

HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGETS FOR FY2020-21

*As the Budget Conference Approaches, there are
Many Differences Between the Spending Plans*

With a little over two weeks remaining in the 2020 Legislative Session, there is still much to be decided about how more than \$90 billion in taxpayer money will be spent next year. The General Appropriations Act is the only bill the Legislature is constitutionally required to pass. Budget conference negotiations will formally begin soon, likely next week. Since lawmakers are constitutionally required to wait 72 hours before a final vote, a mutually agreed-upon budget must be produced by Tuesday, March 10 in order for an on-time finish of the session on Friday, March 13.

Both chambers passed their budgets with unanimous votes. Although common in the Senate, a unanimous vote on the budget has not happened in the House for quite some time. The Senate budget (SB 2500) totals \$92.832 billion while the House (HB 5001) comes in at \$91.370 billion. This \$1.5 billion difference must be addressed. The two chambers must agree on every number and word in the more than 400-page appropriations bill.

There are major issues where the chambers are very close or already agree, such as the level of funding for public schools and the elimination of the Best and Brightest Teacher & Principal programs. It also appears that both teachers and state employees will get pay increase, but there are major differences on how those raises will be implemented. Both chambers also agree on putting more than \$625 million towards the protection and restoration of Florida's valuable water resources, but there are differences in how those funds will be allocated.

Then there are issues where there is a wide gulf between the House and Senate, such as the continuation of VISIT FLORIDA, trust fund sweeps, funding for affordable housing, and educational capital outlay. There are also more than 1,200 local projects requested by individuals members, most of them requested in only one of the budgets.

As we prepare to head into conference, this analysis looks at what is in the two budgets and what the major differences are.

Table 1. Comparing the House and Senate Budgets

	Senate Budget SB2500	House Budget HB5001	House over/ under Senate
POLICY AREA			
Education	\$26,767,475,475	\$26,613,693,908	\$153,781,567
Human Services	\$39,385,755,379	\$38,772,587,796	\$613,167,583
Criminal Justice	\$4,961,841,187	\$4,931,097,776	\$30,743,411
Environment/Nat. Resources	\$4,375,034,348	\$4,112,229,143	\$262,805,205
Transportation	\$10,296,131,876	10,282,804,458	\$13,327,418
General Government	\$6,443,515,092	\$6,060,300,262	\$383,214,830
Judicial Branch	\$602,446,213	\$597,300,315	\$5,145,898
Total	\$92,832,199,570	\$91,370,013,658	\$1,462,185,912
FUND			
General Revenue Fund	\$35,057,937,289	\$34,704,803,968	\$353,133,321
State Trust Funds	24,895,628,901.00	\$24,337,205,375	\$558,423,526
Federal Funds	\$32,878,633,380	\$32,328,004,315	\$550,629,065
TRUST FUND SWEEPS	\$107,000,000	\$404,527,266	(\$297,527,266)
EMPLOYEE POSITIONS	113,310	113,216	94.00

Table 2. FY2020-21 House and Senate Budget Recommendations Compared to Current Year

