AGENDA

Members & Alternate: Chair Brandi Gabbard, Vice Chair Ed Montanari, Amy Foster, Lisa Wheeler-Bowman; Alternate – Deborah Figgs-Sanders

Support Staff: Linnie Randolph, Legislative Aide

A. Call to order

B. Approval of agenda

C. Approval of minutes – October 08, 2020

D. New Business

   1. Tallahassee Update – Dr. Jeffery Sharkey
   2. Administration Legislative Update – John Rodriguez
   3. Finalize 2021 State Legislative Priorities
      a. Open Discussion with Staff & Council
   4. Finalize 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

Next Meeting:
   • February 18, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m.

Attachments:
2021 Delegation List
2021 Bill Tracker Spreadsheet
Support Material for New Business Items
ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Report
October 8, 2020

Present: Chair Brandi Gabbard, Vice Chair Ed Montanari, Amy Foster, Deborah Figgs-Sanders Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Also: Council Members Robert Blackmon, Assistant City Attorneys Jane Wallace, Brett Pettigrew & Michael Dema, Chief of Policy and Public Engagement Kevin King, Government Affairs Director John Rodriguez, Capitol Alliance Group Managing Partner Dr. Jeffrey Sharkey, Neighborhood Affairs Administrator Rob Gerdes, Assistant City Administrator Tom Green, Regional Chancellor of USF St. Petersburg Dr. Martin Tadlock, Eckerd College Sustainability Director Evan Bollier, St. Petersburg Chamber Advocacy Manager Matt Letteleir, Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton, PSTA Director of Communications & Marketing Whitney Fox

Support Staff: Linnie Randolph

A. Call to Order – 10:00 a.m.

B. Approval of Agenda – Council Chair Montanari moved approval, all members voted in favor.

C. Approval of August 13, 2020 Minutes – Council Chair Montanari moved approval, all members voted in favor.

D. New Business

1. Current Status Tallahassee – Dr. Jeff Sharkey and John Rodriguez
   Dr. Sharkey and Mr. Rodriguez gave a brief update on activities in Tallahassee including that the Capital building was still closed to the public and that the main topic of conversation right now is regarding voting; voter registration, early voting and mail in ballots. Other topics covered included; revenue projections, the CARES Act, eviction moratorium, property tax revenue, and the increasing Covid-19 cases on college campuses.

2. Stakeholder Priorities
   a. USF St. Petersburg – Dr. Martin Tadlock
      Dr. Tadlock presented USF St. Pete’s legislative priorities as follows:
      • Marine Environmental Health
      • Graphic & Visual Arts Program
      • Grow campus and Diversity Enrollment
      • Innovation Scholars Program
b. Eckerd College – Evan Bollier  
Mr. Bollier spoke briefly about the challenges presented on campus by Covid-19. Eckerd College will focus on the following for the upcoming legislative session:
- The Farm – a campus agriculture program operated by an on-campus club. They would like to hire a full-time Farm director and provide funding for a work/study program
- Living Shore Line – Seawall replacement
- Water Quality Enhancement

c. St. Pete Chamber – Matt Lettleir  
Mr. Lettleir stated that the Chamber has not finalized their specific priority list but that it will include the following in some form:
- USF St. Pete
- 2nd District Court of Appeals – (vetoed last year and want to bring back this year)
- St Pete Collegiate High School – (vetoed last year and want to bring back this year)
- Division of Cultural Affairs Grants
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority

d. Forward Pinellas – Whit Blanton  
Mr. Blanton stated that Forward Pinellas is likely to set the same priorities as last year to include:
- Transportation
- Resiliency
- Affordable Housing
- Rapid flashing beacons

e. PSTA – Whitney Fox  
- VW Settlement Fund
- Transportation Disadvantage (continued funding)
- Standard Block Grants
  - New Clearwater Transit Hub
  - Clearwater Ferry Service
  - Autonomous Vehicles
  - Regional Transportation

Committee Chair Gabbard reordered the agenda and took up item 4, Update on Coalition of Support & Resolution Readiness

4. Update on Coalition of Support & Resolution Readiness  
a. Penny for Pinellas for Affordable Housing – Rob Gerdes  
Mr. Gerdes gave a brief update on the Penny Glitch Amendment and the progression of gathering county-wide support for the program but stated that the County appears to be on hold. Earlier in the presentation Kevin King shared that Mayor Kriseman brought this up to the Council of Mayors and is anticipating a letter of support from them. Mr.
Gerdes will continue to work towards gathering more support and will report back at the next LAIR meeting.

b. Building Permit Special Revenue Fund – Robert Blackmon
Councilman Blackmon gave a brief recap on making a one time spend from this fund to bring it back into compliance and stated that the key to moving this forward is to get building companies on board. He will continue to work towards this goal and report back at the next LAIR meeting.

