

## ANALYSIS OF THE HOUSE & SENATE BUDGETS FOR FY2019-20

DIFFERENCES IN EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND MORE MUST BE WORKED OUT

At the halfway mark of the 2019 Legislative Session, the House and Senate approved their proposed state budgets for FY2019-20. Both spending plans exceed current spending—the Senate by more than \$1.0 billion and the House by \$588.4 million. The House increases current General Revenue (GR) spending by \$609.5 million (1.9 percent), while the Senate increases GR by \$841.2 million (2.6 percent).

The budget's bottom lines are relatively close, but the inclusion of \$870 million of federal funding in the House that is not counted in the Senate makes it look closer than it really is. The House provides \$600 million more in authorization to spend Community Development Block Grant funding than the Senate.

The House also includes \$270 million in FEMA reimbursements that the Senate placed in the “back of the bill” where it is not counted in the budget total.

There are also some appropriations that are currently in other bills that will add to total state appropriations.

There are many, many differences between the two budgets, and some are substantial. Hurricane recovery costs, which are already mounting, are a focus of this year's budget process. Considerable differences occur in how the two chambers plan to address recovery costs and it is likely this is still a work in progress that will be fluid until the final budget is complete.

### COMPARING THE BUDGETS

	HOUSE BUDGET HB 5001	SENATE BUDGET SB 2500	HOUSE OVER/(UNDER) SENATE
<i>POLICY AREA</i>			
Education	\$25,633,310,307	\$26,251,776,905	(\$618,466,598)
Human Services	\$37,193,773,270	\$37,738,141,121	(\$544,367,851)
Criminal Justice	\$4,777,242,252	\$4,860,499,387	(\$83,257,135)
Transportation	\$10,743,546,964	\$10,751,018,330	(\$7,471,366)
Environment/Nat. Resources	\$3,955,863,924	\$3,856,588,435	\$99,275,489
General Government	\$7,053,014,751	\$6,312,174,889	\$740,839,862
Judicial Branch	\$545,882,902	\$555,611,576	(\$9,728,674)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$89,902,634,370</b>	<b>\$90,325,810,643</b>	<b>(\$423,176,273)</b>
<i>FUND</i>			
General Revenue Fund	\$33,458,087,777	\$33,689,839,787	(\$231,752,010)
State Trust Funds	\$23,918,740,852	\$24,387,797,170	(\$469,056,318)
Federal Funds	\$32,525,805,741	\$32,248,173,689	\$277,632,052
<i>TRUST FUND SWEEPS</i>	\$359,500,000	\$133,000,000	\$226,500,000
<i>EMPLOYEE POSITIONS</i>	113,216	113,310	(94.00)

