverage must notify the OIR at least 30 days before doing so in this state and file a plan of operation, financial projections, and any such revisions with the OIR.

Citizens Property Insurance Corporation is prohibited from providing flood insurance. The Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund is prohibited reimbursing flood losses.

The bill requires insurance agents that receive a flood insurance application to obtain a signed acknowledgement from the applicant stating that the full risk rate for flood insurance may apply to the property if flood insurance is later obtained under the NFIP.

The bill also specifies that the OIR Commissioner may provide a certification required by federal law or rule as a condition of qualifying for private flood insurance or disaster assistance. The certification is not subject to review under ch. 120, F.S.

SB 542 was approved by the Governor with an effective date of 6/13/2014. (*Chapter 2014-80, Laws of Florida*).

Florida Retirement System: HB 5005 set the employer-paid contributions rates for the FRS and the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Trust Fund program. The bill increases the employer contributions to the retiree health insurance subsidy from 1.2% to 1.26%.

The employer-paid contribution rates to pay the normal costs and amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability of the FRS are increased. The estimated negative fiscal impact to counties is \$47.72 million. **The bill is effective July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-54, Laws of Florida*).**

Note: The Senate voted 21-15 not to take up HB 7181, the House plan for Florida Retirement System changes. The Senate version, SB 1114, would have defaulted new employees into a 401(k)-style investment plan, though employees would have retained the option to enter the traditional pension plan within nine months. It also would have forced new elected officers, except judges, into the investment plan and increased the vesting time for the pension plan from eight years to 10 years. **Neither the House nor the Senate plan for comprehensive FRS changes passed.**

Growth Management, Local Initiative and Referendum Process: SB 374 by Senator Detert prohibits local initiative or referendum processes for any local comprehensive plan amendment or map amendment unless the initiative or referendum process is expressly authorized by specific language in a local government charter which was in effect on June 1, 2011. Current law allows local initiatives and referendums if they were in effect on June 1, 2011; affect more than five parcels of land; and were expressly authorized for comprehensive plan or map amendments in a local government charter. The bill removes the requirement that the initiative or referendum affect more than five parcels of land. **SB 374 was signed by the Governor and became effective on June 20, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-178, Laws of Florida*).**

Highway Safety: HB 7005 by Rep. Artiles revises a number of transportation-related provisions. Among other provisions, the bill:

- Authorizes a clerk to designate a local governmental entity to receive and keep a currently required affidavit and dismissal fee from a person who has a disabled parking placard or plate but receives a violation.
- Provides requirements for a licensed Recreational Vehicle dealer conducting an off- premises sale not in conjunction with a public vehicle show.
- Authorizes immediate removal and impoundment of an unauthorized wrecker operator's tow truck used during certain prohibited acts upon order of a law enforcement officer.
- Requires a specified decal on each gas pump reflecting certain information relating to fueling assistance for disabled drivers at self-service gas stations; and provides that counties and municipalities are not barred from expanding the accessibility, safety, or availability of fueling assistance.

- Prohibits requiring a gas station to provide air or vacuum supply without charge and preempts all local ordinances to that effect.
- Provides a free identification card to a person who presents satisfactory evidence that he or she is homeless or that his or her annual income is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.
- Limits the number of referenda for consolidation or dissolution of certain authorities and provides that a referendum not expressly agreed to by an authority applies only to future bond issuance.
- Requires a county or municipality to respond within 60 days after receiving a request from another county or municipality to which it provides traffic signal services regarding the evaluation, installation, operation, or maintenance of a signal.
- Authorizes counties to create a yellow dot critical motorist medical information program;
- Provides for limited use of the medical information by emergency medical responders; and requires the county to adopt guidelines to ensure confidentiality of the information.
- Removes the prohibition against obscuring the word “Florida,” on license plates effective July 1, 2016.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-216, Laws of Florida*).

