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The advertisement for Landform of Central Florida Inc. features a blue header with the company name. Below the header is a collage of four images: a hand drawing a landscape plan, a modern outdoor lamp, a swimming pool with lounge chairs, and a person in a blue uniform working on a golf course. Below the collage is the company logo, which consists of three white circles arranged in a triangle on a blue square background. The text below the logo lists the company's services and contact information.

March 14, 2024

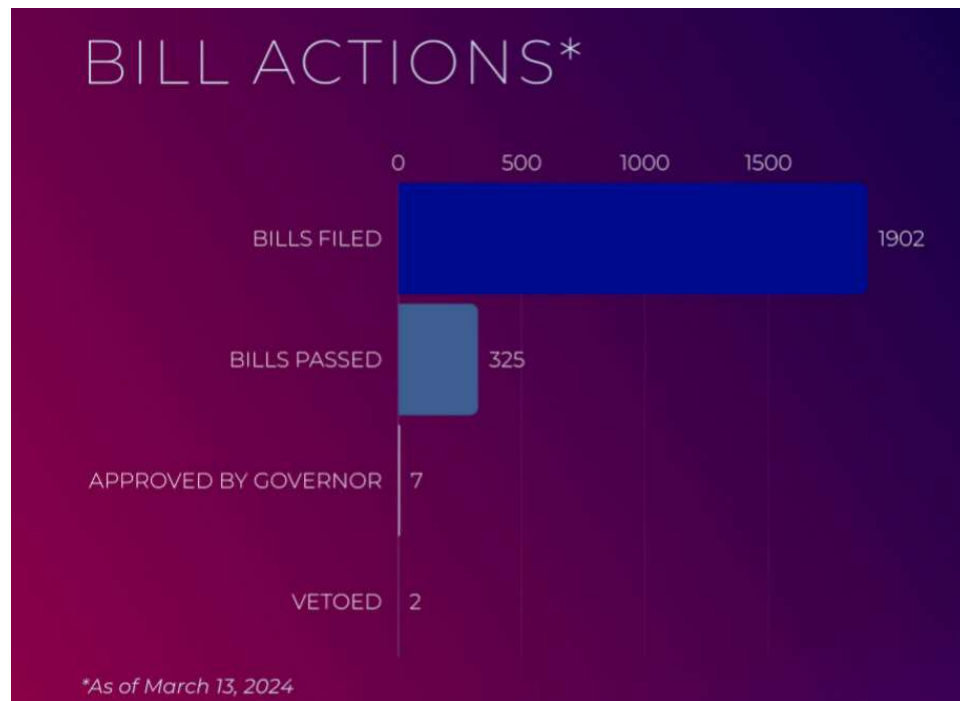
THE INSIDER - SPECIAL EDITION

SINE DIE - 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

Last Friday, March 8, 2024, the Florida Legislature officially concluded their 60-day session.

In the end, **CFHLA had an extremely successful Legislative Session as we successfully accomplished 6 of our 8 Legislative Priorities**, on behalf of the Central Florida hospitality and tourism industry. We are grateful to the members of the Florida Legislature, our Hospitality and Tourism Partners, and our CFHLA Members who supported us throughout the Legislative session. It is because of your collaboration and support that we were able to achieve these wins for the tourism and hospitality industry.

Of the total 1,902 bills filed this Legislative Session, only **325 bills passed the Florida House and Senate.**



Of those bills that passed, CFHLA's **BIG WINS** included the exclusion of the House's proposed TDT provision in the Florida House Tax Package that would sunset the Tourist Development Taxes (TDT) unless approved by a voter referendum before July 1, 2029. We are grateful this was not ultimately included, as it could have crippled the statewide tourism industry.

The second major win included the Senate and House agreeing to fund **VISIT FLORIDA** at **\$80 million, with all \$80 million recurring next year.** This means VISIT FLORIDA will have a minimum budget of \$80 million in annual funding from the state moving forward, which is the **largest amount appropriated ever.** We are grateful to both the Florida House and Senate for recognizing the importance of Visit Florida to the state's tourism industry and this will help ensure Florida continues to be on top of mind, as the leading vacation destination.

