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## Legislative Session: Week One

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you've all been in good health. This week, the Florida Legislature began the 2022 Legislative Session. Over the next 60 days, my staff and I will be working hard to pass each legislative and budget item that I have sponsored — some 24 bills and 36 funding requests totaling \$24 million. Through our weekly newsletters, we will keep you apprised of our accomplishments and the work of the Florida Senate — the good, the bad, and the ugly.

If there is ever anything my office can assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact us. All of our office contact information, including social media platforms, is located at the bottom of this email.

Be

well,

Lori

*Lori Berman*

Berman



# Senator Berman's Bill Actions

## **SB 760**

### **Human Trafficking — *PASSED CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE***

Borne out of the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, SB 760 would raise the crimes of maintaining a house of prostitution and transporting a person for the purpose of prostitution from a misdemeanor to a second-degree felony. Further, the bill expands the definition of "coercion," for purposes of proving crimes of human trafficking.

### **Uniform Commercial Code — *PASSED JUDICIARY COMMITTEE***

## **SB 336**

SB 336 amends Florida's version of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). It would follow the recent model UCC -- repealing a statutory override so that if the terms and conditions of a partnership agreement prohibit the transfer for collateralizing of a partnership interest without the other partner's express permission, then the terms of the partnership agreement are controlling and not overridden by statute.

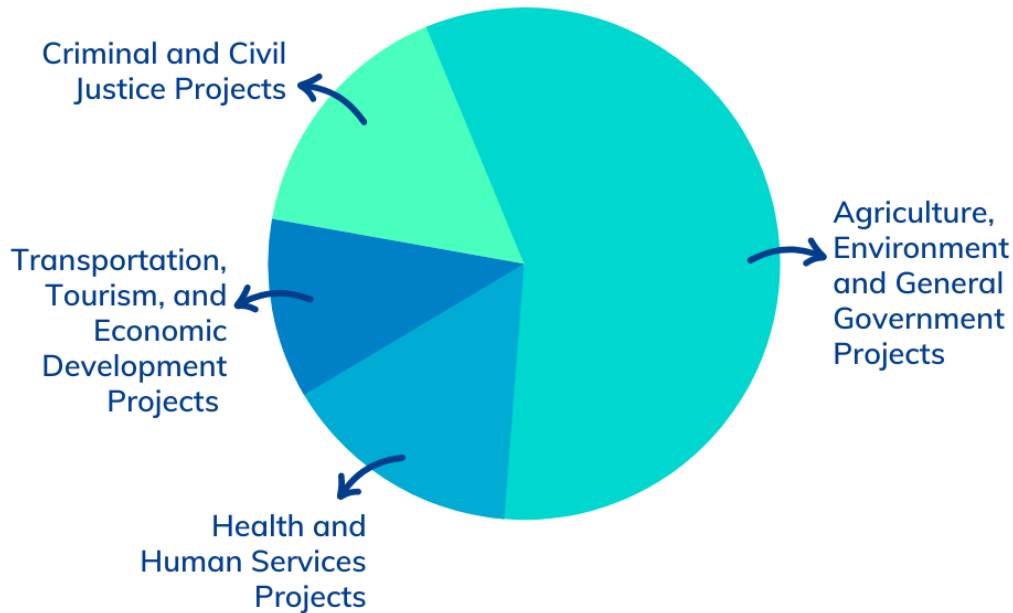
## **SB 406**

### **Secured Transactions — *PASSED FINANCE & TAX COMMITTEE***

SB 406 provides a legislative remedy to an 11th Circuit holding to protect Florida residents from unintentionally waiving rights to assets, such as an IRA or pension plan, that would otherwise be exempt from legal process under Florida law.



## 2022-23 Funding Requests



***Totaling \$24,155,479***

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### Controversial Bills to Watch

#### Senate Bill 1024: Renewable Energy Generation

SB 1024 would reduce the utility savings to Floridians who use rooftop solar panels by effectively killing net metering. The rooftop solar industry is defined by its use of net metering, a billing mechanism that “rolls the meter backward” by crediting consumers for energy not used. While proponents of the bill claim that net metering methods increase the cost for non-solar users, this cost-shift argument is untrue. The bill would eliminate approximately 40,000 jobs in the solar industry and would damper Florida's shift toward a cleaner, more renewable future.

#### Senate Bill 620: Local Government

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This bill would allow businesses that have been operating for at least 3 years to sue local governments over ordinances that have caused at least a 15 percent loss in revenue or profits. One harrowing example of the practical effect of this bill might be a business recovering "losses" from a local government that has prohibited it from dumping toxic chemicals in a waterway.

#### Senate Bill 146: 15 Week Abortion Ban

In their latest attempt to regulate women's reproductive healthcare, Florida Republicans unveiled SB 146 this week. The bill bans abortions after 15 weeks and is similar to Mississippi's law, the constitutionality of which is being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court. Under the bill, there are no exceptions in cases of rape or incest. The bill has received the support of Governor DeSantis and is sure to be one of the most divisive and destructive policies the Legislature will consider in the 2022 session.

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## Florida Redistricting

The Florida Senate's redistricting committee on Thursday approved new state Senate and congressional maps, which will now head to the full Senate for a vote that could take place as early as next week.

[Click Here for the Proposed Congressional Map](#)

[Click Here for the Proposed State Senate Map](#)

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*From the Miami Herald: "Sen. Aaron Bean, a Republican and an auctioneer from Jacksonville, holds up a slip of paper in blind draw to assign odd or even numbers to Senate districts on the new map being considered, on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee MARY ELLEN KLAS MEKLAS@MIAMIHERALD.COM"*

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**PBC COVID-19 Vaccination Sites**

**PBC COVID-19 Testing Sites**

**State and Local Resources**

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