



Member Capital News

January 17, 2020

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

LET SESSION BEGIN – WEEK 1: RECAP JANUARY 13 – 17, 2020

Tuesday marked the beginning of the 2020 Legislative Session. Noon was the deadline for filing most types of bills in both the House and Senate. So far, there are 3,393 Bills and PCBs filed for the 2020 Session!

In this busy first week FSHC's Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Budget Request (HB 3533 by Rep. Plakon) passed its first committee (House Transportation & Tourism Appropriation Subcommittee). Next stop – House Appropriations.

Governor DeSantis, President Galvano and Speaker Oliva kicked off the session with opening remarks outlining their goals for the next 60 days.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis highlighted the environment and education in his speech before House and Senate members. While many in the news media cover his proposals on education and the environment as bipartisan efforts, both are viewed skeptically by environmental and education advocates.

Senate President Bill Galvano urged civility in his Senate address, a good message that highlights the need for respect and cooperation. However, the Senate, the House and the Governor's Office are all controlled by the same party — Republican.

House Speaker Jose Oliva addressed his signature issue, healthcare. Oliva assailed hospitals, medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies for ballooning healthcare costs. Oliva also wants to crack down on university spending.

Besides Opening Sessions and committee meetings, the Estimating Conference Committee met and predicted Florida's economy for FY 2020-2021. Although still below what is needed, revenue is better than previously estimated. But with an expected slowdown still on the horizon, as housing and construction numbers are expected to further weaken, a revenue projection that state economists updated Wednesday remained below some earlier forecasts. Overall, the state still comes in less than last year, but is \$306 million better than where it was in August.

An August forecast trimmed earlier estimates of revenue by \$451.6 million for the current fiscal year and by \$416.1 million for the upcoming 2020-2021 fiscal year. Along with adding \$306 million to this year's estimate, economists Wednesday bumped up the 2020-2021 estimate to \$86 million. Gov. Ron DeSantis has proposed increasing the current fiscal year budget of \$91 billion to \$91.4 billion in 2020-2021.

Below are the House and Senate calendar links to give you a look of what's to come during the second and third weeks of Florida's session...

HOUSE - SESSION WEEK 2 & 3:

[https://statics3.lobbytools.com/docs/2020/1/17/120349
house_agenda_calendar_january_21_2020.pdf](https://statics3.lobbytools.com/docs/2020/1/17/120349_house_agenda_calendar_january_21_2020.pdf)

SENATE - SESSION WEEK 2 & 3:

<https://statics3.lobbytools.com/docs/2020/1/17/120348>

[senate_agenda_calendar_january_20_2020.pdf](#)

2020 BILLS FOLLOWED BY FSHC

* New bills & updates highlighted in Red

Housing Related Bills

[SB 68:/HB163](#) Homelessness: SB 68 requires \$10 million of housing trust funds be transferred annually to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Children and Families for the purpose of funding challenge grants. HB 163 does not. Both bills expand membership of the Council on Homelessness to include a representative of Florida Housing Coalition and Secretary of the Department of Elderly Affairs, and updates terminology. SB 68 passed Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, 10/22/19, now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. HB 163 passed House Committee Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee 10/24/19, now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[SB 306/HB 381](#) State Funds; Exempting the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund from a provision authorizing the Legislature to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the General Revenue Fund. SB 306 referred to Infrastructure and Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations. HB 381 in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[CS/SB 364/CS/CS/CSHB 39](#) Independent Living Task Force: Establishing the Independent Living Task Force within Florida Housing; requiring the corporation to use existing and available resources to administer and support the activities of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2020. SB 364 was amended in Senate Community Affairs 12/9 to match the amended house bill. **CS/CS HB39 passed State Affairs Committee 1/16/20 as amended to include a representative of the Managing Entities.**

[SB 374/HB 175-](#) Housing Discrimination: Removes housing discrimination as cause of action for relief & damages stemming from violations of Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992; revises timeframe & conditions under which aggrieved person may commence civil action to enforce specified rights. HB 175 passed Civil Justice Subcommittee, 11/14/19, now in Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee. SB 374 passed Governmental Oversight and Accountability 12/9/19, now in Rules.

[SB 502:](#) Emergency Mitigation and Response: Establishing the Hurricane Michael Recovery Task Force to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding additional assistance needed in the response to recovery from and mitigation of the effects of Hurricane Michael. Subject to the appropriation of funds, creating the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program to provide funds to local governments for certain affordable housing recovery efforts, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$1,085,000.

