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THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 3

With the third week of the 2022 Florida Legislative session now complete, the Legislature is now one-third of the way through the sixty day session. Last week was a busy week, with several notable bills gaining momentum including the House Legislative redistricting map, the extension of the scheduled repeal date for VISIT FLORIDA, and a new public record exemption.

Additionally, Senate President Wilton Simpson urged for an increase to the minimum wage for state workers to \$15 an hour. This is an increase from the \$13 an hour, which he pushed for during last year's Legislative session. This proposed increase would cost the State \$1 billion, but Simpson argues "We have the cash this year to do it, so there's no excuse." In 2020, a ballot amendment passed with 61% of the vote, that would raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2026. Under Simpson's plan, this would speed up the process by four (4) years. Several state agencies are struggling to retain and recruit workers and this could alleviate the high turnover rate. Along with this measure, [HB 943](#) has moved forward, which prevents cities and counties from requiring high minimum wages for their own employees. Despite the opposition, the bill passed with a 10-7 vote in the House, while the Senate version ([SB 1124](#)) failed to get a vote after running out of time during the debate.

Lastly, the House Redistricting map ([H 8013](#)), which defines the 120 House districts, was advanced in committee and is now ready for a vote on the House floor. While Rep. Omphroy crossed party lines to vote yes, other Democrats criticized the map of not having enough public

[City of Orlando](#)[City of Kissimmee](#)[City of Sanford](#)

involvement and not accounting for the growth in minority populations – which were concerns from previous committee meetings. Representative Leek, the Chair of the House Redistricting Committee, stated that that map had been worked on for months and the product produced is constitutionally compliant. This proposed map could potentially have 19 current House members, who seek another term, be in competition with one another.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX (TDT)

A bill in each chamber proposing changes to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) statute that would remove a provision that would require a specific percentage of all tourist development tax revenues to be used to promote and advertise tourism.

HB 6075 - Representative Eskamani - **No action** taken in the House last week.

SB 1898 - Senator Farmer Jr. - **No action** taken in the Senate last week.

HB 673 - Representative Shoaf - **No action** taken in the House last week.

SB 1542 - Senator Gainer - **No action** taken in the Senate last week.

CFHLA OPPOSES

VISIT FLORIDA

A bill filed in each chamber that revises the scheduled repeal date of Florida's Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation (VISIT FLORIDA) until at least October 1, 2028.

HB 489 - Representative Cheney and Co-Sponsored by Morales - **Passed by a 17-4 vote** in the House Commerce Committee on January 24, 2022. The bill is now ready for a final vote on the House floor.

SB 434 - Senator Hooper - Passed **unanimously** by the Senate Appropriations Committee on January 27, 2022. The bill is now ready for a final vote on the Senate floor.

We are thankful to Senator Hooper and Representative Cheney for their leadership on this important issue!

CFHLA SUPPORTS

VACATION RENTALS

A bill in each chamber to require advertising platforms, such as **Airbnb** and **Vrbo**, to remit specified taxes imposed on some transactions. It also requires all licenses issued by the Division of Hotels & Restaurants of DBPR to be displayed conspicuously. Additionally, these bills would preempt regulation of vacation rentals to the State of Florida, which would prohibit local law, ordinance, or regulation from allowing or requiring inspections or licensing of public lodging establishments.

HB 325 - Representative Fischer and Co-Sponsored by Morales - **Passed by a 10-6 vote** in the House Regulatory Reform Subcommittee on January 27, 2022. The bill now moves onto the Commerce and Ways & Means Committee.

SB 512 - *Senator Burgess* - **No action** taken in the Senate last week. The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on January 11, 2022, and **is now on the agenda for the Senate Community Affairs Committee this Wednesday, February 2, 2022.**

CFHLA SUPPORTS

DATA PRIVACY

A priority of Governor DeSantis, this bill would allow consumers to control how their personal data is shared and sold. Last year, business interests strongly opposed this bill, stating it would cause substantial operational and legal expenses. Ultimately, the bill died last Session, however it has been filed again in 2022.

HB 9 - *Representative McFarland* - **No action** taken in the House last week. This bill was filed in the Florida House on January 10, 2022 and it **includes a private right of action clause that we oppose.** The bill has been referred to the House Commerce and Judiciary Committees.

SB 1864 - *Senator Bradley* - **No action** taken in the Senate last week. The bill was filed in the Florida Senate on January 7, 2022 and it has been referred to the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, the Senate Regulated Industries Committee and the Senate Rules Committee.

CFHLA MONITORING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A bill in each chamber, named the Human Trafficking Reduction Act, that proposes a slew of provisions, including a prohibition of hourly rate offerings at hotels and motels, seeks to raise Florida's criminal penalties, requires hotel operators to make guests show ID at the time of occupancy, and establishes a statewide human trafficking data repository at the University of South Florida. We are working with our legislators to ensure that the measures in this bill, if passed, are fair and tailored to meet their objectives and would apply to apply equally to short-term rental companies.

