

Assigned Committees Meetings – January 2022

Commissioner McDowell

Florida Advocacy Zoom Meeting – January 12

Second day of committees. Amendments are being filed QUICKLY and committee votes are starting. This update is as of the January 12 Advocacy Committee meeting

- SB 512 Vacation Rentals
Discussion points:
 - Local registration fee is capped at \$50
 - Occupancy caps
 - DPBR being given new responsibilities when there has been constant change in leadership
- Business Impact Statement -- FLC strongly opposes
Discussion points:
 - Recovery of attorney fees
 - Streamline statement requiring an estimate vs hard numbers
 - Exemption of certain ordinances requiring the business impact statement
 - Clarification on what is required to be included in a business impact statement
 - Need for hiring additional personnel
 - If a claim is filed with the courts – enforcement of the ordinance ceases; need enforcement exemptions (example: actions city takes due to state law)
- HB 569 and SB 620 – Businesses recouping damages for loss in revenue – FLC Strongly opposes
Discussion points:
 - Harassment and frivolous lawsuits
 - Ramping up self-insured risk reserved, increased costs to taxpayers
 - Retroactive date (?)
 - Lack of commercial insurance for these type of claims
 - Lack of “skin-in-the-game” when filing a claim – possibly include posting a bond; possibly enforcement starting at certain levels in the court system vs when filed
- HB 621 and SB 1162 – Municipality owned Utilities that transfer money to General Fund
Discussion points:
 - If cities do this they could be ineligible for certain grants and loans (example: DEP, SWFMD, SIB)
 - Require an ordinance to allow transfer to General Fund
- HB 105 and SB 224 – Smoking in Public Places – FLC Supports
Discussion points:
 - Allows cities to regulate where smoking is NOT permitted, currently there is a state pre-emption
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Manasota League of Cities -- January 13, via Zoom

- FLC website has been upgraded and is much easier to navigate
- FLC Committee Report
- Utilities and Natural Resources Committee update:
HB 6025, SB 316 and HB 1555 – Emergency Tree Removal
- Appointment of FLC Nominating Committee Representative for Manasota League of Cities for 2022 will be Commissioner McDowell, North Port
- Appointment of Officers
 - President: Jen Ahern-Koch, City of Sarasota
 - Vice President: Debbie McDowell, North Port
 - Treasurer: Brian Williams, Palmetto
- Presentation by Scott Dudley with the FLC
 - Advocacy
 - Home Rule

Partnerships and relationships with state elected leadership