

SHUMAKER

ADVISORS

2022 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Week of January 31st - February 4th

HIGHLIGHTS

The fourth week of Florida's 2022 Regular Legislative Session concluded today. With five weeks remaining in this year's session, the legislature is approaching the halfway point of their time in Tallahassee for 2022. As of this week, 35 bills have passed the Senate and await passage in the House. One bill, the joint resolution to establish newly drawn state House and Senate districts, has passed in both chambers as of Wednesday. Notably, the redistricting bill passed unanimously in the Senate, and along party-lines in the House. The Senate passed an additional 20 bills with near complete unanimity on Thursday, approving a wide range of bipartisan legislation, including provisions to require insurance coverage on childrens' hearing aids and to authorize schools to have opioid overdose counteractants on hand. In addition, the process of crafting a balanced state budget began this week, with Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs presenting preliminary budget spreadsheets in each of their meetings. Budget deliberations will continue through the next several weeks until each line-item is agreed upon.

REDISTRICTING

State House and Senate state maps are nearly finalized, but the House has put Congressional district map deliberations on pause following a call by Governor Ron DeSantis to review Florida's current fifth congressional district for constitutionality. The Senate has approved



Senate President Wilton Simpson presides over the Senate in Session on Thursday, where members approved 20 pieces of legislation. Photo via Florida Politics.

their congressional redistricting proposal, and the House will continue work on theirs once the courts have offered an opinion on the constitutionality of the district in question. Nonetheless, the House passed state House and Senate district maps on the floor this week along party-lines, with both maps combined into one joint resolution ([SB 100](#)). Being a joint resolution, the legislation will not require approval by the Governor and rather, will be sent off to State Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Florida Supreme Court for review and approval within the next 30 days. This 30-day requirement will ideally allow for time to make necessary changes or corrections to new districts prior to Sine Die on March 11th.

IN THE BUDGET

This week, House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs presented their preliminary budget proposals including funding recommendations for state agencies, local projects, and other state-funded priorities. Health care and Pre K-12 education will once again make up the bulk of the total budget with proposals totaling roughly 48 billion dollars and 24 billion dollars, respectively. Notably, Senate proposals for both of the largest budget areas include sizable allocations to increase pay for employees, such as school and nursing home staff. Other silos, including infrastructure and tourism, justice, and environment and agriculture will round out the approximately 100 billion dollar plan. Interestingly, early proposals leave out Governor DeSantis's billion dollar gas tax cut, and have underfunded a number of his other priorities. House and Senate Appropriations Committees are expected to release full budget spreadsheets in the coming days for consideration next week, from which point joint conference committees will deliberate each silo until the two chambers are able to concur on each line item.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

HEALTH CARE Mental health and substance abuse are once again on the forefront of health policy this week. Legislation introduced by Bradenton Senator Jim Boyd aiming to broaden accessibility to opioid-blocking drugs passed unanimously in the Senate on Thursday. [SB 544](#) would allow pharmacists to order and supply antidote drugs, such as naloxone. The proposal also provides law enforcement personnel with the ability to carry and administer antidotes. The House version ([HB 731](#)) awaits consideration on the House floor alongside the Senate bill.

[SB 282](#) sponsored by St. Petersburg Senator Darryl Rouson was also unanimously approved by the Senate this week. The proposal would increase the use of peer specialists in mental health and substance abuse disorder counseling throughout the state. To do so, it would create exemptions in the screening process, allowing recovering addicts to serve as counselors who provide insight based on their lived experiences. The associated House proposal ([HB 795](#)) currently awaits consideration by the full membership of the lower chamber.

EDUCATION A number of education bills moved this week, including bipartisan proposals like a prohibition on the use of mechanical restraints for students with disabilities, which passed House and Senate committees unanimously on Tuesday, and new protocols for students with epilepsy or seizure disorders, which

passed a House panel unanimously on Wednesday. Other measures, such as a scale back on standardized testing in favor of progress monitoring and updates to the school grading system ([HB 1193](#)) and a reduction in school board member salaries ([HB 1467](#)), sparked debate in committee hearings this week.

