

# PBC Legislative Update



JUNE 12, 2017

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Legislative Update — June 2017

**FEDERAL ISSUES**

**Senator Rubio Sponsors Legislation to Combat Human Trafficking**  
*By Office of Senator Rubio*

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) recently joined his Senate colleagues in introducing two bills that would combat human trafficking.

Rubio joined Senators Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), John Cornyn (R-TX), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Bob Corker (R-TN) in introducing [the Trafficking Victims Protection Act \(TVPA\)](#), legislation that would establish and reauthorize critical programs to prevent human trafficking, promote justice for survivors, provide services to victims and increase federal coordination to enhance the federal government’s response to the crisis of exploitation.

Rubio also joined Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Bob Corker (R-TN), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Dean Heller (R-NV), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Chris Coons (D-DE), and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) in introducing [the Abolish Human Trafficking Act](#), legislation that would strengthen and reauthorize key programs that support survivors of human trafficking and provide resources to federal, state, and local law enforcement officials on the front lines of the fight against modern-day slavery.

“Victims of human trafficking need help from their communities as they reclaim their lives,” **said Rubio**. “These bills will help support survivors and provide more resources to empower and assist victims in their recovery process. I’m proud to join my colleagues in fighting against traffickers and doing everything we can to protect and support their victims.”

**Florida to Receive Federal Grants associated with Hurricane Matthew**  
*By Office of Senator Rubio*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is announcing Federal grants for the State of Florida associated with Hurricane Matthew. This funding is as follows:

State	Disaster #	Project #	Total Project Cost - This Version	Federal Share	Cost Share	Type of Grant	Category
FL	4283	00173(0)	\$1,447,478.89	\$1,085,609.17	75%	PA	B

## **Florida Legislature Special Session Summary**

*By Ericks Consultants*

Last week, the Legislature met for special session to address issues that were leftover from their regular session. Below are the issues that were discussed:

### **Medical Marijuana**

The Senate and the House agreed to an Amendment 2 implementation package. The package includes a preemption on local control of Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, as defined in the Constitution. It provides that local governments may ban MMTC dispensaries, however those that do not may not limit the number of MMTC dispensaries within its jurisdiction. Local governments may set criteria for location and permitting of such facilities so long as it does not exceed those placed on pharmacies. Other highlights include the inability to smoke marijuana, however edibles and “vaping” are allowed as consumption mechanisms under the bill. 6 Senators and 9 Representatives voted against the bill, stating that the bill did not meet voter expectations in what was passed in Amendment 2. The main disagreements during the Regular Session over license and dispensary caps ultimately ended with a grandfather of 10 licenses with 4 new licenses with each 100,000 increase in the registry. Additionally, dispensaries must be capped at 25 per MMTC with an additional five allowed with 100,000 increase in the registry.

The legislature also passed a public records exemption for the registry (6A).

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017A/00008A>

(Public Records): <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017A/00006A>

### **Enterprise Florida/ Visit Florida**

The agreement between the Governor and the House Speaker allocated \$16 to DEO to contract with Enterprise Florida, \$76 million to DEO to contract with Visit Florida and \$85 million to a new program called the Job Growth Grant Fund, although ultimately the number was closer to \$65 million. The Job Growth Grant Fund is meant to act as economic incentives, but rather than benefiting one company or entity, the funding would go towards infrastructure investment in communities that would then drive private sector investment. The bill also creates the Targeted Marketing Program to focus advertising efforts for the state. The bill places additional transparency and other good governance reforms on Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida. The House originally did not believe that contributions from private entities that receive public dollars should count as the required private contribution to Enterprise Florida, however the Senate believed that entities that receive Tourist Development Tax dollars should still count. In the end, the House agreed to the Senate’s position. Additionally, the Governor, House and Senate agreed to a request to add 50 million from reserve funds to repair the Herbert Hoover Dike in Lake Okeechobee as well as appropriating funding to reverse some \$60 million of the Governor’s higher education cuts. While the Senate wanted more of a process in statute to decide on projects deserving of the Florida Job Growth Grant Funding, the final product did not include the process.

Democratic members were frustrated that the funding was provided from local projects vetoes to fund the Governor’s priorities but all ultimately voted for the bill because of the Visit Florida increase and higher education reversal.

Senate: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017A/00002A>

House: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017A/00001A>

### **Education**

The Senate and the House agreed to increase the FEFP by \$215 million, resulting in \$100 per student increase with \$159 million non-recurring. Four Senators and six Representatives voted no because they believed the increase was not enough given HB 7069, which the Governor has yet to

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Mack Bernard

**County Administrator**

Verdenia C. Baker

**Palm Beach County  
Legislative Affairs**

301 North Olive Avenue  
Suite 1101.4  
West Palm Beach, FL  
33405

**Todd J. Bonlarron  
Assistant County  
Administrator**

**Phone**

Office (561) 355-4019  
Mobile (561) 310-7832

**Fax**

(561) 355-3982

**E-mail**

tbonlarr@pbcgov.com

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sign. Attempts to take funding away from HB 7069 and divert it to failing traditional schools were not successful. The Senate ultimately agreed to the House position to not increase the Required Local Effort funding. The bill still represents the highest base student funding in Florida history.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017A/00003A>

**Hospitals**

The Senate attempted to add a \$100 million increase to offset cuts by Governor Scott to Medicaid patient heavy hospitals, which would have resulted in a \$260 million reduction in cuts when accounting for Federal matching dollars. However, the House did not agree to expand the call of Special Session to include the bill.

Senate: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017A/00004A>

**Palm Beach County Appropriations Update**

*By County Staff*

The Special Session was a success for Palm Beach County as well. When the initial round of gubernatorial vetoes came around, Palm Beach County had five of their priorities vetoed. When the Special Session ended, the funding to the Tech Runway and Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program had been restored.