Department/Agency	Senate Budget	House Budget	Senate +/- House	Current Year Budget	Senate +/- Current Year	House +/- Current Year	Senate FTEs	House FTEs
Admin. Funds (Statewide)	\$676.7	\$589.0	\$87.7	\$332.2	\$344.5	\$256.8	-	-
Ag. & Consumer Services	\$1,773.4	\$1,736.7	\$36.7	\$1,742.0	\$31.4	\$(5.3)	3,668.25	3,635.25
Business & Professional Reg.	\$159.9	\$160.1	\$(0.2)	\$158.3	\$1.6	\$1.8	1,635.25	1,634.25
Children & Families	\$3,311.9	\$3,282.0	\$29.9	\$3,296.9	\$15.0	\$(14.9)	12,056.75	12,058.75
Citrus	\$27.1	\$20.7	\$6.4	\$22.9	\$4.2	\$(2.2)	38.00	29.00
Comm. on Offender Review	\$11.9	\$11.6	\$0.3	\$11.4	\$0.5	\$0.2	132.00	132.00
Corrections	\$2,799.5	\$2,782.1	\$17.4	\$2,731.7	\$67.8	\$50.4	25,164.00	25,124.00
Economic Opportunity	\$1,249.1	\$914.2	\$334.9	\$1,641.7	\$(392.6)	\$(727.5)	1,475.00	1,475.00
Education	\$26,767.5	\$26,613.7	\$153.8	\$26,030.6	\$736.9	\$583.1	2,266.75	2,256.75
Elder Affairs	\$363.7	\$359.3	\$4.4	\$345.4	\$18.3	\$13.9	406.50	402.00
Environmental Protection	\$2,201.0	\$1,970.2	\$230.8	\$1,820.5	\$380.5	\$149.7	2,907.50	2,903.50
Financial Services	\$387.6	\$405.7	\$(18.1)	\$408.4	\$(20.8)	\$(2.7)	2,566.50	2,586.50
Fish & Wildlife Cons.	\$405.5	\$405.3	\$0.2	\$397.5	\$8.0	\$7.8	2,099.50	2,112.50
Governor's Office	\$1,497.1	\$1,510.3	\$(13.2)	\$2,091.2	\$(594.1)	\$(580.9)	451.00	451.00
Health	\$3,096.7	\$3,066.4	\$30.3	\$3,061.3	\$35.4	\$5.1	13,016.10	13,062.50
Health Care Admin.	\$30,812.3	\$30,438.1	\$374.2	\$29,418.2	\$1,394.1	\$1,019.9	1,536.50	1,508.50
Hwy Safety & Motor Vehicles	\$500.2	\$499.1	\$1.1	\$504.8	\$(4.6)	\$(5.7)	4,341.00	4,333.00
Justice Administration	\$984.5	\$970.5	\$14.0	\$964.5	\$20.0	\$6.0	10,497.25	10,466.25
Juvenile Justice	\$587.0	\$575.3	\$11.7	\$593.4	\$(6.4)	\$(18.1)	3,279.50	3,277.50
Law Enforcement	\$284.0	\$295.8	\$(11.8)	\$297.1	\$(13.1)	\$(1.3)	1,929.00	1,922.00
Legal Affairs	\$295.0	\$295.8	\$(0.8)	\$298.8	\$(3.8)	\$(3.0)	1,363.50	1,354.50
Legislature	\$213.1	\$213.1	\$-	\$212.4	\$0.7	\$0.7	-	-
Lottery	\$187.0	\$187.0	\$-	\$200.7	\$(13.7)	\$(13.7)	418.50	418.50
Management Services	\$717.2	\$743.6	\$(26.4)	\$705.7	\$11.5	\$37.9	1,288.50	1,274.50
Military Affairs	\$70.0	\$70.8	\$(0.8)	\$66.8	\$3.2	\$4.0	453.00	452.00
Persons with Disabilities	\$1,639.1	\$1,476.6	\$162.5	\$1,417.1	\$222.0	\$59.5	2,702.50	2,698.00
Public Service Commission	\$25.9	\$25.9	\$-	\$25.7	\$0.2	\$0.2	267.00	267.00
Revenue	\$602.9	\$601.3	\$1.6	\$594.1	\$8.8	\$7.2	5,026.75	5,029.75
State	\$124.9	\$119.5	\$5.4	\$127.6	\$(2.7)	\$(8.1)	4,312.00	4,294.50
State Courts	\$602.4	\$597.3	\$5.1	\$558.8	\$43.6	\$38.5	408.00	408.00
Transportation	\$10,296.1	\$10,282.8	\$13.3	\$10,778.1	\$(482.0)	\$(495.3)	6,214.00	6,236.00
Veterans Affairs	\$162.0	\$150.2	\$11.8	\$133.0	\$29.0	\$17.2	1,389.50	1,412.50
Totals	\$92,832.2	\$91,370.0	\$1,462.2	\$90,988.9	\$1,843.3	\$381.1	113,309.60	113,215.50

Source: Florida TaxWatch, compiled using HB 5001 and SB 2500, February 2020.

