

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Senator Simpson, Chair
Senator Brandes, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 21, 2015
TIME: 3:30 —5:00 p.m.
PLACE: 301 Senate Office Building

MEMBERS: Senator Simpson, Chair; Senator Brandes, Vice Chair; Senators Abruzzo, Bradley, Dean, Diaz de la Portilla, and Thompson

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 142 Dean (Identical H 31)	Nonresidential Farm Buildings; Exempting nonresidential farm buildings, farm fences, and farm signs that are located on lands used for bona fide agricultural purposes from any county or municipal assessment, including a dependent special district assessment, etc. CA 01/21/2015 Favorable FT AP	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0
2	Presentation by Florida Association of Counties on 2015 Legislative Priorities		Presented
3	Presentation by Florida League of Cities on 2015 Legislative Priorities		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Community Affairs

BILL: SB 142

INTRODUCER: Senator Dean

SUBJECT: Nonresidential Farm Buildings

DATE: January 20, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	White	Yeatman	CA	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	FT	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 142 exempts nonresidential farm buildings, farm fences, and farm signs from county or municipal assessments, including assessments by a dependent special district, except those arising from floodplain management regulations.

II. Present Situation:

Nonresidential Farm Building Exemptions

A nonresidential farm building is a temporary or permanent structure on a farm, or on land used primarily for agricultural purposes, that is not intended to be used as a residential dwelling.¹ Examples include barns, greenhouses, shade houses, farm offices, storage buildings, and poultry houses. Section 604.50, F.S., exempts nonresidential farm buildings,² farm fences, and farm signs from the Florida Building Code,³ any county or municipal code, and any county or municipal fee.⁴ The legislative history of the exemption reaches back to 1998 when nonresidential farm buildings were exempted from having to follow building code provisions.⁵ In 2011, legislation exempted nonresidential farm buildings from any county or municipal fees.⁶ Currently, these buildings are not exempt from assessments.

¹ Section 604.50(2)(d), F.S.

² To qualify for the exemption, the nonresidential farm buildings must be located on lands used for bona fide agricultural purposes, as defined in s. 193.461(3)(b), F.S.

³ See also s. 553.73(10)(c), F.S.

⁴ Section 604.50(1), F.S. However, this exemption does not extend to any code provisions implementing floodplain management regulations.

⁵ Chapter 98-396, Laws of Fla.

⁶ Chapter 2011-7, Laws of Fla.

Special Districts

Special districts are local units of special purpose government, within limited geographical areas, which are utilized to manage, own, operate, maintain, and finance basic capital infrastructure, facilities, and services. Special districts have existed in Florida since 1845 when the Legislature authorized five commissioners to drain the “Alachua Savannah” also known as Paynes Prairie. The project was financed by special assessments made on landowners based on the number of acres owned and the benefit derived. Since that time, special districts have been useful to local governments in providing a broad range of government services. All special districts must comply with the requirements of the Uniform Special District Accountability Act of 1989 which was enacted by the Legislature to reform and consolidate laws relating to special districts. The Act provides for the definitions, creation, operation, financial report, taxation and non-ad valorem assessments, elections and dissolution of most special districts.

Special districts serve a limited purpose, function as an administrative unit separate and apart from the county or city in which they may be located, and are often referred to as a local unit of special purpose. Special districts may be created by general law (an act of the Legislature), by special act (a law enacted by the Legislature at the request of a local government and affecting only that local government), by local ordinance, or by rule of the Governor and Cabinet.

Some of the functions that special districts serve include community development districts, community redevelopment districts, downtown development districts, drainage and water control districts, economic development districts, fire control and rescue districts, mosquito control districts, and soil and water conservation districts. The Special District Information Program (SDIP) within the Department of Economic Opportunity serves as the clearinghouse for special district information, and maintains a list of special districts categorized by function.⁷ There are 1,642 special districts, including 636 dependent and 1,006 independent special districts.

