

2008 Florida Legislative Tracker
Week 4

Priority Concerns	Watch							
Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
Affordable Housing	H431 / Fitzgerald	I-S796	Affordable Housing	relates to Community Land Trust, ownership restricted to non-profit and just valuation of such property (????)	Committee on Economic Development, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Policy & Budget Council	Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council	Favorable by Committee on Economic Development on 3/20	
Affordable Housing	S796 / Bennett	I-H431	Affordable Housing	relates to Community Land Trust, ownership restricted to non-profit and just valuation of such property (????)	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations			
Affordable Housing	H699 / Aubuchon	C-H1329	Affordable Housing	admin type changes (not sure what impact they have); allows FHFC to hold back \$5 million each year for 'state of the emergency' situations; if this \$5M is not used then it goes to SHIP; adds persons with disabilities to 'special needs housing'; emphasis on green, storm ready and other measures that reduce long-term maintenance	Committee on Economic Development, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Policy & Budget Council	Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council	Favorable by Committee on Economic Development Agenda on 3/20	
Affordable Housing - Seniors	H561 / Vana	I - S2014	Affordable Senior Housing	Authorizes local governments to include affordable senior housing element in comprehensive plans	Committee on Economic Development by Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council	Committee on Economic Development		
Affordable Housing - Seniors	S2014 / Deutch	I - H561	Affordable Senior Housing	Authorizes local governments to include affordable senior housing element in comprehensive plans	Community Affairs; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			
Affordable Housing - Tax Exemptions	H735 / Fitzgerald	I-S1490	Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemptions	if a property that has been exempt from ad valorm and is affordable housing for ELI, VLI and LI because it is owned by an exempt organization is transferred for the purpose other than this and/or is not providing AH within 5 yrs after the exemption date a property appraiser may place a tax lien on the property and take other penalties actions	Committee on State Affairs by Government Efficiency & Accountability Council	State Affairs		
Affordable Housing - Tax Exemptions	S1490 / Bennett	I-H735	Property Tax Exemptions/Affordable Housing	if a property that has been exempt from ad valorm and is affordable housing for ELI, VLI and LI because it is owned by an exempt organization is transferred for the purpose other than this and/or is not providing AH within 5 yrs after the exemption date a property appraiser may place a tax lien on the property and take other penalties actions	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; General Government Appropriations	Community Affairs Agenda - 3/27		

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
Affordable Housing - Veterans	S1020 / Geller	I-H1471	Affordable Housing for Veterans	Increases the amount of the documentary tax distributed to the State Housing Trust Fund. Provides that the increased amount is to be used to fund loans to veterans for affordable housing through the Florida Homeownership Assistance Program; appropriates \$20 million of SHTF, recurring to this program; increases a portion of the SHTF \$\$ under the cap from \$136 to \$156 million	Community Affairs; Military Affairs and Domestic Security; Finance and Tax; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			
Affordable Housing - Veterans	H1471 / Bucher	I-S1020	Affordable Housing for Veterans	Increases the amount of the documentary tax distributed to the State Housing Trust Fund. Provides that the increased amount is to be used to fund loans to veterans for affordable housing through the Florida Homeownership Assistance Program; appropriates \$20 million of SHTF, recurring to this program; increases a portion of the SHTF \$\$ under the cap from \$136 to \$156 million	Economic Development; Economic Expansion and Infrastructure; Policy and Budget Council	Economic Development		
Affordable Housing Preservation	S1362 / Fasano	none	Affordable Housing Preservation	Creates the Florida Housing Preservation Program. Directs the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to use state funds for loans and financing to preserve and rehabilitate affordable multifamily rental housing properties that are 15 years old or older, and mobile home parks, for low-income, very-low-income, and extremely-low-income persons and families	Community Affairs; Banking and Insurance; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			
Courts	S608 / Crist	C-H719	Indigent Persons/Court Fees and Penalties	Waives civil court costs and fees for a person whose income is equal to or below 150 percent of then-current federal poverty guidelines. Also waives civil court costs and fees for a person who receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Cash Assistance (TANF), poverty-related veteran's benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), etc	Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations			
Courts	H719 / Ford	C-S608	Indigent Persons/Court Services Fees	A person who the clerk or the court determines is indigent for civil proceedings under this section shall have all costs for services listed in s. 57.081(1) waived	Committee on Courts, Safety & Security Council, Policy & Budget Council	Not considered by Committee on Courts		

