

The Slosberg Report

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Legislative Session 2022 Update

2022 Legislative Session in Tallahassee ended March 14, 2022.

[CS/CS/SB 692, Sexual Offenses Definitions \(primary sponsor,](#)
successfully passed through both chambers of the legislature. The law defines important terms in several sexual offense related Florida statutes so that trial and appellate courts may uniformly apply those statutes to offenders. The bill will be transmitted to the Governor for his consideration.



[CS/SB 898, Lodging Standards \(co-sponsor\)](#), successfully passed through both chambers of the legislature. This law requires a landlord to require each employee to undergo background screening, which must include criminal history screening and sexual offender registration; establish policies and procedures for the issuance and return of dwelling unit keys, storage, and access to units; maintain a log accounting for the issuance and return of all keys for each unit; and give at least 24 hours prior notice to the tenant of the intent to enter a unit for repairs.

Unfortunately, [CS/HB 7069, Condominium and Cooperative Associations](#), a bill tailored to address the June 2021 collapse of The Champlain Towers South condo in Surfside, Florida that killed 98 people, unanimously passed on the House floor, was amended and unanimously passed on the Senate floor, but then died on its return to the House for consideration of the Senate amendment. The House and Senate version of the bill each established the requirement that licensed architects or engineers conduct structural inspections of buildings that are 3 stories or higher before July 1, 2024 and that have been occupied for at least 30 years, or 25 years if the property is within 3 miles of the coastline, and then within each decade later. The focus of the inspections would be on structural distress that negatively affects the building's general condition and integrity, and encompasses roofs, walls, floor, foundation, plumbing, electric, windows, and more. The House version of the legislation required that members of a unit-owner controlled association or cooperative may not determine to provide no reserves or less reserves than required to address repairs or replacements mandated by the inspections. The Senate amendment deleted that provision, which killed the bill in the House.

After contentious debate, significant legislation was passed during 2002 Regular Session that drew national attention to Florida, to include the following:

- [CS/CS/SB 524: Election Administration](#) [any person who distributes, orders, requests, collects, delivers, or otherwise physically possesses more than two vote by-mail ballots per election in addition to his or her own ballot or a ballot belonging to an immediate family member, commits a felony of the third first degree; the law creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Department of State]
- [CS/CS/SB 1796, Dissolution of Marriage](#) [in addition to revising various provisions relating to initial setting of alimony and modification of alimony, this bill creates a presumption that equal time sharing of children is in the best interests of a minor child]
- [CS/CS/HB 741, Net Metering](#) [net metering allows solar panel owners to sell excess electricity to an electric utility, and the utility credits the customer's energy bill on a per kWh basis; based upon the utility company concerns of cross-subsidization of customers who partake in net metering by non-net metering customers, the bill establishes a revised net metering program that credits excess energy delivered to a utilities system by solar customers in accordance with a graduated schedule]
- [HB 5, Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality](#) [decreases the time frame a woman may get an abortion from 24 weeks to 15 weeks into her pregnancy; does not exempt incest or rape; the United States Supreme Court will have the last word on this legislation this Summer when it rules on identical Mississippi legislation before it]
- [CS/HB 1467, K-12 Education](#) [bans historical instruction and teachings in the work place and K through 20 classrooms that espouses that an individual, by virtue of his or her race, color, sex, or national origin, is

inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously]

- [CS/CS/HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education](#) [prohibits instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students]

[HB 3767, Rales Rides-Senior Transportation Program \(primary sponsor\)](#), was approved by both chambers of the legislature as a line item in the final State Budget. \$212,000 State funding will enable a minimum of 600 frail older adults, including over 275 Holocaust Survivors, to age in place by providing access to free transportation to medical appointments as well as social, cultural, educational, and health and well-being programs, in order to improve and maintain their physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

[The fiscal year 2022-2023 proposed State budget](#) totals \$112.1 billion. \$664 million is appropriated to increase salaries for state employees, sworn law enforcement, correctional officers, juvenile justice officers and state firefighters. \$800 million is appropriated to provide teacher salary increases and other instructional personnel. \$11.1 billion is appropriated for the State Transportation Work Program. The proposed State budget will be transmitted to the Governor for his consideration.

The Governor ordered the legislature to conduct a [Special Session on April 19-22, 2022](#) in Tallahassee for the sole purpose of considering legislation relating to the establishment of congressional districts for the State of Florida. This order is based upon the Governor's veto of the congressional district maps that passed both chambers during 2022 Regular Session. The Governor believes proposed Congressional District 5 in the north part of Florida does not comply with federal law because the proposed map is racially focused.

No legislation outside the scope of the call for the Special Session may be considered, absent extraordinary circumstances. There remains hope that the scope of the Special Session may be expanded to address CS/HB 7069, Condominium and Cooperative Associations, rising homeowner's insurance rates, and affordable housing.

Days of Remembrance

April 24 - May 1, 2022

Sunday April 24 through Sunday May 1, 2022 are the “Days of Remembrance” for the victims of the Holocaust, including the “Day of Remembrance” known as Yom HaShoah on April 28, 2022. The history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments to remain vigilant against hatred and tyranny.

April Celebrations

April 15th - 23rd: Happy Passover



April 17th: Happy Easter



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