## FY2018-19 House and Senate Budget Recommendations Compared to Current Year

\$ millions

Department/Agency	Senate Budget	House Budget	Senate +/- House	Current Year Budget	Senate +/- Current Year	House +/- Current Year	Senate FTEs	House FTEs
Admin. Funds (Statewide)	\$193.3	\$416.7	\$(223.4)	\$134.2	\$59.1	\$282.5	-	-
Ag. & Consumer Services	\$1,717.5	\$1,786.3	\$(68.8)	\$1,826.1	\$(108.6)	\$(39.8)	3,668.25	3,635.25
Business & Professional Reg.	\$157.7	\$156.6	\$1.1	\$156.7	\$1.0	\$(0.1)	1,635.25	1,634.25
Children & Families	\$3,266.9	\$3,236.0	\$30.9	\$3,272.9	\$(6.0)	\$(36.9)	12,056.75	12,058.75
Citrus	\$23.0	\$20.9	\$2.1	\$31.3	\$(8.3)	\$(10.4)	38.00	29.00
Comm. on Offender Review	\$11.1	\$10.6	\$0.5	\$10.6	\$0.5	\$0.0	132.00	132.00
Corrections	\$2,715.9	\$2,704.3	\$11.6	\$2,570.3	\$145.6	\$134.0	25,164.00	25,124.00
Economic Opportunity	\$1,112.8	\$1,485.1	\$(372.3)	\$1,145.8	\$(33.0)	\$339.3	1,475.00	1,475.00
Education*	\$26,251.8	\$25,633.3	\$618.5	\$25,814.7	\$437.1	\$(181.4)	2,266.75	2,256.75
Elder Affairs	\$339.4	\$336.9	\$2.5	\$333.7	\$5.7	\$3.2	406.50	402.00
Environmental Protection	\$1,730.9	\$1,767.3	\$(36.4)	\$1,783.4	\$(52.5)	\$(16.1)	2,907.50	2,903.50
Financial Services	\$383.8	\$383.7	\$0.1	\$417.0	\$(33.2)	\$(33.3)	2,566.50	2,586.50
Fish & Wildlife Cons.	\$408.1	\$402.3	\$5.8	\$382.5	\$25.6	\$19.8	2,099.50	2,112.50
Governor's Office	\$2,056.3	\$2,113.4	\$(57.1)	\$1,890.4	\$165.9	\$223.0	451.00	451.00
Health	\$3,099.5	\$3,051.2	\$48.3	\$2,978.9	\$120.6	\$72.3	13,016.10	13,062.50
Health Care Admin.	\$29,449.3	\$29,065.6	\$383.7	\$29,204.5	\$244.8	\$(138.9)	1,536.50	1,508.50
Hwy Safety & Motor Vehicles	\$500.9	\$504.9	\$(4.0)	\$493.8	\$7.1	\$11.1	4,341.00	4,333.00
Justice Administration	\$956.0	\$952.0	\$4.0	\$934.2	\$21.8	\$17.8	10,497.25	10,466.25
Juvenile Justice	\$590.6	\$568.8	\$21.8	\$603.0	\$(12.4)	\$(34.2)	3,279.50	3,277.50
Law Enforcement	\$289.4	\$267.5	\$21.9	\$302.3	\$(12.9)	\$(34.8)	1,929.00	1,922.00
Legal Affairs	\$297.4	\$274.1	\$23.3	\$310.7	\$(13.3)	\$(36.6)	1,363.50	1,354.50
Legislature	\$210.9	\$208.7	\$2.2	\$210.7	\$0.2	\$(2.0)	-	-
Lottery	\$201.9	\$200.0	\$1.9	\$182.4	\$19.5	\$17.6	418.50	418.50
Management Services	\$667.0	\$728.6	\$(61.6)	\$715.0	\$(48.0)	\$13.6	1,288.50	1,274.50
Military Affairs	\$65.2	\$73.3	\$(8.1)	\$63.9	\$1.3	\$9.4	453.00	452.00
Persons with Disabilities	\$1,454.6	\$1,373.0	\$81.6	\$1,333.8	\$120.8	\$39.2	2,702.50	2,698.00
Public Service Commission	\$25.3	\$25.3	\$-	\$25.2	\$0.1	\$0.1	267.00	267.00
Revenue	\$590.7	\$617.0	\$(26.3)	\$589.6	\$1.1	\$27.4	5,026.75	5,029.75
State	\$123.5	\$118.8	\$4.7	\$96.9	\$458.7	\$21.9	408.00	408.00
State Courts	\$555.6	\$545.9	\$9.7	\$549.9	\$(426.4)	\$(4.0)	4,312.00	4,294.50
Transportation	\$10,751.0	\$10,743.5	\$7.5	\$10,836.6	\$(85.6)	\$(93.1)	6,214.00	6,236.00
Veterans Affairs	\$128.5	\$131.1	\$(2.6)	\$113.5	\$15.0	\$17.6	1,389.50	1,412.50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$90,325.8</b>	<b>\$89,902.6</b>	<b>\$423.2</b>	<b>\$89,314.3</b>	<b>\$1,011.5</b>	<b>\$588.4</b>	<b>113,309.60</b>	<b>113,215.50</b>

Source: Florida TaxWatch, compiled using HB 5001 and SB 2500, April 2019.

The next step is for budget negotiators to go into the budget conference process, where every number and word in the budget must be agreed upon.

**Some of the major differences that will have to be worked out:**

**Public School Funding** – The Senate proposes \$520 million more than the House for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), the main school funding mechanism which distributes funds to school districts. The additional state funds in the Senate budget allow for a per-student increase of \$350 (4.7 percent), compared to the \$168 (2.3 percent) increase in the House. The Senate’s FEFP funding includes a nearly \$600 million increase over the current year in base funding—flexible spending that districts could use for salary increases.

**School Security and Mental Health** - The House holds the Safe Schools Allocation and the Mental Health Assistance Allocation funding constant at \$162.0 million and \$69.2 million, respectively. The Senate increases these allocations by \$68.1 million and \$30.8 million, respectively.