Summary of the House and Senate Budgets by Policy Area

EDUCATION

	<i>House</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>Current Spending</i>
<i>Public Schools (including local funds):</i>	<i>\$25.509</i>	<i>\$25.438</i>	<i>\$24.044</i>
<i>FL Education Finance Program</i>	<i>\$22.751</i>	<i>\$22.645</i>	<i>\$21.882</i>
<i>State Funds</i>	<i>\$13.087</i>	<i>\$12.980</i>	<i>\$12.467</i>
<i>Local Funds</i>	<i>\$9.663</i>	<i>\$9.664</i>	<i>\$9.251</i>
<i>Per Student</i>	<i>\$7,874</i>	<i>\$7,837</i>	<i>\$7,656</i>
<i>RLE Millage</i>	<i>4.481</i>	<i>4.481</i>	<i>4.636</i>

The chambers are relatively close on funding for the Education Finance Program (FEFP), the main school funding mechanism which distributes funds to school districts. The Senate proposes a \$763 million (3.5 percent) increase, while the House is proposing \$106 million more than the Senate—a small amount in the context of the approximately \$23 billion FEFP. This translates to per-student funding of \$7,874 in the House and \$7,837 in the Senate. Most of the increase comes from state funds, as both chambers would adopt the rolled-back millage rate for Require Local Effort (RLE).

While close in total public school funding, there are differences in the details, the key difference being teacher pay. The House and Senate both want to increase teacher pay and add a new categorical in the FEFP.

The Senate has a \$500 million “Teacher Salary Increase Allocation” and the House funds a \$650 million “Salary Enhancement

Supplement.” Of this amount, \$400 million in the Senate and \$500 million in House would be used to increase minimum base salaries for classroom teachers. The minimum salary goal is \$47,500 in the Senate and \$50,000 in the House. If a school district already has no teacher below \$50,000, remaining money can be used for compensation enhancements for other instructional personnel.

The other \$150 million in the House budget can be used to increase the salaries of (veteran) teachers who did not receive a raise from the minimum base increase. If a district achieves or is above the \$47,500 minimum, funds shall be used to increase the minimum by at least ten percent. In the Senate, the other \$100 million, plus any remaining funds from the district’s share of the \$400 million, may be used to provide salary increases for all instructional personnel, including those that received an increase from the rise in the base.

The Governor's Office estimates it would cost \$602 million to increase the base to \$47,500, so it remains to be seen if there is enough money to go around.

Both chambers eliminate the controversial \$284.5 million Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Bonus Program and do not propose an alternative. The Governor had recommended a \$300 million replacement bonus on top of his \$602 million recommendation for teacher pay.

The House increases the FEFP Base Student Allocation—flexible spending that districts could use for salary increases or bonuses—by \$371.4 million (2.7 percent). This is \$46.4 million more than the Senate.

In addition to the Best & Brightest program, the House would eliminate four FEFP categoricals—the Declining Enrollment Supplement, the Virtual Education Contribution, the Digital Classroom Allocation, and the Compression Allocation. This freed up \$81.1 million for the teacher pay allocation. The \$54.2 million Compression Allocation was created in 2018 to supplement districts where total funds per FTE in the prior year were less than the statewide average. The Senate wants to keep the Compression Allocation. Both chambers want to increase the Mental Health Assistance Allocation from \$75.0 million to \$100.0 million.

Universities:

House - \$5.097 billion

Senate - \$5.125 billion

Both chambers propose a small reduction in university funding and include \$560 million in performance funding (\$265 million state investment and \$295 million redistributed from the universities' base). The Senate proposes \$15.0 million for Universities of Distinction, a new program it is trying to create in other legislation, that would support programs at non-preeminent universities. This would replace the emerging preeminent university designation. Neither chamber recommends a tuition increase.

