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**May 9, 2025**

**SPECIAL EDITION IX**

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**2025 Florida Legislative Session Update - Week 9**

Last Friday, May 2, 2025, the Florida Legislature officially concluded the 60-day regular session with the final motion being to approve [House Joint Resolution 1631](#), which extended the session through 11:59 PM, June 6.

**The good news?** So far, no changes have been made to how Tourist Development Taxes (TDT) are used — a major win that reflects the power of

your advocacy and dedication to protecting Florida's tourism and hospitality industry.

**The challenge?** The Legislature still hasn't completed its primary task: passing the state budget. With the legislative session now extended until June 6th, lawmakers are planning to return within the next two weeks to finalize budget negotiations.

That means our work isn't over. While, [HB 1221 - Local Option Taxes by Representative Monique Miller](#) is dead. Another harmful bill still in play - [HB 7033](#) - which includes language that would strip TDT funding from tourism marketing and eliminate local Tourist Development Councils (TDCs). It's still alive and could be folded into the final budget deal.

While we've received strong signals that the Senate doesn't support these changes, **Your voice still matters**. Please **keep the pressure on** and continue to **share the value of the tourism and hospitality industry to our legislators**. We can see the end is near, **so let's finish strong**.

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**One final time, please reach out to your [Florida Senators today](#) OR **CLICK** on the link above to take action and urge the Florida Senate to **NOT to include the House's proposal on TDT in [HB 7033](#)**. Tell them how our industry supports jobs, small businesses, and the economic vitality of your community.**

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## More Details on the Extension of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session

The Legislature is now taking the week off and meetings will resume within the next two weeks. They will then continue **until the completion on or before June 6, 2025**.

With Speaker Perez and President Albritton being in a deadlock on the one item the Legislature is constitutionally required to pass - **a balanced budget** - they still need to agree on the overall amount of money that should be spent and the future of Florida's taxes.

After budget allocations have been agreed upon, conference will begin and once completed there is a required 72-hour cooling off period before a final vote is made. Lawmakers must pass a budget by July 1, the start of Florida's new fiscal year.

Additionally, sixteen specific bills were included in the extension. **All other bills that did not pass as of end of day on May 2, 2025 cannot be considered and are dead.**

The 16 remaining bills are mostly related to implementing the FY 2025 - 2026 Budget and tax packages. The one exception is SB 110 Rural Communities which is a top priority of Senate President Albritton.

The bills are:

- [SB 2500](#) Appropriations
- [SB 2502](#) Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act
- [SB 2504](#) State Employees
- [SB 2506](#) Natural Resources
- [SB 2508](#) Judges
- [SB 2510](#) Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education
- [SB 2514](#) Health and Human Services
- [HB 5013](#) State-funded Property Reinsurance Programs
- [HB 5015](#) State Group Insurance
- [HB 5203](#) Capitol Center
- [HB 5501](#) Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions
- [SB 7022](#) Retirement
- [SB 7030](#) Educational Scholarship Programs
- [HB 7031](#) Sales Tax Rate Reductions
- **HB 7033** **Taxation**
- [SB 110](#) Rural Communities

[HB 7033](#) would do much of the same in HB 1221, along with overriding tourism development tax statutes by allowing counties to tap into that money for general uses while property taxes are cut.

Here are another few Key Talking Points:

- **The Savings to Residents Are Minimal - The Damage is Massive.**
- **The average TDT is a tiny fraction of property tax revenues.**  
(Statewide average: **11.3%** of property taxes.)
- **Wiping out TDT will do virtually nothing to reduce property taxes - but it will cost billions in lost economic activity.**

**We urge all CFHLA members to participate in one final urgent call to action, by taking a moment and sharing the negative impacts of these legislative proposals with the members of the Florida Senate.**

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**Other CFHLA Legislative Priorities**



With the conclusion of week nine, CFHLA has already **successfully accomplished two of our top Legislative Priorities**.

Below is an update that includes an outcome on each of our ten **2025 CFHLA Legislative Priorities** that were extremely important to the hospitality and tourism industry at both the state and local level.

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## **Tourist Development Tax (TDT) - DIED**

CFHLA closely monitored several bills this session, which would have made changes to the Tourist Development Tax (TDT). This has been our primary focus and ultimately, the following bills died at the conclusion of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session.