Homeless Program Funding: SB 1090 by Sen. Latvala and HB 979 by Rep. Peters provide for a dedicated source of state funding for homeless programs throughout Florida. The bills direct the Department of Children and Families Office on Homelessness to provide annual homeless challenge grants to lead homeless agencies. Award levels are to be based on the total population within a homeless continuum of care planning area, as well as the varying degrees of homelessness within the region. To qualify for a challenge grant, a continuum of care plan must establish a coordinated assessment or central intake system for assessment and referral, as well as provide matching funds from local or private funds. The bills do not rely on new revenues to fund the challenge grants, as funding will be directed from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to DCF annually. The Department of Economic Opportunity will also receive a portion of the funds to provide training and technical assistance to lead agencies. **HB 979 was approved by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-214, Laws of Florida*).**

Budget Appropriation line item 383 provides the nonrecurring sum of \$1,000,000 to the Florida Coalition for the Homeless for distribution to the local homeless coalitions throughout the state. HB 5001, Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-51, Laws of Florida*).

Joint Municipal Governing Body Meetings: SB 730 by Senator Galvano authorizes a municipal governing body to hold joint meetings with the governing body of the municipality’s home county or the governing body of other municipalities to discuss and act on matters of mutual concern at a place and time prescribed by ordinance or resolution. The bill also allows municipalities to meet within the boundaries of another municipality to discuss issues of a mutual interest. **SB 730 was approved by the Governor and takes effect July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-14, Laws of Florida*).**

Juvenile Justice Issues: HB 7055 amends a variety of statutes in ch. 985, F.S., relating to the Department of Juvenile Justice, its duties, and its programs. Specifically, the bill:

- Updates legislative intent language and definitions applicable to ch. 985, F.S.;
- Modifies procedures relating to jurisdiction, contempt of court, fingerprinting and photographing, and intake assessments;
- Revises and expands the detention care system;
- Gives DJJ authority to develop, within existing resources, evening reporting centers and community re-entry teams;

- Expands DJJ's notification requirements to a school or victim when the custody status of a youth has changed;
- Allows technical violations of probation to be resolved through alternative consequence programs;

Broadens the application of transition-to-adulthood services to youth of all ages;

- Expands when a misdemeanor youth may be committed to a residential program;
- Creates a new offense relating to "willful and malicious neglect" of juvenile offenders;
- Enhances the performance accountability system for service providers; and
- Limits the amount paid to hospitals and health care providers who are not under contract with DJJ for health care services provided to juveniles.

The bill also amends a variety of statutes in ch. 985, F.S., to make conforming changes, correct statutory cross-references, update terminology, and to delete obsolete provisions. The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local governments. **The effective date of HB 7055 is July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-162, Laws of Florida).**

Note: HB 5305 addressing the negotiated solution to the state-county juvenile detention cost-share arrangement did not pass. Because the Senate did not appropriate funds for the counties' five years of overpayments, the House took up the Governor's proposal, ending this Session's legislative initiative. The budget now reflects the Governor's proposal, which includes a 57% cost-share for counties, prospective billing and no appropriation for overpayments for prior years. **The DJJ published a proposed rule on June 6, 2014. The proposed rule has been challenged by FAC and individual counties, including Pinellas County. The hearing has been set for July 15-16, 2014, in Tallahassee.**

Medical Marijuana: SB 1030 by Senator Bradley authorizes physicians to prescribe "low-THC cannabis" in a non-smoking form for cancer patients or patients suffering from a physical medical condition that involves seizures or severe spasms. The bills authorizes 5 dispensaries in the state and lays out the application requirements for nurseries to cultivate and produce low-THC cannabis, including operating as a registered nursery in Florida for at least 30 years and the ability to maintain accountability of all raw materials, finished products, and byproducts. **SB 1030 was signed by the Governor on June 16, 2014, and was effective upon becoming a law. (Chapter 2014-157, Laws of Florida).**

Nicotine Dispensing Devices: SB 224 by Sen. Benacquisto extends the current prohibitions related to tobacco products to prohibit the sale, gifting, possession, or use of nicotine dispensing devices and nicotine products, which include electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), to and by persons under the age of 18. **Note:** The final bill did not include preemption of local government regulation over the sale of nicotine. **The effective date is July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-65, Laws of Florida).**