Dependent Special Districts

A dependent district meets at least one of the following criteria:

- The special district governing body members are the same as the governing body members of the county or city that created the district;
- The special district governing board members are appointed by the governing body of the county or city that created the district;
- During the terms of membership, the governing board members of the special district are subject to removal at will by the governing body of the county or city that created the district;
- The special district budget must be approved by an affirmative vote of the governing body of the county or city that created the district; or
- The special district budget can be vetoed by the governing body of the county or city that created the district.

The ordinance creating a dependent special district must provide the following:

- A statement referencing the district’s dependent status, including a statement that explains why the special district is the best way to provide the service being provided;

⁷ Information relating to special districts and their functions can be found in the SDIP online publication “Florida Special District Handbook Online” which can be found at <http://www.floridaspecialdistricts.org/handbook/>.

- The purpose, powers, functions, authority, and duties of the district;
- District boundaries;
- The membership, organization, compensation, and administrative duties of the special district governing board;
- Applicable financial disclosure, noticing, and reporting requirements;
- The method by which the special district will be financed; and
- A declaration that the creation of the special district is consistent with the approved local government comprehensive plan.

Independent Special Districts

An independent special district does not have any of the characteristics of a dependent district, may encompass more than one county unless the district lies wholly within the boundaries of one city, and generally is created by an act of the Legislature. However, counties and cities may create community development districts of less than 1,000 acres,⁸ public hospital districts,⁹ county children's services districts,¹⁰ and county health and mental health care districts.¹¹ Two or more counties may create regional jail districts,¹² and any combination of counties or cities, or both, may create regional water supply authorities.¹³ Regional transportation authorities may be created by any combination of contiguous counties, cities, or other political subdivisions.¹⁴ Finally, the Governor and the Cabinet, sitting as the Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission, have the authority to create community development districts.¹⁵

With the exception of a community development district, the charter creating an independent special district must contain the following information:

- The purpose of the special district;
- The powers, functions and duties of the special district relating to ad valorem taxes, bonds and other revenue-raising abilities, budget preparation and approval, liens and lien foreclosures, and the use of tax deeds and certificates for non-ad valorem assessments and contractual agreements;
- Method for establishing the district and amending the district charter;
- The membership, organization, compensation, and administrative duties of the governing board and its members;
- Applicable financial disclosure, noticing, and reporting requirements;
- Procedures and requirements for bond issues, if the special district will issue bonds;
- Election procedures and requirements;
- Method for financing the district;
- Authorized millage rate, and methods for collecting non-ad valorem assessments, fees, or service charges;

⁸ Chapter 190.005(2), F.S.

⁹ Chapter 155.04 and 155.05, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 125.901, F.S.

¹¹ Section 154.331, F.S.

¹² Section 950.001, F.S.

¹³ Section 373.713, F.S.

¹⁴ Section 163.567, F.S.

¹⁵ Section 190.005(1), F.S.

- Planning requirements; and
- District boundaries.

Revenue Sources Based on Home Rule Authority

The Florida Constitution provides local governments with expansive home rule powers. Given these powers, local governments may impose proprietary fees, regulatory fees, and special assessments to pay the cost of providing a facility or service or regulating an activity. The validity of these fees and assessments depends on the context of requirements established in Florida case law.¹⁶

Special Assessments

Counties and municipalities utilize special assessments as a home rule revenue source to fund certain services and to construct and maintain capital facilities. Section 125.01(1)(r), F.S., authorizes the levy of special assessments for county government. Chapter 170, F.S., authorizes the levy of special assessments for municipal governments. Section 125.271, F.S., authorizes the levy of special assessments for county emergency medical services. Special districts derive their authority to levy special assessments through general law or special act creating the district.¹⁷

As established by case law, two requirements exist for the imposition of a valid special assessment: 1) the property assessed must derive a special benefit from the improvement or service provided; and 2) the assessment must be fairly and reasonably apportioned among the properties that receive the special benefit.¹⁸

The test to be applied in evaluating whether a special benefit is conferred on property by the provision of a service is whether there is a “logical relationship” between the services provided and the benefit to real property.¹⁹ Many assessed services and improvements have been upheld as providing the requisite special benefit. Such services and improvements include: garbage disposal,²⁰ fire protection,²¹ fire and rescue services,²² and stormwater management services.²³

Once an identified service or capital facility satisfies the special benefit test, the assessed amount is required to be fairly apportioned among the benefited property in a manner consistent with the logical relationship embodied in the special benefit requirement.