**Teacher and Principal Bonuses** –The House provides \$269.0 million for the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Program to provide bonuses to selected educators—\$36 million more than the Senate, which also proposes new performance requirements.

**Schools of Hope** - The Senate does not fund the House’s \$140 million School of Hope program—instead creating a Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation (\$45.7 million) for designated lower performing schools.

**Higher Education** – There are differences in how the budgets distribute university funding. The Senate is also proposing a \$40 million program to promote 2+2 college degrees and align career education with workforce demands. The Senate also proposes to spend \$29.9 million more than the House on private colleges and universities.

**Education Capital Outlay** – The House would spend much more on charter schools while the Senate would spend much more on college and university construction projects.

**Tourism Marketing** – The Senate funds VISIT FLORIDA at \$50 million, while the House would allow it to sunset on October 1.

**Enterprise Florida** – The House would also eliminate funding for the state’s economic development organization.

**Affordable Housing** – The Senate proposes to not sweep the housing trust funds and fully fund affordable housing programs at \$331.9 million. The House proposes to sweep \$200 million from the housing funds into general revenue, spending only \$123.6 million on housing—all dedicated to hurricane recovery.

**Environment** – The House proposes more spending for beach restoration and petroleum tank cleanup. The Senate provides more for Everglades restoration, Florida Forever, and springs restoration.

**Citrus Canker Settlement** - The House appropriates \$58.1 million to settle claims by homeowners whose citrus trees were cut down in a failed attempt to eradicate canker.

**Hospital Funding** – The Senate wants to eliminate automatic increases for hospitals that have high Medicaid utilization and redistribute \$319 million into the base allocations. The House proposes rate cuts of 3 percent.

**Mental Health** – Both chambers significantly increase total funding across multiple programs, but there are differences in the individual programs. Overall, the Senate funds \$59.7 million more than the House.

**Trust Funds Sweeps** – The Senate sweeps \$133.0 million from various trust funds, transferring the money into general revenue. The House sweeps \$359.5 million, including \$200.0 million from affordable housing trust funds.

**State Employee Pay** – The Senate proposes several targeted pay adjustments in various agencies that the House does not fund.

**Member Projects** - The 120-member House has approximately 375 local member projects worth \$175 million in its budget, while the 40-member Senate proposes funding approximately 624 projects worth \$289 million.

# SUMMARY OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGETS BY POLICY AREA

## EDUCATION

	HOUSE	SENATE	CURRENT SPENDING
Public Schools (including local funds)	\$24.396	\$24.854	\$24.044
FL Education Finance Program	\$21.638	\$22.158	\$21.059
<i>State Funds</i>	\$12.239	\$12.759	\$11.885
<i>Local Funds</i>	\$9.399	\$9.399	\$9.174
<i>Per Student</i>	\$7,597	\$7,779	\$7,429
<i>RLE Millage</i>	4.678	4.669	4.823

The Senate proposes \$520 million more than the House for the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), the main school funding mechanism which distributes funds to school districts. Although the Legislature does not appropriate school property taxes it does set the amount of Required Local Effort (RLE) in the budget each year. RLE is the amount of property taxes school districts must levy in order to participate in the FEFP. The two chambers are very close in this local funding, so the difference is all state funds. The additional state funds in the Senate budget allow for a per student increase of \$350 (4.7 percent), compared to the \$168 (2.3 percent) increase in the House.

The Senate's FEFP funding includes a nearly \$600 million increase in base funding. This is flexible spending that districts could use for salary increases. Both chambers created a new component (categorical) in the FEFP for the controversial Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholarship Program to provide bonuses to selected educators. The House provides \$269.0 million for this program—\$36 million more than the Senate, which also proposes new performance requirements.

The House holds the Safe Schools Allocation and the Mental Health Assistance Allocation funding constant at \$162.0 million and \$69.2 million, respectively. The Senate increases these allocations by \$68.1 million and \$30.8 million, respectively. The Senate also keeps non-FEFP funding for teacher mental health awareness and assistance training level at \$6.7 million, while the House proposes to reduce funding to only \$500,000.

The Senate does not fund the House's \$140 million School of Hope program, instead creating a Turnaround School Supplemental Services Allocation (\$45.7 million) for designated lower-performing schools.