ENVIRONMENT Governor DeSantis awarded over \$404 million through the Resilient Florida Grant Program to environmental resilience projects throughout the state this week. This investment will prioritize Florida's rise in sea-level and focus on the protection of coastal and inland infrastructure by preparing communities for the adverse impacts of flooding and storm surge.

Lake Mary Senator Jason Brodeur's proposal, [SB 1940](#), would establish a Statewide Office of Resiliency within the Office of the Governor, originally created within a 2019 executive order. This legislation would codify the office in statute and expand on their duties, directing the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection to develop a resilience action plan for the state highway system, set up a prioritized list of resilience projects that would include costs and timelines, and create a database that identifies such things as medical centers, utilities, emergency operations centers, and airports that would be threatened by rising sea levels. Additionally, the bill increases the Resilient Florida Grant Program eligibility to include small cities and counties to help communities address threats of sea-level rise and flooding.

AUTO INSURANCE Last year, legislation to repeal Florida's no-fault auto insurance law was approved by both chambers and subsequently vetoed by the Governor. The same legislation is up for consideration

ADVISORS NEWS

Former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman joined Shumaker Advisors this week. Kriseman will serve as Managing Principal of the U.S. Cities Practice, where he'll focus on urban planning and sustainable economic development. He also is joining Shumaker's law firm as Of Counsel in the Public Policy and Government Affairs Service Line.



Kriseman was Mayor of St. Pete from 2014 to 2022. During his time in City Hall, Kriseman advocated for clean energy and climate resiliency. Government tracking group APolitical named him one of the world's 100 most influential climate policy leaders. He also oversaw the completion of the city's new pier and police headquarters. Read the Florida Politics article [here](#), or view Mayor Kriseman's bio [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, CONT.

again this year ([SB 150](#)), and was heard in its first Senate committee on Wednesday. The House version ([HB 1525](#)) will be considered in its first committee next week. Essentially, the bills seek to require bodily injury coverage for Florida drivers instead of personal injury protection coverage, a change whose effects on insurance rates are ambiguous. This uncertainty was one of the reasons Governor DeSantis opted to veto the legislation last year.

CONDOMINIUM REGULATIONS In the wake of the tragic condominium collapse in Surfside last year, lawmakers are working to update the state's condo regulations, many of which have remained unchanged for upwards of 60 years. [SB 1702](#) and [SB 7042](#) seek to update regulations on condos to include mandatory minimum structural inspections and other inspection requirements relating to the building's age, size, and proximity to the coastline. Both bills were unanimously approved by the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on Tuesday, and have one remaining committee stop. Similar measures in the House have yet to be considered in committee.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING A bill aiming to address reporting and prevention of human trafficking in Florida passed through its second House Committee this week. [HB 1439](#), sponsored by Hillsborough Representative Jackie Toledo, seeks to eliminate hourly rates at hotels, motels, and vacation rentals. If passed, the bill would raise the first-time penalty for purchasing sex workers



Hillsborough Representative Jackie Toledo presented her human trafficking legislation to its second of three House committee stops on Tuesday. Photo via Florida Politics..



The tragic collapse of a condominium building in Surfside, Florida last year has triggered a wave of legislation to update regulations for condos. Photo via Florida Politics..

from a first-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony, and would require the maintenance of a state-wide database to track and identify trends. Two related Senate bills ([SB 772/SB 1852](#)) and associated public records exemptions ([HB 1441/SB 756](#)) are also making their way through the process, garnering bipartisan support along the way.

TOURISM MARKETING Florida's tourism marketing arm, known as Visit Florida, will likely be safe from repeal until 2031 under a bill ([SB 434](#)) passed in the Senate this week. The House version ([HB 489](#)) extends the program's repeal date only to 2028, and awaits consideration on the floor alongside the Senate version.

QUESTIONS?

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