

LEON COUNTY

Capitol Report

2015 End of Session Report

June 23, 2015



Provided by:

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NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

Special Session Comes To a Close

The Florida Legislature officially passed a **\$78.7 billion** budget a day early Friday evening, June 19th, ending a 21 day special session that may have cost several hundred thousand dollars and ended difficult budget negotiations that were over 6 months in the making. The Florida Senate passed the budget 37-0, while the House passed it 96-17 with a few Democrats in opposition.

The special session started June 1st, 28 days after the close of the regular session on March 1. The session was unique historically, with the House gaveling to a close 3 days before the formal end to their constitutionally mandated 60 day session schedule. The major roadblocks affecting the meltdown included a split over \$4 billion federal funding, including Medicaid expansion and the federal government's decision to rescind funding for the state's Low Income Pool. With the state's new fiscal year starting July 1st, Gov. Rick Scott signed the budget Tuesday morning, slashing a record **\$461,387,164 million** in vetoes quickly drawing criticism from veteran legislators.

The Capitol Alliance Group team worked diligently on a wide range of issues for Leon County and will continue to analyze the impact of this year's budget on the county, its businesses, schools, organizations and citizens.

I. POLICY NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

➤ **Lawmakers Strike Deal, Pour \$301 million into Last-Minute Projects**

House and Senate budget negotiators struck a deal on a state spending plan Monday just before midnight, pouring **\$301 million** into projects at the last minute and closing out one of the more-raucous legislative debates in recent years.

In a final negotiating session that started about 11:15 p.m. Monday, House Appropriations **Chairman Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes**, and Senate Appropriations **Chairman Tom Lee, R-Brandon**, went through more than 100 pages of offers ranging across the state budget. Included in the documents were the final spending figures for public and higher education, as well as dozens of pages of details that comprise the fine print of the budget.

Also included in the budget: **\$151 million** from the House and **\$150 million** from the Senate in "supplemental" or additional funding for initiatives ranging from **\$6.8 million** for school uniforms to **\$2.4 million** for a line item simply entitled "springs" to **\$5 million** for the Florida Association of Free and Charitable Clinics.

➤ **Scott Signs \$78 billion Budget, Vetoes More Than \$461 million Projects**

Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed the state's **\$78 billion** budget on Tuesday morning, vetoing more than **\$461 million** in projects as part of the process. The Governor needed to sign the budget before June 30, the end of the fiscal year, to avert a government shutdown.

State lawmakers approved the spending plan last Friday, June 19th. The approval came on the final day of a 20-day special session to address the state budget. In the final hours of negotiations, lawmakers included more than **\$300 million** in last minute spending requests in the budget.

➤ **More Than 1,100 State-Employee Positions Cut**

The budget, passed by the House and Senate last week, eliminates **1,142 positions** and adds 326 positions, for a **net loss of 816 employees**. Among the agencies hardest hit are the Department of Health, which lost 813 positions, most of which are vacant or were expected to be vacant by July 1 under normal attrition. The Department of Environmental Protection, which lost 120 positions, and the Agency for Health Care Administration, which lost 81 positions.

The final budget was different than the Governor's proposal. Under Governor Rick Scott's proposed \$77-billion budget, he recommended cutting 1,353 full-time equivalent positions and one-time funding of 28 positions. His budget would have added 363 positions, for a net decrease of 1,018 FTEs. If Scott has his way, the number of state-agency positions would drop from 114,502 to 113,484, a reduction of less than 0.90 percent.

Under Scott's plan, most of the cuts would have come from the Department of Health, which would have lost 758 positions, including 215 filled slots. More than a quarter of the positions Scott wanted to eliminate were filled, though the Governor's Office has said the "vast majority" of the positions would have been vacant by July 1.

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Agencies that picked up job slots include the Department of Corrections, which added 163 positions, the Department of Legal Affairs, which added 48 positions, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which added 42 positions.

Florida's state-agency workforce is the smallest and the least expensive per capita in the nation. Last fiscal year, the state had 108 state employees per 10,000 residents; the national average was 211, according to the most recent state workforce report. The cost of the state workforce was \$37 a month for each Floridian; the national average was \$76. The number of state-agency workers dropped from 105,031 in mid-2010 to 89,686 as of June 30.

