

PLANNER'S PERSPECTIVE

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First Quarter 2012

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By James White, Legislative Representative

The 2012 Legislative Session is scheduled to run from January 10, 2012 through March 9, 2012. Pre-session committee meetings ended last week and several bills related to planning and growth management issues have been filed. The following is a short synopsis of those pending bills, as well as a few others that may be of particular interest to local governments, BAPA members, planners and related professions. Please note that you may visit the Florida Legislature's website at www.leg.state.fl.us to check on the status of a particular bill or review bill text and amendments.

Growth Management:

SB 842, filed by Senator Bennett, proposes a number of changes to various statutes and is viewed as a "glitch" bill to last year's Community Planning Act.

HB 603, filed by Representative Weinstein and **SB 912**, filed by Senator Bennett, would prohibit implementation of transportation or school concurrency or proportionate share contributions until July 1, 2015 unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the local governing authority. A development must receive a certificate of occupancy by July 1, 2016 to keep this exemption. If it fails to do so, the local government may apply concurrency and proportionate share requirements. This prohibition does not apply to proportionate share contributions or construction assessed on existing development before July 1, 2012. It also does not apply if it would require modification to a local government's financing that would invalidate existing contracts.

SB 1180, filed by Senator Bennett, and **HB 979**, filed by Representative Diaz, are identical bills concerning the DRI process and make a number of changes relative to the process. Included is a provision that would allow a local government to exempt a project from undergoing DRI review if the related comprehensive plan amendment is reviewed pursuant to the state coordinated review process.

Public Meetings/Public Notice:

Several bills have been filed related to public meetings, public notice and public participation. **SB 206**, filed by Senator Negron, and **HB 355**, filed by Representative Kiar, proposed to amend Section 286.11, F.S. to require that the public be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on an item, although this need not be at the

same meeting that official action will be taken. Reasonable rules can be adopted to ensure the orderly conduct of a meeting and some direction for these rules is identified.

SB 292, filed by Senator Bennett, would allow a local government to use its website for legally required advertisements and public notices under certain conditions and if specifically authorized by an ordinance. Timing for the publication of various types of notices is also identified.

HB 937, filed by Representative Workman, addresses the use of newspaper websites in conjunction with printed newspapers to provide notice. It also limits the rate at which local governments can be charged for successive insertions for required notices or advertisements.

2012 AICP EXAM NEWS

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If you want to stay current while waiting for the next exam, their website has many links. Go to: www.floridaplanning.org/treasurecoast/aicp_links.asp. The classes take place at the South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach. Please contact Henry Bittaker at hbittak@sfwmd.gov.

Become a Member of the Broward Section APA!

Annual Membership runs from July 1 to June

30. Members enjoy many benefits:

- ❖ Great Networking Opportunities
- ❖ Email Notifications
- ❖ Reduced rate or free admissions to events
- ❖ Hosting of Social Events
- ❖ FY2012 Broward sponsored or Co-sponsored events

Application is provided in this newsletter

Welcome New Member
Luis Rodriguez
of
Cordova Rodriguez & Assoc., Inc.