

**PORT OF PALM BEACH DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION AND
COMMISSION ACTION**

**DISTRICT REPORTS
ITEM G-3**

PREPARED BY: Venice Howard Deputy Clerk February 12, 2018

SUBJECT: **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

BACKGROUND: For your review and discussion, attached is a copy of the Governmental Affairs Report provided by Mr. Richard Pinsky.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED: No _____ Yes X

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: None. Informational Item Only.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Manuel Almira, Executive Director

DATE ACTION TAKEN: _____
Approved: _____
Disapproved: _____
Deferred To: _____
Incorporated into Minutes: _____

Motion By: _____
Seconded By: _____
Unanimous: Yes _____ No _____
By: _____

Port of Palm Beach Governmental Affairs Report

February 15, 2018

This week, the House and Senate passed their respective Budget bills. In the House, few amendments were offered and none were adopted. In the Senate, approximately 60 amendments were filed. While many were withdrawn, most were adopted.

The Session has officially reached its half-way point. Next week will be the start of "bill maneuvering", where bills not moving are offered as amendments; horse trading of issues takes place; and the Governor's office begins to make its presence known by signaling which bills will be looked upon favorably and which bills will need to be changed to meet the Governor's approval.

Also, despite the House and Senate passing budgets within \$100 million dollars of each other, they are still far apart on internal categories, such as education spending, healthcare and affordable housing. Once the Speaker and the Senate President agree upon the overall spending allocations for these various issue silos, announcement of Conference Committee members and conference meeting schedules can begin to be announced.

In the meantime, the following bills are still moving.

Bills That Are Moving

HB 79 and SB 192 Public Meetings

Specifying conditions under which members of any board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, Municipal Corporation, or political subdivision may participate in fact-finding exercises or excursions, etc.

SB 192 passed the Senate with 37 yeas and 0 nays and is currently in Messages to the House. Companion bill, HB 79, is now in the Government Accountability Committee which is the last committee of reference before heading to the Floor.

HB 815 and SB 1180 Municipal Employees

Contains public disclosure and ethics requirements, but also contains strict limits on the travel of county and municipal public officers and employees. The bill still contains constraints on "travel outside of the state" -- all travel outside the state must be approved by the governing body at a publicly noticed meeting.

HB 815 passed out of its second committee stop this week and is now waiting to be heard by the Government Accountability Committee. The Senate companion, SB 1180 is set to be heard by its first committee, Ethics and Elections, on Tuesday, February 13.

HB 7003 Local Government Ethics Reform

Provides that contractual relationships held by business entities are deemed held by public officers or employees in certain situations; provides ethics training requirements; prohibits certain governing board members from voting in official capacity on specified matters; requires certain members of municipality governing body to file disclosure; provides for future repeal of provisions relating to local government authority to enact rule or ordinance requiring lobbyists to register with local government; provides for future repeal of provisions relating to registration & reporting for lobbying water management districts; requires Commission on Ethics to create Local Government Lobbyist Registration System; requires lobbyists to register with commission before lobbying specified governmental entities; provides responsibilities of Governor; provides civil penalties.

HB 7003 passed the full House and is now in the Senate. There is no Senate companion.

BUDGET

The House and Senate budgets which each passed their respective chambers this past week, contain identical amounts of transportation funding relating to Ports.

The amounts fully fund FSTED, debt service, and all special project money allocated to the Governor's discretion.

Consequently, it is unlikely any of these items will even be discussed during the upcoming budget conference.