¹⁶ See Office of Economic and Demographic Research, *Local Government Financial Information Handbook*, at 9-15 (2013).

¹⁷ For example, s. 153.73, F.S., for county water and sewer districts; s. 163.514, F.S., for neighborhood improvement districts; s. 190.021, F.S., for community development districts; and s. 191.009, F.S., for independent special fire control districts.

¹⁸ See *City of Boca Raton v. State*, 595 So 2d 25 (Fla. 1992).

¹⁹ *Whisnant v. Stringfellow*, 50 So. 2d 885 (Fla. 1951).

²⁰ *Harris v. Wilson*, 693 So. 2d 945 (Fla 1997).

²¹ *South Trail Fire Control Dist., Sarasota County v. State*, 273 So. 2d380 (Fla. 1973).

²² *Lake County v. Water Oak Mgmt Corp.*, 695 So. 2d 667 (Fla. 1997).

²³ *Sarasota County v. Sarasota Church of Christ*, 667 So. 2d 180 (Fla. 1995).

Generally, a special assessment, whether imposed for capital projects or services, is collected on an annual ad valorem tax bill. Under such statutory collection procedure, the special assessment is characterized as a “non-ad valorem assessment.”²⁴

Assessments by Independent Fire Control Districts

Chapter 2013-183, Laws of Fla.,²⁵ amended s. 191.009, F.S., to authorize independent special fire control districts to levy non-ad valorem assessments for emergency medical and emergency transport services. The provision of such services is recognized, in law, as constituting a benefit to real property. The legislation also provided that if a district levies a non-ad valorem assessment for either service, then the district must cease charging an ad valorem tax for the service. Additionally, the legislation provided that a district can levy non-ad valorem assessments on lands within the district without limitation to only being able to impose assessments to benefited real property.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 604.50, F.S., to exempt nonresidential farm buildings, farm fences, and farm signs from county or municipal assessments, including assessments by dependent special districts. The bill would provide this exemption in addition to, and not replacing, the presently existing exemption from county or municipal fees. Fees arising from floodplain management regulations would still apply.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

This bill reduces the authority of counties and municipalities to raise revenues because it would eliminate their ability to collect assessments on nonresidential agricultural buildings. Article VII, section 18(b) of the Florida Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature in order to enact a general law that reduces the authority of municipalities and counties to raise revenues in the aggregate. Article VII, section 18(d) of the Florida Constitution provides an exemption if the law is determined to have an insignificant fiscal impact. An insignificant fiscal impact means an amount not greater than the average statewide population for the applicable fiscal year times ten cents.²⁶ A fiscal estimate is not available for this bill. If it is determined that this bill has more than an insignificant fiscal impact, the bill will require a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature for passage.

²⁴ See s. 197.3632(1)(d), F.S.

²⁵ CS/CS/SB 1410 (2013).

²⁶ As of January 2014, the total state population is estimated to be 19,507,369. University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Florida Estimates of Population*, available at <http://www.bebr.ufl.edu/data/state/Florida> (last visited Jan. 12, 2015).

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

The bill reduces revenues to counties and municipalities by providing an exemption from assessments for qualified agricultural buildings.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Owners of nonresidential farm buildings used for bona fide agricultural purposes will benefit monetarily by being exempt from county and municipal assessments.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill will eliminate the ability of counties and municipalities to collect assessments on qualified agricultural buildings.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The Department of Revenue has made recommendations on how to clarify whether the intent of the bill is to provide an exemption from local ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments or fees.²⁷ Additionally, it is unclear that a levying authority would continue to provide services to a property if the levying authority did not assess the fees that pay for those services.²⁸

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 604.50 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

²⁷ Florida Dep't of Revenue, *Legislative Bill Analysis SB 142*, at 5 (2015).

