

This Week in the Capitol

February 14, 2020

VISIT FLORIDA Update

Great news! [SB 362](#), which would re-authorize VISIT FLORIDA for eight years, was heard and passed off the Senate floor this week. This bill will now be sent down to the House for its consideration. We continue to fight for the funding and re-authorization of VISIT FLORIDA, and we encourage you to share your support for VISIT FLORIDA with legislators

House Tax Proposal Seeks to Expand TDT Use

The House Ways and Means Committee held a workshop this week on their proposed tax bill. The proposed concepts include expanding the approved uses of TDT dollars to include water quality projects. FRLA consistently opposes expanding the approved uses for TDT dollars. These dollars should be used for their designated purpose of marketing and tourism promotion. The House has not yet released its bill, but we anticipate it will be filed next week. The Senate has not made mention of a similar proposal.

SB 1128 on Vacation Rentals

[SB 1128](#) on Vacation Rentals passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee this week. A significant amendment was adopted to the bill which included several important regulatory requirements for advertising platforms. The bill now requires advertising platforms to: confirm the license and registration of listed properties, collect and remit taxes on behalf of listed properties, and remove unlawful listings. The bill does not allow for local zoning control. SB 1128 has one more committee of reference in which to be heard in the Senate. The House bill, [HB 1011](#) was not heard in committee this week

E-Verify Passes Senate Judiciary Committee with Amendment

The Senate Judiciary Committee passed [SB 664](#) by Senator Tom Lee on E-Verify this week. A significant amendment to the bill, offered by Senator David Simmons, was adopted to the bill. As amended, the bill will require public and private employers to verify employment eligibility using E-Verify or a comparable verification system. The Senate Commerce will hear the bill on Tuesday. The House has yet to take action on this issue