**SB 1664** by Senator Trumbull

[HB 1221](#) by Representative Miller

[HB 6031](#) by Representative Eskamani

[SB 1114](#) by Senator Guillermo Smith

[SB 1116](#) by Senator Guillermo Smith

## CFHLA OPPOSED

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### Clarifying Transient Occupancy (No Pay, No Stay) - PASSED

CFHLA supported [SB 606](#) by Senator Leek ([HB 535](#) by Representative Johnson was the companion bill) which made the necessary changes to Florida Statutes, and **provided more clarity to guests, law enforcement, and lodging establishments regarding the removal of disruptive, violent, law-breaking, and non-paying guests from their property.**

In addition to the No Pay, No Stay language we proposed, the final bill included language that allows for our hotels to **continue to charge an “operations charge” (new terminology for service charges) on all banquet, catering, or event services.**

The operations charge has also been added to Florida Statutes and it **means an automatic fee or charge, other than a government-imposed tax, that a customer is required to pay in addition to the cost of the food and beverage purchased. The term includes, but is not limited to, service charges, automatic gratuities, credit card surcharges, and delivery fees.**

The operations charge language **will not take effect until July 1, 2026.** However, **the no pay, no stay language will take effect July 1, 2025.**

Thank you to **Senator Leek and Representative Johnson** for your leadership on this important proposal. With your support, **SB 606 will**

now be sent to the Governor for final consideration and signature into law.

## CFHLA SUPPORTED

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### Timeshare Revisions - PASSED

CFHLA supported [HB 897](#) by Rep. Berfield ([SB 496](#) by Senator McClain was the companion bill) which sought to make timeshare-specific changes to the provisions passed in two condo/HOA bills passed during the 2024 Florida Legislative Session. This was ARDA's top legislative priority this session.

This bill will:

- Exempt community association managers (CAMs) and CAM firms from certain requirements relating to conflicts of interest if the CAM or CAM firm manages a timeshare plan and provides certain disclosures relating to a conflict of interest.
- Specify that timeshare management firms and licensed CAMs who are employed by a timeshare management firm are governed by certain provisions in the Vacation Plan and Timesharing Act.
- Require timeshare management firms and licensed CAMs that are employed by a timeshare management firm to discharge their duties in good faith, and exempts such firms and licensed CAMs from certain liability for monetary damages.
- Allow the board of administration of a timeshare condominium to meet only once a year, but does not prohibit additional board meetings from being called.
- Require a timeshare management firm or an owners' association who provides goods or services through a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary of the timeshare management firm, to disclose annually who is providing goods or services to the members of that owners' association.

Thank you to **Senator McClain and Representative Berfield** for your leadership on these important proposals. With your support, **HB 897 will now be sent to the Governor for final consideration and signature into law.**

## CFHLA SUPPORTED

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## Visit Florida Funding - TBD

CFHLA supports the Governor's proposed budget, which includes **\$80 million in annual funding for VISIT FLORIDA (same from FY 2024-2025)**. Funding of VISIT FLORIDA ensures Florida continues to be top of mind as a leading vacation destination.

Currently, the Florida Senate and Florida House budget proposals **include the full \$80 million in annual funding for VISIT FLORIDA (same from FY 2024-2025)**. This is great news as we remain steadfast in our support of Visit Florida and its full and continued funding.

## CFHLA SUPPORTS



## Increased Funding for Transportation and Infrastructure Projects - TBD



CFHLA supports the **increased funding of essential transportation and infrastructure projects** across the Central Florida region (excluding using TDT funds).

Within the Governor's proposed budget, includes **\$13.8 billion for the Florida Department of Transportation Work Program**, which is used for the construction and maintenance of Florida's roads, bridges, rails, seaports and other public transportation systems that grow the state's economy and improve the quality of life for our citizens. This includes "The Moving Florida Forward Plan" which is designed to accelerate the development and completion of important transportation infrastructure projects, including the plan to resurface 80 lane miles and add 54 lanes in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Currently, the Florida Senate and Florida House budget proposals **include \$12.98 billion and \$13.99 billion respectively, for the Florida Department of Transportation Work Program.**

## **CFHLA SUPPORTS**

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### **Additional Education Funding for Hospitality/Culinary Programs at our Local Schools, Colleges, and Universities - TBD**

CFHLA supports **additional funding for our hospitality and culinary programs at our local high schools, as well as the increased per-student funding at Valencia College, Seminole State College, and the University of Central Florida.**

To date, Valencia College and Seminole State College are **among the lowest per student funding institutions in the state.** This is why it is imperative that CFHLA supports the **Florida College System Council of Presidents allocation request of \$200 million (using their formula)** in new, recurring funds to help recruit and retain the best faculty and invest in rapid credentialing workforce development programs that increase capacity

within our region (including new and existing advanced accelerated programs).

**Currently, the Florida Senate budget proposal includes \$100 million of the \$200 million allocation request from the Florida College System Council of Presidents and the House budget proposal includes \$40 million.**

Ultimately, a bill died at the conclusion of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session that would create a new funding formula for the state college system and establishes a floor of funding per student in Florida.

**[HB 1307](#) by Representative Temple**

## **CFHLA SUPPORTS**

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### **Workforce Housing - TBD**

**CFHLA supports the continued full funding of the Sadowski Fund**, as the Central Florida community has a dire need for more reliable and affordable housing options. CFHLA remains steadfast in our support of fully funding our much needed workforce housing programs.

