



# 2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## SUPPORT

### Lakeland Se7en Wetlands

**Request: \$1.3 Million**  
**HB 2547 (Rep. Burton)**

An Appropriations bill has been filed in the House to provide funding for Phase 2 of the Lakeland Se7en Wetlands park. The project will convert the 1,640 acre wastewater treatment facility into a park with more than 22 miles of pedestrian trails.

**Approved 9-0 by the Ag & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee**

## Public Records

**HB 163 (Rep. Burgess) / SB 80 (Sen. Steube)**

This legislation grants discretion to judges to award attorneys fees and costs relating to public records enforcement actions. Complainants must provide written notice of public records request at least 5 days prior to filing the civil action.

**SB 80 on Judiciary agenda 3/14. HB 163 in Civil Justice & Claims.**

## Heartland Headwaters Protection Act

**HB 573 (Rep. Burton) / SB 928 (Sen. Stargel)**

This legislation creates the Heartland Headwaters Protection & Sustainability Act. The bills create a dedicated funding source for projects identified for funding in the Polk County Regional Water Cooperative annual reports from FY 2017-18 – 2036-37.

**HB 573 on Natural Resources & Public Lands agenda 3/14. SB 928 in Environmental Preservation & Conservation.**

## OPPOSE

### Relief for Reginald Jackson / City of Lakeland

**HB 6517 (Rep. Alexander) / SB 298 (Sen. Rouson)**

A Claims bill has been filed against the City from an incident that occurred in 2001. During the trial, the plaintiff was found to be 25% responsible for his injuries and the City met its responsibilities according to the sovereign immunity statutes.

**HB 6517 in Civil Justice & Claims. SB 298 in Judiciary.**

## Wireless Communications / Utilities

**HB 687 (Rep. LaRosa) / SB 596 (Sen. Hutson)**

These bills require DOT and local governments to approve the permitting and installation of wireless infrastructure in public rights-of-way, limits collocation fees to no more than \$15 per facility, and requires local govt to pay for engineering studies.

**HB 687 in Energy & Utilities. SB 596 in Governmental Oversight & Accountability.**

## Local Business Taxes and Regulations

**HB 17 (Rep. Fine)**

**HB 487 (Rep. Renner) / SB 330 (Sen. Steube)**

HB 17 prohibits cities and counties from imposing regulations on businesses and preempts regulations to the State. HB 487/SB 330 limit all local business license fees to no more than \$25. These, and other bills, infringe upon basic home rule authority.

**HB 17 is in Commerce. HB 487 is in Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs. SB 330 is in Community Affairs.**

## Community Redevelopment Areas

**HB 13 (Rep. Raburn) / SB 1770 (Sen. Lee)**

This legislation prohibits the creation of new CRAs and phases out existing CRAs by 2037.

**HB 13 is in Ways & Means. SB 1770 has not been referred to Committee.**