

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2023-B SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Fiscal Policy

SB 2-B — Emergency Response

by Senator Albritton

The bill provides for emergency relief in the wake of the 2022 hurricane season, in which two disastrous hurricanes struck the state of Florida, resulting in widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure, agricultural lands, beaches, and more.

On September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall in southwest Florida as a high-end Category 4 storm which brought heavy rainfall, deadly storm surge, and extensive wind damage to Florida. Just two months later, Hurricane Nicole made landfall on Florida's east coast causing residential damage, flooding, and shoreline erosion on coastal communities and exacerbated the impacts of Hurricane Ian.

The bill creates the Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity to provide financial assistance to local governments that show losses in revenues due to the impacts of Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole. Loan funds may only be used for operational expenses, not fixed capital outlay, and are interest-free for up to 1 year, which may be extended up to 6 months based on ongoing financial hardship. The bill appropriates \$50 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund for the program. The program expires on June 30, 2027.

The bill transfers \$650 million to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund to be used for responding to a declared state of emergency.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming a law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 106-0

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SB 4-B — Statewide Prosecutor

by Senator Martin

Current law authorizes the Office of Statewide Prosecution to investigate and prosecute a list of enumerated crimes if certain conditions are met. This bill removes election-related issues from that enumerated list, relocates them to a new paragraph, and more clearly delineates the election-related crimes over which the statewide prosecutor has concurrent jurisdiction with the state attorneys to prosecute.

The bill also conforms the statewide prosecutor's jurisdiction over election-related crimes to the State Constitution by deleting the current statutory requirement that such a crime be connected to an organized criminal conspiracy that affects two or more judicial circuits, to simply require the crime have affected two or more judicial circuits.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 27-12; House 77-33

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SB 6-B — Transportation of Inspected Unauthorized Aliens

by Senator Ingoglia

The bill creates the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program within the Division of Emergency Management. The division will implement a program to facilitate the transport of inspected unauthorized aliens within the United States, consistent with federal law. The division is authorized to contract for services to implement the program, notwithstanding s. 287.057, F.S., relating to competitive procurement laws. The program expires June 30, 2025.

The bill appropriates \$10 million to the division for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for the program. The bill repeals s. 185, ch. 2022-156, L.O.F. All payments made pursuant to that section are deemed approved and any unexpended balance of funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation immediately revert.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 27-12; House 77-34