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**February 8, 2024**

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## **THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION**

### **2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 4**

Last week, marked the end to the fourth week of Florida's 2024 Legislative Session. With only 35 days left until the end of Session, legislators are carefully, yet quickly, considering bills in committees and on the chamber floors on a variety of hot topic bills. This includes a streamlined budget for the upcoming fiscal year as the top budget committees in both chambers unanimously approved their main budget bills.

The \$115.5 billion House budget ([HB 5001](#)) and the \$115.9 billion Senate budget ([SB 2500](#)), reflects the impact of reduced federal funding post-pandemic. Anticipating slowed tax collections in an inflationary, low-interest-rate economy, legislators are aiming for a conservative budget to secure future stability.



Also last week was highlighted by the passage of [SB 280](#) on the Senate Floor, **by a vote of 27-13**, and now heads to the House. This bill by Sen. Nick DiCeglie will lead to the regulation of vacation home rentals and is intended to be a compromise where local governments will have greater authority over vacation rentals than before, while vacation rental owners would have more uniformed structure and standards.

Furthermore, a bill ([SB 328](#)) proposed by Sen. Alexis Calatayud **seeks amendments to the Live Local Act, a new affordable housing law supported by CFHLA** and passed last year. Aimed at addressing workforce housing needs, the legislation emphasizes zoning and land use improvements for affordable housing developments. Additionally, it allocates an extra \$100 million for the Hometown Heroes program, supporting first-time, income-qualified homebuyers with down payment and closing cost assistance.

As we near the half-way point of the 2024 Florida Legislative Session, CFHLA continues to monitor the progression of bills that are important to our industry including: proposals that expand and/or change the use of the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)**, maintaining **full funding for Visit Florida**, the **statewide regulation of vacation homes and advertising platforms**, **increased funding and incentives to encourage additional**

**workforce housing opportunities, storm water issues, revisions to the Florida Timeshare Act, and many others.**



[CLICK HERE](#) to download the complete 2024 CFHLA Legislative Agenda.

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## **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX (TDT)**

CFHLA is closely monitoring is **SB 1748 / HB 1599 Tourist Development Tax by Senator Brodeur and Representative Truenow.**

This bill would prohibit a county from spending more than 25 percent of the TDT on an individual project unless the governing board of the county approves such use by supermajority vote.

**HB 1599** by Representative Truenow – **No action** was taken in the House last week.

**SB 1748** by Senator Brodeur – This bill **passed the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on January 23, 2024** and is now in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

**HB 1081** by Representative Porras – This bill was **placed on the Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee agenda for February 6, 2024**.

**HB 1453** by Representative Valdes - **No action** was taken in the House last week.

**SB 872** by Senator Stewart - **No action** was taken in the Senate last week.

**SB 1072** by Senator Avila – This bill **passed the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on January 30, 2024** and is now in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

**SB 1594** by Senator Stewart - **No action** was taken in the Senate last week.

## CFHLA MONITORING

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### VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING

CFHLA supports the Governor's proposed budget, which includes **\$105 million in funding for VISIT FLORIDA (increase from \$80M in FY 2023-2024)**.

Funding of VISIT FLORIDA ensures Florida continues to be top of mind as a leading vacation destination.

Last week, the Senate Budget proposed **\$80 million**, same as the current fiscal year for **VISIT FLORIDA**. Meanwhile, the Florida House Budget proposed **\$30 million** for **VISIT FLORIDA**.

**CFHLA also opposes any efforts to replace VISIT FLORIDA funding from the state budget with County-level TDT revenues.**

We remain steadfast in our support of Visit Florida and its full and continued funding.

## CFHLA SUPPORTS



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### VACATION HOME RENTALS & ADVERTISING PLATFORMS

**SB 280** by Senator Nick DiCeglie attempts to preempt and regulate the vacation home rental industry across the state. The bill also is intended to be a compromise where local governments will have greater authority over vacation rentals than before, while vacation rental owners would have more uniformed structure and standards.