²⁸ *Id.*

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Dean

5-00157-15

2015142__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to nonresidential farm buildings;
3 amending s. 604.50, F.S.; exempting nonresidential
4 farm buildings, farm fences, and farm signs that are
5 located on lands used for bona fide agricultural
6 purposes from any county or municipal assessment,
7 including a dependent special district assessment;
8 providing an exception; providing an effective date.
9

10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
11

12 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 604.50, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 604.50 Nonresidential farm buildings; farm fences; farm
15 signs.—

16 (1) Notwithstanding any ~~provision of~~ law to the contrary, a
17 ~~any~~ nonresidential farm building, farm fence, or farm sign that
18 is located on lands used for bona fide agricultural purposes is
19 exempt from the Florida Building Code and any county or
20 municipal code, ~~or fee, or assessment, including a dependent~~
21 special district assessment, except for code provisions that
22 implement ~~implementing~~ local, state, or federal floodplain
23 management regulations. A farm sign located on a public road may
24 not be erected, used, operated, or maintained in a manner that
25 violates any of the standards provided in s. 479.11(4), (5)(a),
26 and (6)-(8).

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

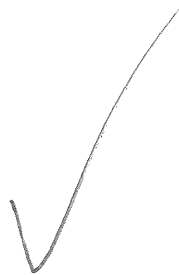
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Environmental Preservation and
Conservation, *Chair*
Agriculture, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Subcommittee on General
Government
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Community Affairs
Ethics and Elections

SENATOR CHARLES S. DEAN, SR.
5th District

December 15, 2014

The Honorable Wilton Simpson
322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100



Dear Chairman Simpson,

I respectfully request you place Senate Bill 142, relating to Nonresidential Farm Buildings, on your Community Affairs Committee agenda at your earliest convenience.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles S. Dean".

Charles S. Dean
State Senator District 5

cc: Tom Yeatman, Staff Director

REPLY TO:

- 405 Tompkins Street, Inverness, Florida 34450 (352) 860-5175
- 311 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5005
- 315 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471-2689 (352) 873-6513

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date 1/21/15

Bill Number (if applicable) ✓ SB 142

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____

Topic Non-residential Term Billings

Name Ryan Matthews

Job Title Associate Director - Reg. Affairs

Address Pg Box 1757

Street Palmdale City FL State FL Zip 32301

Phone 222 9684

Email rmathews@flcities.com

Speaking: For Against Information Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing The League of Cities

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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Meeting Date 1/21/15

Bill Number (if applicable) ✓ SB 142

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____

Topic Non-residential Term Billings

Name Ryan Matthews

Job Title Associate Director - Reg. Affairs

Address Pg Box 1757

Phone 222 9684

Street Palmdale State FL Zip 32301

Email rmathews@flcities.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing The League of Cities

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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Meeting Date 1/21/15

Bill Number (if applicable) 142

Topic NON-RESIDENTIAL FORM BUILDINGS

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name STEPHEN JAMES

Job Title _____

Address 100 S MONROE

Phone (850) 922-4300

Street TALLAHASSEE FL
City FL State FL Zip 32301

Email _____

Speaking: For Against Information Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FLA. Assoc. of Counties

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting. S-001 (10/14/14)

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE VOTE RECORD

COMMITTEE: Community Affairs
ITEM: SB 142
FINAL ACTION: Favorable
MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 21, 2015
TIME: 3:30 —5:00 p.m.
PLACE: 301 Senate Office Building

FINAL VOTE		SENATORS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
X		Abruzzo						
X		Bradley						
X		Dean						
X		Diaz de la Portilla						
		Thompson						
X		Brandes, VICE CHAIR						
X		Simpson, CHAIR						
6	0	TOTALS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay

CODES: FAV=Favorable RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute TP=Temporarily Postponed WD=Withdrawn
 UNF=Unfavorable RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment VA=Vote After Roll Call OO=Out of Order
 -R=Reconsidered RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment VC=Vote Change After Roll Call AV=Abstain from Voting

Senate Community Affairs

1/21/2015

Lisa M. Hurley

Legislative Director

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Assistant Legislative Director

