



Budget negotiations between the House and Senate began Friday evening with a couple surprises that set the capitol community abuzz. Senate Appropriations Chair Tom Lee (R-Brandon) and House Appropriations Chair Richard Corcoran (R-Lutz) opened the budget conference by announcing that the \$1 billion tax cut the House passed a few weeks ago would be reduced to \$400 million. Additionally, the \$250 million the Senate set aside for Enterprise Florida would not be funded at all.

The buzz that resulted came from both these issues being priorities of Governor Scott, who recommended the \$1 billion business-tax package and \$250 million to lure companies to Florida.

After those surprising announcements, budget conferees met throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, but even with that investment of time, very little progress was made on the education budget. Negotiations will resume today, though, and continue this week, the eighth of the nine-week session.

Significant differences between each chamber's version of SUS performance-based funding – legislation that passed the House and has been sent to the Senate – provide an example of the budget disparities that exist (**see related story**).

Meanwhile, some substantive legislation continues to pass while other such bills have stalled. These last two weeks of the annual session usually produce a frenzy of bills, amendments and long debates as legislators see the end drawing near.

Information on other relevant bills that continue to move through the process is in the **Spotlight on Bills** section. Budget updates and their side-by-side differences will appear in next week's Legisletter.

All of the conference, floor and committee activities will air this week on the Florida Channel, local cable channel 4.

As always, please contact me if you have questions about budget items or pending legislation, or need copies of bills and their analysis. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or **kdaly@fsu.edu**.

Kathleen

Education Bills are moving

CS/CS/SB 524 by Senator Don Gaetz (R – Destin), which was a three page bill that dealt with State University Performance-based funding was amended on Friday in the Appropriations Committee by a 59 page strike-all amendment that brought in several other education related issues. The following table is a comparison of the amended bill and HB 7043 Representative Erik Fresen (R – Miami, FSU Alum), its

House companion. Red text is new to the strike-all amendment and Yellow rows indicate there are differences in the bills. The Senate bill is now ready to be heard on the floor by the full Senate, while the House bill has passed out of the House and has been referred to several committees in the Senate.

#	Issue	CS/CS/SB 524, SUS Performance-based Incentives Sen. D. Gaetz	HB 7043, Education Education
State University System			
1	Statutory change	The bill makes the SUS Performance-Based Incentive permanent by eliminating the July 1, 2016, statutory expiration date and requiring the Board of Governors to adopt a regulation. (<u>amends current law</u>)	The bill makes the SUS Performance-Based Incentive permanent by eliminating the July 1, 2016, statutory expiration date and requiring the Board of Governors to adopt a regulation. (<u>amends current law</u>)
2	Metrics - wage threshold	2. Removes the expiration date and directs the BOG to adopt regulations. Requires the performance-based metrics to include <u>wage thresholds</u> that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate degree.	2. Removes the expiration date and directs the BOG to adopt regulations. Requires the performance-based metric to include <u>wage thresholds</u> that reflect the added value of a baccalaureate degree.
3	Metrics - Governor's challenge		Added on 1/28/16 1. Requires the board to develop an implementation plan for including a metric that addresses the full-time employment rate of 90 percent of graduates for each state university's top two, six-digit Classification of Instructional Program baccalaureate degrees to be incorporated into the performance funding formula beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. 2. Requires the BOG to submit its implementation plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2016.
4	Minimum PF eligibility thresholds	Requiring the BOG to establish minimum performance funding eligibility thresholds for both the state's investment and the institutional investment.	Requiring the BOG to establish minimum performance funding eligibility thresholds for both the state's investment and the institutional investment.

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Education Bills are moving, *continued*