3. Review of 2020 Priorities for 2021 Session
The Committee discussed the 2020 Priorities and decided what needed to be removed and what items would remain for the 2021 session.

Summary of List:
- Affordable Housing – Remains on List
- Urban Agriculture – Removed from List
- Private Laterals – Remains on List
- Vessel Safety Regulations – F.W.C. legislative package includes all items
- Fire Arm Safety – All of Council will be informed of specific bills but not a priority.
- Carter G. Woodson Funding – an ongoing request and will remain on the list

New Items added to the Priority List for 2021 Session:
- Education
- Design Standards
- Protect Home Rule
  - Flashing Beacons

Chief of Policy and Public Engagement Kevin King said that the Mayor has serious concerns about USFSP consolidation. Mr. King mentioned that the Committee may want to consider a resolution on this issue.

Committee Staff will create the 2021 Session Priority list for review and approval at the January 2021 meeting.

5. Federal Priority List Discussion
Committee Chair Gabbard led the group in an open discussion on creating a Federal Priority List. Committee members are in favor of creating the list for further discussion at the next meeting and Mr. King stated that administration is in full support of this idea. Mr. King also stated that we currently have a presence on the federal level and are working on several items.

Items for the Federal List Includes:
- National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA)
- Mitigation funding for Flooding
- Reform to HUD Policy
- Funding to support gaps in CARES Act and AMI
- Funding for St. Petersburg Science Center
- Basic Infrastructure (highway noise mitigation, Bridges, & Seawalls)

Meeting adjourned: 11:50 a.m.
The Next LAIR meeting will be held on: January 14, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m.
Just FYI, in light of yesterday's mob assault on the US Capitol, this has taken on a new dimension but may affect local government decisions.

Proposals Aimed at Curbing Violent Protest, Punishing Looting, Filed in Florida

Legislation ([HB 1](https://www.flsenate.gov/BillStatus/Summary?BillNumber=SB+484) / [SB 484](https://www.flsenate.gov/BillStatus/Summary?BillNumber=SB+484)) filed in the House and Senate Wednesday would take up Gov. Ron DeSantis' effort to reduce violence at protests and punish looters that he announced after the racial justice protests of last summer, but were given new impetus by Wednesday's violent temporary takeover of the U.S. Capitol building, the governor said. "In 2020, I proposed legislation to stop violent assemblies, combat rioting and protect law enforcement," DeSantis said in a statement late Wednesday. "In light of today's events at our United States Capitol, we have no time to waste to uphold public safety." The measures were filed by GOP Rep. [Juan Alphonso Fernandez-Barquin](https://www.flsenate.gov/Members/Senator/102) of Miami in the House and fellow Republican [Danny Burgess](https://www.flsenate.gov/Members/House/117) of Zephyrhills in the Senate.

The measures, which are yet to be assigned to committees, also are aimed at blocking efforts to "defund" police, by allowing the governor's office to consider objections to proposals to reduce local police department budgets. The legislation also would make it an additional misdemeanor to commit assault during a riot, and a felony to commit a battery during a riot and set certain minimum mandatory prison terms for violent rioters and increase penalties for looting. The measures would also make it a second-degree felony to "destroy or demolish any memorial," including statues, tombstones, or plaques. Florida legislative leaders and the sponsors of the bills all cited the violence at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in a press release on the filing of the legislation, which DeSantis originally proposed in the aftermath of protests this past summer against police violence. "We respect the right to peacefully protest, but the shameful conduct we witnessed at the United States Capitol today and episodes of violent civil unrest that we have witnessed over the last several months have no place in our democracy," Burgess said in the statement. "This legislation makes it clear that here in Florida criminals who seek to thwart peaceful protests by willfully inciting violence, attacking law enforcement and destroying public or private property will be held accountable." [House-Senate-Governor's Office Press Release](https://www.flsenate.gov/Pages/NewsReleases/2021/HB-SB-484) / [HB 1](https://www.flsenate.gov/Pages/NewsReleases/2021/HB-SB-484) / [SB 484](https://www.flsenate.gov/Pages/NewsReleases/2021/HB-SB-484)

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**Dr. Jeffrey Sharkey**

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City of St. Petersburg
Pre-Committee Week Capitol Report

December 21, 2020

Provided by:
Capitol Alliance Group
106 E. College Ave, Suite 1110
Tallahassee, FL 32301
I. A NEW APPROACH TO COMMITTEE WEEKS AHEAD

With Florida wrestling an uptick in COVID-19 infections, Senate President Wilton Simpson and Speaker Chris Sprowls penned memos this week outlining their respective Chambers’ plans in conducting legislative business while accounting for the safety and well-being of their members and essential staff.

