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February 1, 2024

THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION

Orange County Approves TDT Funding Plan

CFHLA is excited to share that after nearly a year of in-depth and comprehensive discussions between Orange County residents, the tourism and hospitality industry, the Tourist Development Tax Citizens Advisory Task Force and the Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC), **the BOCC ultimately voted 6-1 in favor of the moving forward with the following recommendations** made by by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and supported by CFHLA last Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

Here are the key items in last week's vote:

- **Maintaining Visit Orlando's 30% funding from total annual TDT collected for the next four years.** From that 30%, Visit Orlando will now have an annual reduction of \$15 million annually. This \$15 million,

will now be distributed to the **Sport Incentive Committee (increase from \$4M annually to \$10 million annually)** and the **Application Review Committee (ARC) (\$5M annually)** for arts and cultural facilities across Orange County.

- **\$400 million** for a new Upper Bowl and field house at **Camping World Stadium**.
- An increase of operational funding for **Greater Orlando Sports Commission from \$300,000.00 to \$740,660.50 per year**.
- Extend the TDT 6th cent, **not to exceed \$226 million**, for the much needed systems and technology updates that are needed for the **Kia Center** (formerly Amway).

This is in addition to the approval of TDT funding of **\$560 million for Phase 5A completion of the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), \$90 million for UCF's Stadium Tower and nearly \$150 million to support our local arts and cultural affairs groups** that was approved back in October 2023.

This vote was a huge win for Orange County and its residents and a successful step forward for our industry and community! While there are still some contractual negotiations left to complete, this was a pivotal step forward.

Thank you again to Orange County Mayor Demings and Commissioners Gomez Cordero, Moore, Scott, Uribe and Wilson for your support on Tuesday, along with all of our CFHLA Board Members who attended meetings, submitted letters of support and advocated with CFHLA over the past year.

If you missed the BOCC meeting, please [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the entire meeting. The TDT discussion begins at 3:33:00.

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE - WEEK 3

Throughout **week 3** of the 2024 Florida Legislative Session, the Florida House and Senate began to craft their various budgets which differed considerably, including but not limited to environmental project spending as well as for economic development programs throughout the State. **The Senate budget clocks in just shy of \$116 billion and the House draft is at \$115.5 billion.** Both the House and Senate will need to collaborate to resolve their nearly \$400

million discrepancies, in order to vote on the official spending plan for the final state budget before the legislative session concludes.

Additionally, a bill ([HB 49](#)) **allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to work extended hours**, is advancing to the full House floor after gaining approval in the House Commerce Committee this past week. Sponsored by Republican Rep. Linda Chaney, the measure is seen as beneficial for teens already working beyond legal limits off the books. The hospitality industry has been generally supportive of this bill as it attempts to address worker shortages post-pandemic. The Senate counterpart ([SB 1596](#)) still awaits its initial committee review, and a more specific bill (SB 460) focuses on allowing teens to work on select residential construction sites.

Furthermore, the Florida Legislature also took action on a wide range of bills related to education, criminal justice reform, technology and more last week.

Lastly, 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.



2024 Florida Legislative Session Priorities



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

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 agenda and is now in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.**

HB 1081 by Representative Porras - **No action** was taken in the House last week.

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 unanimously in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee agenda 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



VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING

CFHLA supports the Governor's proposed budget, which includes **\$105 million in continued funding for VISIT FLORIDA**. Funding of VISIT FLORIDA ensures Florida continues to be top of mind as a leading vacation destination.

This 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 next week we will be advocating for the full and continued funding, during Florida Tourism Day at the Capitol on Tuesday February 6, 2024.

CFHLA SUPPORTS



VACATION HOME RENTALS & ADVERTISING PLATFORMS

SB 280 DiCeglie attempts to preempt and regulate the vacation home rental industry across the state. The bill attempts to create balanced and rational regulations that protect our visitors, residents, and communities.

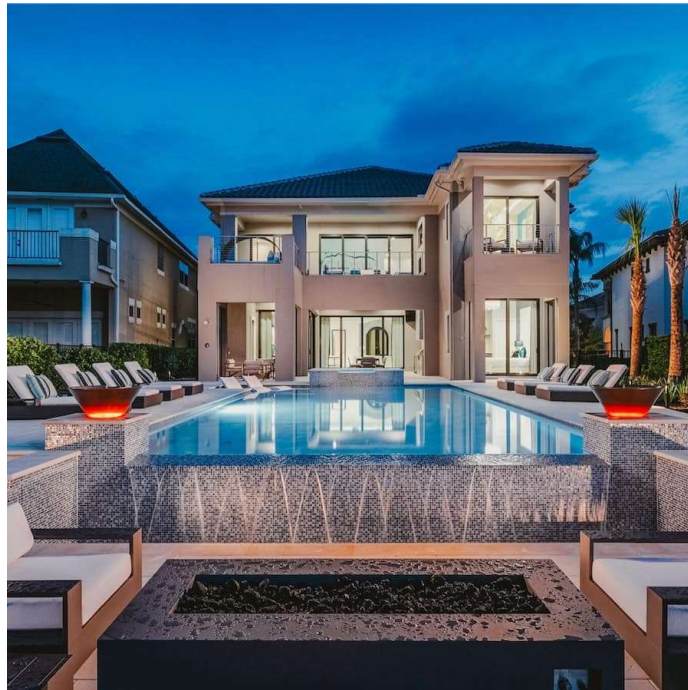
CFHLA supports this bill but would like to see the bill amended to include health and safety standards such as human trafficking awareness, training and prevention, regular health and safety standards and inspections, pool safety and drowning prevention, hygiene and cleaning procedures, as well as mandatory occupancy requirements to protect visitors and their experience.

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 –**No action** was taken in the House last week.

SB 280 by Senator DiCeglie – **The bill is now ready to be considered on the full Senate floor.**

CFHLA SUPPORTS



SCHEDULE FOR SESSION WEEK 4 (JANUARY 29 - February 2, 2024)

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS - February 6, 2024 is Florida Tourism Day

Hospitality and tourism is truly the lifeblood of Florida's economy. That is why our presence in Tallahassee next week during Florida Tourism Day, along with many other tourism and hospitality partners from across the state will speak volumes about the strength and significance of our industry. Next Tuesday, February 6th, CFHLA will have the opportunity to engage with legislative leaders and connect with policymakers as we advocate for the issues that directly impact your business and keep our industry thriving.



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.**

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.**

IN THE NEWS

[Tourist-tax plan makes smaller-than-expected trim of Visit Orlando budget](#) - Orlando Sentinel

[Camping World Stadium sets target to begin TDT-funded upgrades](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[What's next after Orange County OKs TDT funds for 2 projects and cuts](#)

[Visit Orlando budget](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Child labor restrictions in crosshairs of Florida lawmakers with new bill](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Governor DeSantis drops out of 2024 Presidential Race](#) - YouTube

[Universal Orlando unveils Epic Universe details, Harry Potter and Nintendo lands](#) - 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.