

# Report on 2020 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature

By Fraser S. Howe Jr., PE, F.ASCE

The Senate convened briefly Thursday, March 18, afternoon for a final vote on [House Bill \(HB\) 5001](#), the [2020-21 General Appropriations Act \(GAA\)](#), and related bills. Action on all other legislation concluded Friday. Go to for a statement by [Senate President Bill Galvano](#).

Preparation for this session began last August as legislators began to file bills. For ASCE, Fraser Howe, PE started by comparing the Issue Areas from the Society's [Legislative and Regulatory Tracking Center](#), ASCE's Report Card Infrastructure Categories, the Society's 2020 State Priority Issues, and the topics for FES/ACEC's Commission on Legislative and Government Relations (CLGR), to coordinate efforts during the session.

Beginning in November, Fraser collaborated closely with Florida Section President, Chris Sharek, PE; and Government Relations Committee Chair, Tonya Mellen, PE; and with Maria Matthews, Society Senior Manager, Grassroots Programs and State Relations. He also joined teleconferences with FES/ACEC's CLGR to coordinate efforts between Florida's premier professional engineering societies.

In late November ASCE was offered the opportunity to testify before State Senator Deborah Mayfield's Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government about the grades in the 2016 Report Card on Florida's Infrastructure. Although we were unable to get on the agenda before the legislature convened on January 14, we did submit a written statement for the record on SB 712, The Clean Waterways Act.

In February the Florida Section adopted a statement supporting HB 1073 / SB 7016 to establish a statewide Office of Resiliency and create the Statewide Sea-Level Rise Task Force. On February 27 this statement was sent to Heather Williamson, Staff Director for the House State Affairs Committee with a request that the Committee vote in favor of the bill. The Senate committees voted in favor of the bill and sent to the House on March 6. Unfortunately, the bill died in this last committee without being referred to the full House.

Of the 3518 bills filed during the 2020 Regular Session, we eventually identified 25 bills (five were companion bills in both chambers) that were of both high importance and high priority to ASCE, see Table 1. We coordinated with FES on bills that were of interest to both societies.

Table 1 ASCE Tracked Bills (note: column headings are links)

<a href="#">ASCE Issue Area</a>	<a href="#">Bill</a>	Short Title	<a href="#">State Priority Issues</a>	<a href="#">Policy Statements</a>
Sustainability	S1363	Basin Management Action Plans	Sustainability	422 - Watershed Management
Water Infrastructure	H1267	Biosolids Management	Sustainability	429 - Municipal Wastewater Biosolids
Licensure	S474	<i>Deregulation of Professions and Occupations</i>	Continuing Education & Licensing	425 - Continuing Professional Development for Licensure
Licensure	H1193	<i>Deregulation of Professions and Occupations</i>	Continuing Education & Licensing	547 - Engineering Experience for Professional Licensure
Energy Transmissions	H1351	Energy	Sustainability	456 - Incentives for Implementing Construction Innovation

<u>ASCE Issue Area</u>	<u>Bill</u>	<u>Short Title</u>	<u>State Priority Issues</u>	<u>Policy Statements</u>
Civil Engineers/ Energy Transmissions	S144	Energy 2040 Task Force	Sustainability	313 - Infrastructure Research and Innovations 489 – Energy Policy
Sustainability	S338	Energy Efficiency Savings in State Agencies	Sustainability	528 - High-performance Buildings
Civil Engineers	H1091	Environmental Enforcement	Sustainability	482 - Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Program
Civil Engineers	S326	Environmental Regulation	Sustainability	516 - Municipal Solid Waste Management
Sustainability/Waste	H73	<i>Environmental Regulation</i>	Sustainability	527 - Recycling of Electronic Wastes
Waste	S326	<i>Environmental Regulation</i>	Sustainability	378 - National Wetlands Regulatory Policy
Sustainability	S7024	Florida Forever	Sustainability	556 - Owners Commitment to Sustainability
Water Infrastructure	H1427	Florida Safe Drinking Water Act	Sustainability	361 - Implementation of Safe Drinking Water Regulations
Licensure	H6073	Land Surveyors and Mappers	Continuing Education & Licensing	542 - Application of Prevailing Wages to Professional Survey Crews
Licensure	H707	<i>Legislative Review of Occupational Regulations</i>	Continuing Education & Licensing	130 - Professional Licensure of Engineers
Licensure	S1124	<i>Legislative Review of Occupational Regulations</i>	Continuing Education & Licensing	450 - State Licensure Boards for Professional Engineers
QBS	H441	<i>Public Procurement of Services</i>	QBS for Engineering Services	304 - Qualifications-Based Selection of Professional Engineers
QBS	S506	<i>Public Procurement of Services</i>	QBS for Engineering Services	439 - Design Competition
Water Infrastructure/Sustainability	H715	Recycled Water	Sustainability	332 - Water Reuse
Sustainability	H1073	Statewide Office of Resiliency	Sustainability	500 - Resilient Infrastructure
Stormwater/Flood Control/Water Infrastructure	S686	<i>Stormwater Management Systems</i>	Sustainability	275 - Atmospheric Water Resources Management
Water Infrastructure	H405	<i>Stormwater Management Systems</i>	Sustainability	427 - Regulatory Process for Infrastructure Development
Water Infrastructure	S712	Water Quality Improvements	Sustainability	480 - Water Infrastructure and Facilities Construction Fund
Water Resources	H147	<i>Water Resources</i>	Sustainability	540 - Resilient Water Resource Projects
Water Resources	S690	<i>Water Resources</i>	Sustainability	243 - Groundwater Management

