

WEEK 4 REPORT

// 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

+ MARINE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

MARCH 22-26, 2020



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CONTENTS

SB 72 // HB 7

Civil Liability for Damages
Relating to COVID-19

We have completed four of nine weeks of the 2021 Legislative Session. Covid protocols are still in place and we expect they will be for the remainder of the Session. We hope next year to get back to our normal routine of being able to walk the halls, attend committee meetings and hang out on the fourth floor Rotunda during House and Senate Sessions.

SB 578 // HB 223

Marina Evacuations

Week four was a busy week and we expect week five to be just as busy. This year has been filled with boat related legislative proposals. We are constantly monitoring, negotiating and advocating on numerous boating bills.

SB 1658 // HB 271

Power-driven Vessel Safety
Requirements

Below are some of the bills we have been working on this Session. A comprehensive tracking list is attached to this report. We have also attached copies of bills, staff analysis, amendments and some press releases for your convenience. Please do not print this lengthy report!!!!

SB 1562 // HB 1099

Motorboat Engine Cutoff Switches

Anchoring

SB/CS1946 and CS/HB1515

The Anchoring bill seems to have legs this year as Boat Us supports the legislation. The House and Senate bills are identical and were amended in their first committees of reference. The Committee Substitutes are attached for your review.

SB 1834 // HB 1275

Vessel Safety

The Senate Bill, CS/SB 1946 is up in Senate Community Affairs on Tuesday. The bill has one technical amendment filed to it as of the writing of this report.

SB 1668 // HB 1335

Seagrass Mitigation Banks

The House Bill, CS/HB 1515 had a committee reference removed. The bill only has House State Affairs to go before it is ready for the full House floor.

SB 1652 // HB 1337

Anchoring Limitation Areas

These bills are moving along through the committee process. If you oppose the bills contact your legislator and let them know your feelings on the anchoring issue. Constituent voices count on issues before the Legislature.

SB 1946 // HB 1515

Anchoring Limitation Areas

Racketeering

SB776 and HB 783

This past week we had to exercise this action on the Sente Racketeering bill on the Senate floor. Senator Albritton filed two amendments to the bill that are considered friendly by the sponsor. Unfortunately, Florida Fish and Wildlife continues to fight the amendments. This disagreement caused the bill to be temporarily passed.

The House Racketeering Bill is up during week five. An amendment was filed and passed removing the word take from the bill. The same amendment Senate Albritton has filed was offered and adopted to the House bill.

We understand the Senator Albritton amendments will be adopted on the Senate floor.

FWC Bill a.k.a. and "FWC's Boating Bill"

SB 1086 and HB639

The FWC boating bills continue to differ. The Senate bill is still the preferred version for marine Industries. Senate Bill 1086 still has two more committee stops to pass. The House Bill received four committee references and has passed through two committees with amendments. Again, I cannot stress enough the difficulty we have had trying to negotiate language with FWC. Both of these bills have a long way to go in just a few weeks. There is still time for them to pass and we must remain vigilant that bad boating language does not get amended in these bills and the good language stays in the bills.

Marina Evacuation

SB578 and HB 223

These bills are different. The House bill is on House Special Order March 31. We anticipate the Senate bill will be amended on the Senate floor to mirror the House bill.

Budget

The House of Representatives and Senate passed their respective budgets out of their committees this week. The stage is now set for budget amendments in full Appropriations committee and the full floor. Once the bills pass off their chamber we can then start the budget conference process.

The Florida Constitution requires Florida's budget be balanced. Every year the Florida Legislature is required to pass a balanced budget.

There has been a lot of talk of budget reductions and cuts due to COVID. However, revenues are higher than originally projected and federal monies can help with some funding.

We anticipate a bare bones budget with projects being added at the end.

Attached for your review are the House and Senate press releases on their respective budgets.

Below are some boating budget highlights from the House and Senate Budget Bills

Senate Bill 2500

1708 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
CLEAN MARINA

FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1767 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1768 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,204,849

1769 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 3,900,000

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FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 627,993
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House Bill 21-01

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Thank you again for allowing us to represent you in Tallahassee. Things are changing rapidly so please stay tuned as we head into the final weeks of the 2021 Legislative Session.



Margaret "Missy" Timmins
President
Timmins Consulting, LLC