### **Universities:**

*House - \$4.932 billion*

*Senate - \$5.125 billion*

The Senate provides a small increase in total university funding, while the House cuts spending slightly. The House believes universities have been over-funded and carry large surpluses. The House includes \$560 million in performance funding (\$265 million state investment and \$295 million redistributed from the universities' base). The Senate includes \$525 million in performance funding (\$230 million state investment), and \$3.6 billion in additional education and general activities funding. The House provides only \$3.3 billion, which it moved to a separate place in the budget, along with decreased flexibility and additional state oversight. Neither chamber recommends a tuition increase.

**Colleges:***House - \$1.223 billion**Senate - \$1.278 billion*

The only major difference here is the Senate's inclusion of \$40 million in "Student Success Incentive Funds." Of this amount, \$28 million is to promote 2+2 college programs, to help students in graduating with an associate of arts degree and then transferring to baccalaureate degree programs. The other \$12 million would support initiatives to align career education programs with statewide and regional workforce demands and high-paying jobs. Neither chamber recommends a tuition increase.

**Private Colleges & Universities***House - \$141.3 million**Senate - \$171.1million*

The Senate proposes \$27.7 million more than the House for the ABLE and the EASE tuition assistance grants to restore nonrecurring funding and fund workload increases at the current the per-student amount of \$3,500. The House proposes a \$659 decrease in the per -tudent grant. The chambers both fund several competing member projects for private institutions.

**Early Learning:***House - \$1.222 billion**Senate - \$1.220 billion*

The chambers agree on funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program and School Readiness Services, including a \$3.8 million increase to fund 1.482 additional students (no per-student funding increase).

**Fixed Capital Outlay:**

	HOUSE	SENATE
<i>Repair and Maintenance</i>		
Public Schools	\$50.0 million	\$31.8 million
Charter Schools	\$158.2 million	\$15.0 million
Colleges	\$0	\$25.0 million
Universities	\$0	\$35.0 million
<i>Construction</i>		
Public Schools	\$66.0 million	\$50.3 million
Colleges	\$0	\$32.5 million
Universities	\$0	\$84.7 million

Education fixed capital outlay is shaping up to be one of the biggest fights during conference negotiations. The House wants significantly more funding for charter schools and does not provide any state funding for higher education construction projects.

**Financial Aid:***House - \$916.2 million**Senate - \$926.8 million*

Both chambers fund the growth in the Bright Futures and Benacquisto scholarships. The Senate also provides a \$10.0 million increase in Florida Student Assistance Grants.

## HUMAN SERVICES

The six agencies that make up the Human Services budget would receive slightly less (\$37.19 billion) than current funding (\$37.21 billion) in the House budget, but \$500 million more than current funding in the Senate.

***Agency for Health Care Administration:***                      *House - \$29.066 billion*                      *Senate - \$29.449 billion*

This agency is responsible for the state's Medicaid program, the largest expenditure in the budget. Both the House and Senate fund the program at more than \$29.0 billion, including an increase of \$290.9 million (137.1 percent) for community mental health services. A major difference is how funding would be distributed to hospitals. The House would keep the current system, while the Senate wants to eliminate automatic increases for hospitals that have high Medicaid utilization and redistribute that money into the base allocations. This would redirect \$319 million away from 29 facilities with the state's largest Medicaid caseloads and include the money in overall Medicaid rates, creating winner and losers. The House is calling for a 3 percent across-the-board cut in Medicaid hospital rates to save \$101.7 million.

Neither chamber has agreed to continue \$138 million in one-time funding that was given to nursing homes last year. The chambers are very close on Medicaid long-term care funding.

Both chambers provide \$91.4 million to fund a caseload increase in the KidCare program. The Senate provides an additional \$16.2 million to implement a KidCare Combined Risk Pool.

***Agency for Persons with Disabilities:***                      *House - \$1.373 billion*                      *Senate - \$1.455 billion*

The Senate provides a \$77.9 million more than the House for the Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program. This will reduce the waitlist and increase the residential rehabilitation provider rates. The Senate also funds 10 more local projects at a cost of \$1.5 million.

***Department of Children and Families:***                      *House - \$3.236 billion*                      *Senate - \$3.267 billion*

The House provides a \$27.3 million increase to the community-based care lead agencies; the Senate has a \$22.8 million increase. The House provides an additional \$15 million in GR for the Shared Risk Fund for the CBCs. The Senate provided \$227.4 million for adoption assistance payments and maintenance subsidies—a \$27.7 million (13.7 percent) increase. The House provides a \$12.0 million (6.0 percent) boost. The House would provide a \$39 million (6.7 percent) increase for community mental health and substance abuse services. The Senate even tops that, recommending a \$72.1 million (9.8 percent) increase, including \$7.2 million in additional GR to fight opioid abuse.