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
Definition	S786 / Crist	S-H241; C-H769, S2750	Homelessness	revises definition, housing first, pilot program youth aging out	Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Community Affairs; Health and Human Services Appropriations			
Definition	H241 / Culp	S-S786; C-H769, S2750	Homelessness	revises definition, housing first, pilot program youth aging out	Committee on Healthy Families, Healthcare Council, Policy & Budget Council	Healthcare Council	Favorable by Healthy Families on 1/8	
Definition/ Education	H769 / Kelly	I-S2750; C-H241, S786	Children in Shelter or Foster Care/Education	revises definition of homeless child, Provides conditions for court or district school board appointment of surrogate parent for educational decision making for child who has or is suspected of having disability; provides conditions for access to educational records; revises definition relating to homeless child; provides access to free public education for certain children in foster care	Committee on Healthy Families, Healthcare Council, Policy & Budget Council		Favorable by Healthy Families on 3/18	
Definition/ Education	S2750 / Storms	I-S2750; C-H241, S786	Children in Shelter or Foster Care/Education	revises definition of homeless child, Provides conditions for court or district school board appointment of surrogate parent for educational decision making for child who has or is suspected of having disability; provides conditions for access to educational records; revises definition relating to homeless child; provides access to free public education for certain children in foster care	has not been referred to any committees at this time (3/13)			

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
DV	S1408 / Rich	I-H931	Residential Tenancies/Domestic and Sexual Violence	Prohibits a landlord from terminating, failing to renew, or refusing to enter into a residential rental agreement because the tenant, applicant, or family or household member is a DV; prohibiting a landlord from including in a residential rental agreement a provision that authorizes the landlord to terminate a rental agreement or impose a penalty on a tenant for calling for assistance from a law enforcement agency or other emergency assistance in response to DV; allowing victims of domestic violence to terminate a residential rental agreement under certain circumstances; Adds Sexual Violence	Criminal Justice; Judiciary			
DV	H931 / Williams	I-S1408	Residential Tenancies	Prohibits a landlord from terminating, failing to renew, or refusing to enter into a residential rental agreement because the tenant, applicant, or family or household member is a DV; prohibiting a landlord from including in a residential rental agreement a provision that authorizes the landlord to terminate a rental agreement or impose a penalty on a tenant for calling for assistance from a law enforcement agency or other emergency assistance in response to DV; allowing victims of domestic violence to terminate a residential rental agreement under certain circumstances; adds sexual violence	Committee on Constitution & Civil Law, Safety & Security Council	Constitution & Civil Law		

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
DV	S994 / Fasano	L-S2574; I-H489; C-H1141, S152	Employee Leave/Victims of Sexual Violence	An employer shall permit an employee to request and take up to 3 working days of leave from work in any 12-month period if the employee or a family or household member of an employee is the victim of domestic violence or sexual violence. This leave may be with or without pay, at the discretion of the employer.	Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Commerce; Governmental Operations; Judiciary	Governmental Operations	Favorable by Children, Families and Elder Affairs on 3/12/08; Commerce on 3/25	
DV	H489 / Jenne	L-S2574; I-S994; C-H1141, S152	Sexual Violence	An employer shall permit an employee to request and take up to 3 working days of leave from work in any 12-month period if the employee or a family or household member of an employee is the victim of domestic violence or sexual violence. This leave may be with or without pay, at the discretion of the employer.	Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council, Policy & Budget Council	Business Regulations		
DV	H1141 / Jenne	L-S994; I-S2574; C-S489	Public Record/Sexual Violence Victim	Expands exemption from public records requirements for specified records & time sheets submitted to agency relating to domestic violence to include records documenting sexual violence; extends future legislative review & repeal; revises statement of public necessity to conform	Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council, Policy & Budget Council	Policy and Budget	Favorable by Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council on 3/27	
DV	S2574 / Fasano	L-S994; I-H489; C-S994	Public Record/Sexual Violence Victim	Expands exemption from public records requirements for specified records & time sheets submitted to agency relating to domestic violence to include records documenting sexual violence; extends future legislative review & repeal; revises statement of public necessity to conform	Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Commerce; Governmental Operations; Judiciary; Rules	on Commerce Committee Agenda, 4/1 at 9:30	Favorable by Children, Families and Elder Affairs on 3/26	
DV	S870		Pub. Rec. / Injunction / DV	confidentiality of a petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence; amending s. 741.30, F.S.; providing an exemption from public-records requirements for a petition for an injunction for protection against domestic violence until the petition is personally served on the respondent	Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Judiciary; Governmental Operations; Rules	Judiciary	Favorable by Children, Families and Elder Affairs on 3/12/08	