5	Failure to meet minimum thresholds	<p>1. Prohibits a state university that fails to meet the <u>state's investment</u> performance funding threshold from eligibility to receive a share of the <u>state's investment</u> performance funding.</p> <p>2. Clarifies that an institution that fails to meet the BOG's threshold for the <u>institutional investment</u> shall have its <u>entire</u> institutional investment withheld (previous practice was to withhold a portion of the institutional investment).</p>	<p>1. A state university that meets the minimum <u>institutional</u> investment eligibility threshold, but fails to meet the minimum <u>state</u> investment eligibility threshold, shall have its <u>institutional investment restored</u> but is <u>ineligible</u> for a share of the <u>state's investment</u> in performance funding.</p> <p>2. Clarifies that an institution that fails to meet the BOG's threshold for the <u>institutional investment</u> shall have its <u>entire</u> institutional investment withheld (previous practice was to withhold a portion of the institutional investment).</p>
6	Preeminent universities - SAT scores	Aligns the required average SAT score for incoming freshman with recent changes to the SAT examination scoring rubric. i.e. clarifies the score must be 1800 or higher on a 2400 point scale, or 1200 or higher on a 1600 point scale.	Aligns the required average SAT score for incoming freshman with recent changes to the SAT examination scoring rubric. i.e. clarifies the score must be 1800 or higher on a 2400 point scale, or 1200 or higher on a 1600 point scale.
7	Preeminent universities - Rankings	Specifies that the U.S. News and World Report rankings is one of the rankings that should be considered for the Top-50 Ranking requirement.	Specifies that the U.S. News and World Report rankings is one of the rankings that should be considered for the Top-50 Ranking requirement.
8	Preeminent universities - Membership Directories	Includes the official membership directories maintained by each national academy (in addition to the Top American Research Universities (TARU) annual report) as a source for verification of recognition of faculty members in a national academy.	Includes the official membership directories maintained by each national academy (in addition to the Top American Research Universities (TARU) annual report) as a source for verification of recognition of faculty members in a national academy.
9	Preeminent universities - Doctoral degrees	Includes professional degrees awarded in medical and healthcare disciplines in the calculation of the number of doctoral degrees awarded annually.	Includes professional degrees awarded in medical and healthcare disciplines in the calculation of the number of doctoral degrees awarded annually.
10	Preeminent universities - Special Course requirement authority	Deletes the authority that a preeminent university may require its incoming FTIC students to take a 9-12 credit set of unique courses.	
11	Preeminent universities - flexibility authority	Adds "each designated emerging preeminent state research university".	

Education Bills are moving, *continued*

12	Emerging Preeminence	<p>1. Requires the BOG to also designate each state university that <u>annually</u> meets at least six of the 12 academic and research excellence standards as an “emerging preeminent state research university.”</p> <p>2. The BOG may temporarily suspend or rescind the “preeminent” or “emerging preeminent” designation upon petition from a designated institution. The BOG may also revoke either designation of an institution with concurrence of the Governor, the President and the Speaker. (Removed in PCS filed on 2/24.)</p>	<p>1. Requires the BOG to also designate each state university that <u>annually</u> meets at least 6 of the 12 academic and research excellence standards as an “emerging preeminent state research university.”</p> <p>2. The BOG may temporarily suspend or rescind the “preeminent” or “emerging preeminent” designation upon petition from a designated institution. The BOG may also revoke either designation of an institution with concurrence of the Governor, the President and the Speaker. (This was removed in the CS approved on 1/28/16)</p>
13	Emerging Preeminence - 5 year benchmark	<p>1. The bill requires a state university that is designated as an “emerging preeminent state research university” to submit to the BOG a 5-year benchmark plan with target rankings on key performance metrics for national excellence.</p> <p>2. Once approved by the BOG and upon the university meeting the benchmark goals annually, the BOG shall award the university its proportional share of any funds provided annually in the GAA to support the program.</p>	<p>1. The bill requires a state university that is designated as an “emerging preeminent state research university” to submit to the BOG a 5-year benchmark plan with target rankings on key performance metrics for national excellence.</p> <p>2. Once approved by the BOG and upon the university meeting the benchmark goals annually, the BOG shall award the university its proportional share of any funds provided annually in the GAA to support the program.</p>
14	Emerging Preeminence - funding	<p>Unless otherwise specified in the GAA, funding increases appropriated to support the program must be distributed equally to each designated “preeminent state research university” and each university designated as an “emerging preeminent state research university” shall receive an <u>amount equal to one-half of the total increased amount awarded to each designated “preeminent state research university.”</u></p>	<p>Unless otherwise specified in the GAA, funding increases appropriated to support the program must be distributed equally to each designated “preeminent state research university” and each university designated as an “emerging preeminent state research university” shall receive an <u>amount equal to one-half of the total increased amount awarded to each designated “preeminent state research university.”</u></p>
15	UBOTs		<p>Added on 1/28/16:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adds new subsections related to UBOTs. 2. Requires UBOTs select chairs and vice-chairs from appointed members. 3. Specifies terms are for 2 years with the possibility of 1 additional 2-year term. 4. Allows the chair to preside at all meetings and call special meetings. 5. Requires the chair notify the Governor or BOG in writing whenever a board member has 3 consecutive unexcused absences, which may be grounds for removal. 6. All minutes must be posted within 2 weeks on the university website. 7. Requires the BOG adopt regulations.