Parking Meters: HB 7175 by the House Economic Affairs Committee requires municipalities to provide to the Florida Transportation Commission by August 31, 2014, an inventory of all parking meters located on state rights-of-way that were installed prior to July 1, 2014. The bill also prohibits cities from installing any new parking meters on state rights-of-way from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. The FTC is directed to perform a study on parking meters to determine the amount of revenue generated from the meters and develop recommendations for future revenue-sharing options between cities and the state. **Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-223, Laws of Florida).**

Pesticides/Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: HB 7091 by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee revises the powers and duties of DACS, and reorganizes Chapter 570. It also authorizes the property appraiser to grant an agricultural classification for land, and provides that lands participating in dispersed water storage programs can continue to be classified as agricultural lands for assessment purposes. HB 7091 amends the requirements for registration and distribution of discontinued pesticides and pesticide applications. **Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-150, Laws of Florida*).**

Professional Sports Facilities: HB 7095 by Rep. Patronis creates the Sports Development Program to be administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity, (DEO), to provide state funding for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, renovating, or improving a professional sports facility owned by a local government or a facility owned by a private entity that is located on land owned by a local government.

- **Spring Training:** The bill amends s. 288.11631, F.S., to allow that agreements made between an applicant and a spring training franchise may be signed at any time before the expiration of any existing agreement with a spring training franchise for use of a facility if the applicant has never received state funding for the facility as a spring training facility under the state's spring training programs and the facility was constructed before January 1, 2000.

The bill provides that if bonds were issued to construct or renovate a facility for a spring training franchise, any reimbursement required by a franchise that relocates before the expiration of its agreement with an applicant certified under s. 288.11631, F.S., must be equal to the total amount of state distributions expected to be paid from the date the franchise breaks its agreement with the applicant through the final maturity of the bonds.

The bill prohibits applicants from receiving multiple certifications through s. 288.11631, F.S. However, the bill provides that an applicant certified for use of its facility by one spring training franchise may apply to amend its certification for use of its facility by more than one spring training franchise. The maximum amount of state incentive funding to be distributed may not exceed \$50 million for a certified applicant with a facility used by multiple spring training franchises.

The bill amends s. 212.20, F.S., to increase the monthly disbursement caps for applicants certified under s. 288.11631, F.S., and to shorten the time period that a certified applicant may receive such disbursements. DOR may distribute up to \$83,333 monthly for up to 20 years for a facility used by a single spring training franchise, or up to \$166,667 monthly for up to 25 years for a facility used by multiple spring training franchises.

- **Local Government half-cent sales tax:** The bill amends s. 218.64, F.S., to allow municipalities and counties to expend portions of the local government half-cent sales tax for reimbursing the state as required by the program. In addition, s. 218.64, F.S., is amended to increase the amount of the local government half-cent sales tax that may be allocated to funding by counties for certified applicants under the new or retained professional sports franchise program, the motorsport entertainment complex program, or the spring training baseball franchise program, or for reimbursing the state through the Sports Development Program from \$2 million to \$3 million.

- Regulations designating the Facility as a Shelter Site for the Homeless: The bill amends s. 288.1166, F.S., to limit the occurrences during which a sports facility constructed with financial assistance from the state may be used as a shelter for the homeless in accordance with the criteria of a locally existing homeless shelter program to periods of a declared federal, state, or local emergency. Under existing law, a sports facility could not be used for such purpose if the facility was otherwise contractually obligated for a specific event or activity. The bill expands these restrictions to include the facility being designated or used by the county owning the facility as a staging area and if the county that owns the stadium determines it owns or operates enough homeless assistance shelters to meet the sheltering needs of homeless persons within the county.

The bill took effect upon becoming law on June 20, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-167, Laws of Florida*).

Reclaimed Water: SB 536 by Senator Simpson directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in coordination with the stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive study and to submit a report on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water in Florida. The bill specifies the elements the report must include. The bill directs the DEP to hold a minimum of two public meetings to gather input on the study and to accept written comments from the public before the report is submitted. The bill requires this report to be submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2015.

SB 536 was approved by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-79, Laws of Florida*).

