

March 25, 2017

FAPG Legislative Report

Professional Regulation:

[SB 802](#) (Sen. Passidomo) [HB 7047](#) (Rep. Beshears) Regulated Professions and Occupations; Requiring an individual applicant to apply for licensure in the name of the business organization that he or she proposes to operate under; requiring that a license be in the name of a qualifying agent rather than the name of a business organization; prohibiting a business organization from engaging in certain practices until it is qualified by a qualifying agent; requiring the board to certify an applicant to qualify one or more business organizations or to operate using a fictitious name under certain circumstances, etc.

Senator Passidomo has agreed to amend Geologists out of SB 802, and we are still working to have Rep. Beshears amend his bill to take Geologists out.

Water/Natural Resources:

[SB 442](#) (Sen. Dana Young R-Tampa) Advanced Well Stimulation Treatment; Prohibiting the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments; clarifying that permits for drilling or operating a well do not authorize the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments, which would ban all types of **fracking** in Florida, was moved favorably by the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee and is now in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources, its second of three committees of reference. An identical bill, [HB 451](#) (Rep. Mike Miller R-Orlando) has not yet been heard in committee. Three other bills that would prohibit extreme well stimulation ([SB 98](#), [HB 35](#) and [SB 108](#)) are also awaiting their first committee hearings.

[CS/SB 1018 HB 753](#): (Sen. Denise Grimsley R- Lake Placid) **Contaminated Site Cleanup**: Provides exceptions to certain application & cost-share requirements for advanced cleanup; specifies prioritization of requests; requires & authorizes DEP to make determinations & initiate activities relating to advanced clean up; increases amount of funds available for advanced cleanup work; requires certain funds be made available for certain tax credit authorizations. –The Senate bill is now in the Environmental & Natural Resources Appropriations subcommittee and the House bill passed unanimously out of the Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee, and is now in Ways & Means Committee.

[CS/SB 10](#) (Sen. Rob Bradley R- Fleming Island) was amended by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee by the Environment and Natural Resources to expand the water resource projects included in it. Originally focusing on the creation of a reservoir project in the Everglades Agricultural Area to address algal issues in the Treasure Coast area, the bill was amended on March 8 to include water projects from other bills related to the St. Johns River, Indian River Lagoon and Florida Keys. These projects would be

funded with money from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. It would also expand the ability of wastewater-treatment facilities to recycle water. The bill has passed its first to committees and now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee, its last committee of reference. [HB 761](#), the House companion bill, has not yet been heard in committee.

Budget: I expect that both the House and Senate to release their tentative budgets this week, with appropriations committees in both Houses holding hearings and debate in Week 5. As of today, I have not heard of any major cuts to the Petroleum Tanks, Dry Cleaning or Hazardous Waste cleanup project funding, but it is still very early in the process.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Phil Leary, AICP
Principal, Leary Governmental Affairs
pleary@LearyGAC.com
(904)429-3847 Office
(386)937-7829 Cell

BUDGET: Gov. Rick Scott has proposed an \$83.5 billion budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1, up about \$1.2 billion from the current year. In the proposal, Scott called for \$618 million in tax cuts, increased education spending and cuts in hospital funding. But the proposal has met skepticism from some lawmakers, who are concerned about projected budget shortfalls in the coming years. Add in the House Speaker's desire to eliminate Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida, two of the Governors priorities and the Senate President's push for \$2.4 billion dollars to purchase 60,000 acres in the Everglades Agriculture Area, it all adds up to a raucous budget debate.