



Member Capital News

February 21, 2020

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

RECAP OF 2020 SESSION – WEEK 6 – FEBRUARY 17 – 21, 2020

News –

It has been a quiet budget week as legislators prepare for the beginning of the negotiation process to resolve the differences between the House and Senate called “Conferencing”. Everyone is anxious to see who will be chosen to serve on the conference committees and what leadership has chosen for their allocations. With just 3 weeks to go must past Republican bills are starting to be debated on the Floor and bills are starting pass back and forth between the chambers. Floor sessions and appropriations committees will comprise most of next week’s activities.

Senator Hutson’s **Housing Bill** ([CS/CS/SB 998](#)) which implements many changes to affordable and manufacturing housing passed another committee this week. It has one more stop before making it to the calendar. [CS/CS/HB 1339](#), the House companion to SB 998, was heard in Ways and Means Wednesday. Sponsored by Representative Yarborough the House Bill was amended with a couple on controversial amendments. [One amendment](#) states that SHIP funding should prioritize housing to individuals who need the **least** assistance to maximize funding. Another [amendment](#) passed which deletes the requirement that affordable housing sponsors have experience with Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Florida Supportive Housing Coalition is preparing a response to the amendments.

Bills related to **Domestic Violence** ([HB 1087](#), [SB 1482](#)) passed quickly this week with the House passing their bill and sending it to the Senate in 2 days. The fast action follows a House investigation last week that found the executive director of the Domestic Violence Coalition Tiffany Carr was able to receive \$6.9 million in paid time off and “other compensation” between July 2013 through her resignation in October 2019. The Domestic Violence Coalition has statutory language requiring DCF contracts with them to manage state and federal domestic violence funds.

The issue prompted a legislative discussion about taking a closer look at the salaries of executives who work at other non-profit organizations that have contracts with the state. DeSantis late Thursday issued an executive order in which he told all executive agencies to turn over information about other organizations that have sole-source agreements with the state.

The governor’s executive order told the agencies to provide a list of “all entities named in statute with which the agency must form a sole-source, public-private agreement” and “all entities that, through contract or other agreement with the state, annually receive 50% or more of their budget from the state or a combination of state and federal funds.”

DeSantis also ordered the agencies to scrutinize the organizations’ federal tax filings to determine the compensation of their executive leadership teams. He gave the agencies 45 days to provide the information about the sole-source contracts to his office.

State Rep. Patricia Williams suggested the state should cap the salaries and benefits of the executives of state-contracted organizations at \$150,000. Williams wanted to add the compensation cap to Fernandez-Barquin’s bill but withdrew an amendment that would have done so.

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 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 Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services 2/12 as amended to remove the required \$10 million set aside for the Homeless Grants, **now in Appropriations**. **HB 163** passed House Health & Human Services Committee 2/12 and added to the Calendar 2/14.

[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 passed Infrastructure and Security 2/4. HB 381 still in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[CS/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. **CS/CS/SB 364 passed Rules 2/12 amended to change report date, now on Calendar**. **CS/CS/CS HB39 on House Calendar 2/19 with amendment pending to change report date**.

[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 Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee 1/28, now in Judiciary Committee. SB 374 passed Rules Committee 2/5, placed on calendar.

[CS/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**. Passed Infrastructure and Security 2/11 as amended to remove appropriation which will be addressed in the full budget.

[CS/SB 856/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 a formula for determining amount of reduction; requires taxpayer who receives reduction to file annual report. **HB 1459** now in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee 1/17. **SB 856** passed Community Affairs 2/3 as amended to include supportive housing language 2/3, now in Finance & Tax.

[CS/CS/SB 998/CS/CS/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. **CS/SB 998 passed Infrastructure and Security 2/17 with 3 minor amendments, now in Appropriations**. **HB 1339 passed Ways & Means 2/19 with several amendments (see story above)**.

[CS/SB 1066/CS/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. [CS/HB 637](#) passed State Affairs 2/20 as a strike all. [SB 1066](#) passed Finance & Tax 2/18 as a strike all, now in Appropriations 2/20.

[SB 1084/CS/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/CS/CS/HB 209](#) on House calendar 2/19, [SB 1084](#) passed Judiciary 2/12, placed on Special Order 2/20.

[CS/SB 1624/CS/HB 1323](#): Economic Self-sufficiency: The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to contract or evaluation on the effectiveness of several programs including Medicaid and [Housing Choice Voucher](#) Program. The evaluations must include a review of the following aspects of those programs, history, and description of the programs and an analysis of the impacts and effectiveness of the programs. [CS/SB 1624](#) Governmental Oversight & Accountability 2/17, now in Appropriations. [CS/HB 1323](#) passed Health & Human Services Committee 2/18, placed on Calendar 2/18.

[CS/SB 1642](#) - Tax Exemptions; Revising the affordable housing property exemption to exempt from ad valorem taxation property used to provide affordable housing to eligible persons or families meeting the extremely-low-income, very-low-income, low-income, moderate-income limits specified in s. 420.0004, which is owned entirely by a nonprofit entity that is a corporation not for profit, qualified as charitable under s. 501(c)(3). [CS/SB 1642](#) passed Commerce and Tourism 2/4, now in Finance & Tax.

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 an 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](#) referred to Banking & Insurance.

[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 commence; requiring certain sheriffs to adopt Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model; providing for the calculation of the allocation of core plus funds, etc. Passed Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services 1/28, now in [Appropriations, Temporarily Postponed 2/20](#).