Colleges:

House - \$1.278 billion

Senate - \$1.278 billion

Both chambers would provide a small increase for colleges. The House provides \$10 million more than the Senate in Student Success Incentive Funds, with the extra money going to support dual enrollment courses. The Senate puts more into operating funds, with \$30 million being distributed through a new tier-based funding model. Neither chamber recommends a tuition increase.

Private Colleges & Universities*House - \$145.6 million**Senate - \$149.8 million*

Both chambers add \$2.8 million for ABLE and the EASE tuition assistance grants to keep the per-student amount of \$2,841 and fund 95 additional students. The chambers both fund several competing member projects for private institutions, with the Senate having more than the House.

Early Learning:*House - \$1.229 billion**Senate - \$1.224 billion*

The chambers agree on funding School Readiness Services, but the House calls for \$8.7 million more than the Senate for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program to fund additional students and increase per-student funding by 2.0 percent.

Fixed Capital Outlay:

	House	Senate
<i>Repair and Maintenance</i>		
Public Schools	\$0 m	\$0 m
Charter Schools	\$169.6 m	\$169.6 m
Colleges	\$0 m	\$0 m
Universities	\$0 m	\$0 m
<i>Construction</i>		
Public Schools	\$7.2 m	\$41.3 m
Colleges	\$0	\$23.0 m
Universities	\$0	\$90.9 m

Neither chamber gives repair and maintenance funding to traditional public schools or higher education, but both provide \$169.6 million to charter schools. The House does not provide any state funding for higher education construction projects.

Financial Aid:*House - \$984.5 million**Senate - \$984.5 million*

Both chambers fund the growth in the Bright Futures and Benacquisto scholarships, including \$56.6 million to fund the robust growth of students that qualify for Bright Futures.

HUMAN SERVICES

The six agencies that make up the Human Services budget would receive \$39.385 billion from the Senate and \$38.773 billion in the House. These are both significant increases over current year funding of \$37.658 billion.

Agency for Health Care Administration:*House - \$30.438 billion**Senate - \$30.812 billion*

This agency is responsible for the state's Medicaid program, the largest expenditure in the budget. The Senate funds the program at more than \$31.3 billion, \$500 million more than the House. The Senate proposals would be a 5.0 percent increase over current spending. This

includes \$900.7 million in price level and workload increases. Two of the big senate enhancements are a \$33.7 million increase to the Graduate Medical Education Program and a \$104.8 million increase in nursing home reimbursement rates (\$44.8 million in House). The two chambers agree of the amounts for the Low Income Pool and the Disproportionate Share hospital funding programs. The Senate offers \$15.0 million for the new Canadian Drug Importation Program, while the House offers \$10.0 million. The Senate proposes \$60.0 million (House \$40.8 million) for replacement of the Medicaid Management Information System.

Both chambers provide \$31.5 million to fund a caseload increase in the KidCare program and the Senate adds \$1.2 million to remove the lifetime benefit cap.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities:

House - \$1.467 billion

Senate - \$1.639 billion

The House provides \$56.6 million (\$26.4 million more than the Senate) to reduce the waitlist for the Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program. The Senate provides \$451.6 million for provider rate increases. The Senate also funds 10 more local projects at a cost of \$1.5 million. The Senate would provide a 15.7 percent total funding increase for the Agency.

Department of Children and Families:

House - \$3.282 billion

Senate - \$3.312 billion

Both chambers provide a \$20.0 million increase in adoption assistance payments and the Senate adds \$1.6 million for special needs adoption incentives. House provides a \$15.6 million increase to the community-based care lead agencies to reduce the average case manager caseload ratio to 1 to 17. The House adds \$5.25 million to Community Action Team funding for additional CATs in the areas of greatest need and to ensure statewide service.

