

PBC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The latest updates from Tallahassee, Florida.

3,140: Bills and PCBS filed

2,632: Amendments filed

39: Floor Sessions

275: Bills Passed in both Chambers



BUDGET: Supported by billions of dollars in federal stimulus money and rebounding state tax revenues, lawmakers passed a record \$101.5 billion budget for the upcoming year. The budget includes such things as bonuses for first responders, providing services to more people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and addressing the effects of rising sea levels. Also, lawmakers scrapped proposed cuts in Medicaid funding



hospitals and nursing homes. The budget outlines \$6.7 billion in American Rescue Plan spending, as well.

COVID-19: Lawmakers passed a measure aimed at shielding businesses and healthcare providers from lawsuits related to people getting sick or dying from COVID-19. They also approved making a permanent ban on COVID-19 vaccine "passports."

EDUCATION: As part of a more than a two-decade effort by Republicans to expand school choice, lawmakers passed an overhaul of school-voucher programs. In part, the plan would increase an income threshold so that a family of four making nearly \$100,000 a year could qualify for vouchers. In higher education, the Senate considered controversial changes to the Bright Futures scholarship program before largely backing away amid outcry from students and other opponents.

ELECTIONS: Despite fierce opposition, the Legislature passed a wide-ranging elections bill that includes placing new restrictions on voting by mail. Supporters said the bill, which addresses issues such as the use of drop boxes for mail-in ballots, is needed to ensure election security and integrity. But Democrats contended that it is designed to place barriers to voting and likened it to measures aimed at Black voters in the Jim Crow era. Palm Beach County Commission elections will remain in staggered years. Governor DeSantis signed the bill into law in West Palm Beach on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

INSURANCE: After years of debating the issue, lawmakers approved ending Florida's no-fault auto insurance system. Under the bill, motorists would no longer be required to carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, coverage and would have to carry bodily injury coverage. Also, lawmakers approved changes in the property insurance system, including allowing larger annual rate increases for customers of the state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp.

PROTESTS: Governor DeSantis quickly signed a controversial law-and-order measure that was sparked by nationwide protests last year after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The law creates a new crime of "mob intimidation," enhances riot-related penalties, and makes it harder for local officials to reduce spending on law enforcement.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Republican lawmakers passed a plan to crack down on social-media companies. The plan, a priority of Governor DeSantis, includes barring social-media companies from removing political candidates from the companies' platforms and threatens hefty fines. Critics questioned the bill's constitutionality and described it as a "big government" move.



TAXES: In a major win for business groups, the legislature passed a plan that will require out-of-state online retailers to collect sales taxes on purchases made by Floridians. The roughly \$1 billion a year generated by the change will be used to replenish a depleted unemployment trust fund. Later, it will be used to offset a cut in a commercial rent tax. Florida businesses have long argued online retailers enjoyed an advantage because they didn't collect sales taxes.

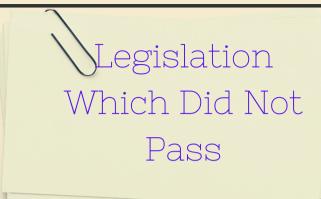
TOLL ROADS: Two years after then-Senate President Bill Galvano pushed through a law to build and expand toll roads, lawmakers largely scrapped the plan during this year's session. That included nixing the idea of building a toll road from Collier County to Polk County. Lawmakers, however, decided to move forward with projects such as extending Florida's Turnpike west from Wildwood to connect with the Suncoast Parkway.

TRANSGENDER ATHLETES: After the issue appeared dead in the Senate, lawmakers in the final days of session passed a bill that would ban transgender female athletes from competing on high-school girls' and college women's sports teams. While bill supporters said transgender female athletes could have a physical advantage, opponents said the bill targets youths already at risk for suicide, ostracism, and bullying.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: SB 2006 passed on the last day of session Friday, April 30th, was immediately sent to the Governor, and signed into law on Monday, May 3rd. This wide-ranging bill would limit local emergency orders to 7 days, which can be extended by the Board of County Commissioners as necessary in 7-day increments for a total duration of not more than 42 days. The Governor may, at any time, invalidate a local order if it is determined that the order is too restrictive of liberties of freedom.