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Education Bills are moving, *continued*

16	Carry-forward balances	A university board of trustees may expend reserve or carry-forward balances from prior year operational and programmatic appropriations for fixed capital outlay projects approved by the BOG which include significant academic instructional space or critical deferred maintenance needs in this area.	
Florida College System			
17	FCS Performance Based Funding	The bill codifies performance-based funding accountability of the community colleges. Includes metrics, outcome measures, thresholds, etc.	Requiring the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish, by rule, performance-based metrics for the Florida College System. Includes metrics, outcome measures, thresholds, etc.
18	Distinguished FCS Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates the Distinguished Florida College System Program 2. Establishes excellence standards 3. An FCS institution that meets 5 of the 7 standards is identified as a distinguished college. 4. A distinguished college is eligible for funding as specified in the GAA. 	
K-12			
19	Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program. 2. To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom teacher must have achieved a composite score at or above the 80th percentile on either the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment and have been evaluated as highly effective in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creates the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program. 2. To be eligible for a scholarship, a classroom teacher must have achieved a composite score at or above the 80th percentile on either the SAT or the ACT based on the National Percentile Ranks in effect when the classroom teacher took the assessment and have been evaluated as highly effective in the school year immediately preceding the year in which the scholarship will be awarded, unless the classroom teacher is newly hired by the district school board and has not been evaluated.
20	Educator Liability Insurance Program	Eliminating the July 1, 2016, expiration date of the educator liability insurance program that provides a minimum of \$2 million in liability coverage for all full-time public school instructional personnel.	Eliminating the July 1, 2016, expiration date of the educator liability insurance program that provides a minimum of \$2 million in liability coverage for all full-time public school instructional personnel.
21	Educator Liability Insurance	A postsecondary educational institution may not require a student enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation program to purchase liability insurance as a condition of participation in any clinical field experience or related activity on the premises of an elementary or secondary school.	A postsecondary educational institution may not require a student enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation program to purchase liability insurance as a condition of participation in any clinical field experience or related activity on the premises of an elementary or secondary school.

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Education Bills are moving, *continued*

22	District School Boards	Requires district school boards to visit the schools, observe the management and instruction, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens with the view of promoting interest in education and improving the school.
23	Auditory-oral education programs	Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a school district shall add four special consideration points to the calculation of a matrix of services for a student who is deaf and enrolled in an auditory-oral education program.
24	VPK	1. Allows a 4 year old child enter VPK that school year <u>or the following year</u> .
25	Online Course Requirement	Provides options for school districts and charter schools to satisfy the online course requirement.
26	Federally Connected Student Supplement	The federally connected student supplement is created to provide supplemental funding for school districts to support the education of students connected with federally owned military installations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) real property, and Indian lands.
27	Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative	Creates the Principal Autonomy Pilot Program Initiative within the DOE. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide the highly effective principal of a participating school with increased autonomy and authority to operate his or her school in a way that produces significant improvements in student achievement and school management while complying with constitutional requirements.

Education Bills are moving, *continued*

28	<p>Charter Schools - Eligibility It is the intent of the Legislature that the public interest be protected by prohibiting personal financial enrichment by owners, operators, managers, and other affiliated parties of charter schools. A charter school is not eligible for a funding allocation unless the chair of the governing board and the chief administrative officer of the charter school annually certify under oath that the funds will be used solely and exclusively for constructing, renovating, or improving charter school facilities that are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Owned by a school district, political subdivision of the state, municipality, Florida College System institution, or state university;2. Owned by an organization, qualified as an exempt organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code whose articles of incorporation specify that upon the organization's dissolution, the subject property will be transferred to a school district, political subdivision of the state, municipality, Florida College System institution, or state university; or3. Owned by and leased from a person who or an entity that is not an affiliated party of the charter school.
29	<p>Charter Schools - Funding The funding allocation for eligible charter schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Eligible charter schools shall be grouped into categories based on their student populations according to the following criteria:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Seventy-five percent or greater who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch.b. Twenty-five percent or greater with disabilities as defined in state board rule and consistent with the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.2. If an eligible charter school does not meet the criteria for either category under subparagraph 1., its FTE shall be provided as the base amount of funding and shall be assigned a weight of 1.0. If it meets the criteria under sub-subparagraph 1.a. or sub-subparagraph 1.b. it will get an additional 25 % above the base funding amount, and the total FTE shall be multiplied by a weight of 1.25. If it meets the criteria under both sub-subparagraphs 1.a. and 1.b. it gets an additional 50 % above the base funding amount, and the FTE for that school shall be multiplied by a weight of 1.5.