[CS/SB 998/HB 1339](#) – Housing: Implements changes to affordable housing including authorizing a board of county commissioners to approve development of affordable housing on any parcel zoned for residential, commercial, or industrial use; requiring counties, municipalities, and special districts to include certain data relating to impact fees in their annual financial reports; reduces “workforce housing” under the Loan Program from 140% to 80% or from 150% to 120% in areas of critical need; deletes the term “public-private partnership; decreases to 50% the number of units that have to be set aside for “workforce housing”; sets aside 5% of SHIP funds to provide counties and municipalities for the construction of transitional housing for persons aging out of foster care. Such housing must be constructed on a campus that provides housing for persons aging out of foster care. The corporation must consult with the Department of Children and Families to create minimum criteria for

such housing. [SB 998](#) was amended 1/13/20 and the mandated SHIP language affecting special needs was restored (see [CS/SB 998](#)). [HB 1339](#) now in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs.

[SB 1084/CS/CS/HB 209](#)- Emotional Support Animals: Prohibits discrimination in rental of dwelling to person with disability or disability-related need who has emotional support animal; prohibits landlord from requiring such person to pay extra compensation; provides exception; authorizes landlord to request certain written documentation; specifies person with disability or disability-related need is liable for damage done by emotional support animal; revises definition of "handicap." [CS/HB 209](#) passed Children, Families & Seniors 1/14/20 as amended. [SB 1084](#) passed Agriculture 1/14/20, now in Innovation, Industry & Technology.

[SB 1066/CS/HB 637](#): Impact Fees: Revises conditions that counties, municipalities, & special districts must satisfy before enacting an ordinance or passing resolutions; provides that impact fee credits are assignable & transferrable under certain conditions; requires certain counties & municipalities to establish impact fee review committees. [HB 637](#) passed Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee 1/14/20 as amended.

[HB 1459](#): Affordable Housing Tax Reductions: Authorizes counties, municipalities, & special districts to waive impact fees for certain nonprofit corporations for specified purposes; provides tax reduction to entities that provide affordable housing to identified groups; provides criteria for receiving reduction; provides formula for determining amount of reduction; requires taxpayer who receives reduction to file annual report. [HB 1459](#) now in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Related Bills

[SB 706/HB 939](#): Insurance Coverage Parity for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: Requires Medicaid managed care plans to submit annual report to AHCA relating to parity between mental health & substance use disorder benefits & medical & surgical benefits; provides removes provisions relating to optional coverage for mental & nervous disorders; requires OIR to implement & enforce certain federal law. [HB 939](#) in Health Market Reform Subcommittee. [SB 706](#) not referred.

[SB 1326](#): Department of Children and Families; Citing this act as the "DCF Accountability Act"; providing for the creation of the Office of Quality Assurance and Improvement in the Department of Children and Families; extending the timeframe within which a protective investigation is required to be commence; requiring certain sheriffs to adopt Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model; providing for the calculation of the allocation of core plus funds, etc. On Committee agenda-- Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, 01/21/20.

[SB 1440/CS/HB 945](#)- Children's Mental Health: Requires DCF & AHCA to identify certain children & adolescents who use crisis stabilization services & to meet behavioral health needs of such children & adolescents; includes crisis response services provided through mobile response teams in array of available services; requires managing entities & other relevant entities to develop plans promoting coordinated system of care for certain services; requires DCF & AHCA to assess quality of care provided in crisis stabilization units & submit report to Governor & Legislature by 11,15/2020. [HB 945](#) passed as amended by Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee 1/16/20.

[SB 1678/HB 1071](#): Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Revises provisions related to substance abuse and mental health, including requirements for Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program; community action treatment teams; eligibility requirements for DCF-funded services; priority of services for specified individuals; requirements for funding; requirements for school substance abuse prevention partnership grants; and other department requirements. [HB 1071](#) now in Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee.

