

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Budget Status Report – Week 5

FY 2018/19 Legislative Budget Request

Charlotte Jerrett, February 9, 2018

Senate

The Senate took up and passed its General Appropriation Act (GAA), implementing bill, and budget conforming bills this week. The Senate overall position on FWC's budget remains the same as reported last week and is further detailed below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet. Budget conferees are expected to be appointed by the Senate President, in preparation for conference committee meetings.

New Issues:

The Committee recommended the following FWC Strategic Support initiatives: Working to Keep Florida Native, Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Florida Black Bear Conflict Reduction and funding for Nuisance Alligator Trapper Stipends.

The following Operational Support initiatives were funded: Law Enforcement Enhanced Patrol & Support, Law Enforcement Body Worn Cameras, Law Enforcement Officer Reserve Program, Bryant Building Facilities Repair and Maintenance, Cybersecurity Remediation, Replacement funding for DLE Patrol Vessels, FWRI Vessels and Critical Vehicle Replacement, FWRI Safety and Security Repairs, FWRI Roof Replacement and Repair, Stone Crab Research and Monitoring, Southwest Regional Office Flood Abatement, Enterprise Mobile Initiative and Youth Conservation Education Donations.

The following Optimize Federal and Grant Funding initiatives were recommended: Boating Infrastructure, Palm Beach County Recreational Shooting Park, Florida Boating Improvement Program and Artificial Reefs.

The following projects were recommended to be funded with non-recurring appropriations: Robinson Preserve Habitat Restoration, Center for Conservation Coral Ark & Guest Experience, Lowry Park Zoo and Florida Forever Land Acquisition.

Reductions:

The Committee recommended to reduce \$1,000,000 of budget authority for the Control of Invasive Exotics and \$1,000,000 of budget authority for Land Management.

Trust Fund Sweeps:

No Trust Fund Sweeps were recommended.

Employee Compensation:

- A 7% annual increase on eligible sworn law enforcement officers effective on June 30, 2018, base rate of pay.
- A 3% annual increase on eligible sworn law enforcement officers effective on June 30, 2018, base rate of pay for those officers whom have completed at least 10 years of state service by July 1, 2018.

Budget Conforming Bills: Budget conforming bills are bills traveling with the GAA that contain substantive changes to law that are necessary to support the budget as approved in the GAA. See links below.

[SB 2500 - Appropriations](#)

[SB 2502 - Implementing the 2018-2019 General Appropriations Act](#)

[SB 2504 - State Employees](#)

[SB 7014 - State-administered Retirement Systems](#)

House

The House took up and passed its General Appropriation Act, implementing bill, and budget conforming bills this week. The House position on FWC's budget remains the same as reported last week and is further detailed below and on the attached side-by-side comparison spreadsheet. Budget conferees are expected to be appointed by the House Speaker, in preparation for conference committee meetings.

New Issues:

The Committee recommended the following FWC Strategic Support initiatives: Working to Keep Florida Native, Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Florida Black Bear Conflict Reduction, and funding for Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area ADA Retrofit.

The following Operational Support initiatives were funded: Bryant Building Facilities Repair and Maintenance, Cybersecurity Remediation, Replacement funding for DLE Patrol Vessels, FWRI Vessels and Critical Vehicle Replacement, FWRI Safety and Security Repairs, FWRI Roof Replacement and Repair, Aviation Enhancement, Southwest Regional Office Flood Abatement, Youth Conservation Education Donations and Oyster Reef Habitat Restoration in St. Andrews Bay.

The following Federal and Grant Funding initiatives were recommended: Boating Infrastructure, Palm Beach Country Recreational Shooting Park, Florida Boating Improvement Program and Artificial Reefs.

The following projects were recommended to be funded with non-recurring appropriations: Robinson Preserve Habitat Restoration, Lowry Park Zoo, Mote Marine Laboratory, Zoo Miami and Palm Beach Zoo.

Reductions:

The Committee recommended a reduction of \$1,916,014 of Trust Fund Authority Based on Historical Reversions and \$288,766 for a Reduction of Operations.

Trust Fund Sweeps:

No Trust Fund Sweeps were recommended.

Employee Compensation:

Funds have been provided for Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention based on agency specific Career Development Plans, and approved by the Office of Policy and Budget within the Executive Office of the Governor.

Budget Conforming Bills: Budget conforming bills are bills traveling with the GAA that contain substantive changes to law that are necessary to support the budget as approved in the GAA. See links below.

[HB 5001 - General Appropriations Act](#)

[HB 5003 - Implementing the 2018-19 General Appropriations Act](#)

[HB 5005 - Collective Bargaining](#)

[HB 5007 - State-Administered Retirement Systems](#)

Next Steps

Now that the Senate and House have each passed their respective budgets, procedurally, they are positioned to hold a budget conference to work out the differences. The House passed its versions of the budget bills, and sent them to the Senate. The Senate, amended the House bills to contain the substance of the Senate bills, and sent the amended Senate bills back to the House for concurrence. When the House meets again, next week, it will refuse to concur with the Senate amendments, and the budget conference will be able to begin (to see the differences between the two versions, still refer to the bills linked above, or in the attached chart). Once the differences are worked out, the Senate and House will then take up the agreed-upon conference budget bills and, when passed, will send them to the Governor for final action. After the Governor completes his line item veto list, the State will have its beginning budget for Fiscal Year 2018/19.