

At the November meeting, FACERS discussed four bills that had been filed for the upcoming legislative session. These are:

HB 0257 – Permits cooperative purchasing of certain professional services between governmental agencies if certain criteria are met.

FACERS supports this bill.

HB 441 – Increases the maximum dollar amount for continuing contracts and provides for annual adjustment of the maximum based on the Engineering News-Record's Construction Cost Index.

FACERS supports this bill.

HB 279 – Requires local governments performing constructing certain projects with their own services, employees, and equipment to prepare cost estimates using generally accepted cost-accounting principles and to disclose actual costs after completion to the Auditor General.

FACERS opposes this bill.

Most counties regularly contract for the work addressed by this bill. The added requirement for certain documentation, hearings, and reporting to the Auditor General adds costs and time to the construction of the project. The reporting requirements are likely to be especially burdensome to small counties where the technical staff is limited.

HB 707 – Sunsets all occupational and professional licenses under the purview of Department of Business and Professional Regulations beginning July 1, 2021 and requires a systematic review of each license to determine whether final repeal will occur.

FACERS opposes repeal of requirements for Professional Engineering and Surveying Licensure.

FACERS continues to recommend legislation to index the local gas tax to the Consumer Price Index to reduce the loss of buying power caused by inflation. This method was adopted by the Florida Legislature for State gas taxes and the State share of gas tax collections is automatically adjusted annually.

The status of these and other bills can be followed at:

House bills: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills.aspx>
Senate bills: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bills/2020>