Housing Project Bills

[HB 2259](#) by Overdorf - Housing Solutions Council (HSC) - Housing That Works: Provides a \$250,000 appropriation to HSC in City of Stuart/Martin County to manage the development of multifamily workforce housing and to educate and collaborate with local community leaders to create innovative housing solutions to solve the need for affordable housing for low to moderate income earners who make just over the eligibility threshold for government subsidies. Passed House Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee 11/06/19, now in Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2337](#) by D. Smith - Embrace Families Solutions' Pathways to Home Supportive Housing for Child Welfare Involved Families: Provides an appropriation of \$488,074 to secure permanent housing for 20 child-welfare involved families, with the intent to prevent children from entering/re-entering the child welfare system. Passed House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/06/19, now in Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2341](#) by Eskamani - Changing The Narratives' Ending Youth Homelessness Initiative: Provides an appropriation of \$855,000 to develop a pilot project in 2 counties to provide housing & supportive services for 100 transition-aged or at-risk youth between 16-24 years of age in 100 days utilizing the Housing First model along with other innovative & effective models such as Rapid Rehousing & Host Home. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 11/13/19, now in Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2343](#) by Eskamani - Zebra Coalition's Youth Housing Project: Provides an appropriation \$955 to develop Bridge (transitional) housing for LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-24 who are identified as homeless. Zebra Coalition currently provides housing for 11 youth in scattered sites. The goal is to build and/or lease a stand-alone building that will provide housing for approximately 25 youth in one location in Central Florida. Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[HB 2515](#) by DuBose - Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County - Rapid Rehousing: Provides \$400,000 for an appropriation for the Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County. Passed Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee, 11/13/19. Now in Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2659](#) by Sirois - Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance in Brevard County: Provides an appropriation of \$190,000 to support two agency programs: Street Outreach and Transitional Housing. The primary goals for these programs are to locate homeless/at-risk veterans and convert them through personalized case management and supportive housing to self-sufficient citizens again. Programs align with mission to eliminate homelessness among veterans in Central FL. Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[HB 3553](#) by Plakon - Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Community Dialogue Technical Assistance Program: Provides \$100,000 to educate local governments and other community leaders as to the value of developing affordable and supportive housing for persons with disabling conditions or experiencing homelessness. **Passed Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee 1/14/02.**

[HB 3709](#) by Rodriguez, A. M- Windley Key & Key Heights Affordable Housing Project. Provides \$1 million for 20 units of affordable housing in the upper Keys. These buildings would help replace units that were destroyed during the impact of Hurricane Irma. **Now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4033](#) by Overdorf - Provides an appropriation of \$875,000 for the St. Lucie County Homeless Veterans Assistance Center to be used entirely for site, infrastructure and development, impact and permit fees, planning & engineering, and construction of a 12 to 24-month housing facility. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/12/19.

[HB 4231](#) by Duran - Housing First for Homeless Persons with Mental Illness. Provides \$434,319 to quickly divert homeless detainees with serious mental illnesses, who have a history of arrest or frequent police interactions, into community supportive housing. Referrals are made by the 11th Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health

Project, area police departments, specialized homeless outreach teams and jail diversion behavioral health treatment providers. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/12/19.

[HB 4301](#) by La Rosa - Homeless Veterans Program: Provides an appropriation of \$500,000 for The Transition House - Homeless Veterans Program to provide substance abuse and mental health services to those clients that are unable to afford these services. Specifically, Veterans that are homeless and chronically homeless, as well as those that have been released from incarceration. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 1/13/20, now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4347](#) by Duran - Preservation of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing: Provides an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Preservation of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing, Dade Heritage Trust. Now in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[HB 4385](#) by Gregory - Permanent Supportive Housing - CASL (Renaissance Manor): Provides an appropriation of \$1,465,058 to CASL to provide PSH in Lee County. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/11/19, **now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4413](#) by Mariano - Pasco County Housing Authority Veterans and Mental Illness Housing Community: Provides an appropriation of \$2,000,000 to develop a 77unit housing project that will provide safe sanitary housing for homeless or at risk of being homeless veterans and their families, and people with mental illness. The target population is homeless or at risk of being homeless veterans, their family, and mentally ill people. Expected number of people to be housed is 24. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/11/19. Now in Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4545](#) by Perez - Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust - Bridge Housing for Specialized Outreach: Provides an appropriation of \$562,000 for to expand the bridge housing-model which is to prioritize severely mentally ill, unsheltered clients, for immediate permanent placement and ultimately, into other supportive units. As clients stabilize, acquire benefits and required documentation, they would be moved from the bridge units into other permanent destinations, including but not limited to Assisted Living Facilities, skilled nursing facilities, reunification with family or friends, CoC PSH, VASH or other permanent housing. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. 1/13/20. Now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4547](#) by Perez - Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services - Host Homes for Homeless Youth Program: Appropriates \$200,500 to seek permanency housing and services for the most vulnerable, difficult to place youth, ages 16-21. Youth who are waiting for permanent housing will receive mental health counseling (as needed) and services to prepare them for independent living, case management, job readiness, academic advisement and placement, and wraparound services. **Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 1/13/20. Now in Appropriations Committee.**

[HB 4549](#) by Fetterhoff - Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery: Provides an appropriation of \$4,000,000 to create a comprehensive system of care for individuals with serious mental illnesses who are frequent and costly recidivists to the criminal justice system, homelessness, and acute care treatment systems. The Center is housed in a state-owned facility currently under renovation and encompassing approximately 181,000 square feet of space with capacity for 208 beds. Passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 12/11/19. Now in Appropriations Committee.