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
DV-Related	S152 / Wilson	L-S2574; H-489; C-H1141; S152	Mandatory Employee Paid Sick Leave	Creates the "Healthy Workers, Healthy Families Act." Requires an employer, other than a small employer, to provide 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 40 hours worked. Requires a small employer to provide 1 hour of paid sick leave for every 80 hours worked. Requires the employer to provide notice to employees of sick leave accrual, guaranteed uses, and employee rights. Allowable time would include DV leave	Commerce; Health Policy; Judiciary; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations	Withdrawn		
Ex-Offenders	S922 / Wilson	I-H1455	Ex-offenders/ Employment	Restrictions on the employment of ex-offenders; legislative intent; state agency reporting requirements.—(1) The Legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to provide to prospective employees a clear statement of which crimes would disqualify ex-offenders from which occupations. It is the intent of the Legislature to make opportunities for employment available to ex-offenders so that they will be less likely to revert to criminal behavior, insofar as the employment of such persons does not detract from the safety of the public. Propose ways of removing unnecessary barriers to the employment of ex-offenders which are not mandated by statute.	Governmental Operations; Regulated Industries; Criminal Justice; General Government Appropriations	Regulated Industries	Favorable by Gov't Operations agenda on 3/13	
Ex-Offenders	HB1455 / Bucher	I-S922	Employment of Ex-Offenders	Restrictions on the employment of ex-offenders; legislative intent; state agency reporting requirements.—(1) The Legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to provide to prospective employees a clear statement of which crimes would disqualify ex-offenders from which occupations. It is the intent of the Legislature to make opportunities for employment available to ex-offenders so that they will be less likely to revert to criminal behavior, insofar as the employment of such persons does not detract from the safety of the public. Propose ways of removing unnecessary barriers to the employment of ex-offenders which are not mandated by statute.	Government Efficiency & Accountability Council			

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
Funding	H575 / Cusack	I-S1568	Contributions to Relieve Homelessness	Requires motor vehicle registration form, registration renewal form, driver license application form, & driver license application form for renewal issuance or renewal extension to include option to make voluntary contribution to aid homeless; provides for contributions to be deposited into Grants and Donations Trust Fund of DCFS & used by State Office on Homelessness to supplement grants, provide information to public, & provide literature to homeless persons seeking assistance.	Committee on Infrastructure, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Policy & Budget Council	Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council	Committee on Infrastructure favorable on 2/21	
Funding	S1568 / Lynn	I-H575	Contributions to Relieve Homelessness	Requires the motor vehicle registration form and renewal form, and the driver license application form, the renewal issuance, and renewal extension to include an option for a voluntary contribution of \$1.00 to aid the homeless, etc.	Transportation; Finance and Tax; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations; Health and Human Services Appropriations			
Funding	H883 / Skidmore	I-S1576	Public Employees' Charitable Campaigns	Establishes guidelines for employee charitable campaigns by local gov't that will also allow more than one qualified organization to participate so long as the org. is within the gov't service area or immediate area where employees may reside	Government Efficiency & Accountability Council, Policy & Budget Council	Gov't eff & Acct.		
Funding	S1576 / Storms	I-H883	Public Employees' Charitable Campaigns	Establishes guidelines for employee charitable campaigns by local gov't that will also allow more than one qualified organization to participate so long as the org. is within the gov't service area or immediate area where employees may reside	Governmental Operations; Community Affairs; General Government Appropriations			
Hate Crime	H81 / Taylor	None	Offenses Committed Against Homeless Persons	Adds homeless status to state's Hate Crimes law		Withdrawn		

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
Infrastructure Surtax	H553 / Heller	I-986	Local Government Infrastructure Surtax	Redefines term "infrastructure" to allow proceeds of local government infrastructure surtax to be used to purchase land for construction of affordable or workforce housing units. This would be an additional authorized use of the infrastructure surtax already in place	Committee on Economic Development, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Policy & Budget Council	Committee on Economic Development		
Infrastructure Surtax	S986 / Jones	I-533	Local Government Infrastructure Surtax/Housing	Redefines term "infrastructure" to allow proceeds of local government infrastructure surtax to be used to purchase land for construction of affordable or workforce housing units. This would be an additional authorized use of the infrastructure surtax already in place	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			
Just Valuation	H161 / Anderson	S-S674; C-S812, S2302, S2680	Just Valuation of Real Property	Deletes requirements for property appraisers to consider highest & best use of property in determining just valuation.	Committee on State Affairs, Government Efficiency & Accountability Council, Policy & Budget Council	Committee on State Affairs		
Just Valuation	S674 / Fasano	S-H161; C-S812, S2302, S2680	Just Valuation of Real Property / Highest & Best Use	Deletes requirements for property appraisers to consider the highest and best use of property in determining just valuation therefore appraising at present use	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations			
Just Valuation	S812 / Storms	C-H161, S812, S2302, S2680	Property Appraisal / Highest Best Use	Deletes requirements for property appraisers to consider the highest and best use of property in determining just valuation	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations			
just Valuation	H129 / Lopez-Cantera		Just Valuation of Property	maintains the highest and best use; adds some provisions	Committee on State Affairs, Government Efficiency & Accountability Council, Policy & Budget Council	Gov't eff & Acct.	favorable by State Affairs on 2/20 with amends.	
Medicaid	S1570 / Lynn	C-S846, H691	Medicaid Managed Care Pilot Program	??????????	Health Policy; Health Regulation; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Health and Human Services Appropriations	Health Regulation	favorable by Health policy on 3/19	
Mental Illness	S846 / Rich	C-H691; S1570	Medicaid/Psychiatric Disabilities	??????????	Health Policy; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Health and Human Services Appropriations		Favorable by Health Policy on 3/26	
Mental Illness	H691 / Zapata	C-S846, S1570	Medicaid/Psychiatric Disabilities	??????????	Committee on Health Innovation, Healthcare Council, Policy & Budget Council		Favorable by Health Innovation on 3/11	