SALES TAX HOLIDAY: The legislature passed a tax cut bill, HB 7061, that includes a 10-day sales tax holiday for back-to-school items starting July 31 and a 10-day sales tax holiday on hurricane preparedness items starting May 28. New this year is a "freedom week" sales tax holiday July 1-7 on tickets to live music, sports, or theater events, entry to a museum or state park or festival. The bill will save consumers and cost state and local governments \$196.3 million, according to state economists' estimates.

ABORTION: The House overwhelmingly passed a bill that would have prevented doctors from providing abortions that women seek because of tests showing fetuses will have disabilities. The bill about so-called "disability abortions" threatened criminal penalties against doctors, but the Senate did not take it up.



ALIMONY: A long-running debate about over

overhauling Florida's alimony laws will have to wait at least another year. While the House approved alimony changes, the controversial issue stalled in the Senate. The proposal, as in the past, sought to eliminate what is known as permanent alimony and reduce the duration of alimony.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DESIGNATION OF MATTERS OF GREAT GOVERNMENTAL CONCERN - SB 102 / HB 1053: This legislation would have taken away local governments' ability to participate in class action lawsuits and enable the Attorney General to take control of those suits. Neither bill made it out of the Committee process.

BRIGHT FUTURES: The Senate ran into noisy opposition from students and other critics when it started moving forward with a proposal to make eligibility for Bright Futures scholarships contingent on students selecting degree programs likely to lead to employment. The Senate ultimately backed away from the idea.

DATA PRIVACY: Business groups breathed easier Friday with the demise of a bill that would have given consumers more control over personal data collected by companies. The bill, backed by House Speaker Chris Sprowls, faced heavy opposition from an army of business lobbyists.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA: More than four years after Florida voters broadly legalized medical marijuana, lawmakers let die a proposal that would have limited THC potency in smokable marijuana and other cannabis products. THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the main psychoactive component in cannabis.

PENSION SYSTEM - SB 84: An effort by the Senate to overhaul the state retirement system fizzled out when it was not taken up by the House. The Senate proposal would have blocked new government employees from enrolling in the traditional pension system and required them to enroll in a 401(k)-style plan.

UNION DUES - SB 1014 / HB 835: Public-employee unions staved off attempts by lawmakers to place new restrictions on union dues. The proposals included adding a step in which government employers would have had to confirm with workers that they want dues taken out of their pay before the deductions could start.

SEAPORTS: Amended to another transportation bill during the last days of session, the amendment prohibits a local ballot initiative or referendum from restricting maritime commerce in all of Florida's seaports, including, but not limited to, regulations related to:



- Vessel type, size, number, or capacity;
- Number, origin, nationality, embarkation, or
- disembarkation of passenger or crew or their entry into this state or any local jurisdiction;
- Source, type, loading, or unloading of cargo; or
- Environmental or health records of a particular vessel or vessel line.

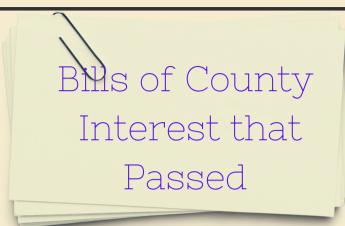
VACATION RENTALS: Bills aimed at further restricting local governments from regulating vacation rental properties did not make it through the House and Senate. SB 522, amended down from its original form which preempted the regulation of vacation rentals to the state and prohibited local laws, ordinances, or regulations that permit or require the inspection or licensure of public lodging establishments, vacation rentals, and public food service establishment, only preempts the advertising platforms of vacation rentals.

TERM LIMITS: A renewed attempt by the House to impose eight-year term limits on county school board members died in the Senate. The proposal, which has emerged repeatedly in recent years, would have asked voters in 2022 to pass a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of school board members.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: After massive job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Senate backed increasing unemployment benefits from a maximum of \$275 a week to \$375 a week. The House did not take up the proposal, which also faced opposition from Governor DeSantis.

