

# THE SOUTHERN GROUP

CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
FINAL 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE



## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

### Three Appropriation Projects Funded

The Canal Dredging project was funded at \$300,000 on the water project list this year and the Comprehensive I & I Program also received \$100,000. The Sidewalk Construction on Collector Streets Project was funded at \$300,000. The General Appropriations Act that passed this session also fully funded the state's affordable housing programs at \$370 million and included \$52.5 million in additional money for responding to COVID-19 with another \$300 million in contingency funds.

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Thank you for the opportunity to represent The City of Coral Gables this legislative session and for putting your trust in us. It was a pleasure working for the City and advancing your agenda. We had significant success this year, which we are extremely proud of. There is still some work to be done, though. We have met with the Governor's staff already to help avoid any potential budget vetoes on the projects we helped secure. Due to the current uncertainty surrounding the impacts of COVID-19 on Florida's economy, we will be closely monitoring any discussions of a special session moving forward and will keep you informed.



- ✓ **HB 459/ SB 954 Building Design:** These bills, filed by Representative Overdorf and Senator Perry, would have prohibited the local regulation of building design elements of one or two family dwellings unless certain criteria are met. The bill defined “design elements” broadly, including exterior color, cladding, roofs, porches, ornamentation, windows and doors, as well as the number, type, and layout of interior rooms. While the House version did pass this year, we were successful in keeping the Senate version from moving forward.
- ✓ **SB 1302 Sovereign Immunity:** This bill would have designated the "Florida Fair Claims Act", increasing the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state/agencies/subdivisions and revising when a state/agencies/subdivision may agree to settle a claim or judgment without further legislative action.
- ✓ **HB 1149/SB 1702 Local Government Fiscal Transparency:** Filed by Representative DiCeglie and Senator Diaz, this bill would have required a number of actions by local governments in an effort to increase fiscal transparency including requiring the posting voting record information on websites, the posting of property tax information and history, and public notices for hearings and meetings before new tax increases. It would also have required local governments to conduct debt affordability analyses and provide a mechanism for posting that information. While the House version of this bill passed, the Senate version was never considered in committee.

**HB7047 Tax Package:** On the last day of session, significant negotiations took place between the House and Senate regarding the scope of the proposed tax package, in large part due to the uncertainty surrounding the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and a desire to give as much flexibility as possible to future legislatures. After growing to \$230 million at one point, ultimately many of the recurring aspects were removed and the total of the final tax package was \$47.4 million. The only items included in the final bill with a fiscal impact were a three day back to school holiday and a seven day disaster holiday.

**HB 47/SB 114 Risk Protection Orders:** Filed by Representative Stark and Senator Berman, these bills would have re-defined the term “petitioner” to include an individual who has a biological or legal parent-child relationship with, who is a legal guardian of, or who is a spouse or sibling of a respondent and allow those individuals to seek a risk protection order. Unfortunately, these bills failed to gain traction this year and did not move forward.

**HB 203/SB410 Growth Management:** This bill bounced back and forth between the two chambers multiple times in the final days of session and several amendments were added. The final bill stipulates that a county may not adopt, after January 1, 2020, any comprehensive plan, land development regulation, or other form of restriction that serves as a limitation on a municipality from establishing land use and zoning on lands located within a municipality unless through its own ordinances a municipality adopts and imposes the provision on lands located within their jurisdiction. A county also may not limit a municipality from deciding the land uses, density, and intensity allowed on lands annexed into a municipality as long as they are in compliance with statute. The subsection does not apply to a charter county with a population in excess of 750,000 which has in place charter provisions governing land use or development where provisions apply to all jurisdictions within the county. The bill also made changes to s. 163.3168 Planning innovations and technical assistance relating to the selection of applications for funding for technical assistance and giving preference to smaller counties. A number of stakeholder groups have expressed concerns with this bill and specifically with some of the amendments that were added in the final days and are encouraging Governor DeSantis to veto this legislation when he receives it.

**HB 6043/SB 182 Preemption of Recyclable and Polystyrene:** These bills did not move forward this year, however the bill prohibiting local governments from banning products like sunscreens with certain chemicals did pass after significant debate. This bill will now be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. While he did veto the plastic straw bill last year, he allowed several similar bills to become law so his decision on this legislation will provide insight as we consider how to advocate for efforts like Senator Stewart's bill next session.

