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THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 1

The 2023 Florida Legislative Session kicked off last **Tuesday, March 7, 2023**, with a joint Senate and House session for the Governor's annual State of the State speech. During his State of the State speech, Governor DeSantis laid out his priorities for 2023 legislative session, including a proposal to change the rules for carrying concealed weapons, the expansion of educational vouchers, and additional funding for affordable housing, water quality improvement and public safety. Additionally, he shared a long list of ways in which Florida can be considered to be doing better than other states, from the number of people moving to the state to the number of cruise ship tourists sailing out of its ports as justification for his aggressive, staunchly conservative agenda. Lastly, the Governor said, "I can promise you this. You ain't seen nothing yet," as the Legislature kicked off its annual two-month lawmaking session.

Following his address, both Senate President Kathleen Passidomo and

House Speaker Paul Renner delivered their remarks and the legislators officially began the 60-day legislative session.



Throughout the 2023 legislative session, CFHLA will be monitoring the progression of several bills that are important to our industry including: proposals that expand the use of the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)**, additional funding for **Visit Florida**, the statewide regulation of **vacation homes and advertising platforms**, increased funding and incentives to encourage additional **workforce housing** opportunities, **data privacy**,

the clarification and modernization of the **Florida Timeshare Act** and many others.

CLICK HERE to download the complete 2023 CFHLA Legislative Agenda.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX (TDT)

A bill in each chamber that proposes changes to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) statute and authorizes certain fiscally constrained counties to use a designated percentage of tourist development tax revenues received to reimburse expenses incurred for certain purposes.

HB 309 by Representative Shoaf – **No action** was taken in the House last week.

SB 640 by Senator Simon – **No action** was taken in the Senate last week.

CFHLA OPPOSES

VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING

CFHLA **supports increased funding for VISIT FLORIDA in the amount of \$100 million.** Following Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole, funding will be especially important to ensure Florida continues to be top of mind as a leading vacation destination.

CFHLA SUPPORTS

VACATION HOME RENTALS AND ADVERTISING PLATFORMS

A bill in each chamber that would require advertising platforms to collect and remit specified taxes for certain vacation rental transactions. It also

defines the term “advertising platform,” revises the regulated activities of public lodging establishments and public food service establishments preempted to the state to include licensing, requires advertising platforms to require that persons placing advertisements for vacation rentals include certain information in the advertisements and attest to certain information and authorizes DBPR to revoke, refuse to issue or renew, or suspend vacation rental licenses under certain circumstances.

This week, our government affairs team met with Senator DiCeglie and specifically shared our concerns regarding the need for a safety, to be included within the proposed legislation.

HB 833 by Representative Duggan – **No action** was taken in the House last week.

SB 714 by Senator DiCeglie – **Passed 5-2 by the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on March 15, 2023**. The bill is now awaiting a hearing in the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government.

CFHLA SUPPORTS

WORKFORCE HOUSING

On March 8, 2023, the Senate passed SB 102, also known as the "Live Local Act," which is a comprehensive affordable housing package sponsored by Senator Calatayud.

This bill, a priority for Senate President Passidomo, allocates \$252 million in non-recurring funds towards the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and \$259 million (recurring and non-recurring) towards the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) programs. The bill includes various provisions such as eliminating limited statutory authority for local governments to impose rent control measures and authorizing counties to approve "mixed-use residential" development that includes affordable housing within commercial or industrial zones. Additionally, the bill provides

ad valorem tax exemptions for land owned by a non-profit entity leased for 99+ years for the purpose of affordable housing and newly constructed or substantially rehabilitated developments with 70+ units dedicated to providing affordable low- to moderate-income housing.

The bill also authorizes local governments to offer an additional local option ad valorem tax exemption to property owners who dedicate units to extremely low-income or very-low-income residents. Furthermore, the bill provides for a new distribution of the lesser of 8 percent of Documentary Stamp Tax revenues or \$150 million to be deposited into the State Housing Trust Fund, and codifies the Hometown Heroes program, which provides down payment assistance and zero-interest loans to eligible frontline community workforce members.

SB 102 by Senator Calatayud – **Passed unanimously (40-0) on the Senate Floor and is now in awaiting action by the House.**

HB 627 by Representative Busatta-Cabrera and Representative Lopez – **Passed 18-3 by the State Affairs Committee on March 8, 2023.** The bill is now awaiting a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee.

CFHLA SUPPORTS

DATA PRIVACY

CFHLA believes that customers deserve to have control over their personal information. However, any regulations upon individual companies should not be unreasonable, as the cost of compliance could be significant for small and medium-sized businesses. Additionally, businesses must be given an adequate opportunity to correct any errors and respond to complaints without the threat of costly litigation.

CFHLA MONITORING

FLORIDA TIMESHARE ACT

CFHLA supports ARDA's legislative proposal, which seeks the **clarification and modernization of several provisions in the Florida Timeshare Act**. Beneficial revisions for owners' associations include the option for meetings to be held virtually, an exemption from current requirements to deliver notices to an owner's unit rather than the address of record, clearer authority to act in an emergency, and streamlining the trustee foreclosure process to make it less time-consuming. The proposal would also allow developers to deliver certain documents to purchasers electronically and clarify provisions regarding the delivery and filing of other required documents. These proposed changes would **help bring the statute up to date relative to the current business model and available technology**.

CFHLA SUPPORTS

UPCOMING PAC/PC MEETING

The next CFHLA PAC/PC Boards of Director Meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 5th from 8:15 am - 9:15am at the CFHLA office**.

UPCOMING GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MEETING

The next Governmental Affairs meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 24th at Lowndes (thank you Jackie Bozzuto) from 12:00 noon - 1:30 PM**.

IN THE NEWS

[Bill to lift lid on vacation rental preemption clears Senate panel](#) - Florida Politics

['You ain't seen nothing yet': DeSantis delivers State of the State address](#) - WESH 2 News

[Pulitzer Prize winner, health-care executive named to lead new Orange County tourist tax advisory committee](#) - Yahoo News

[DeSantis signs Reedy Creek district bill into law, wipes out Disney-chosen power structure](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[New Reedy Creek board meets for the first time](#) - Spectrum News

[Negotiations nearly final on bills to protect insurers, businesses from lawsuits](#) - Florida Politics

[Legislation expanding school choice heads to the Senate floor](#) - Florida Politics

[Blaise Ingoglia's immigration reform measure makes it out of first committee stop](#) - Florida Politics

[OIA awarded nearly \\$70M in federal funding for two Terminal C expansion projects](#) - WFTV

[Kissimmee-area tourism sees record growth — but overseas travel still drags](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Orlando Crowned Largest Travel & Tourism City in America for 2022](#)
- Travel Agent Central

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About CFHLA

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The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.