Education Bills are moving, *continued*

30	Special Facility Construction Account	<p>1. A school district may request a preapplication review at any time; however, if the district school board seeks inclusion in the department's next annual capital outlay legislative budget request, the preapplication review request must be made before February 1.</p> <p>2. Beginning with construction projects for which Special Facilities Construction Account funding is sought in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the district shall, for a minimum of 3 years before submitting the request and for a continuing period necessary to meet its participation requirement, levy the maximum millage against the district's nonexempt assessed property value as authorized under s. 1011.71(2) or shall raise an equivalent amount of revenue from the school capital outlay surtax.</p>
31	Construction Accountability	<p>1. School districts shall maintain accurate documentation related to the costs of all new construction of educational plant space reported to the Department of Education pursuant to paragraph (d). The Auditor General shall review the documentation maintained by the school districts and verify compliance with the limits under this paragraph during its scheduled operational audits of the school district. The Auditor General shall make the final determination on district compliance.</p> <p>2. OPPAGA, in consultation with DOE, will conduct a study of the cost per student station amounts using the most recent available information on construction costs. It will also conduct a study of the State Requirements for Education Facilities (SREF) to identify current requirements that can be eliminated or modified in order to decrease the cost of construction of educational facilities while ensuring student safety.</p>
32	Competency-based innovation pilot program	<p>Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, a competency-based innovation pilot program is established within the Department of Education.</p>

SPOTLIGHT ON **BILLS**

HB 273 – Public Records by Representative Halsey Beshears (R – Monticello, FSU Alum), requires a public agency contract for services with a contractor to include a statement in large, boldface font informing the contractor of the contact information of the public agency’s custodian of public records (records custodian) and instructing the contractor to contact the agency records custodian concerning any questions the contractor may have regarding the contractor’s duties to provide public records relating to the contract.

The bill repeals the requirement that each contract for services require the contractor to transfer its public records to the public agency upon termination of the contract. Instead, the contract must address whether the contractor will retain the public records or transfer the public records to the public agency upon completion of the contract.

The bill requires a request for public records relating to a contract for services to be made directly to the contracting agency. If the agency determines that it does not possess the records, it must immediately notify the contractor and the contractor must provide the records or allow access to the records within a reasonable time. A contractor who fails to provide the records to the agency within a reasonable time may be subject to certain penalties.

The bill provides that if a civil action is filed to compel production of public records, the court must assess and award against the contractor the

reasonable costs of enforcement, including attorney fees, if the court determines that a contractor unlawfully refused to comply with the public records request within a reasonable time, and the plaintiff provided written notice of the public records request to the public agency and the contractor. The notice must be sent at least 8 business days before the plaintiff files the civil action. The bill specifies that a contractor who complies with the public records request within 8 business days after the notice is sent is not liable for the reasonable costs of enforcement.

The bill passed the Legislature and will go to the Governor for signature.

CS/CS/SB 684 – Choice in Sports by Senator Don Gaetz (R – Destin), revises student eligibility requirements for participation in interscholastic and intra-scholastic extracurricular activities, expands Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) membership options for private schools, establishes escalating penalties for recruiting violations, and increases educational choice and controlled open enrollment options.

Specifically, the bill:

- Allows students to be immediately eligible to join an existing team if the activity roster has not reached maximum size and the student has the requisite skills and abilities to participate;
- Prohibits a school district from delaying or preventing student par-

ticipation in interscholastic and intra-scholastic extracurricular activities;

- Allows a private school the option of joining the FHSAA on a per-son basis;
- Prohibits the FHSAA from discouraging private schools from simultaneously maintaining membership in another athletic association;
- Authorizes the FHSAA to allow a public school to apply for consideration to join another athletic association;
- Establishes escalating penalties for recruiting violations;
- Requires an educator certificate to be revoked for a third recruiting offense in violation of FHSAA bylaws; and
- Expands the scope of controlled open enrollment options available to parents beyond school district boundaries, subject to capacity and maximum class size limits.

The bill has passed out of committee and is waiting to be heard by the full Senate. A comparable bill in the House, **HB 7039 by Representative Manny Diaz (R – Hialeah Gardens)** is waiting to be heard by the full House.