Department of Health:

House - \$3.066 billion

Senate - \$3.097 billion

The House would reduce county health department positions by 368 FTEs (4.0 percent), while the Senate cuts only 9 positions. However, the House provides \$1.9 million for county health department fixed capital needs, \$0.5 million more than the Senate. The Senate appropriates \$10 million for the hepatitis A emerging disease threat response (FY 2019-20).

The Senate proposes a reduction of 79 FTEs in Children's Medical Services, while the House would cut 139 positions. As usual, there are many competing member projects and two large ones-- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (\$5.0 million) and University of Florida Health

Jacksonville Trauma and Emergency Upgrades (\$3.0 million) are only funded by the Senate.

Department of Elder Affairs:

House - \$359.3 million

Senate - \$363.7 million

The House provides \$3.6 million to reduce the number of elders on the waitlist for Alzheimer's respite care by approximately 380 slots, and the Senate provides \$1.8 million. Both chambers provide \$1 million to increase the rate for those receiving services by an Alzheimer's services adult day care center.

The House provides \$3.5 million for approximately 400 more community care for the elderly and home care for the elderly slots, and the Senate provides \$3.2 million. The House provides an extra \$1.0 million to reduce the Home Care for the Elderly waitlist by approximately 230 slots, and the Senate adds \$600,000. The Senate provides \$2.6 million and the House provides \$1.6 million to add 80 and 50 slots, respectively, in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, as recommended by a recent Florida TaxWatch report.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services:

House - \$1.737 billion

Senate - \$1.773 billion

Department of Environmental Protection:

House - \$1.970 billion

Senate - \$2.201 billion

Fish & Wildlife Commission:

House - \$0.405 billion

Senate - \$0.405 billion

Protection and Restoration of Florida's Water Resources - Another top priority for Florida TaxWatch in 2020 is the protection and restoration of Florida's valuable water resources. Our recently released report *We Can't Wait on Water: The Restoration and Protection of Florida's Water Resources is an Essential Taxpayer Investment* lays out the case for why Governor DeSantis's recommendation for \$2.5 billion in funding over four years (\$625 million per year) is so important.

Both the House and Senate budgets devote more than \$625 million to water. There are different ways to count it and there are some differences between the Governor, House and Senate proposals, but it looks good for Everglades and water restoration and protection funding.

Environmental Funding Highlights:

- Everglades Restoration – The House and Senate both fund Everglades Restoration at \$313.6 million. This includes Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) at \$174 million, the regional water quality plan at \$32 million, Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir projects at \$64 million, and \$47 million for Northern Everglades Restoration. The Senate adds \$50 million for Everglades Water Quality Improvements.
- Governor’s Water Recommendation – In addition to the Everglades, the House and Senate agree on other components; alternative water supply (\$40 million), coral reefs (\$10 million), springs restoration (\$50 million), and the Blue-Green Algae Task Force (\$10.8 million). There are differences in specific water quality projects, wastewater and stormwater matching grants, achieving Total Maximum Daily Loads goals, and innovative technologies grants.
- Florida Forever – The Senate provides \$112.7 million for various land acquisition projects. The House provides only \$20.0 million for land acquisition.
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs – The Senate provides \$511.6 million for these programs, which provide financial assistance to local governments. The House provides \$359.6 million.
- 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.
- Beach Restoration – Both chambers provide \$50.0 million for the state’s beach program.
- Florida Resilient Coastline Initiative – The Senate provides \$10.0 million to assist local governments with storm resiliency, sea level rise planning, coastal resilience projects, and coral reef health. The House provides \$5.5 million.
- Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grants (FRDAP) – Senate funds the entire FRDAP priority list (\$12.3 million). The House funds no projects that went through the established selection process and instead funds 22 earmarked local park member projects with \$4.4 million.
- Petroleum Tank Cleanup – The Senate provides \$125.0 million and the House provides \$115.0 million.
- Fish and Wildlife Commission – The Senate provides more than the House for derelict vessels removal, boating improvements, and red tide research.
- Florida Agriculture Promotion Campaign – The Senate provides \$5.8 million while the House provides \$1.3 million.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Department of Economic Opportunity:

House - \$0.914 billion

Senate - \$1.249 billion

Two major disagreement exists in economic development. One is affordable housing (see below) and the other is the House's misguided plan to eliminate VISIT FLORIDA. After getting a one-year extension last session, VISIT FLORIDA sunsets on October 1, 2020 and the Senate is advancing a bill to extend the program for eight years. The House has no such bill. The two budgets reflect this, the Senate provides \$52.5 million for VISIT FLORIDA, while the House does not fund VISIT FLORIDA past this October. Florida TaxWatch urges the Legislature to continue this valuable tourism marketing asset.

	House	Senate
VISIT FLORIDA	\$0m	\$52.5 m
Enterprise Florida	\$16.0 m	\$16.0 m
Quick Resp. Training	\$9.0 m	\$9.0 m
Econ. Dev. Tools	\$26.1 m	\$28.1 m
Space Florida	\$18.5 m	\$18.5 m
FL Job Growth Grant Fund	\$0	\$20.0 m

Another issue that needs to be reconciled is the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, for which the Governor recommended \$50 million. The fund is an economic development program designed to

promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state.

Proposals are reviewed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) and chosen by the Governor. The Senate only includes \$20 million for the fund and the House proposes no funding.

The Senate also funds more local member projects in the DEO budget than the House. These include local economic development, workforce, housing, and community development projects. The House DEO budget contains 29 of these member projects worth \$14.4 million. The Senate funds 35 projects worth \$18.1 million.

The housing and community development line-item has become a catch-all for local projects, many of which should probably be funded in other areas of the budget, if at all. This includes an aquarium, zoos, parks, sports complexes, a sports nutrition center, a tennis center, a rodeo, fishing piers, and the humane society. There is also little agreement between the chambers on the specific projects for which the \$32.5 million has been requested.

Affordable Housing - As it did last year, the Senate proposes to not sweep the housing trust funds and fully fund affordable housing programs at \$387.0 million. The House again proposes to sweep \$200 million from the housing funds into general

revenue, spending only \$147.0 million on housing. The house prevailed last year but if the Senate wins this year, it would be the first time in more than ten years that no housing money is swept. A Florida TaxWatch report analyzed 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 Department of Transportation's (DOT) work program at \$9.2 billion, which makes up most of DOT's budget. Most of the two transportation budgets are identical, with only \$13.3 million separating the two \$10.3 billion budgets. The Senate does fund a \$4.5 million transportation disadvantaged grants program to maintain levels of service. Again, the Senate includes a startling amount of local member transportation projects: 60 projects worth \$60.25 million. The House has 53 projects worth \$39.3 million.

These local projects, funded from the State Transportation Trust Fund, take funds from projects that are in the DOT work program. These local projects also bypass the transportation planning process. Florida TaxWatch continues to advocate for reform of this local transportation project process.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CORRECTIONS AND COURTS

The funding for this \$5.5 billion policy area in the House and Senate budgets is very close and both represent a total funding increase from the current budget. However, increased spending for corrections has come at the expenses of several agencies (Legal Affairs, Law Enforcement, and Juvenile Justice) which would see another reduction under either budget.

Department of Corrections

House - \$2.800 billion

Senate - \$2.716 billion

Both chambers are close on total DOC funding but there are some differences. Both chambers fund a partial transition from 12-hour work shifts to 8.5-hour shifts at correctional institutions. The Senate provides \$29.1 million and 292 FTEs to accomplish this at one-third of institutions.

The House only funds the shorter shifts at one-fifth of the institutions. The Senate proposes \$10.5 million to acquire, construct, and equip a mental health facility at the Lake Correctional Institution. Both chambers provide \$7.4 million for fixed capital needs at other mental health facility.