Most of these bills died in committee and did not make it to the Florida House or Senate floor for a vote. Of those that did get to the floor only two passed and were sent to the Governor for action.

- SB 72: Post-secondary Education
- CS/CS/SB 506 (2020) Public Procurement of Services

Given Governor DeSantis focus on COVID-19, he has not yet acted on these.

Fraser howe, PE, also represented ASCE at several meetings of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers as they developed rules to implement HB 827 – Engineering, that required changes to Florida Administrative Code [Chapter 61G15 Board of Professional Engineers Organization & Purpose](#). In November we asked Florida Section members to review and comment on the proposed rule changes at [FLRules.org](#). The Board adopted these changes and Chapter 61G15 has been updated.

Table 2 Issue Area Comparison (note: column headings are links)

<a href="#">Issue Areas</a>	<a href="#">RC Categories</a>	<a href="#">State Priority Issues</a>	<a href="#">FES/ACEC</a>
State Transportation (Roads & Bridges)	Bridges; Roads	Transportation Infrastructure Financing	Transportation
Transit	Transit		
Airport Facilities	Aviation		
	Ports		
Rail (Freight & Passenger, not Transit)	Rail	Transportation Infrastructure	
Autonomous Vehicles			
Water Infrastructure	Drinking Water		Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ, Water Resources Council (WRC)
	Wastewater		CEQ
Stormwater			CEQ
Dams & Levees	Dams; Levees		
	Inland Waterways		
Flood Control	Coastal Areas; Stormwater		CEQ
Energy Transmissions	Energy		Energy
School Facilities (K-12)	Schools	STEM education & support (K-12)	
	Public Parks & Recreation		
Solid & Hazardous Waste	Hazardous Waste		CEQ, Sink Holes, WRC
Infrastructure Funding			CEQ
Sustainability		Sustainability	CEQ
		Natural Hazards Impact Mitigation & Infrastructure Security	CEQ
Building Codes			Building Code
			Land Development
Civil Engineers			Engineering
Licensure & Practice of Civil Engineering		Continuing Education & Licensing	Engineering, Liability, Procurement
		Qualifications-Based Selection for Engineering Services	CCNA
		State Support for Civil Engineering (Higher Education)	

For future reference, Fraser created the following tables that indicate which Florida hose and Senate districts align (generally) with Florida Section Branches.

Table 3 Florida Senate Districts by Branch

<b>Fla-ASCE Branch</b>	<b><a href="#">Fla Senate District</a></b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>
Broward	32	33	34			
East Central	9	11	12	12	15	
Gainesville	5	8				
Jacksonville	4	6	7			
Miami-Dade	35	36	37	38	½ of 39	
Palm Beach	25	29	30	31		
Pensacola	1	2				
Ridge	22	26				
Southwest	27	28				
Space Coast	14	17				
Sun Coast	23	½ of 21				
Tallahassee	½ of 2	3				
West Coast	10	16	18	19	20	½ of 21

Table 4 Florida House Districts by Branch

<b>Fla-ASCE Branch</b>	<b><u>Fla House District</u></b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>	<b>Dist</b>
Space Coast	51	52	53	54											
Sun Coast	56	71	72	73											
Ridge	39	40	41	55											
Pensacola	1	2	3	4											
Tallahassee	5	6	7	8	9										
Gainesville	10	19	20	21	22	23	24								
Jacksonville	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
Broward	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	107							
Southwest	75	76	77	78	79	80	½ of 105	106							
Miami-Dade	½ of 105	106	107	108	109	110	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
East Central	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32							
	33	42	45	46	47	48	49	50							
Palm Beach	82	81	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97
West Coast	34	35	36	37	38	57	58								
	59	60	61	62	63	64	65								
	66	67	68	69	70										