Last week, Senate President Simpson announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19 in advance of a Monday afternoon meeting of Florida’s electors. The electors gathered in the Capitol’s Senate chamber to cast 29 ballots for President Donald Trump.

Like all even years, legislators are set to return to Tallahassee in January for the first two interim committee weeks – but this time under completely foreign and experimental circumstances adhering to CDC guidelines and recommendations from contracted Tampa General Hospital.

This month, the CAG team met virtually with members of the Pinellas County delegation concerning St. Pete’s legislative and budgetary priorities.

The Capitol Alliance Group are honored to represent the vibrant city of St. Pete. The CAG team are currently tracking over a dozen bills and remain vigilant in our advocacy of advancing legislation that benefits the City at-large.

II. STATEWIDE NEWS

➢ Sprowls Issues Committee Assignments

House Speaker Chris Sprowls on Friday issued committee and subcommittee assignments for the 2021 Session.

Speaker Sprowls’ announcement to members provided the full committee assignment lists for 36 committees and subcommittees. He will assign the vice chair and members for the Redistricting Committee and subcommittees, responsible for redrawing district boundaries after the results of the 2020 census, as the committee’s tasks approach.

Overall, the number of committees and subcommittees is down from 42 total last term.

The Speaker announced his leadership team last month, which included 11 committee chairs.

Rep. Tom Leek will lead both the Redistricting Committee and the Pandemics and Public Emergencies Committee, a new panel to explore topics relate to COVID-19, but also emergency management more broadly. Speaker Pro Tempore Bryan Avila will also be the COVID-19 Czar and oversee health and safety protocols.
The Speaker’s Office also released the House COVID-19 protocols for the January and February committee weeks.

Earlier this month, **Senate President Simpson** released his chamber’s committee assignments and circulated committee calendars so that no more than three committees meet at once. Reducing the number of committees meeting simultaneously would allow the Senate to use its largest committee rooms and to promote social distancing.

Unlike Simpson, Sprowls did not put Democrats in top leadership positions. Friday’s announcement saw no Democrats earn leadership roles with all vice chairmanships going to Republicans.

**Rep. Michael Grant** will be the *Majority Leader*, as previously confirmed. **Rep. Chuck Clemons** will be his *deputy* and *Majority Whip*.


➢ **House Releases COVID-19 Protocols for Committee Weeks**

The Florida House on Friday released its official COVID-19 protocols for the 2021 committee weeks.

The six protocols, crafted by **Speaker Pro Tempore Bryan Avila**, are intended to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 for legislators, employees, and visitors at the Capitol during the five scheduled committee weeks preceding the 60-day legislative session.

Notably, the House will split committee blocks into two and implement an alternate schedule. The result will reduce the number of days legislators will need to be in Tallahassee.

The House will also require one-hour sanitation breaks between meetings to disinfect rooms and replace microphone shields. All committee rooms will feature medical-grade HEPA filters.

Committee rooms will be limited to Webster Hall, Morris and, Reed Hall and Sumner Hall during committee weeks. The audience within the rooms will be limited and socially distanced.

Alternatively, those interested in the meetings — including lobbyists and issue advocates — can view all meetings online and provide written statements.

The House protocol encourages all members and assistants to arrive in Tallahassee a day before launch to be tested.

District legislative assistants are the only staff approved to work in each Member’s Capitol Office.
Committee weeks launch Jan.11 and will continue Jan.25, Feb.1, Feb. 8, and Feb. 15.

➢ Governor DeSantis Announces Distribution Plan for Allocation of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

This week, Governor DeSantis announced the State of Florida’s initial distribution plan for Moderna’s COVID-19 vaccine.

Florida is preparing to receive **367,000 doses** of the Moderna vaccine next week, pending Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Doses of the Moderna vaccine will be distributed to **173 hospital locations** that did not receive doses in the first allocation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These hospital locations span 43 counties.

The state is able to distribute this vaccine to a large number of hospitals as the Moderna vaccine does not require ultra-cold storage.

