

TRUST FUND BILLS

SB 2128 — Administrative Trust Fund/Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

by Senators Alexander and Lawson

This bill (Chapter 2008-21, L.O.F.) re-creates the Administrative Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission without modification. Re-creation is effective July 1, 2009, which is the current termination date of the fund. The changes extend the life of the trust fund.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2009.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-0

SB 2130 — Federal Grants Trust Fund/Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

by Senators Alexander and Lawson

This bill (Chapter 2008-22, L.O.F.) re-creates the Federal Grants Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission without modification. Re-creation is effective beginning July 1, 2009, which is the current termination date of the fund. The changes extend the life of the trust fund.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2009.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-0

SB 2132 — Grants and Donations Trust Fund/Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

by Senators Alexander and Lawson

This bill (Chapter 2008-23, L.O.F.) re-creates the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission without modification. Re-creation is effective beginning July 1, 2009, which is the current termination date of the fund. The changes extend the life of the trust fund.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2009.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-0

OTHER BILLS

CS/CS/SB 1286 — Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

by General Government Appropriations Committee; Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee; and Senator Saunders

The bill reenacts the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and its divisions as required by the Florida Government Accountability Act. The bill increases various vessel registration fees. The bill authorizes vessel registration fees and recreational hunting and fishing license fees to be adjusted every five years based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, unless otherwise prescribed by general law. The bill repeals the Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund, the Waterfowl Advisory Council, Florida Panther Technical Advisory Council, and the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council. The trust fund and councils are no longer utilized by the agency.

Finally, the bill directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the FWC to conduct a review of several programs to determine if any cost-saving benefits or efficiencies may be gained through downsizing, consolidating or outsourcing select activities. The findings and recommendations are due to the Legislature by January 1, 2009.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 111-8

CS/CS/SB 1294 — Environmental Protection

by General Government Appropriations Committee; Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee; and Senator Saunders

The bill reenacts the Department of Environmental Protection as required by the Florida Government Accountability Act and amends the department's organizational structure. Beginning July 1, 2008, the bill authorizes a \$1.38 surcharge on the phosphate severance tax to provide funding for the continued cleanup of the Mulberry and Piney Point hazardous sites and to continue the state's commitment to reclaim phosphate-mined lands. The bill provides for the severance tax rate to roll back and for the industry to receive an offset on future tax collections equal to the amount paid for the surcharge. The bill increases certain Environmental Resource Permitting and Drinking Water fees. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to review the fees at least once every five years based on changes to the Consumer Price Index.

The bill transfers the primary responsibilities of the Invasive Plant Control program to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and transfers the permitting component for aquatic plant species to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The bill provides clarifying language relating to defining the types of waste that can be placed in a landfill located in the

Southern Water Use Caution Area of the state. The bill retains the Environmental Regulation Commission and authorizes it to employ independent counsel and contract with technical consultants. The bill requires dry cleaning facilities to register and show proof of registration prior to purchasing dry-cleaning solvents.

Finally, the bill repeals the Land Use Advisory Committee which has been inactive since 1979, and allows the Committee on Landscape Irrigation & Florida-Friendly Design Standards to meet once more before January 2011.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law, except as otherwise provided.

Vote: Senate 36-1; House 68-44

CS/CS/SB 1702 — Agriculture

by General Government Appropriations Committee; Agriculture Committee; and Senator Alexander

The bill reenacts the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and its divisions as required by the Florida Government Accountability Act. The bill eliminates the Caribbean Fruit Fly Technical Committee and the Exotic Pest of Citrus Council. This committee and council are no longer utilized by the agency.

The bill increases certain fees to support program operations for wildfire protection, food safety inspections, and consumer protection. The bill expands the use of the Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund to be used for the promotion, advancement, and protection of agriculture in the state. The bill eliminates the administration, purchase, and distribution of the brucellosis vaccine by the department for domestic livestock and, finally, the bill revises the deadline by which the Florida Citrus Commission sets the annual citrus excise tax rate.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 113-2

CS/SB 1888 — State Employees

by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Carlton

The bill resolves the collective bargaining issues at impasse between the State of Florida and the bargaining representatives for state employees for FY 2008-2009.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 108-10

CS/SB 1892 — State Data Center System

by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Carlton

The bill is the result of a study, conducted for the Senate by Gartner, Inc., on the feasibility of consolidating state data centers. The Data Center Consolidation Feasibility Study indicated that annual savings of \$17 million could be achieved if Florida consolidated data centers. The bill establishes the policy groundwork for gradual consolidation of approximately 67 state data center facilities over an eleven year period. The bill requires the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology to develop a plan for consolidation and specific consolidation proposals annually. In addition, the bill requires the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology to establish operational policies for the data center system.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 118-0

HB 5043 — Financial Services

by Jobs and Entrepreneurship Council and Rep. Reagan and others (CS/SB 1824 by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander)

