

## Summary 2016 Legislative Priorities and Information

1. **SB 124: Public Procurement Practices** / GENERAL BILL by [Evers](#) / Public Procurement Practices; Deleting provisions creating the Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force; requiring a private entity that submits an unsolicited proposal to pay an initial application fee and additional amounts if the fee does not cover certain costs; deleting provisions relating to notice to affected local jurisdictions; increasing the dollar threshold for a contract amount of a project for which a person, the state, or a political subdivision is prohibited from refusing a surety bond issued by a surety company that meets certain requirements, etc.

Related Bills: SB 126; HB 95; HB 97

2. **CS/SB 190: Conservation Easements** / GENERAL BILL by Community Affairs ; [Hutson](#) / Conservation Easements; Deleting a requirement that an exemption for a conservation easement must be renewed annually; providing that a property owner is not required to file a renewal application until the use of the property no longer complies with conservation easement requirements or restrictions, etc.

Related Bills: HB 501

3. **SB 304: Agritourism** / GENERAL BILL by [Stargel](#) / Agritourism; Prohibiting a local government from enforcing any local ordinance, regulation, rule, or policy that prohibits, restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land, etc. This bill was passed by the Senate Agriculture Committee on 11/2.

Related Bill: CS/HB 59

4. **SB 406: Playground Safety** / GENERAL BILL by [Sobel](#) / Playground Safety; Citing this act as the "Playground Safety Act"; requiring certain new and existing playgrounds to comply with specified safety standards and guidelines; authorizing counties and municipalities to require permits and charge fees for the construction or renovation of certain playgrounds, etc.

Related Bill: None

5. **HB 431 – Fire Safety**: This is a repeat bill from last year. It exempts nonresidential farm buildings from the National Fire Code. It is problematic for us because we require rental stables to meet the NFC. On properties with stabling for up to 50 horses per acre adherence to the Fire Code is important. It also exempts certain assembly (people in the structure) from the fire code based on size and the number of times the structure is used.

Related Bills: SB 822; HB 535; SB 704

6. **HB 461 – Location of Utilities**: This bill is a return from last year where there is an effort to shift the cost of relocating private utilities such as gas, electric and cable from the operator to the local government. It is less onerous than last year however it is still potentially costly. This is a high priority item for the League of Cities.

Related Bill: CS/SB 416

7. **HB 479 – Special Districts:** This requires the posting of significantly more information by special districts on web-sites. It also changes oversight from the local level to the state. The web-posting requirements are in addition to the ones discussed below under SB 516. We have not estimated the cost of compliance with HB 479, we have however, calculated the cost of compliance with SB 516 to be between \$85,000 and \$105,000 per year. Pine Tree Water Control Districts entire annual budget is \$143,000

Related Bills: HB 593; HB 745; HB 7002; CS/SB 516; SB 686

8. **SB 516: Special Districts / General Bill** by Ring; Gaetz / Amending 189.016 requiring each special district to operate an official website; requiring each special district's website to include specified budget information. On the surface this seems innocuous; however, it amends 189.016 (4)(b) read as follows:

- b. Each special district shall publish an online version of its budget information on its official website which allows the public to:
  1. View multiple years of budget, general ledger, and checking account data;
  2. Review year-over-year spending trends, examine individual accounting entries, and filter data according to categories in the special district's chart of accounts, including, but not limited to, fund, department, division, program, or activity;
  3. Download financial data and graphs;
  4. View data in different graphical formats, including, but not limited to, stacked line, trend line, bar graph, and pie chart;
  5. View data in tabular formats;
  6. View information for multiple special district departments, divisions, funds, or financial categories simultaneously; and
  7. View and compare revenue and expense trends simultaneously on the same graph for any level of financial data.

This is a concern to us because there are two special districts within Wellington that we are responsible for their financial reporting, ACME and Pine Tree. We, nor any other municipality that I am aware of, has this level of financial sophistication on our web site, and with our current software it is doubtful that we could produce the required manipulation tools. Providing the data is not a problem, it is the analysis tools and the requirements for the simultaneous ability to analyze and manipulate data that are problematic. IT is running cost estimates to implement the requirements of this bill.

Related Bills: CS/SB 479

9. **SB 598: Public Works Projects / GENERAL BILL** by Brandes / Public Works Projects; Prohibiting the state and political subdivisions that contract for the construction, maintenance, repair, or improvement of public works from imposing restrictive conditions on contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers; prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from restricting qualified bidders from submitting bids, etc.