The number of state-agency positions now totals 113,687, down from 114,503, according to budget documents. Leon County was home to 19,442 state employees making up nearly 22 percent of the state workforce as of June 30, 2014, according to the Department of Management Services.

➤ **Lawmakers Strike Deal On Economic Development**

Negotiators from the House and Senate slashed almost **\$60 million** in economic development spending in their final budget conference.

As a result, dozens of projects and some larger items were trimmed or eliminated entirely. Almost 60 spending initiatives were reduced in the final hours, cutting nearly **\$58.3 million** from House or Senate proposals.

The largest target was a Senate proposal to set aside **\$10 million** in incentives for the film entertainment industry. That program was eliminated entirely in the final agreement. House Appropriations Chairman at large, **Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes**, suggested that the proposal for an "entertainment action fund" should be considered during regular session.

➤ **Water Projects**

As expected, the House and Senate closed out their budget late Monday evening, just before midnight, and completed all of the outstanding issues, with water projects being left as one of the last issues being resolved and funded. This year's funding request for water projects was highly oversubscribed with close to **\$1 billion** requested for **\$50 million** in allocation. Many projects never made the funding list.

Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed many of the water projects, including the two in Leon County.

The two Leon County area projects that received funding were **Centerville Trace** received **\$250,000** and **Tallahassee Lower Central Drainage Ditch Erosion Control** got **\$409,620**. Although disappointed that we did not receive any funding for **Woodville Sewer Project**, we were realistic when told the **\$3 million** ask was too high a percentage of the total funding to be possible. The average funding level per project was **\$220,000**.

Unfortunately, these two projects funded were **vetoed** by the Governor Tuesday morning, along with more than 50 others that were funded in the budget, stating that these projects did not provide a clear ROI on state investment. Many water projects were slashed down the line, with very few unscathed by the veto pen.

➤ **No Money For State Workers**

More than **\$300 million** worth of projects and spending that hadn't been there before found its way into a final budget deal just before the clock struck midnight on the last day of budget negotiations.

However, despite the strong vocal support of Rep. Alan Williams and Senator Bill Montford, the one thing that wasn't included in the **\$78.7 billion** state spending plan the House and Senate passed is a pay raise for state employees, other than some limited increases for firefighters and highway-patrol officers.

State workers have had one pay raise over the past eight years --- a \$1,400-a-year pay hike for those who earn less than \$40,000, and \$1,000 for those who earn more than \$40,000, which kicked in late in 2013. The increases may not have covered the 3 percent state workers were forced to contribute to their retirement plans starting in 2011.

➤ **DJJ Funding**

House and Senate budget writers agreed on solution to a long-running dispute between the state and counties about who pays to lock up juvenile offenders. The counties and the state Department of Juvenile Justice have repeatedly battled about how to split the tab under a 2004 law that requires counties to pay “pre-disposition” costs associated with juvenile offenders who are waiting for their cases to be resolved in court.

Lawmakers from both chambers united behind a **57-43 split** — the counties would pay 57 percent, the state 43 percent — with no back payments for money that counties contend they overpaid in the past.

That's a long way from the 50-50 split the counties almost got in 2014. During this year's budget talks, counties still hoped for that split and wanted reimbursement for past years.

The counties have long argued that their costs for juvenile detention amounted to an unfunded mandate. While the 2004 law requires counties to pay “pre-disposition” costs, the department pays the costs of detaining youths whose cases have been decided — known as “post-disposition.” But counties and the state have never agreed on what those terms meant.

For several years, the rulings favored the counties. In 2012, Administrative Law Judge W. David Watkins ruled against the state, and the 1st District Court of Appeal upheld his decision the following year.

➤ **Scott Signs Trimmed Tax Cut Package**

Gov. Rick Scott signed into law a wide-ranging **\$428.9 million** tax cut package that will reduce costs on cell-phone bills, cable TV bills, gun club memberships, college textbooks and luxury boat repairs.

The signing came a day after the measure (**HB 33A**) was overwhelmingly approved by the House and Senate.

For many Floridians, the biggest checkbook item may be a reduction in the communications-services tax on cell-phone and cable-TV bills. The savings are projected at \$20 a year for people paying \$100 a month for the services.