The House provides more fixed capital funding for major institutions (\$9.0 million) than the Senate (\$6.8 million.) Both chambers agree on \$595 million for inmate health services, the faster

growing corrections expense in recent years, including \$28 million for Hepatitis C treatment (held in reserves until a class action lawsuit against the state is decided). The Senate funds a study to assess the feasibility of transferring inmate health services to a state university medical school run system.

Justice Administration

House - \$970.5 million

Senate - \$984.5 million

Not much difference here, except the Senate funds 32.5 more positions for public defender workload and the House provides 35 additional Guardian Ad Litem positions to serve children statewide.

Department of Juvenile Justice

House - \$575.3 million

Senate - \$587.0 million

For the second straight year, it looks like DJJ will see a funding reduction, as both the House and Senate propose less than the current level of \$593.4 million. The Senate provides \$2.0 million for retention bonuses for direct care workers in juvenile assessment centers, community intervention and supervision programs, non-secure and secure residential programs, and prevention programs. The Senate also provides \$5.2 million more than the House for delinquency prevention and diversion.

Department of Law Enforcement

House - \$295.8 million

Senate - \$284.0 million

FDLE is also looking at reduced funding, with both budgets providing less than current spending of \$297.1 million. The House provides \$8.9 million for the Florida Incident Based Reporting System, while the Senate provides \$2.6 million. The House wants \$3.7 million for member projects while the Senate wants \$1.2 million.

State Courts System

House - \$602.4 million

Senate - \$597.3 million

The Senate funds an additional 116 positions for circuit courts while the House provides 26 new positions. The House does fund an additional 12 positions for county courts, and the Senate funds no new county positions.

OTHER ISSUES

State Employee Pay Increases - For only the third time in thirteen years, it appears state employees are getting a pay increase. The Senate proposes a 3 percent across-the-board increase, with a minimum of \$1,000. It would take effect July 1, 2020. The House proposes a \$1,800 increase for employees with a base salary of \$50,000 or less. Employees between \$50,000 and \$51,800 would be increased to \$51,800. Employees over \$51,800 would not receive an increase. This increase would take effect October 1, 2020.

The Senate also proposes to grant an additional increase to Corrections Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Institutional Security Specialists (in the Department of Children and Families and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities). The increase would be in addition to the 3 percent pay increase for all state employees and would be based on longevity. Employees with less than 2 years of service would receive \$500, employees with 2 or more but less than 5 years of service would receive \$1,500, and employees with 5 or more years of service would get \$2,500.

The House proposes an \$1,800 increase for each correction officer, a 10 percent increase to Child Protective Investigators, and 5 percent to Child Protective Investigator Supervisors and Child protective Filed Support Consultants. The Senate proposes increased benefits for Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsels, Department of Juvenile Justice detention officers and Guardian Ad Litem Attorneys. The House proposes enhanced benefits to the Guardian Ad litem Attorneys. The Senate provides \$404.1 million for these pay and benefit enhancements and the House proposals would cost \$316.0 million.

Trust Funds Sweeps - The Senate “sweeps” only \$107.0 million from various trust funds, transferring the money into general revenue. The House sweeps \$404.5 million, including \$200.0 million from affordable housing trust funds and \$80 million from the Inland Protection Trust Fund. These housing trusts

funds are routinely swept. In fact, even in the face of an affordable housing crisis in Florida, more money has been swept from these funds that has been spent on housing over the last ten years. However, this year (for the second year in a row) the Senate proposes to not sweep housing. Last year the House prevailed. 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 650 local member projects worth \$210 million in its budget, while the 40-member Senate proposes funding more than 600 projects worth \$360 million. Many of these projects are worthwhile and some are routinely funded. But the sheer number of projects included in the budget, and their dollar amount, is excessive. Some are included in both budgets, but most are not, 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 113 projects worth nearly \$100 million in “local 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.

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