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850.294-9405



Who We Are

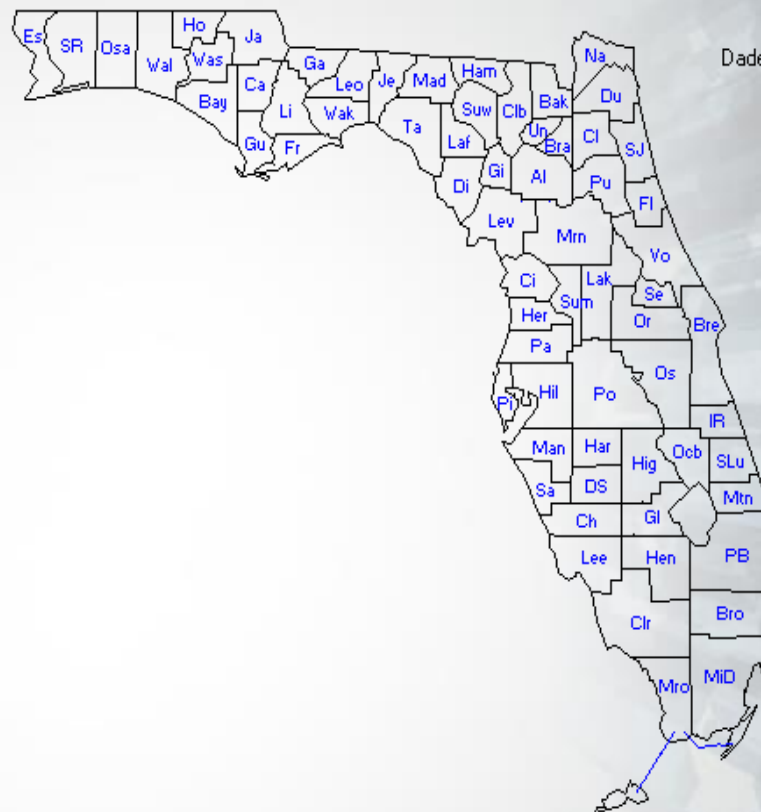
Florida Association of Counties

- Founded in 1929
 - 83 years of history
- Provides one voice for Florida's 67 counties and 377 commissioners elected by the citizens of Florida
- Governed by a Board of Directors
- FAC President: Escambia County Commissioner Grover C. Robinson, IV



Role of Florida's Counties

- Assessment of property
- Record keeping
- Maintain rural roads
- Administer elections
- Perform judicial functions
- Public health and welfare
- Consumer protection
- Economic development
- Employment and training
- Planning and zoning
- Water quality
- Fire protection
- Emergency management
- Regulatory functions



What We Do

Mission

- FAC helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration

Activities

- **Advocate** for home rule before the Governor, Cabinet, Legislature, state agencies and court system
- Provide **education programs** with a focus on ethics, leadership, Sunshine Law and county functions
- Produce **enterprise programs**
- Generate **research, data and fiscal analyses**

FAC Advocacy Areas

- Health and Human Services
 - Susan Harbin
- Finance, Tax and Administration
 - Davin Suggs
- Growth Management, Environmental Planning and Agriculture
 - Eric Poole (Growth Management)
 - Stephen James (Environment & Agriculture)
- Public Safety
 - Laura Youmans/Lisa Hurley
- Federal Issues
 - Eric Poole & Lisa Hurley

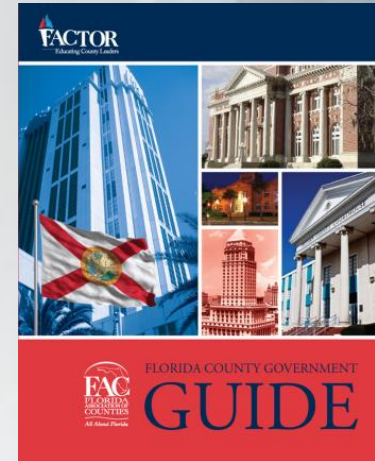
How FAC Can Serve You

- Trusted Resource on Local Government Issues
 - Expand and maintain our resource offerings, such as:
 - Research
 - Publications and policy positions
 - Fiscal Analyses
 - Surveys
 - If it does not exist (www.fl-counties.com), we will help you get it – JUST CALL US!