Thirdly, after nearly a decade of debate over **vacation home rentals and advertising platforms,** we are ecstatic with the passage of the Vacation Home Rental bill - **SB 280 / HB 1537** by **Senator Nick DiCeglie and Representative**

Griff Griffitts. The House and the Senate nearly passed a similar bill last session, however it died on Day 59. This year, **SB 280** was a fair approach to all parties involved and it will lead to the statewide regulation of vacation home rentals. It is also 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 **supported the final version that passed both chambers**, however we will continue to advocate next year for the inclusion of other 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.**

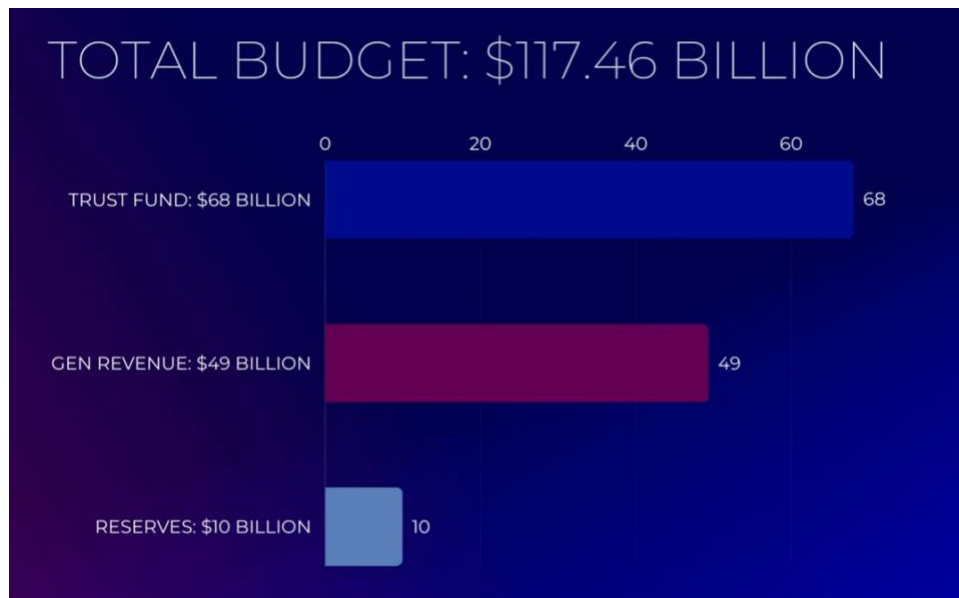
We are grateful to the bill sponsors for remaining diligent in continuing to advocate for the passage of the vacation rental bill this year.



Additionally, CFHLA supported the full funding for the Sadowski Fund, as the Central Florida community has a dire need for more reliable and affordable rental housing. In the end, the Florida Legislature fully funded these efforts with **\$178 million** for the State Housing Partnership Program (SHIP), **\$84 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. This is now headed to the Governor for his signature.

Furthermore, CFHLA supported **HB 429 by Rep. Robinson and SB 756 by Sen. Perry which** sought the clarification and modernization of several provisions in the **Florida Timeshare Act**. This was ARDA's top legislative priority and will be very beneficial for our Timeshare properties.

Lastly, the Legislature fulfilled their constitutional duty and approved the **\$117.46 billion budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year** that will take effect on July 1. This budget includes a return to "normal" spending levels and an increase in reserves, due to Federal COVID relief funds drying up.



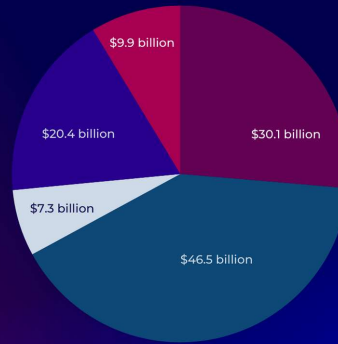
Specifically, the FY 2024-2025 State of Florida Budget includes:

- **\$15.68 billion** for PreK-12 education (an increase of \$1.8 billion)
- **\$6.37 billion** for higher education
- **\$16.05 billion** for healthcare (includes \$700 million for Live Health Act)
- **\$250 million** for transportation projects
- **\$100 million** for Hometown Heroes program
- **\$450 million** for the toll road rebates for frequent commuters.
- **\$80 million** for Visit Florida
- **And \$10 billion** in additional reserves and \$500 million in debt paid off

2024 BUDGET *Breakdown*

TOTAL BUDGET \$117.46 BILLION

- 41% Health and Human Services
- 26% Education
- 18% Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- 9% Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
- 6% Criminal and Civil Justice



2024 Florida Legislative Session Priorities



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

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX (TDT) - DIED

CFHLA closely monitored several bills this session, which would have made changes to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT). This also included **a provision in the Florida House Tax package that would have sunset the Tourist Development Taxes (TDT) unless approved by a voter referendum before July 1, 2029.**

Additionally, the language from **SB 1748 / HB 1599 by Senator Brodeur and Representative Truenow** was included in the Senate Tax Package. This language would have prohibited a county from spending more than 25 percent of the TDT on a convention center project, unless the governing board of the county approves such use by supermajority vote.

