



March 23, 2023

THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 2 AND 3

Throughout **Weeks 2 and 3 of the 2023 Florida Legislative Session**, the Florida House and Senate have taken action on a range of bills related to education, tort reform, vacation rentals and other issues. **HB 1**, which was passed by the House last Friday and is in returning messages with the Senate, would expand the state's school voucher program and create educational savings accounts that would allow any student to attend their school of choice (including private schools). The Senate will now take up this bill, as it was placed on 3rd reading this week. Another bill that was passed by the House last week (and in returning messages with the Senate), **HB 477**, will limit county school board members to two four-year terms. Additionally, **HB 733** is now at its last committee stop which will require middle and high schools to start classes no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively. Furthermore, **SB 154** has now passed its Senate Committees and is ready for floor consideration. This bill proposes a revision to the structural inspection requirements for condominium and

cooperative associations. Lastly, Florida's tort system could be completely overhauled with the passage of **HB 837** last week and the bill being placed on 3rd reading this week in the Senate.

FLORIDA TOURISM DAY

This week, CFHLA met in Tallahassee for **Florida Tourism Day**, in partnership with industry leaders and professionals from across the state. It was an extremely productive and informative couple of days as we met with our Legislators from across the state to discuss our priorities and how crucial it is to support Florida's No. 1 industry.

We also educated the legislature, media and all Floridians about the importance of Florida's tourism industry and the positive economic impact of tourism to Florida and its residents.



In addition, we had the opportunity to hear from **Florida's Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, Visit Florida's President/CEO Dana Young, DBPR's Secretary Melanie Griffin, Florida's Attorney General**

Ashley Moody and Governor DeSantis' Chief of Staff James Uthmeier.

Furthermore, **Visit Florida's CEO Dana Young** spoke with us regarding the future funding for Visit Florida. After Governor DeSantis originally proposed funding the organization with \$100 million for the FY 2023-2024, the Senate proposed \$80 million in funding this week, with \$30 million recurring. However, the House countered with zero funding for Visit Florida. With this news, **our industry rallied the capitol and will be actively pursuing this funding that is crucial to the success of our state and local communities.** CFHLA will continue to monitor this issue closely and will keep you informed on its progression throughout the legislative process.



[**VIEW THE PHOTOS FROM FLORIDA TOURISM DAY**](#)

Additionally, we will continue to monitor the progression of several bills that are important to our industry including: proposals that expand the use of the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)**, 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**, Human Trafficking and many others.

Thank you to each our members and industry partners who joined us for this important week!

CLICK HERE to download the complete 2023 CFHLA Legislative Agenda.



2023 Florida Legislative Session Priorities



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.

This week, the House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee proposed that Visit Florida would receive \$0 funding for the FY 2023 - 2024. Additionally, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development proposed \$80 million in funding for Visit Florida, with \$30 million recurring.

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.

Last week, our governmental affairs team met with Senator DeCeglie regarding his Vacation Home Rental bill SB 714. Senator DeCeglie was receptive to our concerns and the meeting was followed up with a draft language for the Senator to consider. We also met with the House sponsor, Representative Duggan, to discuss these same concerns.

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

SB 714 by Senator DiCeglie – **No action was taken this week.** 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 – The bill was **approved 40-0 by the Florida Senate on March 8th** and has now been sent to the House for consideration.

HB 627 by Representative Busatta-Cabrera and Representative Lopez – The bill was received in Senate messages and **has now been placed on 3rd reading.**

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.

SB 262 by Senator Bradley - **No action was taken in the Senate this week.**

HB 1547 by Representative McFarland - **No action was taken in the House this week.**

CFHLA OPPOSES

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 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

DONATE

CFHLA MEMBERS - Please **consider making a donation of \$50** via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA expand its efforts to support and endorse Hospitality-Friendly candidates for local and state offices. **In the 2022 General election, all 16 CFHLA endorsed candidates were successfully elected into office.**

[**DONATE NOW**](#)

As a reminder, all CFHLA Board Members, PAC/PC Board Members, and ARC Board Members have committed to contributing \$150 to the CFHLA PAC/PC in 2023. If you are a part of one or more of these groups, please consider fulfilling your commitment today.

IN THE NEWS

[**Orange County's hotel tax task force meets for first time, tackles early questions**](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[**New Tourism Tax Task Force meets for first time in Orange County**](#) - Spectrum News 13

[**Fight over Enterprise Florida, VISIT FLORIDA back as House budget cuts both**](#) - Florida Politics

[**How Orlando's World Cup loss may spur talks to score wins in much-needed investment**](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[**Florida Senate beats back eleventh-hour effort to change sweeping tort bill**](#) - Florida Politics

[**Senate readies school choice bill for final passage**](#) - Florida Politics

[**'Open Carry' measure now off the table, disappointing Second Amendment advocates**](#) - Florida Politics

Central Florida tourism is near pre-pandemic levels, but hospitality employment is down - WFTV News

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About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

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.