Security Breaches/Information Protection Act: SB 1524 by Senator Thrasher creates the “Florida Information Protection Act of 2014.” The bill requires notice to be given to affected customers and the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) when a breach of security of personal information occurs. The bill requires such notice to be given within 30 days of the discovery of the breach or belief that a breach occurred, unless delayed at the request of law enforcement for investigative purposes or for other good cause shown. The bill provides enforcement authority to the DLA under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act to civilly prosecute violations. A violator of the bill’s provisions may also be subject to civil penalties, similar to current law, if breach notification is not provided timely.

State governmental entities are required to provide notification of security breaches to the DLA, but are not liable for civil penalties for failure to timely report the security breaches. The bill provides exceptions for those entities that comply with breach notifications as required by the appropriate federal regulator.

The bill requires the DLA to submit an annual report to the Legislature, by February 1 of each year, detailing any reported breaches of security by governmental entities or their third-party agents for the preceding year, along with any recommendations for security improvement. The report must also identify any governmental entity that has violated the breach notification provisions.

The bill requires customer records, both physical and electronic, to be disposed in a manner that protects personal information from being disclosed. This provision does not apply to governmental entities.

SB 1534 was approved by the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2014. (*Chapter 2014-189, Laws of Florida*).

Statewide Special Needs Registry: HB 709 by Rep. Hudson makes a number of changes related to Alzheimer's disease that implement recommendations of the Purple Ribbon Task Force which was created by the Legislature in 2012. The bill requires the Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with local emergency management agencies, to maintain a registry of persons with special needs using an electronic registration form and database. The bill requires memory disorder clinics, and authorizes licensed physicians and pharmacies, to provide information and assistance to individuals with special needs and their caregivers regarding special needs shelter registration. **HB 709 was approved by the Governor and has an effective date of July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-163, Laws of Florida).**

Transportation: SB 218 by Sen. Grimsley is a comprehensive bill related to transportation. The bill includes provisions that:

- authorize the Department of Transportation (DOT) to improve and maintain roads that are part of the county road system or city street system if they provide access to a state park;
- authorize DOT to use appropriated funds to support the establishment of a statewide system of interconnected multiuse trails and pay the cost of planning, land acquisition, design, and construction of such trails and related facilities;
- make statutory changes regarding who is responsible for paying for utility relocation for transportation projects under various circumstances;
- allow a municipality within a rural area of critical economic concern (RACEC) or a RACEC community to compete for project funding using the existing criteria of the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) at up to 100 percent of the project costs, excluding capacity projects. The funding for municipalities would be subject to an additional appropriation in excess of those appropriated for SCOP;
- authorize Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, with the consent of the county within whose jurisdiction the activities occur to construct, operate, and maintain facilities, including managed lanes and transit support facilities, outside of Hillsborough County;
- provide a process for the disposal of personal property found on a public transportation system; and
- make the following changes regarding outdoor advertising:
 - clarify the already existing permit exemption of signs for rural business directional signs to make the provision applicable to signs located outside an incorporated area,
 - repeal language providing that the rural small business sign permit exemption does not apply in charter counties,
 - provide additional new exemptions to sign permit requirements with the caveat that they may not be implemented or continued if the federal government notifies DOT that the state's allocation of federal transportation funds will be adversely affected, and
 - expand the tourist-oriented directional sign program by repealing the restriction
 - limiting the program to roads in a RACEC and providing that the program applies to intersections on rural and conventional state, county or municipal roads.

Effective Date: July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-169, Laws of Florida)

Vacation Rentals Regulation: SB 356 by Senator Thrasher repeals the provisions in current law that prohibit local laws, ordinances, or regulations that restrict the use of vacation rentals or that regulate vacation rentals based solely on their classification, use, or occupancy. The bill maintains the current prohibition against local laws, ordinances, or regulations that prohibit vacation rentals.

The bill prohibits local governments from regulating vacation rentals or the frequency of rentals or to set minimum stay requirements of greater than seven days. It also removes the exemption in the bill for any local law, ordinance, or regulation adopted on or before June 1, 2011.