Ultimately, both proposals were removed from the final Tax Package that was approved by the House and Senate on the final day of the 2024 Legislative Session.

Furthermore, several other bills that proposed changes to the TDT, also died at the conclusion of the 2024 Florida Legislative Session.

HB 1599 by Representative Truenow

SB 1748 by Senator Brodeur

HB 1081 by Representative Porras

HB 1453 by Representative Valdes

SB 872 by Senator Stewart

SB 1072 by Senator Avila

SB 1594 by Senator Stewart

CFHLA OPPOSED



VISIT FLORIDA FUNDING - PASSED

At the start of the legislative session CFHLA supported the Governor's proposed budget, which included **\$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.

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

Ultimately, the House and the Senate agreed to fund **VISIT FLORIDA** at **\$80 million, with all \$80 million recurring next year.** This means VISIT FLORIDA will have a minimum budget of \$80 million in annual funding from the state moving forward, which is the **largest amount appropriated ever.** We are grateful to both the Florida House and Senate for recognizing the importance of Visit Florida to the state's tourism industry and this will help ensure Florida continues to be on top of mind, as the leading vacation destination.

CFHLA SUPPORTED



VACATION HOME RENTALS & ADVERTISING PLATFORMS - PASSED

We are pleased to share the passage of the Vacation Home Rental Regulation Bill - **SB 280** by **Senator Nick DiCeglie** (HB 833 by Representative Griff Griffiths was the companion bill). The House and the Senate have debated this legislation for nearly a decade and this bill is a fair approach to all parties involved.

The House and the Senate nearly passed a similar bill last session, however it died on Day 59. With the passage of **SB 280**, vacation home rentals and advertising platforms will now be regulated statewide. It is also 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.

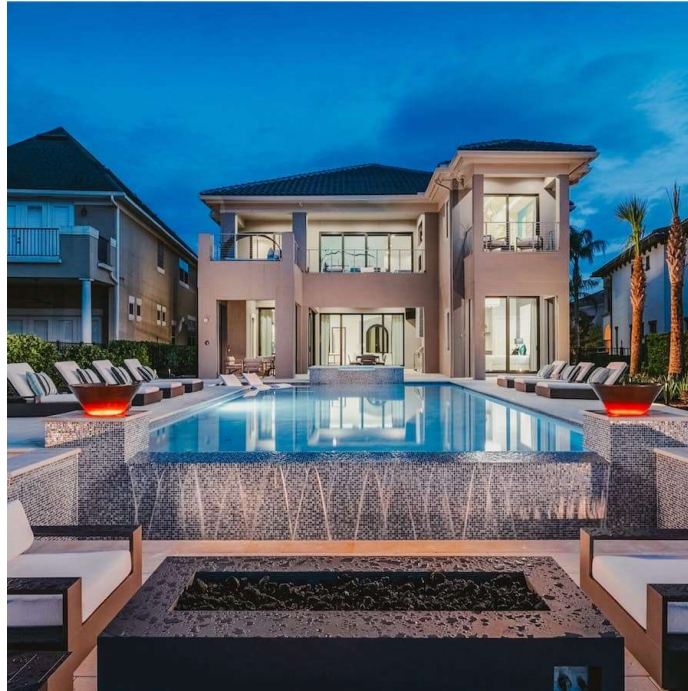
Specifically, the bill will now:

- Require advertising platforms or operators listing vacation rentals to collect and remit specified taxes for certain transactions.
- Defines "advertising platform" and sets mandates for displaying license and registration numbers in two advertisements.
- Preempts the regulation of advertising platforms to the state, authorizes local governments to adopt registration programs with reasonable fees for vacation rentals, and outlines registration processes and requirements.
- Establishes criteria for local governments to fine, suspend, or revoke vacation rental registrations for non-compliance.
- Mandates visibility of vacation rental licenses and unique identifiers within the rental properties.
- Stipulates that the division must create and maintain a vacation rental information system to facilitate compliance and provide a mechanism for local governments and platforms to verify vacation rental statuses.

CFHLA **supported the final version that passed both chambers**, however we will continue to advocate next year for the inclusion of other 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.**

We are grateful to the bill sponsors for their leadership and support of this bill.