Floridians are also encouraged to opt-in to receive updates about the COVID-19 vaccine via text. Floridians can receive these text updates by texting **FLCOVID19** to **888777**.

➢ Florida’s Minimum Wage to Go Up in January

Florida’s minimum wage will inch up to $8.65 on Jan. 1 before jumping to $10 on Sept. 30. The minimum wage has been $8.56 this year but will increase nine cents in January because of a 2004 constitutional amendment that tied increases to cost-of-living changes. The minimum wage for tipped workers will be 5.63 an hour as of Jan. 1. The overall minimum wage, however, will accelerate in September because of a constitutional amendment that was approved last month to eventually set the wage at $15 an hour. The wage will go to $10 on Sept. 30 and incrementally increase each year until reaching $15 on Sept. 30, 2026.

➢ Proposal Could End Smoking in Parks

**Sen. Gruters, R-Sarasota**, filed **SB 334** seeking to ban smoking at state parks and give local governments authority to curb smoking at their parks and beaches. In addition to prohibiting smoking in state parks, the bill would revamp a law that gives the state control of smoking regulations. The bill would create an exception to that law to allow cities and counties to restrict smoking at beaches and parks they own.
➢ Annette Taddeo Introduces Bill for Tax-Free Small Business Saturday

**Sen. Annette Taddeo** has filed a bill that could give shoppers a tax break on Small Business Saturday and offer a boost to local shops.

The bill, entitled **Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday (SB 302)**, would exempt small businesses from collecting sales tax on Nov. 27, 2021 — next year’s Small Business Saturday.

Small Business Saturday is a nation-wide shopping holiday on the Saturday following Black Friday during the week of Thanksgiving. The goal of the holiday is to encourage consumers to shop local to support small businesses — a holiday that took on a more meaningful tone amidst the pandemic.

This bill could be a form of relief for small businesses next year by encouraging shoppers to spend. However, many Floridians are grappling with unemployment themselves.

To be eligible for the tax exemption detailed in the bill, the business must have owed and remitted less than $200,000 in total tax. The tax exemption applies to items priced less than $1,000.

The bill will also appropriate $200,000 to the Department of Revenue to implement the act and authorize the Department of Revenue to adopt the emergency rule.

➢ Florida Senate Offers Double Shot of Alcohol to Go

“Alcohol to go” may become a permanent offering from restaurants and other specific food establishments in Florida.

At the beginning of the pandemic this year, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis included what he called “alcohol to go” in an executive order to provide an additional source of revenue for restaurants slammed by mandated closures and scaled back operating rules. Many of them were forced to rely on take-out orders to survive. Adding alcohol gave a much-needed boost to restaurateurs strained bottom line.

**Senator Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg**, filed two bills this month **SB 134** and **SB 142**, authorizing, among other things, certain food service establishments to sell or deliver alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption if specified requirements are met.

They also revised provisions that authorize a restaurant to allow patrons to remove partially consumed bottles of wine from a restaurant for off-premises consumption.

**Senator Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island**, filed a separate bill, **SB 148**, which also authorizes the sell or delivery of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption.

Brandes recognized the success of DeSantis’ executive order in helping businesses survive the pandemic and thought it should become permanent.
While at first glance, allowing patrons to take an unfinished bottle of wine home with them after a meal, appears to ease Florida’s open container laws, Brandes’ bill spells out strict guidelines for getting the bottle home. It must be closed by the restaurant staff, placed in a bag or container with the receipt and then transported either in a glove compartment or behind the front seat of the vehicle.

➢ President Simpson Says Water Quality Funding to Be Priority Despite Slimmer Budget

Senate President Wilton Simpson told attendees at the Florida Chamber’s Transportation, Growth & Infrastructure Solution Summit this month that funding water quality initiatives would be a priority during his term despite budget challenges.

Simpson said water is vital to tourism, the population and agriculture, the latter of which has been the top economic driver in the state since the pandemic took root.

The agriculture industry, Simpson noted, has adopted techniques and technologies that have cut down on water usage by as much as 80%.

And an Everglades restoration bill he sponsored that passed in the 2012 Legislative Session — his first — has helped reduce discharges of polluted water from Lake Okeechobee to the coasts.

One of the tentpoles of his water agenda will be increased investments in water storage north of the Everglades.

Simpson’s other priority is creating a robust septic to sewer program.