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
misc	S276 / Rich	S-H99	Food Donation by Public Food Service Establishments	Designates this act as the "Jack Davis Florida Restaurant Lending a Helping Hand Act." Amends provisions regarding liability for canned or perishable food distributed free of charge. Expands the definition of "perishable food" to include foods that have been prepared at licensed public food service establishments, etc.	Regulated Industries, Judiciary	placed in House Messages on 3/20	Favorable by Regulated Industries on 1/8; & Judiciary on 3/4	Passed Senate on 3/13; 36 Yeas; 0 Nays
misc	H99 / Porth	S-S276	Food Donation by Public Food Service Establishments	Designates act "Florida Restaurant Lending a Helping Hand Act"; expands definition of "perishable food" under s. 768.136, F.S., to include foods prepared at public food services establishment licensed under ch. 509. F.S	Constitution & Civil Law, Safety & Security Council	2nd reading	Favorable by Const. & Civil Law on 1/23 & Safety and Security Council on 3/19	
misc	S510 / Wilson	none	School-entry/Vision Examinations	Requires that children who are entering school present evidence of having received a comprehensive vision examination which was performed within one year of their enrollment in school; this is an additional requirement to an existing school-entry medical exam law. The existing law includes provision stating "A homeless child, as defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a temporary exemption for 30 school days. However no additional time is given for homeless child to have vision completed.	Pre-K - 12; Health Policy; Finance and Tax; Health and Human Services Appropriations			
Public Housing	H713 / Taylor	I-1970	Housing Authorities/Family Self Sufficiency	Revises finding & declaration of necessity to provide that development & implementation of mandatory family self-sufficiency programs is purpose for which public money may be spent & private property acquired & is governmental function of public concern; requires housing authorities to develop family self-sufficiency programs	Committee on Economic Development, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Policy & Budget Council	Committee on Economic Development		
Public Housing	S1970 / Bennett	I-713	Housing Authorities	Revises a finding and declaration of necessity to provide that the development and implementation of mandatory family self-sufficiency programs is a purpose for which public money may be spent and private property acquired and is a governmental function of public concern	Community Affairs; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Governmental Operations; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			

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Topic	Bill Number / Sponsor	I / S / C	Title	Bill Description	Committee Assignments	Currently	Previous Actions	Final Action
Trust Fund	S74 / Geller	I-H5; C-S80	Documents Excise Taxes/State Housing Trust Fund	Removes current cap; "Beginning July 1, 2008, in each fiscal year that the remaining taxes collected under this chapter exceed such collections in the prior fiscal year, the stated maximum dollar amounts provided in subsections (2), (4), (6), and (7), (9), and (10) shall each be increased by an amount equal to 10 percent of the increase in the remaining taxes collected under this chapter multiplied by the applicable percentage provided in those subsections."	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			
Trust Fund	H5 / Saunders	I-S74; C-S80	Documents Excise Taxes/State Housing Trust Fund	Removes current cap; "Beginning July 1, 2008, in each fiscal year that the remaining taxes collected under this chapter exceed such collections in the prior fiscal year, the stated maximum dollar amounts provided in subsections (2), (4), (6), and (7), (9), and (10) shall each be increased by an amount equal to 10 percent of the increase in the remaining taxes collected under this chapter multiplied by the applicable percentage provided in those subsections."	Committee on Economic Development, Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council, Policy & Budget Council	Committee on Economic Development		
Trust Fund	S80 / Wilson	C-S74, H5	Documents Excise Taxes/State Housing TF	Removes current cap; provides for the annual appropriation of at least 90 percent of the tax proceeds distributed to the trust fund to provide affordable housing units and other purposes for which the trust fund was created	Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations			