

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2014 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Community Affairs

CS/SB 106 — County Employees

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; and Senator Dean

This bill clarifies the authority of counties related to employee benefits. The bill specifies that a county's power to employ personnel includes, but is not limited to, the authority to determine the benefits available to different types of personnel. It also specifies that the Florida Retirement System Act governs the participation of county employees in the Florida Retirement System.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0

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Committee on Community Affairs

CS/CS/SB 286 — Concrete Masonry Education

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; Regulated Industries Committee; and Senators Richter, Latvala, Detert, Garcia, Bradley, Flores, Smith, and Bean

This bill creates the “Concrete Masonry Education Act.” The bill creates the Florida Concrete Masonry Council, Inc., as a non-profit corporation operating under a written contract as a direct-support organization of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. The council is governed by a 13 member board appointed by the Governor. Administrative powers and duties of the council include the power to plan, implement, and conduct educational programs related to the field of concrete masonry, particularly for individuals seeking employment. The council is required to submit a report to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives each year on revenues, participation, use of funds, number of persons trained and other information.

The bill allows the council to accept grants, donations, contributions, gifts, and to collect self-imposed voluntary assessments on concrete masonry units produced and sold by concrete masonry manufacturers in the state. Manufacturers that choose to remit assessments must commit to paying the assessment quarterly, for at least one year. Thereafter, the manufacturer may elect to terminate payment or continue payment for the next year.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 118-0

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SB 374 — Growth Management

by Senator Detert

The bill prohibits local initiative or referendum processes for any local comprehensive plan amendment or map amendment unless the initiative or referendum process is expressly authorized by specific language in a local government charter which was in effect on June 1, 2011. The bill exempts the Town of Longboat Key's referendum charter provision from the state statutory provision prohibiting such initiative or referendum processes for local comprehensive plan amendments or map amendments.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 117-0

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CS/CS/SB 730 — Municipal Governing Body Meetings

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Senator Galvano

The bill authorizes the governing body of a municipality to hold a joint meeting outside its borders with the governing body of the county where the municipality is located when there are matters of mutual interest between the two bodies. The governing body of a municipality may also meet in another municipality to discuss or act upon matters of mutual interest. The time and place of the meetings must be prescribed by ordinance or resolution.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 115-0

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CS/CS/SB 1070 — Fuel Terminals

by Transportation Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Senator Simpson

The bill prohibits a local government from adopting amendments after July 1, 2014, to a comprehensive plan, land use designation or regulation, or zoning district so as to conflict with an existing fuel terminal's classification as a permitted and allowable use, including amendments that would render a fuel terminal a nonconforming use. A local government must allow a fuel terminal that is damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster or other catastrophe to timely repair the fuel terminal to its pre-existing capacity. The bill does not limit the authority of a local government to adopt and enforce laws regarding the safety and building standards of the fuel terminal.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-5

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SB 1108 — OGSR/Children of Agency Officers and Employees/Identifying Information

by Community Affairs Committee

The bill removes the scheduled repeal of the public records exemption for the personal identifying information of an agency employee's dependent child covered by an agency insurance plan. As a result, this information will remain exempt from the disclosure requirements under the public records laws.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2014.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 111-0