Related Bills: CS/HB 181

10. **HB 605 – Applications for Building Permits:** Requires counties & local enforcement agencies to post all types of building permit applications on their websites; specifies format in which completed applications must be submitted & format in which attachments & drawings may be submitted. We are generally in compliance with this proposal; however, we may be required to amend some forms upon implementation.

Related Bills: None

11. **SB 712 – Compensation of Members of the Legislature:** Prescribing the annual salaries for members of the Legislature; providing for future adjustment of salaries, etc. While this bill does not have a direct bearing on the Village it is interesting to note that it proposes increases of 228% for the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House and raises of 277% for all other members of the Legislature.

12. **HB 723 – Building Code Enforcement:** Prohibits local government responsible for enforcing Florida Building Code from imposing or enforcing fine, penalty, or lien against property owner for noncompliance committed by tenant.

Related Bills: None

13. **SB 724 – Public Records:** Authorizing a court to hold a custodian of a public record personally liable for the reasonable costs of enforcement, including attorney fees, in a civil action to enforce ch, 119, F.S., if certain conditions exist.

Related Bills: None

14. ***SJR 734– Counties or Municipalities May Establish or Abolish School Districts:*** This is a joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution that will allow Counties and Municipalities to establish or abolish school districts within their boundaries.

Related Bills: HJR 539

15. **SB 788 Safe Path to Public Schools:** Requiring, instead of authorizing, the Department of Transportation to establish a grant program to fund local, regional, and state bicycle and pedestrian projects that support the Safe Paths to Schools Program.

Related Bills: None

16. **SB 822 Firesafety:** Revising provisions relating to certain structures located on agricultural property which are exempt from the Florida Fire Prevention Code; requiring that certain structures used for assembly, business, or mercantile activity be classified; specifying that certain structures are subject to annual inspection for classification; revising certain dimensions of a tent that is exempt from the code; authorizing a local fire official to consider a specified publication when identifying an alternative to a firesafety code.

Related Bills: CS/HB 431; HB 535; SB 704

17. **HB 841 – Non Residential Farm Building:** Exempts nonresidential farm buildings, farm fences, & farm signs located on lands used for bona fide agricultural purposes from any county or municipal special assessment or dependent special district assessment; provides

exception. This is the companion bill to Senator Deans Bill (SB 544), the language is identical. Last year Senator Dean was unable to secure a house companion bill.

Sponsored by Van Zant  
Related Bills: SB 544

18. **HB 857 – Public Records/Attorney Fees**: Authorizes court to hold custodian of public record personally liable in civil action under certain conditions.

Sponsored by Pafford  
Related bills: SB 724

19. **HB 885 – Residential Facilities**: Specifies applicability of siting requirements for community residential homes; provides applicability with respect to local land use & zoning.

Sponsored by: Avila  
Related Bills: None

20. **SB 904 – Bicycle Ways**: Requiring the installation of solar-powered, in-road lights in certain bicycle ways that are established in, or within a specified radius of, an urban area, etc.

Sponsored by: Sachs  
Related Bills: None

21. **SB 956 – Special Districts**: Revising legislative intent with respect to the Uniform Special District Accountability Act to include dependent special districts; specifying the period of time for which certain budget information must remain on the special district's website; specifying the Legislature's authority to create dependent special districts by special act; revising the criteria that must be documented before a special district may be declared inactive, etc.

Sponsored by Stargel  
Related Bills: CS/HB 479; HB 593; HB 745; HB 7001; CS/SB 516; SB 666

22. **HB 7005 – Environmental Resources**: This is a very broad ranging bill that covers water quality and quantity, minimum flows, water storage, ground water recharge and regional water supply plans.

Related Bills: CS/SB 552; HB 589

23. **HB 7009 – Local Government Capital Recovery**: Requires municipalities & counties that meet certain thresholds for specified delinquent revenues to issue procurement requests to collect revenues; requires procurement requests be sent to collection agencies; provides requirements for content of procurement requests; This will have little effect on Wellington because the "collection" thresholds are so high it is noteworthy that the legislature feels compelled to force local governments to use collection agencies for large dollar delinquent accounts. As a matter of practice we already do this with long outstanding balances.

Sponsored by Rep Cortes and the Finance & Tax Committee  
Related Bills: None