The bill modifies the percentage distributions of revenues from the surplus lines premium tax. The bill increases the distribution to the General Revenue Fund and correspondingly decreases the distribution to the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services. The bill reallocates a portion of securities regulation fees from the General Revenue Fund to the Regulatory Trust Fund within the Office of Financial Regulation. The bill establishes a task force, to be headed by the Chief Financial Officer, to develop a strategic plan for a successor state financial and cash management system. The bill establishes a Strategic Markets Research and Assessment Unit within the Department of Financial Services.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 36-2; House 116-0

HB 5045 — Workers' Compensation Medical Services and Supplies

by Jobs and Entrepreneurship Council and Rep. Reagan and others

The bill transfers the Workers' Compensation Medical Services Unit from the Agency for Health Care Administration to the Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Financial Services. The transfer serves to further consolidate Workers' Compensation functions in the Department of Financial Services.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 38-2; House 119-0

HB 5047 — Department of Business and Professional Regulation

by Jobs and Entrepreneurship Council and Rep. Reagan and others

The bill revises the procedure for authorizing the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to privatize selected services for its regulatory boards through the Management Privatization Act. The bill also modifies the unlicensed activity reporting and budget request requirements for the Board of Architecture and Interior Design and removes duplicative fire safety code inspection responsibilities from the Division of Hotels and Restaurants in the department. Finally, the bill requires reports for selected performance activities of the Division of Hotels and Restaurants and the Florida Division of Land Sales, Condominiums and Mobile Homes.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 115-0

HB 5049 — Mortgage Broker Licenses

by Jobs and Entrepreneurship Council and Rep. Reagan and others

The bill requires that the Office of Financial Regulation make available an electronic mortgage broker licensing examination no later than December 31, 2008. The bill reduces the fees for the electronic version of the test and the mortgage broker application fee.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 119-0

HB 5051 — Department of Business and Professional Regulation

by Jobs and Entrepreneurship Council and Rep. Reagan (CS/SB 1820 by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander)

The bill revises the permit fees paid for the promotion of professional boxing and mixed martial arts events to the Florida Boxing Commission. The bill increases boxing event fees from a range of \$50 to \$250 to \$1,800 and reduces mixed martial arts event fees from \$5,000 to \$1,800. The equalization of both event fees is revenue neutral for the Commission's operations.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-1

HB 5057 — Insurance Capital Build-up Incentive Program

by Policy and Budget Council; Jobs and Entrepreneurship Council; and Rep. Reagan (CS/CS/SB's 2860 and 1196 by General Government Appropriations Committee; Banking and Insurance Committee; and Senators Atwater, Geller, Fasano, Garcia, Jones, Gaetz, and Wilson)

The bill provides that, through September 1, 2008, insurers may apply for surplus notes of up to \$25 million in the amount equal to the new capital contributed by the insurer. The bill further provides that through June 1, 2009, insurers may apply for notes of up to \$25 million in the amount equal to one-half of the new capital contributed by the insurer. The bill revises the minimum writing ratio for net written premium to surplus. For the first three years, the bill requires insurers to write at least 15 percent of its net or gross written premium for new policies for policies taken out of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens). The bill requires an insurer to maintain a level of surplus and reinsurance sufficient to cover in excess of its 1 in 100 years probable maximum loss. The bill requires Citizens to transfer \$250 million to the General Revenue Fund for the issuance of additional surplus notes if the combined surplus of all Citizens accounts exceeds \$1 billion in December 2008.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-1

HB 5059 — State Agency Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund

by Government Efficiency and Accountability Council and Rep. Grant (CS/SB 1830 by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander)

The bill expands the use of the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System Trust Fund in the Department of Management Services to include costs for providing technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies in the development of regional law enforcement communications systems.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 117-0

HB 5061 — Revenue Administration

by Government Efficiency and Accountability Council and Rep. Grant (CS/SB 1838 by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander)

The bill expands the use of the Certification Program Trust Fund within the Department of Revenue. The bill authorizes the department to continue to provide aerial photography and non-property ownership maps to counties that have a population of 25,000 or less. For counties with populations greater than 25,000, the bill requires that the department provide aerial photography and maps on a cost recovery basis. The bill authorizes property appraisers to pay a fee established by the department for this service.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 83-35

HB 7019 — Real Property Transfer Returns

by Government Efficiency and Accountability Council and Rep. Attkisson (CS/SB 1814 by General Government Appropriations Committee and Senator Alexander)

This bill (Chapter 2008-24, L.O.F.) eliminates the information form DR-219 relating to the transfer of an interest in real property within the Department of Revenue. Chapter 201, F.S., requires sellers, buyers, or agents to file a return containing certain information when submitting a deed to the county clerks of court to transfer interest in real property. The form includes information related to these transactions, including sales price of the property, the date of sale, the type of property and whether the sale included any tangible personal property.

The bill eliminates the 1 percent commission retained by the county clerks from the deeds portion of the documentary stamp tax collections.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect June 1, 2008.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 118-0