***Department of Health:***                      *House - \$3.051 billion*                      *Senate - \$3.099 billion*

The House increases total funding for the department by 2.4 percent and the Senate provides a 4.0 percent boost. The Senate provides \$4.7 million to reduce the waitlist in the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program. The House would give \$1.0 million to the Department to study the long-term health impacts of exposure to blue green algae and red tide toxins. The Senate provides \$3.1 million to child protection teams to address the increase in workload related to mandatory medical neglect cases, psychological assessments, and trauma assessments. The Senate funds biomedical research at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville for \$3.0 million.

**Department of Elder Affairs:***House - \$336.9 million**Senate - \$339.4 million*

The House provides \$1.8 million to reduce the number of elders on the waitlist for Alzheimer's respite care, but the Senate does not increase funding. Both chambers provide \$1 million to increase the rate for those receiving services by an Alzheimer's services adult day care center. The Senate provides \$5.0 million for 593 more community care for the elderly and home care for the elderly slots; the House provides \$2.2 million. The House provides an extra \$600,000 to reduce the Home Care for the Elderly waitlist. Neither chamber funds additional PACE slots to provide elder care.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:***House - \$1.786 billion**Senate - \$1.717 billion***Department of Environmental Protection:***House - \$1.767 billion**Senate - \$1.731 billion***Fish & Wildlife Commission:***House - \$0.402 billion**Senate - \$0.408 billion*

Both environmental budgets are heavy on water quality.

**Environmental Funding Highlights:**

- **Everglades Restoration** – The House and Senate both fund the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) at \$145.5 million, the regional water quality plan at \$32.0 million, and the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir projects at \$107.8 million. The Senate provides an additional \$30.4 million for Northern Everglades Restoration while the House comes in at \$29.9 million. The Senate also provides another \$50.0 million for Everglades water quality improvements.
- **Florida Forever** – The Senate funds Florida Forever at \$45.0 million for various land acquisition projects. The House provides only \$20.0 million for land acquisition.
- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs** – Both budgets include \$254.0 million for these programs, which provide financial assistance to local governments.
- **Wastewater/Stormwater Improvement Grants** – The House provides \$50.0 million, twice as much as the Senate.
- **Local Water Projects** – The two chambers have similar dollar amounts for local member water projects. The House funds \$27.8 million and Senate provides \$29.9 million. However, there is little duplication of projects between the two lists.
- **Springs Restoration** – The House provides \$50.0 million, the minimum required by law. The Senate provides \$100.0 million, which includes \$50.0 million in unspent funds from the current year.
- **Algal Blooms** – Both chambers fund Governor DeSantis' recommendations on a Blue Green Algae Task Force (\$10.8 million) and Innovative Technology Grants for Harmful Algal Blooms (\$10.0 million).
- **Beach Restoration** – The Senate provides \$44.5 million; the House provides \$50.0 million for the state's beach program.

- **Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grants (FRDAP)** – Neither chamber provides funding for local park projects that went through the FRDAP process. Instead the House and Senate appropriate \$1.8 million and \$0.6 million for local member park projects that did not go through the established process.
- **Petroleum Tank Cleanup** - The Senate provides \$90.0 million; the House provides \$121.0 million.
- **St. Johns River/Keystone Heights** – The Senate provides \$10.0 million for continued funding of restoration and recreation projects in the region. The House provides \$5.7 million.
- **Citrus Canker Payments** – The House provides \$58.1 million to settle claims from lawsuits filed by homeowners whose citrus trees were cut down in a failed attempt to eradicate canker. The payments are for claims in Lee and Orange Counties. The Senate provides no funding, preferring to wait for a Supreme Court ruling.
- **Wildfire Protection/Suppression Equipment** – House provides \$7.6 million, \$3.6 million more than the Senate. The House also provides \$5.0 million to replace a firefighting helicopter.
- **Foods Bank/Farm Share** – House provides \$5.9 million for these programs; the Senate has \$1.0 million.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

**Department of Economic Opportunity** – Two major disagreement exists in economic development. One is affordable housing and the other is the House’s misguided plan to eliminate VISIT FLORIDA and Enterprise Florida. VISIT FLORIDA sunsets on October 1, 2019 and the Senate is advancing a bill to extend the program. The House is not. The two budgets reflect this, the Senate provides \$16.0 million for Enterprise Florida and \$50.0 million for VISIT FLORIDA. The House does not fund Enterprise Florida and only gives VISIT FLORIDA \$19.0 million to fund it until October. Florida TaxWatch urges the Legislature to continue these two important programs.