CS/SB 1360 – Education Assessments by Senator Don Gaetz (R – Destin), establishes performance-based alternative means for students to demonstrate subject area and grade level competency and college and career readi-

ness. However, the bill maintains the statewide, standardized assessments as the default common battery of assessments for all students attending public schools, and provides parents the option to select, for their child, statewide, standardized assessments in lieu of district-selected rigorous alternative assessments.

Specifically, the bill:

- Establishes a process for a district school board to choose to voluntarily implement districtwide, ACT Aspire for grades 3 through 8; ACT Aspire and ACT for high school; Preliminary SAT (PSAT) or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST), and SAT for high school; or a combination of options, as specified.
- Identifies several rigorous alternative assessments and industry certifications as options for students to meet high school subject area, course, credit, and assessment requirements.
- Establishes performance-based alternative means to satisfy online course requirement for high school graduation.
- Creates a process for establishing proxy values for linking student performance on rigorous alternative assessments to assess teachers, schools, and school districts.
- Provides for the immediate renegotiation of existing student assessment contracts and negotiation of new contracts to implement the rigorous alternative assessment options.
- Establishes timelines for the implementation of district-selected rigorous alternative assessment options, and specifies notification and reporting requirements.
- Removes the annual cap on teacher bonuses for the teachers providing Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), or

industry certification instruction which results in their students earning college credit or attaining industry certifications.

- Provides an exemption for the performance of students with excessive absences from counting against a classroom teacher's performance evaluation.
- Authorizes district school board members to visit schools to promote education and school improvements.
- Provides that for 2016-2017 the "funding for the rigorous alternative assessments may not cause an increase in the assessment and evaluation appropriation in the General Appropriations Act."

The bill is on the agenda in the Appropriations Committee tomorrow. There is no House companion at this time.

CS/SB 1166 – Education Funding by Senator Don Gaetz (R – Destin), updates and establishes numerous early learning, public K-12, and postsecondary education statutes relating to the School Readiness program, public school funding and policy issues, the Adults with Disabilities Workforce Education Pilot Program, and the Distinguished Florida College System Program. Specifically, the bill:

- Revises provisions relating to health and safety standards and eligibility for the School Readiness program to align to federal requirements in the 2014 reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant;
- Authorizes and codifies changes to the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding formula;
- Makes the Adults with Disabilities Workforce Education Pilot Program, established in s. 1004.935, F.S., a permanent program by removing its pilot status and sunset

date; and

- Establishes the Distinguished Florida College System Program to recognize Florida's highest-performing colleges.

The bill passed the Appropriations committee last week and is awaiting a hearing by the full Senate. There is no House companion at this time.

UPDATE ON BILLS

SB 824 – Dual Enrollment Program by Senator Kelli Stargel (R – Lakeland), modifies public and private dual enrollment articulation agreement requirements, expands fee exemptions for dually-enrolled students, and specifies funding for certain public postsecondary institutions. Specifically, the bill:

- Establishes August 1 as the annual deadline by which the dual enrollment articulation agreements with home education program students, private schools, and state universities or eligible private colleges and universities must be submitted to the Department of Education.
- Clarifies that the provision of instructional materials and transportation for home education program students and private schools must be addressed in the articulation agreement with the partnering postsecondary institution.
- Establishes provisions that must be included in the articulation agreements with private schools.
- Adds technology fees to the existing fees that public and private school students and home education program students are exempt from paying for dual enrollment courses.
- Specifies funding, subject to annual appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), for public postsecondary institutions

for dual enrollment courses taken by private school students, except for the private school students for whom such postsecondary institutions are otherwise compensated.

The bill reported favorably by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education last week. The House companion, **HB 835 by Representative Eric Eisnaugle (R – Orlando)**, passed the House last week has been referred to several Senate committees.

SB 7030 – Competitive Solicitation or Negotiation Strategies by Senator Jeremy Ring (D - Margate), continues the public records and public meetings exemptions for competitive solicitations used by governmental entities by removing the October 2, 2016, repeal date in each law. The bill passed out of the Legislature last week and will go to the Governor for signature.