[CS/SB 1440/CS/HB 945](#)- Children's Mental Health: Requires DCF & AHCA to identify certain children & adolescents who use crisis stabilization; requires managing entities & other relevant entities to develop plans promoting a 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. [HB 945](#) passed Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee 2/4, on Health & Human Services Committee agenda 2/18. [SB 1440](#) passed Children, Families & Elder Affairs as amended 2/4, now on Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services agenda 2/18.

[SB 1554/CS/CS/HB 1081](#): Substance Abuse and Mental Health – 2020: Revises the definition of "mental illness to exclude dementia and traumatic brain injury; sets priorities as to who receives services, addresses substance abuse licenses. [CS/HB 1081](#) passed Health Care Appropriations as amended 2/18, placed on calendar 2/21. [SB 1554](#) referred.

[CS/SB 1678/CS/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](#) passed Health & Human Services Committee 2/18, placed on Calendar 2/20. [SB 1678](#) passed Children, Families & Elder Affairs 2/13 as amended, re-referenced to Judiciary.

Housing Project Bills

[HB 2259](#)- 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2337](#) - 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2341](#)- 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 2343](#)- 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. In Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

[HB 2515/SB 1293](#) - Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County - Rapid Rehousing: Provides \$400,000 for an appropriation for the Homelessness Collaborative of Broward County.

[HB 2659/SB 1186](#)- 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 the mission to eliminate homelessness among veterans in Central FL. In Appropriations Committee. **In Senate Budget \$190,000.**

[SB 1345](#) College Food and Housing: Provides \$340,000. With this appropriation, colleges will be able to increase their efforts in combatting food and housing insecurity on campus. Campus food pantries will be able to provide additional resources for students. Additional emergency housing can also be provided for students who find themselves homeless.

[HB 3553/SB 1810](#) - 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. In Appropriations Committee. **In Senate budget \$100,000.**

[HB 3709/SB 2086](#): 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. **In House budget \$1,000,000; In Senate budget \$250,000.**

[HB 4033](#) - 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4131/SB 2490](#) – Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative – Shared Housing. Provides \$3,500,000 to increase the number of affordable units for people emerging from homelessness. This includes engaging community residents and partners to improve housing stock and economic opportunities by developing and owning ADUs, rehabilitating foreclosed properties and purchasing rental properties. **In Senate budget \$250,000.**

[HB 4231/SB 1349](#) - 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. **In Senate budget \$250,000.**

[HB 4301/SB 1811](#)- The Transition House Homeless Veterans Program: Provides an appropriation of \$500,000 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. **In House budget \$100,000.**

[HB 4347](#) - 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/SB 1599](#) - Permanent Supportive Housing - CASL (Renaissance Manor): Provides an appropriation of \$1,465,058 to CASL to provide PSH in Lee County. **In House budget \$500,000; in Senate budget \$1,250,000.**

[HB 4413/SB 1368](#) - 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 families, and mentally ill people. The expected number of people to be housed is 24. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4545/1349](#) - Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust - Bridge Housing for Specialized Outreach: Provides an appropriation of \$562,000 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4547/SB 2310](#) - 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 4549](#) - 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. In Appropriations Committee.

[HB 9207/SB 1532](#): 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 include meals, job training and placement, telemedicine access, dental care, and more. HB 9201 in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. **In Senate Budget \$716,000.**

[HB 9227](#): 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. In Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[SB 1414](#) – Family Housing Solutions: Provides Dawning Family Services in Hillsborough County \$500,000 offset costs associated with the construction of Hillsborough County's new 61-unit low-barrier emergency shelter for families with minor children (Family Bridge Housing) and the renovation/rehabilitation costs of two

existing buildings that will be used for programmatic and administrative activities (Family Welcome Center and Family Solutions Center).

[HB 4909/SB 1811](#) Transition House of Starke – Homeless Relief Program. Provides \$500,000 to provide substance abuse treatment services to men and women who are indigent or that may be located in a more rural area and do not have access to resources. The funds will be utilized to provide intensive residential treatment services to these men and women so that they can re-enter into the community with solid coping skills and maintain their recovery. **In Senate budget \$250,000**

[HB 4601/SB 2365](#) Metropolitan Ministries - Miracles for Pasco Program. Provides \$379352 o support services for homeless families and single women participating in the Miracles for Pasco supported housing program. **In Senate budget \$250,000.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

Rule Hearings for rule chapters 67-21 and 67-48, FAC, March 2, 2020, 10:00 am, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Workshop for the 2020-2021 RFA Cycle, March 5, 2020, 2:00 pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Application Deadline for Housing for Persons with Disabling Conditions/ Developmental Disabilities, March 26, 2020, 3:00 pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Application Deadline for HC & SAIL Housing for Homeless Persons, March 31, 2020, 3:00 pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Application Deadline for Housing for Persons with Special Needs, April 1, 2020, 3:00 pm, **More Info:** [Click here](#)

Florida Housing Board Meeting, March 6 - Tallahassee City Hall Commission Chambers. **More info:** Coming Soon!

FLORIDA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING COALITION 2020 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SUMMIT

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition's annual Supportive Housing Summit: *Merging Advocacy, Knowledge & Collaboration* will be held in Orlando on Tuesday, September 22nd & Wednesday, September 23rd at the [DoubleTree Hotel/Universal](#). Call for Proposals and Request for Sponsorship coming next week. Make sure you have marked your calendar to attend.

FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE –

Save The Date: August 19-21, 2020