The package, which also includes a 10-day tax "holiday" in August for back-to-school shoppers, is projected by state economists to cut revenue by **\$372.4 million** in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The savings are expected to reach **\$428.9 million**, as the package includes two years of tax credits for housing opportunities for people with special needs and will allow businesses within soon-to-be eliminated enterprise zones to continue receiving available tax breaks if they have already entered into contracts.

Cuts to taxes and fees, with a focus on reducing the communications-services tax, were one of Scott's priorities for the regular legislative session.

Scott, who campaigned in 2014 on reducing taxes by \$1 billion over the next two years, had asked lawmakers to reduce taxes and fees this spring by \$673 million, with a request for the communication-services tax to go down by 3.6 percentage points. Under that proposal, the savings on a \$100-a-month cable TV bill was projected at \$40 a year.

However, the House, before abruptly ending its regular session, was unable to get the Senate to approve a \$690 million tax-cut proposal that included the larger cut to cell-phone and cable-TV bills. Through the changes, the permanent reduction in the communications-services tax was set at 1.73 percentage points.

The package provides tax exemptions on certain agricultural uses, large boat repairs, gun-club memberships, school extracurricular fundraisers, aviation fuel for certain flight-training academies, and on motor vehicles purchased overseas by internationally deployed service members from Florida.

There are tax credits for businesses involved in Brownfields cleanup and a one-year extension of the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, setting aside \$19 million

for projects that offer housing opportunities for special-needs individuals and low-income households.

The measure also will eliminate sales taxes on college textbooks for a year and establish a 10-day sales-tax holiday starting Aug. 7 on clothing under \$100, school supplies that cost \$15 or less and the first \$750 of personal computers purchased for non-commercial use.

➤ **Florida House Votes To Keep Low Health Insurance Premiums**

The Republican-controlled Florida House voted along party lines to retain – for now – the rates that Gov. Rick Scott and thousands of state workers are currently paying for health insurance.

Legislation (**HB 21**) sponsored by **Rep. Jason Brodeur** would have changed slightly the amounts paid by rank-and-file workers depending on whether they enroll in a health maintenance organization or a preferred provider organization. **Brodeur** said the bill “right prices” the offerings to state workers and reflects the fact that HMOs and PPOs cost differently. The bill also called for expanding the types of coverage by 2018 and sharing any savings with employees if they choose a lower-cost option. Democrats opposed the legislation, saying it would eventually lead to higher costs for state workers.

The bill was subsequently killed in the Senate.

Nearly **30,000** people in state government, including the Governor, staff at the Florida Legislature and Attorney General Pam Bondi, pay either **\$8.34** a month for individual coverage or \$30 a month for family coverage. Rank-and-file state workers pay **\$50** a month for individual coverage or **\$180** a month for family coverage. House and Senate members also pay this rate.

Scott has proposed requiring all state workers to pay the same amount, but his suggestion has been rejected for five straight years.

The measure to freeze the premiums was included in a sweeping overhaul of the state health insurance program that covers nearly **400,000** state workers, their families and retirees. If it would have become law, the amount would have stayed the same for the rest of this year and 2016.

Most of the debate over the bill focused on sections that called for revamping the type of coverage and offerings available for state workers. Employee premiums are usually set each year in the overall state budget.

➤ **HB 209/SB 668-Fire Services Surtax**

The Capitol Alliance Group team worked with the county, legislators, and committee staff directors to draft a slight revision on the inter-local issue for the

emergency fire rescue services surtax in this legislation, which eventually passed. A concern was raised that the bill language might cause duplicate taxation for fire services should Leon County move forward with a fire services surtax in the fall. The bill was later deemed non-threatening by county staff, thus we stood down on altering the legislation. The bill passed and was subsequently signed by the Governor.

➤ **HB 391/SB 896 - Relocation of Utilities**

The Capitol Alliance Group team worked hard in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties to defeat the legislation, informing legislators on how the bills shift the financial responsibility of relocating private utilities within county rights-of-way from the utility companies to the County.

➤ **Amendment 1 Backers Sue Legislature**

Environmental group Earth Justice is suing the Florida Legislature and its leaders over their budget's use of money set aside for conservation by Amendment 1.