SB 418 / HB 327 - Public Records Exemption - Persons Seeking Shelter

Creates an exemption from public records requirements for the addresses and telephone numbers of persons provided public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic event and held by the agency that provided the emergency shelter.



SB 1876 / HB - 421 - Relief From Burdens of on Real Property Rights

This bill made it easier and extended the timeline for a property owner to bring a Bert Harris action against a government.

SB 1128 / HB 919 - Preemption Over Restriction on Utility Services

This bill would block local governments from restricting or prohibiting the types or fuel sources of energy production that may be supplied, converted, or delivered by providers of electricity, natural gas, and liquified petroleum gas.

SB 856 / HB 839 - Preemption on Fuel Retailers and Related Transportation Infrastructure

This bill prevents local governments from prohibiting - but not from regulating - the siting, development, or redevelopment of "fuel retailers" (gas stations) and associated infrastructure within their jurisdictional boundaries.

SB 266 / HB 403 - Home-Based Businesses

The Senate passed the House language of this bill late on the last day of session by a vote of 19-18. All four of Palm Beach County's Senators voted against the House language, which was not as favorable to local governments. The House version removed compromised language on hours of operation, parking, heavy equipment, signage, storage, and business transactions in view of the street.

SB 1884 / HB 1409 - Preemption of Firearms and Ammunition Regulation

This bill provides that the right to maintain a legal action against a preempted local regulation applies even if the local regulation is unwritten.

SB 268 / HB 735 - Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing

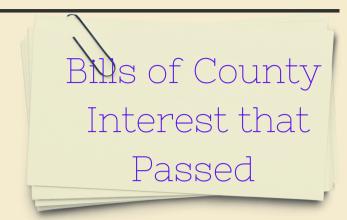
The licensing of occupations is expressly preempted to the state and supersedes any local government licensing requirement of occupations with the exception of the following:

- (a) Any local government licensing of occupations expires on July 1, 2023.
- (b) Any local government licensing of occupations authorized by general law.

The bill expressly still allows local Journeyman licensure for plumbing, pipefitting, mechanical, and HVAC trades.

SB 1294 / HB 663 - Cottage Food Operations

The bill preempts the regulation of cottage food operations to the state. However, cottage food operations must comply with all applicable county and municipal laws and ordinances regulating traffic, parking, noise, signage, and hours of retail operation. A cottage food operation is an unincorporated business operated by a natural person who, under



certain conditions and restrictions, produces or packages food that is not potentially hazardous in their residence, such as breads, pastries, honey, jams, popcorn, nuts, dry pasta, dry herbs, etc.

SB 1084 / HB 805 - Volunteer Ambulance Services

Allows faith-based volunteer ambulance services to operate in certain counties without receiving a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

1076 / HB 53 - Public Works Projects

The bill removes the 50 percent or more, state-appropriated funding threshold within the definition of public works project and applies the pre-bid prohibitions to activities that exceed \$1,000,000 in value and that are paid for, in whole or in part, with state-appropriated funds. Specifically, except as required by federal or state law, the state or any political subdivision that contracts for a public works project may not prevent a certified, licensed, or registered contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier, from participating in the bidding process based on the geographic location of the company headquarters or offices of the contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier submitting a bid on a public works project or the residences of employees of such contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier.

In comparison to the language originally proposed and advanced through committees, local governments won large concessions on local preference ordinances, apprenticeship programs, and the preemption threshold. However, late changes to the bill included House-driven language placing additional requirements on stormwater management programs.

SB 1382 / HB 667 - Building Inspections

This legislation would require local governments to provide an electronic method to request building inspections and allows local code enforcement to conduct virtual inspections at their discretion (unless it is structural.) The bill also requires that code enforcement refund 10% of the permit fee if they find the inspection fails but do not provide a reason for the failure to the permit holder within three business days.

SB 750 HB - 337 Impact Fees

This bill caps the number of times an impact fee can be increased only once every 4 years, and caps increases at 50% of the current fee. The bill also requires local governments to provide a credit against any impact fees for any contributions made to public facilities.