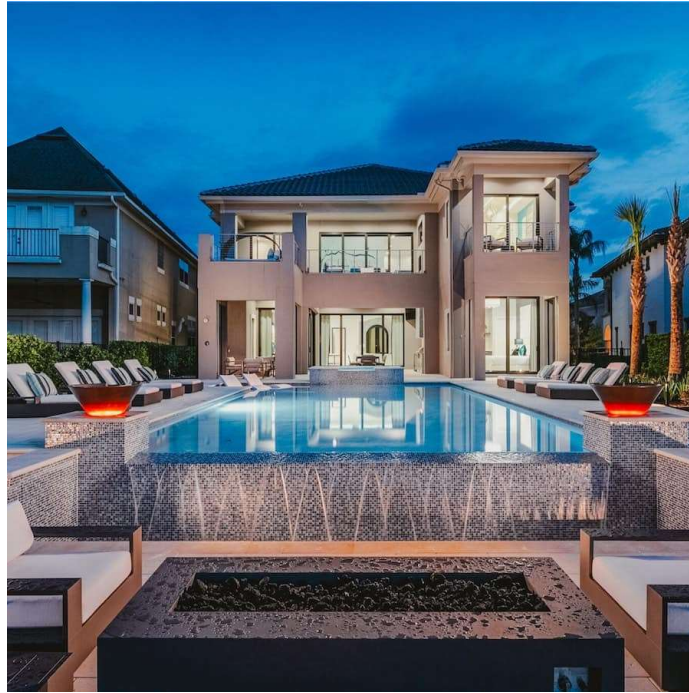
CFHLA **supports the current version** of the bill but would like to see the bill **amended to include health and safety standards such as human trafficking awareness, training and prevention**, regular health and safety standards and inspections, pool safety and drowning prevention, hygiene and cleaning procedures to protect visitors and their experience.

Now that the Senate has passed this bill, we are optimistic this bill will pass this legislative session. We thank the bill sponsor Senator Nick DiCeglie for remaining diligent in continuing this year to pass this bill.

**HB 1537** by Representative Griffitts –The bill **passed the Regulatory Reform and Economic Development by a vote of 10-4 on February 1, 2024** and now in the House Ways and Means Committee.

**SB 280** by Senator DiCeglie – **The bill passed the Senate Floor on February 1, 2024 by a vote of 27-13.**

## CFHLA SUPPORTS



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## WORKFORCE HOUSING

**CFHLA supports full funding for the Sadowski Fund**, as the Central Florida community has a dire need for more reliable and affordable rental housing.

In addition to existing State Apartment Incentive Loan dollars (usually known as SAIL), CFHLA would like to see the legislature increase the percentage of State Housing Incentive Partnership dollars (usually known as SHIP) that can be used for rental housing.

CFHLA also encourages the Legislature to consider creating incentives to encourage innovative approaches to affordable housing development. For example: incentives for development of high-quality rental properties in key areas or incentives and tax credits for businesses to create housing for their own staff.



**Senate Bill 328 by Sen. Alexis Calatayud and House Bill 1239 by Rep. Vicki Lopez** seek amendments to the Live Local Act, the new affordable housing law passed last year that CFHLA supported. **CFHLA supports** these bills and appreciates the Governor's Leadership in proposing \$208.6 million for the State Housing Partnership Program (SHIP), \$89.5 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program (SAIL) and \$100 million for the Hometown Heroes program for down payment and closing cost assistance for first time homebuyers.

**SB 328** by Senator Calatayud - This bill has **passed both of its committee stops and is now ready for a vote on the Senate floor.**

**HB 1239** by Representative Lopez - This bill was **placed on the State Affairs Committee agenda for February 7, 2024.**

## CFHLA SUPPORTS

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### IMMIGRATION REFORM

**CFHLA encourages solutions to our current immigration reform policies that help our hospitality businesses and economy thrive instead of hindering them.**

There have been two bills filed this session regarding this issue. Each bill urges the Federal Government to secure the southern border of the United States, enforce Federal Immigrations Laws, and fix the legal immigration system.