The lawsuit filed in Leon County on Monday, June 22nd against Senate President Andy Gardiner and House Speaker Steve Crisafulli alleges that almost half of the Amendment 1 money in the budget is being used for purposes that aren't permitted under state law.

The issue has drawn significant controversy since 75 percent of voters supported Amendment 1 last November. The amendment directs more than \$700 million to be spent on conservation.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Florida Wildlife Federation, the St. Johns Riverkeeper, and the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida.

The ballot initiative, which voters overwhelmingly approved in November, requires for the next 20 years that 33 percent of the proceeds from documentary-stamp taxes go for land and water maintenance and acquisition across Florida.

For the upcoming year, funding under Amendment 1 for such land and water programs will grow to more than **\$740 million**, from around **\$470 million** in the current budget year that ends June 30.

Lawmakers exited budget talks saying they had set aside **\$81.8 million** for Everglades restoration, **\$55 million** to buy land and **\$47.5 million** in funding for restoration of the state's natural springs. However, some of the numbers are hazy. The most notable is the **\$20 million** allocation for the restoration of the Kissimmee River, of which about **\$2 million** is anticipated for buying land.

The Senate rejected efforts by the House and some senators to increase money for land acquisition and to allow the money to be bonded to generate even more. A number of

Republican lawmakers have argued that the state needs to first maintain the land already within public domain.

Backers of Amendment 1 contend lawmakers "ignored" the desires of voters by using a boost in environmental funding to cover the costs of daily state operations while setting aside too little for land buying.

II. LOCAL PROJECTS THROUGH BUDGET PROCESS BUT VETOED

With budget negotiations interrupted by gaping health care funding holes and ideological rifts, local projects had to take what they could get this legislative session.

Legislators had a **\$1 billion** surplus, but **\$400 million** was given to hospitals to make up for the loss of federal dollars for low-income patients.

Education

FAMU stood to lose \$5 million of performance funding bonus received last year, however they received \$2.5 million of that restored to base.

FAMU received top 2 PECO priorities; No other SU did such.

FAMU Student Success Support Services - \$1 million (asked for \$5.5 million)

FSU- Rural Care Residency Program - \$3 million – **VETOED**

FSU Earth, Ocean Atmospheric Sciences Building - \$5 million (asked for \$36.1 million)-
VETOED

FSU College of Medicine - Medical education facility to train physicians for rural and underserved Areas - \$3 million – **VETOED**

Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center at Florida State University - \$1.5 million - **VETOED**

Preeminence funding : FSU - Base: \$20 million; New: \$5 million

New performance funding: FSU - \$16.7 million; FAMU: \$0

Tallahassee Community College, Wakulla Environmental Institute Land; \$1,230,000 –
VETOED

Trails, Jail Programs and Museums

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum - \$500,000 - **VETOED**

Tallahassee Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team - \$495,000 - **VETOED**

Orchard Pond Parkway Trail - \$400,000 - **VETOED**

Restoration of St. Marks Lighthouse - \$250,000 - **VETOED**

St. Marks River Boardwalk - \$200,000 - **VETOED**

Tallahassee Urban League - Taylor House Museum Project - \$150,000 - **VETOED**

Jake Gaither House Museum - \$125,000 - **VETOED**

Capital Region YMCA Family Recreational Complex - \$75,000 - **VETOED**

Pay Increases for Forestry Firefighters - \$1,557,684 - **VETOED**

Veterans Progress Villas - \$550,000 - **VETOED**

What the Legislature Did Not Fund:

Planning phase of FSU Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building - \$5 million

FSU STEM teaching lab planning phase - \$2.2 million

FAMU land acquisition projects - \$6.5 million

FAMU support for sustainability and agriculture activities - \$3 million

III. WHAT PASSED & FAILED IN 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bills that passed and failed in the 2015 legislative session. To become law, bills must not be vetoed by **Gov. Rick Scott**.