	HOUSE	SENATE
Enterprise Florida	\$0.0 million	\$16.0 million
VISIT FLORIDA	\$19.0 million	\$50.0 million
Quick Response Training	\$9.0 million	\$9.0 million
Economic Development Tools	\$23.4 million	\$26.7 million
Space Florida	\$12.5 million	\$18.5 million

The Senate also funds more local member projects in the DEO budget than the House. These include local economic development, housing, and community development projects. The House DEO budget contains 14 of these member projects worth \$10.5 million. The Senate funds 38 projects worth \$12.5 million. The House dollar total is inflated by the largest of the member projects—a \$3.9 million youth sports complex in Clay County.

The Senate funds an additional 15 hurricane recovery related member projects for \$6.8 million—\$4.8 million of which would come from Triumph Gulf Coast funds (BP oil spill settlement). The House provides \$5.0 million for infrastructure grants for the rural counties impacted by the hurricane.

**Affordable Housing** – For the first time in more than ten years, the Senate proposes to not sweep the housing trust funds and fully fund affordable housing programs at \$331.9 million. This includes \$100 million in hurricane recovery housing funds and \$6.2 million for housing for persons with development disabilities. The House proposes to sweep \$200 million from the housing funds into general revenue, spending only \$123.6 million on housing—all dedicated to hurricane recovery. A recent Florida TaxWatch report analyzes the Legislature’s history of not using housing funds for their dedicated, intended purpose in the face of an affordable housing crisis in Florida. Florida TaxWatch urges the House to accept the Senate’s position on affordable housing funding.

**Department of Transportation** - The House and Senate budgets both fund the DOT work program at \$9.7 billion, which makes up most of DOT’s budget. Most of the two transportation budgets are identical, with only \$8 million separating the two \$10.8 billion budgets. Again, the Senate includes a startling number of local member transportation projects—nearly 67 projects worth \$60.0 million. The House has 26 projects worth \$24.6 million. These local projects, funded from the State Transportation Trust Fund, take funds from projects that are in the DOT work program. The \$35.4 million more spent by the Senate on local projects reduces funding for needs such as right-of-way, resurfacing, construction inspection below the levels in the House budget. Florida TaxWatch continues to advocate for reform of this local transportation project process.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CORRECTIONS AND COURTS

The funding for this area in the House and Senate budgets are very close and both represent a total funding increase from the current budget; however, several agencies (Legal Affairs, Law Enforcement, Juvenile Justice, and State Courts) would see a reduction under either budget.

### **Department of Corrections**

*House - \$2.704 billion    Senate - \$2.716 billion*

The two chambers are close on total DOC funding and spending will increase this year, despite no growth in the inmate population. The Senate is proposing a nearly \$150 million (5.6 percent) increase. The increase is due to rising inmate health care costs, for which the Senate provides an additional \$167.3 million and 573 positions. The House includes a similar amount. This increased spending includes \$69.5 million more for contracted inmate health services and \$36.6 million more for drug treatment for inmates with hepatitis C. Both chambers provide \$40.6 million to comply with litigation involving mental health services. Proviso language in the Senate budget calls for two studies. One study shall recommend the most efficient and cost-effective methods for delivering quality inmate health care services. The other will examine reinstatement of the use of parole as a sentencing alternative for inmates who pose a minimum or low risk of recidivating.

### **Justice Administration**

*House - \$952.0 million    Senate - \$956.0 million*

The budgets are similar, providing small increases for due process costs, state attorneys, public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel workloads, and the Guardian Ad Litem program. The Senate also calls for a study on state attorney and public defender workloads to recommend any needed adjustments in staffing levels. Both chambers continue to fund 21 positions (\$1.3 million) for state attorneys with reassigned death penalty cases.

