

LAGC Legislative Bulletin #5 - 2017R May 15, 2017

On Tuesday, the House Ways & Means Committee will finally hear HB 632, Rep. Steve Carter, the gas tax increase and indexing component of the infrastructure package. We have been turning every stone over in trying to move “no” and “undecided” votes to our column. We’ll know on Monday whether the coalition of groups working for infrastructure funding is going to be successful., SB 57, Sen. Cortez, to remove State Police from receiving any funding from TTF, awaits action by the House Appropriations Committee .

HB 104, Sen. Appel, legislation to only require contractors’ license numbers on the bid envelope, has been approved by the House Commerce Committee, and awaits final passage by the House.

HB 554, Rep. Schroder, would allow for “reverse bid auctions” on purchases and some construction projects under the contract limit. LAGC has long opposed reverse bid auctions on public works projects, as construction projects should never be considered “commodity” products for public bidding. After discussions with Rep. Schroder and the LMA, the bill was amended to exclude any reference to such procurement products.

HB 236, Rep. Shadoin, a constitutional amendment to un-dedicate several constitutionally dedicated funds, including the TTF. After discussion the author voluntarily deferred the bill, but it may still be considered on Monday or Tuesday by the House Appropriations Committee. We’ll be watching for it.

HB 642, Stuart Bishop, adding Guaranteed Maximum Price, to the list of lump sum and unit price bids to the law where they are, be excepted from news sales taxes imposed, awaits action by the full House.

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The House Ways & Means committee allowed six bills to advance on to the House floor during hearings during the past week, so it appears they may begin the process of advancing plans by the Republican-led House to either raise some revenues or re-do the state’s income tax code.

Bills in play include the following:

HB 180, Rep. Carmody, Constitution Amendment Provides with respect to the ad valorem property tax exemption for certain manufacturers.

HB 355, Rep. Ivey, Constitution Amendment Provides with respect to the ad valorem property tax exemption for certain manufacturers.

HB 444, Rep. Seabaugh, Constitutional Amendment establishing an ad valorem tax exemption for property subject to a cooperative endeavor agreement requiring the property owner make payments in lieu of taxes.

HB 609, Rep. Jay Morris, Removes the July 1, 2018, sunset date with respect to the applicability of certain exclusions and exemptions from state sales and use tax making the effectiveness of the exclusions and exemptions permanent.

HB 651, Rep. Broadwater, relative to income and corporate franchise tax credits; to reduce the amounts of certain credits; to provide for the continued effectiveness of certain previous reductions; and to provide for related matters.

HB 653, Rep. Broadwater, to provide relative to certain exclusions, exemptions, and deductions; to provide for continued effectiveness of reductions.

Of course, the Senate will have a great deal to do with the eventual nature of the legislation, if it passed the full House, if any of it actually reaches the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee will begin hearing HB 1, Rep. Henry, this coming week. There is still some other pathways, such as HB 220, Rep. Magee, that could be reached in reaching some compromise between the House and Senate. Rep. Reynolds "services" tax revamp was not heard by the Ways & Means Committee last week, due to a death in the Representative's family. We'll be watching closely to see what impact any changes on you.

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