HB 9207 by Shoaf : Connecting Everyone with Second Chances - Homelessness Services: Provides an appropriation of \$716,000 to provide shelter and wrap-around services to approximately 400 clients in Leon County (average of 50 nights at \$31.00 for 400 people), and to provide for two case managers to place clients in housing, and to create a diversion program to reduce the number of clients needing shelter services by reuniting families and seeking immediate solutions. Wrap-around services to include meals, job training and placement, telemedicine access, dental care and more. Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[HB 9227](#) by Alexander: Transformational Communities Initiative: Provides an appropriation of \$3,000,000 to establish 3 regional community and economic development partnership alliances to address the housing and economic development needs in an approved designated opportunity zone distressed rural and urban communities in Leon, Orange, and Broward Counties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

FHFC Board of Directors will meet in Tallahassee Thursday, January 23, 2020. [See agenda, etc.](#) The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2020 in Tallahassee.

The January 28, 2020 Workshop on RFA 2020-102 SAIL Financing for Smaller Permanent Supportive Housing Developments for Persons with Special Needs **has been postponed** and is now expected to be held in February.

Florida Housing will hold the following workshops regarding the following RFAs:

RFA 2020-208 SAIL Financing for the Construction of Workforce Housing on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. [See more](#)

RFA 2020-103 Housing Credit and SAIL Financing to Develop Housing for Homeless Persons on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, beginning at 10:00. [See more](#)

RFA 2020-106 Financing to Develop Housing for Persons with Disabling Conditions / Developmental Disabilities on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 beginning at 10:00 a.m. [See more](#)

Upcoming workshop: 3-4-2020: RFA 2020-105 Financing to Build Smaller Permanent Supportive Housing Properties for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Information not available currently.

The 2019-2020 Tentative Funding Amounts and Timeline updated 12.18.19 has been posted to the [Website](#)

HUD

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications for two components of the Section 811 program: [Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities \(Capital Advance\)](#) and [Project Rental Assistance](#). Apply by February 10, 2020.

In July HUD announced an initiative to prevent and end homelessness among young people aging out of foster care called foster youth to independence (FYI). The initiative offers housing vouchers to at-risk young people facing homelessness. It was expected to serve 250 out of the 20,000-youth leaving foster care and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

On 1/13/20 Ben Carson on [CBS Morning News](#) announced the addition of ½ million into the program.

Depending on voucher availability, HUD will provide Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) to public housing agencies (PHAs) for youth aging out of foster care. The youth must be eligible under the Family Unification Program (FUP), at least 18 years of age but not more than 24 years of age, who have left foster care or will leave within 90 days, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Only PHAs not currently participating in FUP may apply. See [announcement](#) for more information.

In addition to the FYI HUD awards, HUD provided its 2019 awards to help end youth homelessness. In August HUD awarded \$75 million to 23 local communities, including eight rural communities through its [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#). This program supports a wide range of housing programs including rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and other innovative housing

models such as host homes. The selected 23 communities will collaborate with a broad array of partners. They will also participate in a program evaluation to inform the federal effort to prevent and end youth homelessness going forward and will serve as leaders in the nation on the work to end homelessness among young people.

West Palm Beach was one of 23 communities awarded funding in August 2019. WPB will receive \$4.92 million, one of the largest awards.

The 2019-2020 Tentative Funding Amounts and Timeline updated 12.18.19 has been posted to the [Website](#)

HUD

Other Housing News

[How two who overcame being homeless are reaching back](#): An article by 2 previously homeless individuals working at the Lord's Place in West Palm Beach.

A giant 3D printer is currently squeezing out new homes in rural Mexico. Each one takes 24 hours and lets local families upgrade from a shack to a two-bedroom house. Could this be part of the global housing solution? [See more](#)

For questions or comments contact Karen@fshc.org.