Criminal Justice

CAPITAL FELONIES (FAILED): Requires unanimous verdict of all 12 jurors in capital felony cases to recommend death sentence. (SB 664/HB 139)

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS (FAILED): Requires police to tell confidential informants their legal rights and makes negligence of informants a felony. (SB 372/HB 267)

CIVIL CITATIONS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Allows police officers to issue civil citations to young people who have already committed a nonviolent offense. (SB 378)

DEATH PENALTY (FAILED): Abolishes capital punishment in Florida. (SB 1322/HB 4003)

'GROVELAND FOUR' (FAILED): Apologizes to families of four unarmed black men and boys killed by white sheriffs' deputies in Groveland in 1949. (SB 1332)

PRISONS (FAILED): Increases oversight of state prisons and creates penalties for guards who abuse inmates. (SB 7020)

TICKET QUOTAS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Prohibits police departments from using ticket quotas to generate revenue. (SB 264)

SEXUAL OFFENSES (SIGNED INTO LAW): Extends statute of limitations for rape cases. (HB 133)

BODY CAMERAS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Shields video taken by police body cameras on private property from disclosure under public record laws. (SB 248)

Economy

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES (FAILED): Limits use of state money for incentives to attract jobs and prohibits incentive payments until goals are met. (SB 1214/HB 5401)

AMERICAN FLAGS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Requires state, counties and cities to buy only American-made U.S. flags by 2016. (HB 225)

BEER GROWLERS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Allows Florida craft breweries to sell beer in 64-ounce "growlers." (SB 186)

EQUAL PAY (FAILED): Requires that women get equal pay with men on state contracts. (SB 98/HB 25)

ENTERPRISE ZONES (FAILED): Extends program of tax incentives to businesses that create jobs in areas with high unemployment, poverty and crime. (HB 903/SB 392)

FILM INCENTIVES (FAILED): Restructures tax credits for movie and TV productions and eliminates the first-come, first-served system in place now. (HB 451/SB 1046)

Education

CAMPUS GUNS (FAILED): Repeals an existing law banning concealed weapons from college campuses. (HB 4005/SB 176)

CHARTER SCHOOLS (FAILED): Requires school districts to share construction and maintenance money with charter schools. (HB 7037)

CHOICE (FAILED): Allows students to attend any school in the state that has space. (HB 1145/SB 1552)

CLASS SIZE (FAILED): Gives school districts flexibility to meet the constitutionally mandated limits on class size. (HB 665/SB 818)

COLLEGE PRESIDENTS (FAILED): Creates public records exemption for state college and university presidential searches. (SB 182/HB 223)

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY (FAILED): Eliminates the sales tax on textbooks; requires colleges and universities to publish the price of each class before the semester begins. (HB 7125/SB 938)

COACHES (FAILED): Requires the immediate termination of any coach who is ejected from an organized athletic event involving children 12 or under. (HB 479/SB 238)

CONSERVATIVE MOVIE (FAILED): Requiring all middle schools and high schools to show students the film "America: Imagine the World Without Her." (HB 77/SB 96)

DIGITAL CLASSROOMS (FAILED): Requires the development of a five-year plan to address technology needs in public schools. (HB 1264/SB 7050)

K-12 GUNS (FAILED): Allows designated schools employees to carry concealed weapons on school grounds. (HB 19/SB 180)

PRINCIPAL AUTONOMY (FAILED): Creates a pilot program giving certain principals more freedom over budget and hiring decisions. (HB 357/SB 1552)

TESTING (SIGNED INTO LAW): Scales back testing in public schools, puts school grades on hold until the new Florida Standards Assessments are deemed valid, enables districts to start school as early as Aug. 10. (HB 7069)

UNIFORMS (FAILED): Encourages school districts to adopt mandatory school uniform policies for grades K-8 by providing a cash incentive. (HB 7043/SB 1474)

TEACHER SALARIES (FAILED): Sets \$50,000 minimum salary for new teachers. (SB 280/HB 261)

COLLEGE NAMES (FAILED): Changes names of some Florida colleges by dropping the word "state" from their titles. (SB 1252)

Elections

ONLINE REGISTRATION (SIGNED INTO LAW): Requires state to create online voter registration system by October 2017. (SB 228)

MAIL BALLOTS (FAILED): Allows cities to hold elections in which all ballots are cast by mail. (SB 7064/HB 1161)

CIVIL RIGHTS (FAILED): Allows constitutional amendment so that convicted felons can automatically regain the right to vote. (SB 208)

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY (SIGNED INTO LAW): Sets March 15, 2016 as date of next presidential preference primary in Florida. (HB 7035)