➢ U.S. Jobless Claims Rise To 885,000 Amid Resurgence of Virus

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose again last week to 885,000, the highest weekly total since September, as a resurgence of coronavirus cases threatens the economy’s recovery from its springtime collapse.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the number of applications increased from 862,000 the previous week. It showed that nine months after the viral pandemic paralyzed the economy, many employers are still slashing jobs as the pandemic forces more business restrictions and leads many consumers to stay home. The number of claims was much higher than the 800,000 that economists had expected.

Before the coronavirus erupted in March, weekly jobless claims had typically numbered only about 225,000. The far-higher current pace reflects an employment market under stress and diminished job security for many.

The total number of people who are receiving traditional state unemployment benefits fell to 5.5 million from 5.8 million. That figure is down sharply from its peak of nearly 23 million in May. It means that some jobless Americans are finding jobs and no longer
receiving aid. But it also indicates that many of the unemployed have used up their state benefits, which typically expire after six months.

➢ **Florida’s Unemployment Claims Decline Sharply as Economy Stays Open**

Florida’s first-time unemployment claims fell sharply for the week that ended Dec. 12, as most of the state’s economy remained open despite rising numbers of new COVID-19 infections.

Filings for benefits **fell by 7,362 claims to 21,780**. Nationally, initial claims rose for the second straight week to 885,000, an increase of 23,000 from the previous week’s revised level of 862,000.

States where governments took aggressive measures to lock down business activity as a means of containing the coronavirus showed sharp increases in claims filings. They included California and Illinois, which reported filing increases of 23,903 and 35,129, respectively.

Governor DeSantis has made it clear he wants to keep businesses open to support employment in Florida. Still, the proliferation of the virus continues to hobble the state’s hospitality and leisure industry.

In October, there were **659,000** jobless Floridians out of a labor force of more than 10.1 million.

As of Monday, the agency had paid more than **2.1 million** people more than **$19.3 billion** in state and federal jobless benefits since mid-March. More than $15 billion was funded by Washington.

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2021 State Legislative Priorities

Affordable Housing:

- Protect State Affordable Housing Trust Fund (Sadowski) from being raided or swept for other purposes unrelated to housing needs
- Provide assistance funding for evictions and foreclosures related to Covid-19
- Support a proposed “glitch bill” to eliminate ambiguity with respect to use of infrastructure sales surtax funds for affordable housing land acquisition
- Support an amendment to Florida Statute 553.80 that creates a one time carve out for the use of excess building permit funds to be used for the construction of affordable housing

Private Laterals:

- Monitor legislation that would require counties and municipalities to establish a sanitary sewer lateral inspection program; and provide parameters for such a program including potential funding to assist residents with requirements.

Vessel Safety Revisions:

- Support proposed changes to Chapter 327 which propose to resolve issues regarding special hazards and officer safety, providing for the declaration of a public nuisance for certain vessels, funding the stored vessels study mandated in 2019, and providing a mangrove vegetation buffer/protection zone for vessels.
Education:

- Support our Collegiate and University partners in their quest of funding for new programs and increased enrollment.
- Request that the legislature follow through on their promise to support USFSP and follow the law of consolidation, provide adequate funding, revisit enrollment requirements that disproportionately affect minority communities, and support autonomy.

Home Rule:

“The most precious powers a city in Florida has are its Home Rule powers which were established when the Legislature adopted the Home Rule Powers Act in 1973. The ability to establish its form of government through its charter, and to then enact ordinances, codes, plans and resolutions without prior state approval is a tremendous authority. To further be able to enforce them “at home” and to make necessary changes as a city grows is a great reflection of the trust that citizens have in their respective city leaders.”

- Florida League of Cities

- Oppose any legislation that would remove a local governments ability to install pedestrian and bicycle safety warning devices proven to reduce fatalities and serious injuries for our most vulnerable road users
- Oppose any legislation that would prohibit zoning and development regulations relating to building design for one- and two-family buildings

Funding Priorities:

- Carter G. Woodson Museum
- 2nd District Court of Appeals
- St Petersburg Collegiate High School
St Petersburg City Council

2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA:

• Support a long-term reauthorization and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program including responsible roll out of Risk Rating 2.0 in 2021.
• Support local efforts to provide mitigation funding for residents in need of resources to reduce flooding, seawall replacement, lateral line replacement and other resident owned infrastructure needs
• Support State Flood Mitigation Revolving Fund Act of 2019/ HR 1610 (Crist, FL-13)

Reform to HUD Policies:

• Support HUD Inspection Oversight Act of 2019 / HR 3745 (Lawson, FL-5)

Funding related to Covid–19:

• Support additional funding to cover the gap that exists in AMI limit requirements in CARES funding and the lack of AMI limits in the CDC eviction moratorium rule