The amendment does not repeal the exemption for local laws, ordinances, or regulations exclusively relating to property valuation as a criterion for vacation rental if the law, ordinance or regulation is required to be approved by the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to an area of critical state concern designation. **SB 356 was signed by the Governor and will take effect July 1, 2014. (Chapter 2014-71, Laws of Florida).**

Additional Items of Interest - Budget

The following items related to Pinellas County were included in the Budget Committee Conference Report and were approved by the Governor*:

Belcher Road from Druid Rd to Park Blvd	Arterial Highway	1,277,300
Gulf Blvd at SR 682/107	Arterial Highway	2,027,300
Albert Whitted Airport	Aviation	1,200,000
Albert Whitted Airport	Aviation	1,200,000
St. Petersburg Clearwater International Airport	Aviation Dev/Grants	1,218,514
Skyway and Bunces Pass Bridge Repair Br #150189 & 150038	Bridge Construction	4,804,126
SR 666 Welch Causeway Br #150028 Intracoastal Waterway	Bridge Construction	2,401,960
BMX Olympic Training Facility - Oldsmar	Community Services	1,270,000
Pinellas Transportation Services - PARC, Inc.	Community Services	250,000
SR 688 (Ulmerton Rd) from E of 49th Street to W of 38th	Construct Inspect Consult	1,205,100
Pinellas Ex-offender Re-entry Initiative	Corrections	150,000
Westcare Florida Gulfcoast	Corrections	150,000
Belcher Road and Belleair Rd	County Transportation Programs	1,375,000
American Stage Company, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	150,000
Arts Center Association, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	150,000
City of Tarpon Springs	Cultural and Museum Grants	87,977
Clearwater Jazz Holiday Foundation, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	90,000
Creative Clay Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	54,070
Creative Pinellas	Cultural and Museum Grants	19,000

Dunedin Historical Society, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	16,420
Florida Craftsmen	Cultural and Museum Grants	50,000
Florida Holocaust Museum - St. Petersburg	Cultural and Museum Grants	750,000
Great Explorations, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	130,000
Museum of Fine Arts of St. Petersburg, Florida, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	150,000
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	150,000
St. Petersburg Opera	Cultural and Museum Grants	58,423
The Dunedin Fine Arts Center, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	132,724
The Florida Orchestra, Inc.	Cultural and Museum Grants	150,000
Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Cultural Facilities	2,000,000
Dunedin Fine Art Center	Cultural Facilities	500,000
Mahaffey Theater Improvements - St.	Cultural Facilities	500,000
Palm Harbor Historical Society Museum	Cultural Facilities	387,753
Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center	Cultural Facilities	500,000
All Children's Hospital Pediatric Enterprise Zone	Economic Development	2,000,000
Tarpon Spgs Superfund Site Redevelopment - Dredging, Wharf Stabilization and	Economic Development Transportation Projects	2,500,000
St Petersburg College - Bay Pines Marine Science Labs / Classrooms	Education Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
University of South Florida - St. Pete. College of Business	Education Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
Suncoast PACE	Elder Affairs	1,951,140
Saint Petersburg College	Florida College System Lottery	15,540,962
Saint Petersburg College	Florida College System Program Fund	53,482,092
Asset Maintenance Pinellas County	Highway Maintenance Contr	2,543,838
Ponder House Renovations - St. Petersburg	Historic Properties Restoration	100,000
I-275 (SR 93/22nd Av N) from 22nd St North to 19th St North	Hiway Safety Constr/Grants	1,636,773
City of St Pete Landscaping Various Locations	Intrastate Highway Constr	1,000,000