***Department of Juvenile Justice****House - \$568.8 million Senate - \$590.6 million*

DJJ will see a funding reduction this year, as both the House and Senate propose less than the current level of \$603.0 million. The Senate provides \$2.0 million for retention bonuses direct care for workers in community intervention and supervision programs, non-secure and secure residential programs, and prevention programs. The House provides \$2.9 million for an additional 28 intensive mental health residential commitment beds (not funded by the Senate). The House appropriates \$4.3 million for “legislative initiatives to reduce and prevent juvenile crime”—\$1.1 million more than the Senate. Both fund existing programs, but the House adds twice as many member projects. The House also adds money using a better approach to fund this type of program by providing \$7.1 million in recurring general revenue or the department to competitively procure prevention and early intervention programs. The Senate adds \$2.5 million for fixed capital outlay for PACE centers for Girls.

***Department of Law Enforcement****House - \$267.5 million Senate - \$289.4 million*

FDLE is also looking at reduced funding, with both budgets providing less than current spending of \$302.2 million. The Senate does provide \$11.8 million and 18 positions for the Florida Incident Based Reporting System and the House provides \$4.1 million for facilities repair and maintenance.

***Dept. of Legal Affairs/Attorney General****House - \$274.1 million Senate - \$297.4 million*

The Senate provides \$12.0 million more in federal funds and nine additional positions for victim assistance services.

***State Courts System****House - \$545.9 million Senate - \$555.6 million*

The Senate provides \$1.0 million to develop an electronic pre-trial offender risk assessment tool and \$1.9 million more than the House for problem-solving courts. The Senate funds 8.5 more positions and \$5.1 million more than the House for circuit and county courts.

## Other Issues

***State Employee Pay Increases – The Senate provides \$25.5 million for pay increases for several classes of employees:***

- *State Court Employees (excluding judges)* - \$10.3 million to remedy recruitment and retention problems.
- *Assistant Regional Criminal Conflict and Regional Counsel Attorneys* - \$2,000 increase to base pay, \$4,000 if more than three years of service.
- *Correctional Probation Officers* - \$2,500 increase.
- *Institutional Security Specialists* - \$2,500 increase for each specialist in the Dept. of Children and Families and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
- *Florida Highway Patrol* – 3 percent increase for each law enforcement officer.
- *State Mental Health Treatment Facility Employees* - \$2.5 million to implement DCF’s requested competitive pay plan.
- *Guardian Ad Litem Attorneys* – \$1,200 increase.
- *Florida Elections Commission Attorneys* - \$6,000 increase for senior attorneys employed for at least two years.

- *Department of Military Affairs* – Members of the Florida National Guard on full-time duty will receive a raise as prescribed by applicable national pay tables.

The House provides an increase in the base pay of assistant state attorneys and public defenders to \$50,000.

**Trust Fund Sweeps** – The Senate “sweeps” \$133.0 million from various trust funds, transferring the money into general revenue. The House sweeps \$359.5 million, including \$200.0 million from affordable housing trust funds. These funds are routinely swept; however, this year the Senate proposes to not sweep housing and legislation has been filed to prohibited sweeping these funds. It should be noted that there were similar sweep proposals last year (Senate – \$122.5 million and House -\$397.4 million) but the sweeps in the final budget (\$404.3 million) exceeded both of those amounts. Florida TaxWatch urges the Legislature to adopt the Senate position on housing funds—this would be the first time in over 10 years that they were not swept.

**Member Projects** - The 120-member House has approximately 375 local member projects worth \$175 million in its budget, while the 40-member Senate proposes funding approximately 624 projects worth \$289 million. Many of these projects are worthwhile and some are routinely funded. Other projects are from members looking to understandably help their hurricane-stricken communities. But the sheer number of projects included in the budget, and their dollar amount, is excessive. Some of included in both budgets, but most are not duplicative, so the final tally could exceed what is in either budget. Florida TaxWatch urges the Legislature to show restraint with member projects and give priority to essential hurricane-recovery projects. Lawmakers should avoid those that can, and should, be funded at the local level, and especially those that bypass established selection processes, such as the \$84.6 million in “economic development transportation projects” that supplant funding in the Department of Transportation’s work program. **Florida TaxWatch’s annual Budget Turkey report will highlight such projects that make it into the final budget.**

---

---

The monthly Budget Watch is written by **Kurt Wenner, VP of Research**

**Robert Weissert**, Executive VP & General Counsel

**Chris Barry**, Director of Publications

**David Mann** Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Florida TaxWatch

**Dominic M. Calabro**, President and CEO, Publisher & Editor

Florida TaxWatch Research Institute, Inc.

[www.floridataxwatch.org](http://www.floridataxwatch.org)

Copyright © Florida TaxWatch