Transportation:

• Support increased funding for transportation and increased flexibility for the usage of funding that currently exists.
Environment/Climate Change:

- Support policies that encourage environmental justice, access to clean water, protection of our environment, less dependence on fossil fuels, a ban on oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, the creation of a carbon gas tax and other policies related to resiliency, sustainability and protecting coastal communities from sea level rise

Infrastructure:

- Support a robust infrastructure bill that would provide funding for public roads, bridges, highway noise mitigation, seawalls and other basic needs

Appropriation Requests:

- St. Petersburg Science Center
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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Republican</td>
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<td>Jessica Andringa</td>
<td>Kayla Wade Speaker(2020-2022)</td>
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<td>Jeff Brandes</td>
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<td>Zachary Hubbard</td>
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<td>Darryl Rouson</td>
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<td>Elise Minkoff</td>
<td>Tennille Moore</td>
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1. Judiciary, Chair
2. Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice, Vice Chair
3. Criminal Justice, Vice Chair
4. Appropriations
5. Banking and Insurance
6. Rules
7. Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response

1. Commerce and Tourism, Chair
2. Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development, Vice Chair
3. Appropriations
4. Community Affairs
5. Finance and Tax
6. Regulated Industries
7. Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

1. Agriculture, Chair
2. Appropriations
3. Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
4. Banking and Insurance
5. Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
6. Judiciary
7. Regulated Industries
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</table>
| Michele Rayner     | Representative | 70       | Democrat | 541 49th Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33707-2660 (727) 892-2468               | Michele.Rayner@myfloridahouse.gov                  | 1. Health & Human Services Committee  
2. Insurance & Banking Subcommittee  
3. Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining  
4. Justice Appropriations Subcommittee  
5. Professions & Public Health Subcommittee |
| Nick DiCeglie      | Representative | 66       | Republican | Suite 4  
1940 West Bay Drive  
Largo, FL 33770-3024 (727) 588-7090                                                  | Nick.DiCeglie@myfloridahouse.gov                     | 1. Insurance & Banking Subcommittee Chair  
2. Commerce Committee  
3. Justice Appropriations Subcommittee  
4. Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee  
5. Ways & Means Committee |
| Chris Latvala      | Representative | 67       | Republican | Suite 206  
2963 Gulf to Bay Boulevard  
Clearwater, FL 33759-4200 (727) 724-3000                                             | Chris.Latvala@myfloridahouse.gov                     | 1. Education & Employment Committee - Chair  
2. Appropriations Committee  
3. Commerce Committee |
| Linda Chaney       | Representative | 69       | Republican | Suite C-105  
6798 Crosswinds Drive  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710-5477 (727) 341-7385                                            | Linda.Chaney@myfloridahouse.gov                     | 1. Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee  
2. Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee  
3. Finance & Facilities Subcommittee  
4. State Affairs Committee  
5. Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee |

| Alia Leroy  
Amina Spahic  
Mhariel Summers |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brendan Burke  
Stephanie Kreps |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amy Gregory  
Katie Blaxberg |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ian Lukas  
Tara Armetta |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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<td>68</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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1. Civil Justice & Property Rights Subcommittee
   - Democratic Ranking Member
2. Appropriations Committee
3. Environment, Agriculture & Flooding Subcommittee
4. Judiciary Committee
5. Rules Committee

1. Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee
2. Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee
3. Health & Human Services Committee
4. Insurance & Banking Subcommittee
5. Public Integrity & Elections Committee
6. State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee
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<th>Date Filed</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<td>Liz Abernethy</td>
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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to state funds; amending s. 215.32, F.S.; exempting the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund from a provision authorizing the Legislature, in the General Appropriations Act, to transfer unappropriated cash balances from specified trust funds to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the General Revenue Fund; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Upon the expiration and reversion of the amendment made to section 215.32, Florida Statutes, pursuant to section 83 of chapter 2018-10, Laws of Florida, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 215.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

215.32 State funds; segregation.—
(2) The source and use of each of these funds shall be as follows:
(b)1. The trust funds shall consist of moneys received by the state which, under law or under trust agreement, are segregated for a purpose authorized by law. The state agency or branch of state government receiving or collecting such moneys is shall be responsible for their proper expenditure as provided

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
by law. Upon the request of the state agency or branch of state government responsible for the administration of the trust fund, the Chief Financial Officer may establish accounts within the trust fund at a level considered necessary for proper accountability. Once an account is established within a trust fund, the Chief Financial Officer may authorize payment from that account only upon determining that there is sufficient cash and releases at the level of the account.