How FAC Can Serve You

Florida County Government Guide

- The first edition was published in 2010 and is updated biennially, prior to each election.
2012 edition with 2014 Update
- This is a comprehensive guide on all aspects of Florida county government.
- Chapters from this Guide serve as curriculum for the CCC Program.



2015 FAC Priorities



Tax Reform

The Florida Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an economic boost to Florida's tax payers *while at the same time ... minimizing the collective and cumulative impact on local revenues...*

2015 FAC Priorities



Economic Development

The Florida Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** measures that empower local governments and provides resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities and global competitiveness as envisioned by the Florida Chamber Foundation's 20 year strategic plan ...

2015 FAC Priorities



Juvenile Detention Cost Share

The Florida Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** funding for secure detention as upheld by Florida's courts by reforming the billing model and reimbursement for years of overbilling ...

2015 FAC Priorities



The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment

The Florida Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** a balanced distribution of funds for land acquisition and for water quality and quantity projects throughout the state, with equitable allocation irrespective of a project's urban or rural nature, or its coastal or inland location ...

2015 FAC Priorities



Medicaid County Cost Cap

The Florida Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** establishing a cap on growth in the individual county Medicaid costs under s. 409.915, F.S. ...

Please Contact Us



Legislative Division

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THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Bill Number (if applicable)

Meeting Date

1/21/15

Topic Fr Assoc Counties Furnishes

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name USA Hurley

Job Title Legislative Director

Address 100 S. Monroe

Phone 850.922.4300

Street Tallahassee Fl City Fl State Fl Zip 32301

Email hurley@flcourts.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Fr Assoc Counties

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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Florida League of Cities

Senate Community Affairs
Committee

January 21, 2015



WWW.FLORIDALEAGUEOFCITIES.COM



Purpose

- FLC represents 411 cities, towns and villages
- FLC provides a forum for city officials to share knowledge, ideas, innovation
- FLC provides a united municipal voice to the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government



Affiliate Groups

- FL League of Mayors
- FL City/County Management Association
- FL Association of City Clerks
- FL Government Finance Officers Association
- FL Municipal Attorneys Association
- FL Local Government Information Systems
- FL Redevelopment Association



FLC Priority Issues





Municipal Pension Reform

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that protects municipalities' Home Rule powers to set and fund municipal employee benefit levels, and specifically provides:*

- *comprehensive pension reform, including of the elimination extra benefit requirement;*
- *disability presumption reform; and*
- *a mechanism for municipalities to revoke their participation in the Florida Retirement System.*

*The League also **SUPPORTS** legislation that provides municipalities with flexibility in the use of insurance premium taxes, as currently interpreted by the Department of Management Services.*



CST & LBT Protection

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that protects general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax.*

These revenues are used to provide essential municipal services, such as public safety and constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves their ability to serve citizens and businesses.



Water Quality & Quantity

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that provides a recurring source of funding for local government programs and projects that protect water resources, improve water quality and quantity, and expand the use of alternative water sources.*



Stormwater Fee Collection

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that clarifies all users of a stormwater utility, including governmental entities, are required to pay stormwater charges to pay the cost of operation and maintenance of such a utility.*



Developments of Regional Impact

*The Florida League of Cities **OPPOSES** expanding exemptions or repeal of the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) process.*



Developments of Regional Impact

- The DRI process assists local governments by providing for coordinated state and regional review of the impacts anticipated by large developments that, because of their character, magnitude or location, would have a substantial effect on the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of more than one county.
- Without the DRI process, cities with limited planning departments cannot effectively plan large-scale developments and have no effective means to address traffic impacts that will affect multiple jurisdictions.



Enterprise Zones

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that reauthorizes and improves the Enterprise Zone program scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2015.*



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Enterprise Zones

- The Enterprise Zone program works to revitalize and rehabilitate distressed areas of the state by incentivizing private businesses to locate and expand in these areas, stimulating employment and enhancing the economic well-being of these communities.
- The EZ program is one of the few economic development tools that allows cities to partner with the state to accomplish the task of rebounding Florida's economy.