SB 60 / HB 883 - County & Municipal Code Inspections

The bill prohibits local government code inspectors from conducting inspections based upon anonymous complaints and requires those making a complaint to provide their name and address before an inspection can begin. The bill would also allow immediate inspections in cases of an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or in cases of imminent destruction to habitat or sensitive resources.



SB 88 / HB - 1601 Farming Operations

Prohibits farms from being held liable for certain claims for tort liability except under certain circumstances.

SB 1186 / HB - 1379 Property Assessments for Elevated Properties

The bill provides that the elevation or rebuilding of a residential property to bring it into compliance with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and the Florida Building Code shall not increase the property's assessed value for tax purposes under certain circumstances. This bill would place the question before the voters on the November 2022 ballot. If passed, the bill would take effect on January 1, 2023.

SB 64 / HB 263 - Reclaimed Water

This bill requires certain domestic wastewater utilities to submit to the DEP by a certain date a plan for eliminating nonbeneficial surface water discharge within a specified timeframe. It further requires domestic wastewater utilities applying for permits for new or expanded surface water discharges to prepare a specified plan for eliminating nonbeneficial discharges as part of its permit application.

SB 496 / HB 59 - Growth Management

The bill would require local governments to update their comprehensive plans with a private property rights element.

SB 1954 / HB 7019 - Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

Creates the "Resilient Florida Grant Program" within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) which provides funding, subject to appropriation, to local governments for the costs of resilience planning and projects to adapt critical assets. Also directs the DEP to develop a statewide data set necessary to determine the risks to inland and coastal communities, including statewide sea level rise projections; and develop a statewide assessment, based on the statewide data set, which identifies vulnerable areas, infrastructure, and critical assets.

SB 2516 - Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee

A conforming bill linked to Senate Bill 2500, the General Appropriations Act, this legislation provides the policy framework and funding for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to expedite implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP).



SB 1944 / HB 1567 Redundant Utility & Communication Poles

The bill would move telecommunications poles under the regulatory purview of the PSC, the same as electric utility poles, rather than the Federal Communications Commission. As electric utilities install new, hardened utility poles mandated by the PSC's resilience requirements, they have found they cannot remove the older "redundant" poles due to telecommunications providers not transferring their attachments to the new poles.

SB 400 / HB 913 - Public Records

Prohibits an agency that receives a public record request from responding to the request by filing an action for declaratory relief against the requester to determine whether that record meets the definition of a public record or if it is confidential or exempt.

SB 1034 / HB 1629 - SR 715 Designation

A section of SR 715 in Pahokee named after two PBSO Deputies.

SB 2008 / HB 1429 - Tourist Development Taxes

Would have authorized that TDT or CDT revenue could be used to finance flood mitigation projects or improvements.



SB 334 / HB 239 Regulation of Smoking in Public Places

This bill would authorize counties and municipalities to further restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks under certain circumstances. It also prohibits smoking within the boundaries of a state park.

SB 972 / HB 1019 - Administrative Entity Telecommunication Meetings

Would have allowed the certain meeting of the South Florida Regional Climate Compact to meet through technology instead of in person.

SB 1824 / HB 1153 - Public Records, DEM, and Local EM

Would have exempted after-action report information submitted to Departments of Emergency Management.



FY 2021-22 Budget Highlights- \$101.5 billion

Environment	12
Health & Human Service	s13
Education	14
Transportation	16
Criminal Justice	17
Economic Development	17
Affordable Housing	17

ENVIRONMENT

- \$360 million for Everglades Restoration
- \$354 million Water Quality Improvements
 - \$111.7 million+ Wastewater Grant Program +\$500 million (ARP American Rescue Plan)
 - \$116.6 million water projects
- \$102 million+ Florida Forever (land acquisition)
 - +300 million (ARP) for the Florida Wildlife Corridor
 - \$2 million FRDAP
- \$2.5 million Reef Protection Tire Abatement
- \$75 million Petroleum Tank Cleanup
- \$111.7 million+ Resilient Florida Program +\$500 million (ARP)
- \$10 million for the Resilient Coastlines Program
 - \$2 million for coral reef restoration and resilience grants
- \$100 million+ in beach restoration +50 million (ARP)
- \$40 million (ARP) for the alternative water supply grant program
- \$1.6 million Office of Energy Grants
- \$11 million Feeding Programs/Farm Share/Feeding Florida
- \$50 million recurring water storage north of Lake Okeechobee
- Palm Beach County Beach Restoration \$13,166,070
- Derelict Vessel Removal Program \$25,000,000
- C-51 Reservoir \$48,000,000

Palm Beach County Appropriations:

- Belle Glade Lake Okeechobee Watershed Area Stormwater Conveyance Improvements \$350,000
- Lake Worth Lagoon Monitoring \$250,000
- Loxahatchee River Restoration (LRPI) \$353,650
- Delray Beach Owens Baker Tank Improvements \$250,000
- Royal Palm Beach Florida Power & Light Pathway Dry Detention Ponds Phase 2 \$450,000
- West Palm Beach Flood Mitigation Tidal Valve Project \$105,000
- Loggerhead Marinelife Center \$249,779
- Pahokee King Memorial Park Improvements \$250,000

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

\$4.3 billion in funding to cover the highest Medicaid enrollee workload in State history.

- KidCare is fully funded
- \$240 million to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to mothers and newborns, from two months to a full year following birth.
- \$22 million increase for Healthy Start
- \$9 million to support the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity to develop strategies to reduce health disparities and advance health equity.
- \$89 million physician supplemental payments
- Hospital Programs- subject to Federal authorization: Direct Payment Program, Indirect Medical Education Program for Teaching Hospitals
- \$9.4 million increase for the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program
- \$5.4 million rate increase for Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center (PPEC)
- \$25 million reimbursements for Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Teams
- \$18.3 million rate increase for intermediate care facilities serving persons with disabilities
- \$22.6 million Over-the-counter drug benefits for adults
- \$100 million+ for child welfare
 - Including an increase in recurring dollars
 - \$42 million for best practices
 - \$12 million adoption subsidies
- \$1 billion+ to address the community mental health/substance abuse, including:
 - \$117.1 million from the State Opioid Response Grant to provide evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery
 - \$11.3 million Opioid Legal Settlement Funds
 - \$112.5 million Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Block Grants
 - \$3 million 2-1-1 Call Volume and Coordination Expansion
 - \$1 million Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Mental Illnesses
- \$3.2 million for homelessness challenge grants

Palm Beach County Appropriations:

- Caregiving Youth Project Expansion \$250,000
- ChildNet Preventing Opioid/Substance Abuse Based Removals \$360,000
- Behind the Mask: Support for Mental Health Services Faulk Center for Counseling \$75,000
- Place of Hope Child Welfare Services \$250,000
- Alzheimer's Association Brain Bus \$319,000
- Foster Parent Recruitment and Stability \$750,000
- Jewish Family Services Mental First Aid Coalition \$100,000
- Jordan Avi Ogman Foundation Cure for Rare Neurodegenerative Disease \$50,000
- Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center Butterfly House Services \$282,039

- \$22.8 billion in K-12 funding
- \$149.1 million decrease in FEFP due to enrollment decline
 - \$464.3 million set aside in a Student Reserve Allocation for enrollment returns
- Note FEFP increases by \$315.2 million over the current year with the reserve allocation included
 - \$473 million increase (3.5%) in FEFP flexible Base Funds
 - \$39 increase in per-student funding to \$\$7,795 per-student (Governor- \$233)
 - \$53.42 increase in the Base Student Allocation (Governor- \$132)
 - \$201.4 million increase Required Local Effort (millage maintained)
 - \$550 million Teacher Salary increase allocation (\$50 million increase)

Non-FEFP

- \$34.9 million School and Instructional Enhancement Grants
- \$6 million School District Intensive Reading Initiative Pilot
- \$16.3 million in mentoring programs
- \$7.1 million Community School grant program
- \$75 million New Worlds Reading Initiative +\$125 million (ARP)

Early Learning

- \$408.6 million for VPK
- \$932.8 million School Readiness Program

Federal Dollars:

