

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Kerrie Stillman, Executive Director

DATE: May 24, 2023

The following bills passed this session:

HB 199 clarifies the exemption found in s. 112.313(7)(a)(1), F.S. relating to certain special tax districts. The bill added language to the law indicating that conduct violating s. 112.313(6) or (8) by officials serving on such district boards is deemed to frustrate the intent of s. 112.313(7)(a) and therefore nullifies the exemption. The bill also requires independent special district board members to take the 4 hours of ethics training under s. 112.3142, F.S. It has an effective date of July 1, 2023 and has been presented to the Governor for signature.

HB 487 places the members of a number of boards under the jurisdiction of the Commission and subject to filing a Form 1 Statement of Financial Interests, the language identifies certain exemptions to the ethics laws for board members, as well as additional ethics requirements, and it defines the board members' agencies for purposes of the ethics code:

- Florida Self-Insurers Guaranty Association, Inc.
- Joint Underwriting Association
- Florida Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc.
- Florida Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association
- Florida Health Maintenance Organization Consumer Assistance Plan
- Florida Worker's Compensation Insurance Guaranty Association, Inc.

The bill has been presented to the Governor and becomes effective upon becoming law.

HB 783 establishes the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement within DCF. It has been presented to the Governor with an effective date of July 1, 2023.

SB 774 became effective upon being signed into law by the Governor on May 11, 2023, except as noted below. As you are already aware, this bill made a number of changes to the law, including:

- Dismissal of de minimis financial disclosure complaints;
- The ability for the Commission to dismiss a lobbyist audit matter due to the public interest not being served by further proceedings;
- Increasing the amount of civil penalties that can be recommended by the Commission, from \$10,000 to \$20,000;
- The glitch fix for training for CRA members; and,
- And finally, the enhanced financial disclosure for city commissioners and mayors, which will be effective January 1, 2024.

SB 7050 relates to elections but includes provisions requiring candidates qualifying for office to disclose any fines or civil penalties owed to the Commission on Ethics and certain other entities that cumulatively exceed \$250. The bill has been presented to the Governor and the effective date is July 1, 2023, except as expressly provided in certain sections of the bill.

In addition, there were a number of bills that passed during session, relating to confidentiality exemptions. Commission staff will need to incorporate into redactions on disclosure forms where the filer has requested a confidentiality exemption under s. 119.