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (FAILED): Repeals requirement that write-in candidate reside within the district represented by office sought at time of qualification. (SB 840/HB 4043)

General Government

IMMIGRANT DRIVERS (FAILED): Allows undocumented immigrants to obtain Florida driver licenses. (SB 300)

SEXUAL ORIENTATION (FAILED): Prohibits state-licensed counselors from attempting to change a minor's sexual orientation. (SB 204/HB 83)

PLANNING COUNCILS (FAILED): Reduces regional planning councils from 11 to 10 and abolishes Withlacoochee council in Ocala. (SB 484/HB 873)

MELON HAULERS (FAILED): Exempts operators of melon hauling vehicles from having to obtain commercial driver licenses. (SB 1072/HB 831)

TUPELO HONEY (FAILED): Designates tupelo honey as official state honey. (SB 556)

PUBLIC UTILITIES (SIGNED INTO LAW): Reforms Public Service Commission, including setting term limits. (HB 7109)

TAX CUTS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Cuts about \$400 million in taxes, including through sales tax holidays. (HB 33A)

TAXPAYERS' EMAILS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Keeps confidential the email addresses of taxpayers who receive electronic tax notices from county tax collectors. (SB 200)

INSPECTORS GENERAL (SIGNED INTO LAW): Requires national searches to replace vacant inspector general positions in agencies under control of governor. (HB 371)

Guns

BACKYARD GUNS (FAILED): Prohibits backyard recreational gun use. (HB 623)

EVACUATIONS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Allows people to carry concealed weapons without a license during emergency evacuations. (SB 290)

Health

ABORTIONS (SIGNED INTO LAW): Requires 24-hour waiting period and at least one in-person doctor appointment before an abortion. (HB 633)

KIDCARE (FAILED): Eliminates five-year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children seeking to enroll in Florida's subsidized health insurance program. (SB 294/HB 829)

MEDICAID EXPANSION (FAILED): Creates a state-run marketplace for private health insurance available to low-income Floridians who work and pay small monthly premiums. (SB 2A)

NURSES (FAILED): Allows advanced registered nurse practitioners to prescribe and dispense medications. (HB 27A)

RIGHT MEDICINE (FAILED): Creates a commission to review insurance plans that limit therapies and pharmaceuticals. (SB 784/HB 863)

RIGHT TO TRY (SIGNED INTO LAW): Allows terminally ill patients to try experimental treatments. (HB 269)

TELEMEDICINE (FAILED): Creates standards for telemedicine and using web and videoconferencing technology to treat patients. (HB 545/SB 478)

TRANSGENDER BATHROOMS (FAILED): Prohibits transgender people from using restrooms aligned with their gender identity. (SB 1464 /HB 583)

Other

CUBA (PASSED): Memorial to rebuke President Barack Obama's decision to open diplomatic relations with Cuba, opposes the potential opening of a Cuban consulate in Florida. (SM 866)

DRONES (SIGNED INTO LAW): Bans surveillance of private property using unmanned flying drones. (SB 766)

GUARDIAN ROTATION (SIGNED INTO LAW): Encourages courts to use a rotation system to appoint guardians to manage the affairs of incapacitated senior citizens. (SB 318)

GUARDIAN RULES (FAILED): Establishes a new Office of Public & Professional Guardians to review allegations of fraud and abuse involving guardians who manage the affairs of incapacitated senior citizens. (HB 1225/SB 1226)

PLASTIC BAGS (FAILED): Allows coastal communities with fewer than 100,000 residents to develop pilot programs to limit the use of plastic bags. (HB 661/SB 966)

POOL SAFETY (FAILED): Establishes a commission to study potential electrical hazards around swimming pools. (HB 795/SB 926)

TEXTING (FAILED): Makes texting while driving a primary offense, allowing officers to pull people over for doing so. (HB 1/SB 192)

RENTAL CARS (FAILED): Requires non-residents who rent cars in Florida to buy liability insurance. (SB 976/HB 819)

ADOPTION (SIGNED INTO LAW): Allows gay people to adopt children. (HB 7013)

RELIGIOUS PROTECTIONS (FAILED): Allows adoption agencies to refuse service based on religious convictions. (HB 7111)

WATER (FAILED): Changes regulations for water pollution and springs. (HB 7003)

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