



MEMBER CAPITAL NEWS

February 28, 2020

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

RECAP OF 2020 SESSION – WEEK 7 – FEBRUARY 23 – 28, 2020

Budget News –

As of today, conference committees have not been announced and are not anticipated to negotiate this weekend.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Rob Bradley offered little detail on budget talks with the House but expressed confidence Wednesday that the spending plan will get completed as the legislative session approaches its final two weeks. “We’re in good shape right now,” Bradley told reporters. “We’re in fine shape in week seven, and I’m confident that we’re going to resolve (the budget) either on time or very near that.”

The Senate has proposed a \$92.83 billion spending package while the House came in at \$91.37 billion. Negotiators have to work out differences on big-ticket issues such as pay for state workers and teachers, the use of affordable-housing dollars, spending on the Florida Forever land-preservation program, a House push to eliminate the tourism-marketing agency Visit Florida, and hospital funding. “We’ve had very fruitful discussions with the governor’s office and the House on a myriad of things, including teacher pay,” Bradley said.

Capitol News -

A six-hour grilling by a key House committee Monday revealed that several board members of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence were unaware that the former CEO of the non-profit agency received \$7 million in compensation over three years. Tiffany Carr, the coalition’s long-serving executive officer, cashed out millions of dollars in paid time off before she stepped down from her post in October, according to records obtained by the Florida House as part of an ongoing probe into her compensation.

Frustrated by a lack of answers, state Rep. Randy Fine questioned how board members who approved Carr’s salary and compensation packages could be unaware of key financial arrangements included in her contracts, including provisions that allowed her to accrue her paid time off from one year to the next and to cash it out upon leaving the agency.

The committee met again Thursday to question the CFO and COO which proved as frustrating to the Ethics Committee as Monday’s meeting. Videos of both meetings are available on-line and should be an alert to non-profit boards as to their fiduciary and oversight responsibilities. ([Monday/Thursday](#)).

Meanwhile, per Governor DeSantis’s order, state agencies are submitting information regarding contracts they have with entities named in statute with which the agency must form a sole-source, public-private agreement.

Bill Update –

Senator Hutson’s **Housing Bill** ([CS/CS/SB 998](#)) will be heard next week and the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition is working to try to prevent last week’s amendments put into the companion house bill ([CS/CS/CS/HB 1339](#)) from being included in the SB. The amendments included requires SHIP program funding to prioritize housing to individuals who need less assistance to maximize funding. Another

amendment deletes the requirement that affordable housing sponsors have experience with Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

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, **now in Transportation and Economic Development**. **HB 381** still in Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee.

[CS/CS/SB 364/CS/CS/CS/HB 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 an amendment pending to change the 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 Judiciary Committee 2/26, now on Calendar**. **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 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 included 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/CS/SB 998 passed Infrastructure and Security 2/17 with 3 minor amendments, now in Appropriations.](#) [CS/CS/HB 1339 passed Commerce as a strike all 2/27 \(see story above\).](#)

[CS/SB 1066/CS/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/CS/HB 637 passed State Affairs as amended 2/20, placed on Calendar.](#) [CS/CS/SB 1066 passed Finance & Tax 2/18 as a strike all, on Appropriations agenda 2/27, Temporarily Postponed.](#)

[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, passed Senate as amended 3/4/20.](#)

[CS/SB 1624/CS/HB 1323](#): Economic Self-sufficiency: The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to contract or an 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 passed Governmental Oversight & Accountability 2/17, now in Appropriations.](#) [CS/HB 1323 passed Health & Human Services Committee 2/18, placed on Special Order 3/3. Passed House as amended 3/4/20.](#)

[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 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.](#)

[CS/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, passed Appropriations as amended 2/27. The strike all amendment includes faith-based organizations as part of Community Alliances and includes several changes related to child welfare.](#)

[CS/SB 1440/CS/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 & Human Services Committee 2/26 as amended.](#) [SB 1440 passed Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services 2/18, now in Appropriations.](#)

[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 Funded in House and/or Senate Budgets Only

[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](#).

[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 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 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 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 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

2-25-20 Florida Housing issued RFA 2020-106 Financing for the Development of Housing for Persons with A Disabling Condition or Developmental Disabilities. Application Deadline March 26, 2020, 3:00 pm

More info: [Click here](#)

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 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:** [Click here](#)

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](#).

[Link to Call for Proposals](#)

[Link to Request for Sponsorships](#)

FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE –

Save The Date: August 19-21, 2020

BUE SKY – CYPRESS VILLAGE AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Blue Sky will hold a groundbreaking [ceremony](#) on 3/4/20 for its newest state-of-the-state apartment community in Fort Myers.

ARTICLES

[Hurricane Population Declines Could Skew 2020 Census](#) In 2017, federal agencies used census data to distribute \$1.5 trillion to state and local governments for more than 300 programs, including Medicaid, food stamps, grants for low-income schools, affordable housing vouchers, free and reduced school lunch,

assistance for rural communities and highway planning, according to an analysis from George Washington University.

[Six Florida Cities Rank In Top 100 For Refugee Resettlement](#) - As Tampa's population grows, so does its need for affordable housing.

[Following FCADV scandal, a bigger DCF isn't the answer](#) - As the legislative and executive branches of Florida government scramble to respond to the embarrassing revelations that the Department of Children and Families was asleep at the switch while shelters for battered women were left wanting and the head of the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence enriched herself, it's hard to see how a bigger bureaucracy at DCF is the answer to anything.

[DeSantis wanted 'bold' but lawmakers may give him less](#) – DeSantis wants to spend the full \$387 million in the state's affordable housing trust fund to meet needs brought on by rising home prices, which have driven demand for lower-cost housing to levels not seen since before the Great Recession.

[Florida Lawmakers Push for Renters' Rights in Affordable Housing Fight](#) - It is one measure that attempts to address the complexities of the affordable housing crisis.