


LEGISLATIVE REPORT

TO: Members
Commission on Ethics

FROM: 
Chris Anderson, Executive Director
Kerrie Stillman, Deputy Executive Director

DATE: May 15, 2021

The following bill passed this session and impacts statutes under the Commission's jurisdiction:

CS/CS/SB 2006 (Chapter 2021-8) relates to emergency preparedness. In Section 252.36(12), F.S, an exemption is created to the gifts law and executive branch expenditure law, during a declared emergency. The language permits the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Florida's Surgeon General, Director of the Division of Emergency Management, Senate President, and Speaker of the House, during a declared emergency, to disseminate public service announcements concerning that emergency without violating Sections 112.3148 and 112.3215, F.S. It was signed into law by the Governor and will become effective July 1, 2021. This change effectively renders moot the guidance rendered in Commission opinion CEO 20-5.

The 2022 Legislative Session will begin in January, so legislative recommendations will be an agenda item on the Commission's September agenda.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Addendum

TO: Members
Commission on Ethics

FROM: Chris Anderson, Executive Director
Kerrie Stillman, Deputy Executive Director

DATE: May 26, 2021

CS/SB 4-A relates to gaming enforcement and creates the Florida Gaming Control Commission (FGCC) whose officers and employees will fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics.

In addition to Part III, Chapter 112, and Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, FGCC officers and employees are subject to additional standards of conduct found in the newly-created Section 16.715, F.S., which among other things, contains prohibitions related to ex-parte communications, solicitation and acceptance of things of value from regulated entities or individuals affiliated with those entities, additional post-employment restrictions, as well as restrictions on officers, employees and their household relatives having any financial interests in regulated industry-affiliated individuals or businesses. The Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction over the additional restrictions in Section 16.715, F.S., which are similar to the restrictions relating to the Public Service Commission found in Section 350, F.S., which are also under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics.

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 25, 2021.