SR 688 (Ulmerton Rd) from E of 49th Street to W of 38th	Intrastate Highway Constr	15,339,323
SR 693/694/Park/66th from 46th St/82nd Ave to 49th St	Intrastate Highway Constr	2,378,386
Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 11-1 Sand Key Park Project	Local Parks	200,000
Community Action Treatment (CAT) Teams - Personal	Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse	750,000
Psta Public Transit Block Grant Program	Public Transit Dev/Grants	4,086,490
Alt US 19 (SR 595) from S of SR 586/Curlew Rd to N of Whisper Lake Rd	Resurfacing	1,450,755
Alt US 19 (SR 60/595) E of Palm / E of Missouri and Chestnut/End Mem Brdg	Resurfacing	1,949,893
SR 590 (NE Coachman) from W of Marilyn St to E of Audrey Dr	Resurfacing	2,512,325
SR 686 from SR 595/651/Missouri Ave to E of Highland Ave	Resurfacing	1,825,572
SR 687 from 106th Ave N to N of Big Island Gap	Resurfacing	2,639,375
SR 693 (66th St) from CR 694/Park Blvd to CR 376/142nd Ave	Resurfacing	7,065,491
SR 699 (Gulf Blvd) from N of SR 682 to N of SR 693	Resurfacing	3,014,501
SR 699 (Gulf Blvd) from S of 105th Ave to N of 125th Ave	Resurfacing	1,643,777
CR 296 (Future SR 690) from US 19 (SR 55) to E of Roosevelt/CR 296	Right-of-Way Land Acq	2,120,000
SR 686 (Roosevelt) from 49th St Bridge to N of SR 688 (Ulmerton)	Right-of-Way Land Acq	5,464,000
SR 686 from N of SR 688/Ulmerton to E of 40th St	Right-of-Way Land Acq	1,254,000
US 19 (SR 55) from S of NE Coachman Rd to N of Sunset Point	Right-of-Way Land Acq	3,600,000
Florida Holocaust Museum	School and Instructional Enhancements	300,000
PARC-Project Search	School and Instructional Enhancements	100,000

Pinellas Education Foundation - Career Path Planning	School and Instructional Enhancements	250,000
SRI International Middle School Digital Mathematics	School and Instructional Enhancements	750,000
School Readiness Program	School Readiness Program	28,427,180
Toll Operations Sunshine Skyway	Toll Operation Contracts	1,611,887
University of South Florida, St. Petersburg	Universities - Grants and Aids	50,500,914
Adults with Disabilities	Vocational Rehabilitation	374,337
Voluntary PreKindergarten Program	Voluntary PreKindergarten Program	14,529,569
Clearwater Sanitary Sewer Expansion Program	Water Projects	250,000
Gulfport 49th Street Stormwater Retrofit Project	Water Projects	500,000
Park Boulevard II - Pond Improvements	Water Projects	87,500
Pasadena Place (PYCC) Culvert Replacement and Outfall	Water Projects	245,000
Workforce Development	Workforce Development	25,808,527
Louise Graham Regeneration Center, Inc.	Workforce Services	122,500

**source: Florida Association of Counties*

Bills of interest that failed passage

Contract Preferences: SB 612 by Sen. Hays and HB 801 by Representative Fitzenhagen would have extended the preferential consideration contained in s. 287.084 for Florida businesses to construction services, and it preempts the provisions of a local ordinance providing a preference in favor of state law when state funds are being used for the contract services. The bills were amended to:

- Delete the provision that added “construction services” to the state preference for Florida businesses.
- Provide that the state preemption of local preference laws and regulations will only be triggered by competitive solicitations for personal property or construction services that utilize state funds to pay for 20 percent or more of the total cost.

These measures did not pass.

Department of Juvenile Justice Funding: The Budget Conference Committee failed to take up HB 5305 and negotiate the state-county juvenile detention cost-share arrangement.

Because the Senate did not appropriate funds for the counties’ five years of overpayments, the House took up the Governor’s proposal, ending this Session’s legislative initiative. The budget now reflects the Governor’s proposal, which includes a 57% cost-share for counties, prospective billing and no appropriation for overpayments for prior years.

While the House bill (HB 5305) reflected concessions on both sides, the Senate’s leadership was unwilling to acknowledge the backlog and expected counties to waive their legal rights. That was not an area where FAC was willing to compromise.

FAC organized a strategic approach to DJJ’s rulemaking and began advocacy efforts immediately fighting for the strongest position possible during the rulemaking process. The DJJ published a proposed rule on June 6, 2014. **The proposed rule has been challenged by FAC and individual counties, including Pinellas County. The hearing has been set for July 15-16, 2014, in Tallahassee.**

Environmental Regulation: HB 703 by Representative Patronis would have limited local government’s ability to regulate land use, development, and water regulations. **HB 703 did not pass.**

Fair Associations: HB 1259 and SB 6724 would have prohibited counties from assessing mobility fees, impact fees, stormwater fees, ad valorem taxes, or any special assessments. **This legislation did not pass.**

Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program: HB 983 by Rep. Diaz and SB 1734 would have extended and made several changes to the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program. HB 983 would have provided \$200 million per year for six years. SB 1734 would have provided \$50 million per year for six years and required a 10% cash match from the county in which the principal production occurred. **These bills did not pass.**

Florida Clean Indoor Air Act: SB 342 by Sen. Bradley and HB 309 by Rep. Edwards would have authorized municipalities and counties to restrict smoking in playground areas if that property is owned by the municipality or county. **This legislation failed passage.**

Gaming: SB 742 by Senator Sobel would have required the Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering keep specific records of greyhound racing injuries and would have enhanced the penalties within the prohibition on the use of medication or drugs on animals. The bill also would have revised procedures for testing animals for medication or drugs. SB 742 passed the full Senate on the final day of Session, but was never taken up by the House and did not pass. **Ultimately, no gaming related legislation was passed this year.**

Medicaid:

County Medicaid Contributions: **No legislation was introduced related to the County Medicaid Contribution issue this session.**

Medicaid Affordable Care Act: At the start of the session several business groups joined a broad coalition of hospitals, health care providers and community advocacy groups to encourage the Legislature to expand Medicaid as per the Affordable Care Act. Despite the efforts of all, legislative leadership decided early on that without some additional flexibility from the federal government, they would continue to not consider expansion. **Ultimately, the leadership did not propose any legislation to expand Medicaid and bills filed by Senator Garcia and Representative Murphy were not heard.**

Affordable Care Act Navigators: While Florida does have a process for registering Affordable Care Act Navigators, the Department of Health (DOH) has not authorized Navigators to reach clients on DOH grounds. The DOH has not changed their position on this issue. **Expansion legislation was not considered.**

Medical Examiners: HB 301 by Rep. Spano and SB 584 by Sen. Lee would have prevented medical examiners from charging a fee for cremation approval. **These measures did not pass.**

Red Light Cameras: Several proposals to modify or do away with the red light camera program were introduced throughout the Session. HB 7005 was amended to require local governments to use 30% of the revenues from tickets issued by red light cameras for traffic safety related issues. As originally filed, HB 7005, would have reduced the portion of revenue for cities and counties using red light cameras from \$75 per ticket to \$45 per ticket, with the remaining funds going to local governments to be used to satisfy contractual agreements. The bill was later amended to maintain the level at \$75 but to prevent local governments from using more than 30 percent of those revenues for non-traffic safety purposes. A previous version of the bill created a moratorium on any new cameras, specifically preventing cities and counties from setting up new cameras. SB 144 by Senator Brandes was the stand alone bill that have put strict regulations on how a program was run, effectively eliminating the red light camera program. **No red light camera legislation passed this year.**

Taxi, Chauffeured Limousines and Uber Preemption of Local Governments: SB 1618 by Senator Brandes, HB 1389 by Representative Grant would have preempted to the state the regulation of taxis, chauffeured limousines, limousine services and the drivers of chauffeured limousines. The bills would have also required the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to regulate the industry. **No legislation passed preempting local government regulation of for-hire car services.**

State Infrastructure Sales Tax: SB 786 by Sen. Latvala and HB 723 by Rep. Rooney would have allowed a county to use the proceeds or interest accrued from a duly adopted local government infrastructure surtax for the maintenance of transportation infrastructure provided the local government ordinance authorizing such use is approved by a majority of the members of the county governing authority and approved by a majority of the electors of the county voting in a referendum on the surtax. The bills would also have authorized a new discretionary sales surtax of up to 0.5 percent, or one half of

one percent, for homeless services and facilities within the county through the adoption of an ordinance passed by a majority of the members of the county governing authority and approved by a majority of the electors of the county voting in a referendum on the surtax. The Pinellas County discretionary surtax amendment was placed on SB 786 in the second committee of reference. **These bills ultimately failed passage.**

State Retirement System: The Senate voted 21-15 not to take up HB 7181 thereby rejecting the House plan for Florida Retirement System changes. The Senate version, SB 1114, would have defaulted new employees into a 401(k)-style investment plan, though employees would have retained the option to enter the traditional pension plan within nine months. It also would have forced new elected officers, except judges, into the investment plan and increased the vesting time for the pension plan from eight years to 10 years. **These bills failed passage.**