Transportation Funding

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.*



Transportation Funding

- Municipalities lack options to increase revenue to fund local transportation projects.
- Inter-local agreements and statutory formulas for the distribution of “extra” fuel taxes and other proceeds are not favorable to municipalities.



Ride-for-Hire Services

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that defines and establishes uniform safety and insurance standards for transportation network companies and their independent contractors and that preserves Home Rule authority over such services.*



Ride-for-Hire Services

- Local governments may want and/or need to change current regulation regarding taxi cab services or ride-for-hire services to adjust to new technologies, such as Uber and Lyft, and should retain the authority to do so.
- The primary concern and number one reason for local governments to retain regulatory authority is to ensure public safety for both the passengers and the drivers that transportation network companies employ.



Homelessness

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that provides a sustainable and dedicated funding source to deliver training and technical assistance to programs that offer the necessary support services for Florida's homeless individuals and families and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.*



Homelessness

- Florida has the 3rd largest homeless population in the Nation.
- The homeless population places a strain on city budgets and services.
- Florida's cities need a dedicated funding source for homelessness issues so that cities can be better equipped to overcome the challenges associated with homelessness.



Sober Homes

*The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation that defines and establishes statewide minimum regulatory standards for properties used for “sober home” purposes and allows for local regulation of such properties.*



Sober Homes

- There is currently no regulation of sober homes by the state or local governments if the homes are not affiliated with a treatment center. As a result, shady sober home operators are exploiting patients in order to make a profit.
- Problematic sober homes are a drain on municipal resources.
- Florida needs uniform minimum operating standards for sober homes to stop the abuses that are currently taking place and hold the operators of these facilities accountable.



Questions?





Thank You

For Additional Information Contact:

Legislative Affairs

(800) 342-8112

or visit our web site

www.floridaleagueofcities.com



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date 1/21/15

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic ERC Presentation

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ryan Matthews

Job Title Associate Director - Leg. Affairs

Address PO Box 1757

Phone 222 9084

Street City Palmdesse State FL Zip 32301

Email RMatthews@flahes.com

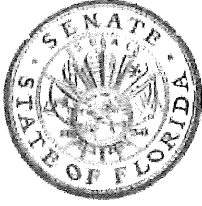
Speaking: For Against Information Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FL League of Cities

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Community Affairs
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Commerce and Tourism- Vice Chair
Transportation
Ethics and Elections

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

SENATOR GERALDINE F. THOMPSON
12th District

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Wilton Simpson
322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Simpson:

I respectfully request an excused absence from the January 21 meeting of the Committee on Community Affairs.

I will be attending an organizational meeting in Senate District 12, and unable to make it to Tallahassee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geraldine F. Thompson".

Senator Geraldine F. Thompson, D-12

A handwritten mark consisting of a circle with the letters "G" and "T" inside, possibly initials for Geraldine Thompson.

REPLY TO:

511 W. South Street, Suite 204, Orlando, Florida 32805
 224 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5012

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301

Case:

Type:]

Caption: Senate Committee on Community Affairs

Judge:

Started: 1/21/2015 3:33:11 PM

Ends: 1/21/2015 4:06:27 PM

Length: 00:33:17

3:33:22 PM call to order
3:34:32 PM Tab 2 Florida Association of Counties
3:35:01 PM Lisa Hurley, Florida Association of Counties
3:44:17 PM Senator Brandes
3:45:33 PM Lisa Hurley
3:46:55 PM Tab 3 Presentation Florida League of Cities
3:47:15 PM Ryan Matthews, Florida League of Cities
3:59:04 PM Senator Simpson
4:00:33 PM Tab 1 SB 142
4:00:35 PM Senator Dean
4:01:40 PM Ryan Matthews, Florida League of Cities
4:02:26 PM Adam Basford, Florida Farm Bureau
4:02:43 PM Stephen James, Florida Association of Counties
4:04:32 PM Senator Dean closing on bill
4:05:50 PM Roll on SB 142
4:06:04 PM SB 142 reported Favorably
4:06:15 PM Adjourned