**CFHLA also supported [SB 1730](#) by Senator Calatayud ([HB 930](#) by Representative V. Lopez was the companion bill)** which sought **modifications to the Live Local Act. This** sweeping legislative package will provide additional affordable housing solutions and made several updates to the existing Live Local Act.

**Thank you to Senator Calatayud and Representative Lopez for your leadership on this important proposal. With your support, SB 1730 will now be sent to the Governor for final consideration and signature into law.**

Furthermore, CFHLA supports the Governor's proposed budget, **which fully**

**funds affordable and workforce housing programs at \$506.2 million.**

This includes \$227.7 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program and \$178.5 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP), and \$100 million for the fourth year of the Hometown Heroes Housing Program, which helps make homeownership more affordable for eligible frontline community workers and other Florida families.

Currently, **the Florida Senate proposed budget includes a total funding of \$403.8 million for affordable and workforce housing programs.**

Specifically, \$71.2 million for the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program, \$182.6 million for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP), and \$150 million for the fourth year of the Hometown Heroes Housing Program.

**In the Florida House, the proposed budget includes \$285 million in total funding for affordable and workforce housing programs.** This includes the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program, State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP), and the Hometown Heroes Housing Program.

Lastly, the following workforce housing bills died at the conclusion of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session.

**HB 247** by Representative Conerly

**SB 184** by Senator Gaetz

**HB 923** by Representative Lopez

**SB 1594** by Senator McClain

**HB 685** by Representative Alvarez

**SB 1036** by Senator Rodriguez

**CFHLA SUPPORTS**

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## Commercial Property Insurance Reform - **DIED**

CFHLA supports any legislative efforts that are aimed at **reducing the cost of commercial insurance in Florida.**

Ultimately, any bills or proposals related to commercial property insurance reform died at the conclusion of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session.

## CFHLA SUPPORTED

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## Statewide Regulation of Vacation Rentals and Advertising Platforms - **DIED**

CFHLA strongly supports requiring initiatives that ensure **vacation home rentals on advertising platforms also practice the same safety standards as traditional lodging to protect visitors and their experience.**

Ultimately, any bills or proposals related to statewide regulation of vacation rentals and advertising platforms died at the conclusion of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session.

## CFHLA SUPPORTED

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## Interchange Fees on Sales Tax (Eliminate Swipe Fees) - **DIED**

CFHLA supports **prohibiting the collection of interchange on sales tax,** which will provide relief to businesses, which will in turn provide relief to consumers.

Ultimately, any bills or proposals related to interchange fees on sales tax died at the conclusion of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session.

## CFHLA SUPPORTED

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### Seeking Nominations to Serve on the CFHLA PAC/PC Board of Directors



The [CFHLA Political Action Committee and CFHLA Political Committee](#) are bi-partisan committees that protect the interests of the hospitality and tourism industry by educating and mobilizing our members to become more politically active, as well as supporting candidates for state and local office who are pro-tourism and pro-hospitality.

Currently, there are two (2) vacancies on the CFHLA PAC/PC Board of Directors and we are seeking qualified lodging and allied candidates to serve on the CFHLA PAC/PC Board of Directors beginning May 28, 2025.

If you are interested in learning more about these vacancies, please contact CFHLA President & CEO Robert Agrusa at [robert.agrusa@cfhla.org](mailto:robert.agrusa@cfhla.org).

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### Upcoming CFHLA PAC/PC Meeting

The next CFHLA PAC/PC Board of Directors Meeting will take place next week, **Wednesday, September 3, 2025 from 8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. at the CFHLA office.**

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## Upcoming Governmental Affairs Meeting

The next CFHLA Governmental Affairs meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025 from 12:00 noon - 1:30 PM.**

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## DONATE to the CFHLA PAC

CFHLA MEMBERS - Please **consider making a small donation of \$50** via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA expand its efforts to support Hospitality-Friendly candidates who are running for local and state offices in the future. **Throughout the 2024 Election Cycle, 27 of 31 or 87% of the PAC endorsed candidates were elected into office.**

[DONATE](#)

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## IN THE NEWS

[Legislature approves hotel, motel owner rights bill with added transparency requirements](#) - Florida Politics

[Multiple affordable housing measures shelved this Session](#) - Florida Politics

[Legislature extends Session until June 6, limits bills to be considered-](#)  
Florida Politics

[Gov. DeSantis drives argument for property tax cuts, threatens to veto House sales tax plan-](#) Florida Politics

[A Legislative Session like no other: Key issues that didn't go in Gov. Ron DeSantis' favor](#) - Florida Politics

[GOP push to alter state's labor laws fails this Session](#) - Florida Politics  
[Legislature passes Live Local Act update with some added protections for historic buildings](#)  
- Florida Politics

[Legislature approves condo safety package aimed at shoring up financial issues](#)- Florida Politics

[Daniel Perez names members of property tax relief committee](#)- Florida Politics

[At first House talk on property tax relief, not all ideas win praise; one is laughed out of the room](#)- Florida Politics

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About CFHLA

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The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.