CFHLA SUPPORTED



WORKFORCE HOUSING - PASSED

CFHLA supported the 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 fought 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 encouraged the Legislature to consider creating incentives that encouraged 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.

Specifically, **Senate Bill 328 by Sen. Alexis Calatayud** (HB 1239 by Rep. Vicki Lopez was the companion bill) sought amendments to the Live Local Act, the new affordable housing law passed last year that CFHLA

supported. **CFHLA supported** this bill and thanks the Florida Legislature for fully funding these efforts with **\$178 million** for the State Housing Partnership Program (SHIP), **\$84 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.

CFHLA SUPPORTED

IMMIGRATION REFORM - PASSED

CFHLA encouraged solutions this session that will help our current immigration system, including reform policies that help our economy and hospitality businesses thrive, instead of hindering them.

HM 669 by Representative Sirois and SM 598 by Senator Ingoglia were two bills filed this session regarding this issue. Each bill was passed and it urged the Federal Government to secure the southern border of the United States, enforce Federal Immigrations Laws, and fix the legal immigration system.

CFHLA SUPPORTED

FLORIDA TIMESHARE ACT - PASSED

CFHLA supported HB 429 by Rep. Robinson (SB 756 by Senator Perry was the companion bill) which sought the clarification and modernization of several provisions in the Florida Timeshare Act. This was ARDA's top legislative priority this session.

This bill will:

- Grant timeshare associations with the authority and flexibility to remove an amenity;
- Expanded the "Inn Keeper's Rights" to include timeshare properties (currently only licensed lodging establishments are included in this Statute);

- And clarified an existing provision that timeshare associations shall issue estoppel certificates.

CFHLA SUPPORTED

REGULATION OF CASHLESS BUSINESSES - DIED

CFHLA is opposed HB 35 by Rep. Rudman and SB 106 by Sen. Jones which would have required 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 and CFHLA opposed this effort which died at the conclusion of the 2024 Legislative Session.

CFHLA OPPOSED

REVISIONS TO FLORIDA'S CHILD LABOR LAWS - PASSED

CFHLA supported HB 49 by Rep. Chaney (SB 1596 by Sen. Burgess was the companion bill).

This bill aims to relax work restrictions for certain teenagers (16- and 17-year-olds) amid labor shortages, while the other seeks to prevent local governments from implementing their own workplace heat safety regulations. The teen work bill (HB 49) underwent significant revisions, retaining limits on teenage work hours but introducing an opt-out provision for parental or school official consent. Additionally, homeschooled and virtual school students are now exempt from these restrictions.

The Senate also attempted to integrate provisions from another at-risk bill (HB 433), preempting heat protection laws at the state level, but ultimately failed. An amendment, introduced by Republican Rep. Linda Chaney, passed in the House that removed the preemption provision. The provision would

have prohibited local governments from imposing additional heat safety requirements on employers, ensuring uniform regulations statewide.

This amended bill will be beneficial to the hospitality and tourism industry as it works to address worker shortages post-pandemic, help with retention, and it now awaits the Governor's approval, after making it through both House and Senate chambers.

CFHLA SUPPORTED

STORMWATER - PASSED

The protection of our environment directly benefits our local community. However, the rules and regulations designed to protect our environmental resources must be done with consistency. The physical environment, our communities, residents, and local businesses all depend on clarity when it comes to public policy and the best technological and economically feasible approaches when solving for increased stormwater volumes and the need for updated stormwater management policies.

At the conclusion of the 2024 Legislative Session, the stormwater rule was ratified by the legislature, but the business community remained vigilant in ensuring that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) worked with stakeholders to gain predictability and protect existing permits by grandfathering those permits.

CFHLA SUPPORTED

UPCOMING CFHLA PAC/PC MEETING

The next CFHLA PAC/PC Boards of Director Meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 3rd 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.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Between March 9 and June 30, the Legislature will send the budget to the Governor for his review and line-item vetoes.

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](#)

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.

IN THE NEWS

[Here are 25 bills that died this session. Will they come back next year?](#) - Florida Politics

[Here Legislature passes fresh iteration of child social media restrictions.](#) - Florida Politics

[Gov. DeSantis appoints Glen Gilzean as Orange County Supervisor of elections](#) - Florida Politics

[Florida voters could have say in race for Senate Republican Leadership](#) - Fox 35 Orlando

[Here's all the Ballot Questions for Central Florida Voters to Decide](#) - Spectrum News 13

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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.