HB 1075 – State Lands by Representative Matt Caldwell (R – Lehigh Acres), addresses a number of issues relating to acquiring, managing, and disposing of state lands. Last week, the State Affairs Committee adopted a proposed committee substitute reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The proposed committee substitute and amendment:

- Removed changes to the definition of “water resource development project” so the current definition, that excludes construction of water treatment, transmission, or distribution facilities, remains in law;
- Added DACS to the list of agencies that must implement initiatives to use alternatives to fee simple acquisition and to educate private landowners about such alternatives;
- Added DACS to the list of agencies that may enter into joint acquisition

agreements for alternatives to fee simple acquisition;

- Created a new section of law that requires DACS to follow certain acquisition procedures when acquiring conservation easements through the Rural and Family Lands Program. These procedures are substantially similar to procedures other agencies must follow;
- Required DEP to submit conservation lands that are not meeting their short-term goals to ARC to consider whether the goals should be modified, the land should be offered to another entity for management or lease, or the land should be surplus;
- Clarified that updates to land management plans must identify for surplus purposes any conservation lands that are no longer needed for conservation purposes, rather than identify lands to surplus;
- Allowed agencies to group non-conservation lands under one land use plan when the land uses are similar;
- Removed the requirement for DEP to perform a comprehensive review of all conservation lands every 10 years to determine if surplus is appropriate;
- **Removed the priority provided to universities, colleges, counties, and cities for leasing or buying surplus lands, but retains the priority for state agencies;**
- Required land exchanges with adjacent owners to result in a net positive conservation benefit to the state, rather than a positive conservation benefit;
- Clarified that ARC must provide recommendations on each request to exchange private land for adjacent public land, and those recommendations must be provided to the Board of Trustees before it considers the exchange; and
- Required that management of conservation lands must be com-

patible with conservation purposes or recreation purposes, or both, and requires those purposes to be consistent with any existing land management plan.

The bill is on the Calendar, waiting to be heard by the full House. The Senate companion, **SB 1290 by Senator Wilton Simpson (R – New Port Richey)** was amended to bring it in line with the House Bill and reported favorably by the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

CS/HB 793 – Bright Futures Scholarship Program by Representative Marlene O’Toole (R – The Villages), was amended in the Education Appropriations Subcommittee with a strike-all amendment and reported favorably. The committee substitute:

- Creates the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award, an additional pathway for a student to receive a vocational scholarship under the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program;
- Modifies the initial eligibility period for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for students who are unable to accept an award due to full-time religious or service obligations lasting at least 18 months;
- Modifies student community service work requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards, and expands the definition of what constitutes community service;
- Eliminates references to outdated eligibility requirements for the FAS and FMS awards; and
- Removes the higher test score requirement for home education students whose parents cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum.
- Provides an appropriation of \$66,468 in recurring funds from the Educational Enhancement

Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to pay for Bright Futures Scholarships for eligible students in home education programs.

- Revises the effective date of the bill to make the bill effective upon becoming law.

The bill passed out of the House last week. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 520 by Senator Tom Lee (R – Brandon)** is on the calendar awaiting a hearing by the full Senate.

HB 7099 – Taxation by Representative Matt Gaetz (R – Shalimar, FSU Alum), provides for a wide range of tax reductions and modifications designed to directly impact both households and businesses, and to improve tax admin-

istration. The bill has passed out of the House and is on the agenda in the Senate Appropriations Committee tomorrow.

CS/CS/SB 1050 – Regulated Professions and Occupations by Senator Jeff Brandes (R – St. Petersburg), was amended by the Appropriations Committee last week to eliminate current business license requirements for certain regulated professions, but licensure requirements for individuals engaged in those professions remain intact. The affected professions are architects, interior designers, asbestos abatement consultants and contractors, and landscape architects.

Additionally, the bill allows certain

activities to be practiced without licensure, including nail polishing, low voltage landscape lighting, and low voltage communication cabling. The bill eliminates licensure and registration requirements for athlete agents but was amended to strengthen the penalties, talent agencies, and labor organizations. Licensure of branch offices for yacht brokers is also eliminated.

The bill reported favorably by the Appropriations Committee and will go to the floor to be heard by the full Senate. The House companion, **CS/ HB 1187 by Representative James Grant (R – Tampa)** was amended, **keeping the registration of athlete agents in current law** and reported favorably last week in the Regulatory Affairs Committee.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 2**, 10:00 a.m.
to 6:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, **MARCH 3**, 10:00 a.m.
to 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, **MARCH 4**, 10:00 a.m.
to 6:00 p.m.

HOUSE SESSION

TUESDAY, **MARCH 1**, 10:30 a.m.
until completion

WEDNESDAY, **MARCH 2**, 10:30 a.m.
until completion

THURSDAY, **MARCH 3**, 10:30 a.m.
until completion

FRIDAY, **MARCH 4**, 10:30 a.m.
until completion



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