HB 1439 - *Representative Toledo* - The bill was passed **unanimously** by the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee on January 25, 2022. **The bill is now on the agenda in the House Commerce Committee for Tuesday, February 1, 2022.**

SB 1852 - *Senator Bradley* - **No action** taken in the Senate last week. The bill has been referred to the Regulated Industries, Commerce and Tourism, and Rules Committees.

CFHLA MONITORING

FLORIDA TIMESHARE ACT

A bill filed in each chamber that seeks to clarify and modernize several provisions in the **Florida Timeshare Act**. The bill includes 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 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.

HB 575 - Representative McClain - No action taken in the House last week. The bill was filed in the Florida House on January 10, 2022 and has been referred to the Regulatory Reform Subcommittee.

SB 1216 - Senator Hutson - Passed unanimously by the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on January 25, 2022. The bill is now awaiting a vote in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

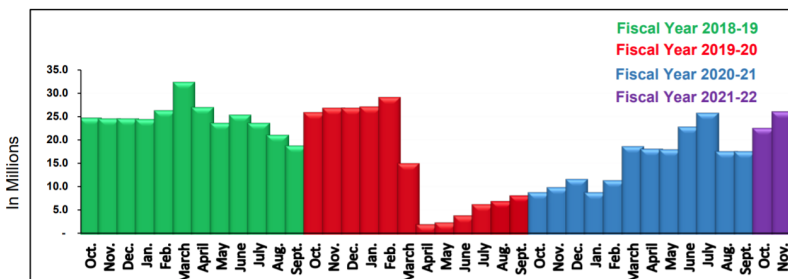
CFHLA SUPPORTS

REGIONAL TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX UPDATE

Orange County TDT

In November 2021, Orange County collected **\$25,051,900** in Tourist Development Tax, which is a **183% increase over November 2020!** Month-over-month, November collections were higher than October collections by \$3.6 million and were only \$697,100 lower than November 2019. In addition, November's collections represent the second highest month of collections on record.

For more information on **Orange County TDT** numbers, please [CLICK HERE](#).

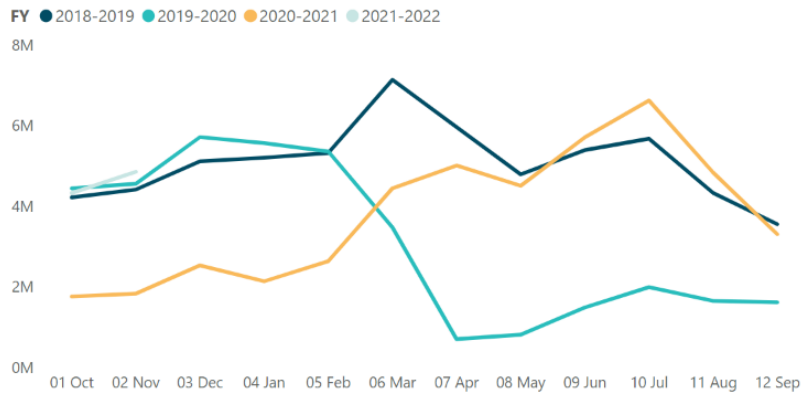


Osceola County TDT

In November 2021, Osceola County collected **\$4,853,159** in Tourist Development Tax, which is a **166% increase over November 2020!** The month of November 2021 was a record high and is up 7% versus November 2019.

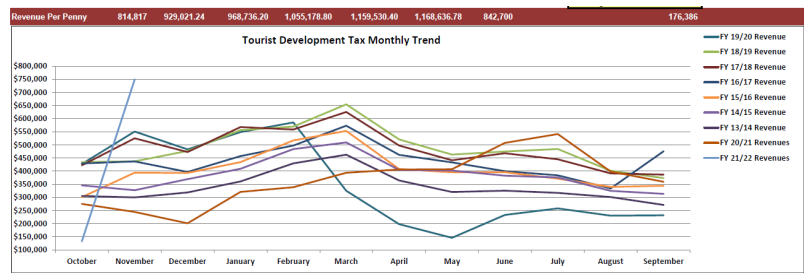
For more information on **Osceola County TDT** numbers, please [CLICK HERE](#).

TDT Osceola County



Seminole County TDT

Seminole County is reporting a combined collection of **\$881,929** in Tourist Development Tax, for the months of October and November 2021, which is more than a **70% increase** over October and November 2020 combined!



DONATE

CFHLA MEMBERS - Please consider making a donation of \$50 via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA continue its efforts in supporting and endorsing Hospitality-Friendly candidates for local and state offices.



As a reminder, all CFHLA Board Members, PAC/PC Board Members, and ARC Board Members have committed to contributing \$100 to the CFHLA PAC/PC in 2022. If you are a part of one or more of these groups, please consider fulfilling your commitment today.

IN THE NEWS

[STR, TE slightly upgrade latest U.S. hotel forecast](#) (HospitalityNET)

[No more 'Pitbull incidents,' Visit Florida pledges](#) (Orlando Business Journal)

[Visit Florida extension teed up in Senate, House](#) (Orlando Business Journal)

[Vacation rental preemption bill clears first House committee](#) (Florida Politics)

[Push for penny sales tax: Mayor Demings calls for 1-cent sales tax for transportation](#) (WKMG)

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