2. In addition to other trust funds created by law, to the extent possible, each agency shall use the following trust funds as described in this subparagraph for day-to-day operations:

a. An operations or operating trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used for program operations funded by program revenues, with the exception of administrative activities when the operations or operating trust fund is a proprietary fund;

b. An operations and maintenance trust fund, for use as a depository for client services funded by third-party payors;

c. An administrative trust fund, for use as a depository for funds to be used for management activities that are departmental in nature and funded by indirect cost earnings and assessments against trust funds; however, proprietary funds are not required to use an administrative trust fund;

d. A grants and donations trust fund, for use as a
depository for funds to be used for allowable grant or donor
agreement activities funded by restricted contractual revenue
from private and public nonfederal sources:

e. An agency working capital trust fund, for use as a
depository for funds to be used pursuant to s. 216.272;

f. A clearing funds trust fund, for use as a depository
for funds to account for collections pending distribution to
lawful recipients; and

g. A federal grant trust fund, for use as a depository for
funds to be used for allowable grant activities funded by
restricted program revenues from federal sources.

To the extent possible, each agency must adjust its internal
accounting to use existing trust funds consistent with the
requirements of this subparagraph. If an agency does not have a
trust fund specified in this subparagraph and
cannot make such adjustment, the agency must recommend the
creation of the necessary trust fund to the Legislature no
later than the next scheduled review of the agency's trust funds
pursuant to s. 215.3206.

3. All such moneys are hereby appropriated to be expended
in accordance with the law or trust agreement under which they
were received, subject always to the provisions of chapter 216
relating to the appropriation of funds and to the applicable
laws relating to the deposit or expenditure of moneys in the
4.a. Notwithstanding any provision of law restricting the use of trust funds to specific purposes, unappropriated cash balances from selected trust funds may be authorized by the Legislature for transfer to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the General Revenue Fund in the General Appropriations Act.

b. This subparagraph does not apply to trust funds required by federal programs or mandates; trust funds established for bond covenants, indentures, or resolutions whose revenues are legally pledged by the state or public body to meet debt service or other financial requirements of any debt obligations of the state or any public body; the Division of Licensing Trust Fund in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the State Transportation Trust Fund; the trust fund containing the net annual proceeds from the Florida Education Lotteries; the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund; the State Housing Trust Fund; the Local Government Housing Trust Fund; trust funds under the management of the State Board of Education or the Board of Governors of the State University System, when such trust funds are for auxiliary enterprises, self-insurance, and contracts, grants, and donations, as those terms are defined by general law; trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the Chief Financial Officer or state agencies; trust funds that account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity as an agent
or fiduciary for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units; and other trust funds authorized by the State Constitution.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.
City of St. Petersburg
Florida House of Representatives CS/HB 459 - Building Design
February 2020

We find that design regulations are critical for the following reasons:

1. They allow us to maintain neighborhood character, improving compatibility of new infill homes, which helps protect the investment of all the homeowners in the neighborhood.

2. They allow community support for change; if the community stakeholders understand what new buildings might look like, they can be more widely accepted:
   - Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), also commonly called carriage homes, garage apartments or granny flats were reintroduced in 2007 with design standards. Since 2007, City staff have worked with neighborhood associations and their residents to find an agreeable balance between the regulation of certain design elements and the promotion of new construction resulting in more residential units. In 2017 and 2019, slight modifications were made to the design standards which have yielded both strong support among residents and increased construction activity for ADUs. In 2019, the minimum lot size was changed, again with no opposition in part due to the design regulations, allowing over 30,000 lots to qualify for ADUs. If we lose the ability to regulate design, which require the ADUs to match the existing home, it will be more difficult to get support to allow future expansions throughout the City.
   - Neighborhood Traditional Mixed-Residential is a new zoning category adopted in December of 2019 which allows up to four units on a standard single-family lot (AKA “Missing Middle”) with design regulations to keep these buildings in size and character with the existing single-family homes. If we are precluded from having design regulations for duplex units, it will be very unlikely that neighborhoods will support the rezoning necessary to implement this new district.

3. Affordability is not impacted by the regulations. In 2019, the City made housing affordability a top priority instituting a variety of programs and changes to address affordability, including eliminating building fees for homes 1,400 s.f. and less (see Enhanced Incentives for Housing Affordability handout). In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, we approved minor reductions in design regulations for Certified Affordable Homes. Habitat estimated the regulations added $8,000-$10,000 cost to a new home. For the typical new home in our city, priced $600,000 – to over a million, this is less than 2%.