- \$417.3 million increase in Federal Grants
- \$2 billion CRRSA funds- one-time emergency relief funds for K-12 education to help offset the costs of education related to the pandemic and to reopening schools.
- 6.3 billion- one-time emergency relief for K-12 education to help offset the costs of education related to the pandemic and to reopening schools
- \$217 million \$1000 bonus for full-time teachers and principals
- \$488 million Discretionary
- \$348.3 million CRRSA one-time emergency relief funds to meet the child care needs of essential workers and to stabilize child care programs by covering a range of expenses such as personnel costs, rent, facility maintenance and improvements, personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-related supplies
- \$166 million CRRSA- two \$1000 bonuses for early learning instructors
- \$1.5 billion ARP one-time emergency relief funds to help stabilize child care
 programs by covering a range of expenses such as personnel costs, rent, facility
 maintenance and improvements, personal protective equipment (PPE) and

COVID-related supplies.

\$950 million ARP essential worker child care support

Higher Education

- No tuition increases
- \$560 million workforce programs

School Safety:

- \$180 million Safe Schools Allocation
- \$120 million for Mental Health Assistance Allocation (\$30 million increase)
- \$42 million for school hardening grants
- \$6.5 million for the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian program

Charter School Capital Outlay:

- \$182.9 million for public charter school maintenance
- \$7.7 million for lab school maintenance

Palm Beach County Appropriations:

- West Technical Education Center Adult Ed & Workforce Development Training \$426,857
- Boca Raton Habilitation Center Adults with Disabilities \$200,000
- Learning for Life \$500,000
- City of Delray Beach Learning Loss Recovery \$80,000
- Community Based Post-COVID Acceleration Initiative \$200,000
- Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools \$3,500,000
- Wayne Barton Study Center \$300,000
- Stay KidSafe! Elementary Safety Education and Human Trafficking Prevention \$184,760
- Palm Beach Habilitation Center Recurring \$225,000
- FAU Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program (MPFSFP) \$889,101
- AD Henderson University Lab School STEM Arena & Multipurpose Building \$17,304,000
- Palm Beach State College Supplemental Operational Funding \$200,000
- Palm Beach State College 2+2 Student Success Incentive Education \$790,295

TRANSPORTATION

- \$9.2 billion + State Transportation Work Program
 - Plus \$1.75 billion to backfill lost revenue for infrastructure (ARP)
 - Plus \$250 million for seaports impacted by COVID (ARP)
 - \$89 million in local transportation projects

• Work program highlights:

- Reduced funding for SCOP (\$88.8 million) & SCRAP (\$38.1 million)
- Public Transit Development/Grants \$444 million
- Seaport Economic Development \$15 million
- Seaport Grants \$75 million
- Seaport Investment Program \$10 million
- Seaport Access Program \$10 million
- Rail Development Grants \$40 million
- Intermodal Development Grants \$53 million

Palm Beach County Appropriations

- JARC Florida-Palm Beach County \$335,000
- Boynton Beach Town Square Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing \$75,000
- Central Palm Beach County Historical Infrastructure Improvement \$3,000,000
- Jewish Transportation Rales Rides \$150,000
- Royal Palm Beach La Mancha Extension Development \$450,000
- Transportation Disadvantaged Palm Beach County Bus Passes \$994,550

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- \$60.9 million for crime labs
- \$9 million for Public Safety, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Local Grant Program

Palm Beach County Appropriations

- Oak Street Home II Female Teen Delinquency Prevention Program \$630,000
- RESTORE Reentry Program \$500,000
- Riviera Beach Public Safety Complex \$1,000,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$50 million+ for VISIT FLORIDA's marketing programs +25 million (ARP)
- \$50 million for the Job Growth Grant Fund (ARP)
- \$93 million+ for Re-Employment Assistance System Modernization +56 million (ARP)
- \$23.2 million Cultural & Museum Grants
- \$21.5 million Library Grants and Aid

Palm Beach County Appropriations

- Everglades Workforce Training \$750,000
- Floridians Active Duty Assistance Program \$250,000

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- \$209.2 million affordable housing
 - \$62.5 million State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program
 - \$146.7 million State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP)



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