**HM 669** by Representative Sirois –**NOW in its final committee stop, State Affairs.**

**SM 598** by Senator Ingoglia –**NOW is ready for consideration on the Senate Floor.**

## CFHLA SUPPORTS

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## FLORIDA TIMESHARE ACT

**CFHLA supports HB 429 by Rep. Robinson and SB 756 by Sen. Perry** which seeks the clarification and modernization of several provisions in the Florida Timeshare Act. This is ARDA's legislative proposal.

These bills would:

- Grant timeshare associations with the authority and flexibility to remove an amenity;
- Expanding the "Inn Keeper's Rights" to include timeshare properties (currently only licensed lodging establishments are included in this Statute);
- And clarify an existing provision that timeshare associations shall issue estoppel certificates.

**[HB 429](#)** by Representative Robinson – **This bill has passed the Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee and the Judiciary Committee and has been placed on the Commerce Committee agenda for February 8, 2024.**

**[SB 756](#)** by Senator Perry – **This bill has passed the Regulated Industries and Judiciary Committees and has been placed on the Rules Committee agenda for February 8, 2024.**

## **CFHLA SUPPORTS**

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### REGULATION OF CASHLESS BUSINESSES

**CFHLA is opposing HB 35 by Rep. Rudman and SB 106 by Sen. Jones** which would require most brick-and-mortar businesses to accept cash, which combats the counter effort of accepting only electronic forms of payment. Several businesses have moved to cashless sales.

**[SB 106](#)** by Senator Jones – **Passed by both the Commerce and Tourism Committee and the Appropriations Committee on Agriculture,**



**Environment, and General Government. Now awaiting final committee stop, Fiscal Policy.**

**HB 35** by Representative Rudman – **This bill has three committee stops and has not been heard yet.**

## **CFHLA OPPOSES**

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### **REVISIONS TO FLORIDA'S CHILD LABOR LAWS**

**CFHLA Supports HB 49 by Rep. Chaney and SB 1596 by Sen. Burgess.**

The Work Hour Law Moves allows 16- and 17-year-olds to work extended hours and is seen as beneficial for teens already working beyond legal limits off the books.

This bill would be beneficial to the hospitality and tourism industry as it works to address worker shortages post-pandemic, help with retention and help minors and their families to succeed in the current economic environment.

**HB 49** by Representative Chaney – **This bill passed the House by a vote of 80 – 35 on February 1, 2024.**

**SB 1596** by Senator Burgess – **The bill has passed the Commerce and Tourism Committee on January 30, 2024 and now awaiting a hearing in its final two committee stops, Regulated Industries and the Rules Committee.**

## **CFHLA SUPPORTS**

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### **SCHEDULE FOR SESSION WEEK 5 (FEBRUARY 5 - 9, 2024)**

To view the Senate's schedule, [CLICK HERE](#).

To view the House's schedule, [CLICK HERE](#).

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### **UPCOMING CFHLA PAC/PC MEETING**

The next CFHLA PAC/PC Boards of Director Meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 21st from 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. at the CFHLA office.**

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## UPCOMING GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MEETING

The next Governmental Affairs meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 13th at the Signia by Hilton Bonnet Creek (thank you, Fred Sawyers) from 12:00 noon - 1:30 PM.**

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## 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 \$200 to the CFHLA PAC/PC in 2024.** If you are a part of one or more of these groups, please consider fulfilling your commitment today.

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## IN THE NEWS

[Orange County Leaders revisit 1 cent transportation sales tax](#) - Spectrum  
13

[Commentary: Hospitality jobs are a career game-changer](#) - Orlando  
Sentinel

[Orange County TDT revenue drops - yet again - in December](#) - Orlando  
Business Journal

[Report: Florida's wage growth continues to rise](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Orange County Elections Supervisor Bill Cowles retires after 34+ years](#) - Spectrum 13

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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.