Background: Bill 459 prohibits zoning & development regulations relating to building design for one and two-family buildings with the exception structures listed on National Register of Historic Places or contributing structures to a historic district; or the regulations implement the National Flood Insurance Program. The Bill defines “building design elements” to mean building color, type or style of exterior cladding, style or material of roof structures or porches, exterior nonstructural architectural ornamentation, location of architectural styling or windows or doors, and number, type, and layout of rooms.”

St. Petersburg is a built-out city of over 275,000, with housing stock developed primarily in the 1920’s and 50’s, prior to the advent and more widespread use of HOA’s, covenants and
restrictions. Much of our housing consists of small, two-bedroom homes which don’t meet the needs of today’s residents. Many of these homes are being replaced and we support the updating and replacement of these structures through our infill development of both vacant lots, additions and razing/replacement of obsolescent structures.

In 2001, a community wide visioning process led to a citywide rezoning in 2007 and adoption of design standards for all development types in all districts. These design regulations are intended to preserve the character of our distinct neighborhoods and promote compatibility for new homes. We do not regulate color or architectural style, but a designer must choose one style, and homes need to be finished on all four sides. In our Neighborhood Traditional districts, which make up about half of our neighborhoods (see attached Neighborhood Single Family Zoning map), we also require design elements such as a front porch, a 12” step-up to the front entry, and a minimum percentage of windows and architectural features.

During the recession of 2007-12, we averaged about 50 new homes per year, and we are now averaging over 275, with some neighborhoods experiencing a 10-20% replacement of the existing housing stock. In 2017, after broad community outreach which included both neighborhood representatives as wells as designers and builders, the code was modified with unanimous approval, easing some design standards (percentages of windows and architectural features) while adopting limits on building size, to control scale and mass, and allow for larger homes with bonuses for design elements (see attached “Breaking Down the Big Box House”). In October of 2019, we reported back on the effect of the regulations and demonstrated that these standards are improving compatibility of new homes, while still allowing the size of homes desired by the market (see attached LDR FAR Bonus Amendment presentation).

**Proposed Historic Exemption:** We are concerned that the exemption for contributing structures will have the unintended consequence of incentivizing the demolition of these structures. If only those structures within the historic district which are deemed contributing are held to design standards, an owner of such a home may opt to demolish the building instead of being held to a standard that would not apply to other non-contributing properties in the same neighborhood.

In summary, St. Petersburg design guidelines do not restrict property rights or limit free market conditions; they allow building a dream home that is accepted and welcomed into our neighborhoods, protecting the rights of all property owners in the neighborhood. We would respectfully request that the pre-emption on design regulations for single-family and two-unit buildings be removed from HB 459. A friendly amendment that would exempt Accessory Dwelling Units and all adopted overlay districts would alleviate most of our concerns, as overlay districts can protect existing neighborhoods without HOA’s/Covenants & Restrictions.

**Handouts**
Neighborhood Single Family Zoning Map
“Breaking Down the Big Box House”, *Elizabeth Abernethy, AICP Florida Planning*, Fall 2017
NT Zoning District Significant Changes
LDR FAR Bonus Amendment Presentation
Enhanced Incentives for Housing Affordability
A bill to be entitled
An act relating to building design; amending s. 163.3202, F.S.; prohibiting certain regulations relating to building design elements from being applied to certain structures; providing exceptions; defining the term "building design elements"; providing construction; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Present subsection (5) of section 163.3202, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

163.3202 Land development regulations.—
(5)(a) Zoning and development regulations relating to building design elements may not be applied to any residential dwelling unless:
   1. The structure is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as defined in s. 267.021(5); is a contributing property to a National Register Historic District; or is designated as a historic property or a contributing property to a historic district, under the terms of a local preservation ordinance; or
   2. The regulations are adopted in order to implement the National Flood Insurance Program.
(b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "building design elements" means the external building color; the type or style of exterior cladding material; the style or material of roof structures or porches; the exterior nonstructural architectural ornamentation; the location or architectural styling of windows or doors, including garage doors; the number and type of rooms; and the interior layout of rooms. The term does not include the height, bulk, orientation, or location of a structure on a zoning lot; or the use of buffering or screening to minimize potential adverse physical or visual impacts or protect the privacy of neighbors.

(c) This subsection does not affect the validity or enforceability of private covenants or other contractual agreements relating to building design elements between property owners.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.