**HB 1011/SB 1128 Vacation Rentals:** These bill would have clarified the scope of the state's preemption of vacation rentals while leaving in-tact those ordinances or regulations adopted before June 1, 2011. The language did allow for local regulations which apply uniformly to all residential properties without regard to whether or not that property is a vacation rental and specified that the bill did not supersede the statutory authority of condominiums, cooperatives, or homeowners' associations to govern property use. This bill was not heard in its final Senate committee and was temporarily postponed in the House and not taken back up for a final vote.

## OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
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**HB 101**

**Public Construction**

**Andrade**

Public Construction: Revises amounts of retainage that local governmental entities and contractors may withhold from progress payments for construction services contract; revises requirements for DMS rules governing certain contracts; revises amounts of retainage that public entities and contractors may withhold from progress payments for construction services contract. Effective Date: October 1, 2020.

03/11/20 SENATE Withdrawn from Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Substituted for SB 0504; Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 03/12/20

03/12/20 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 36 Yeas / 1 Nay)

03/12/20 HOUSE Ordered enrolled

03/12/20 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
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**HB 279**

**Local Government Public Construction Works**

**Smith**

Local Government Public Construction Works: Revising disclosure requirements for bidding documents and other requests for proposals issued for bids by a local governmental entity and public contracts entered into between local governmental entities and contractors; requiring that a local government that performs projects using its own services, employees, and equipment provide a report to the local governing board with certain information, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2020

03/09/20 HOUSE Withdrawn from Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd Reading; Substituted for SB 0504; Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading 3/12/20

03/12/20 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 36 Yeas/1 Nay)

03/12/20 HOUSE Ordered enrolled

03/12/20 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
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**HB 0073**

**Environmental Regulation**

**Overdorf**

Environmental Regulation: Specifies requirements for contracts between residential recycling collectors or recovered materials processing facilities & counties or municipalities for collecting, transporting, & processing residential recycling material & contaminated recyclable material; prohibits local governments from requiring further verification from DEP for certain projects; revises types of dock & pier replacements & repairs that are exempt from such verification & certain permitting requirements. Effective Date: July 1, 2020

03/14/20 HOUSE Ordered enrolled

3/14/20 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
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**SB 0134**

**Preemption of Firearms and Ammunition**

**Taddeo**

Preemption of Firearms and Ammunition; Repealing a provision relating to the preemption of the field of regulation of firearms and ammunition to the Legislature, to the exclusion of local jurisdictions, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2020

09/02/19 SENATE Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Judiciary; Rules

03/14/20 SENATE Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

13/14/20 HOUSE Died in Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee

## OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST CONTINUED

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
<b>HB 1237</b>	<b>Pet Stores</b>	<b>Avila</b>

Pet Stores: Requires pet stores to be licensed; authorizes pet stores to transfer or sell household pets under certain circumstances; limits household pet sources; provides for documentation, inspection, & records audit; authorizes DBPR to contract with veterinarian for inspections; requires denial of a license under certain circumstances; authorizes disciplinary or civil action; provides criminal penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2020.

03/14/20 HOUSE Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration  
03/14/20 HOUSE Died in Commerce Committee

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
<b>HB 163</b>	<b>Homelessness</b>	<b>Altman</b>

Provides requirements for continuum of care catchment areas & lead agencies; requires continuums of care to create continuum of care plans; revises requirements for certain grants; establishes grant-in-aid program to help continuums of care prevent & end homelessness; provides program requirements. Effective Date: July 1, 2020

03/14/20 HOUSE Ordered Enrolled  
03/14/20 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
<b>HB 183</b>	<b>Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms</b>	<b>Ponder</b>

Prohibited Places for Weapons and Firearms: Authorizes elected member of specified governing body who holds license to carry concealed weapons or firearms to carry concealed weapon or firearm to meeting of governing body of which he or she is member, unless otherwise prohibited by law. Effective Date: July 1, 2020

02/07/20 SENATE Placed on Calendar, 2nd Reading  
03/14/20 SENATE Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration  
03/14/20 SENATE Died in Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

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<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>
<b>HB 175</b>	<b>Housing Discrimination</b>	<b>Davis</b>

Removes housing discrimination as cause of action for relief & damages stemming from violations of Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992; revises timeframe & conditions under which aggrieved person may commence civil action to enforce specified rights; authorizes, rather than requires, civil action after alleged discriminatory housing practice; authorizes civil action regardless of certain circumstances; prohibits aggrieved person from filing specified action in certain circumstances; provides exception. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

02/26/20 HOUSE Favorable by Judiciary Committee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays  
02/26/20 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd Reading  
03/10/20 HOUSE Laid on Table

