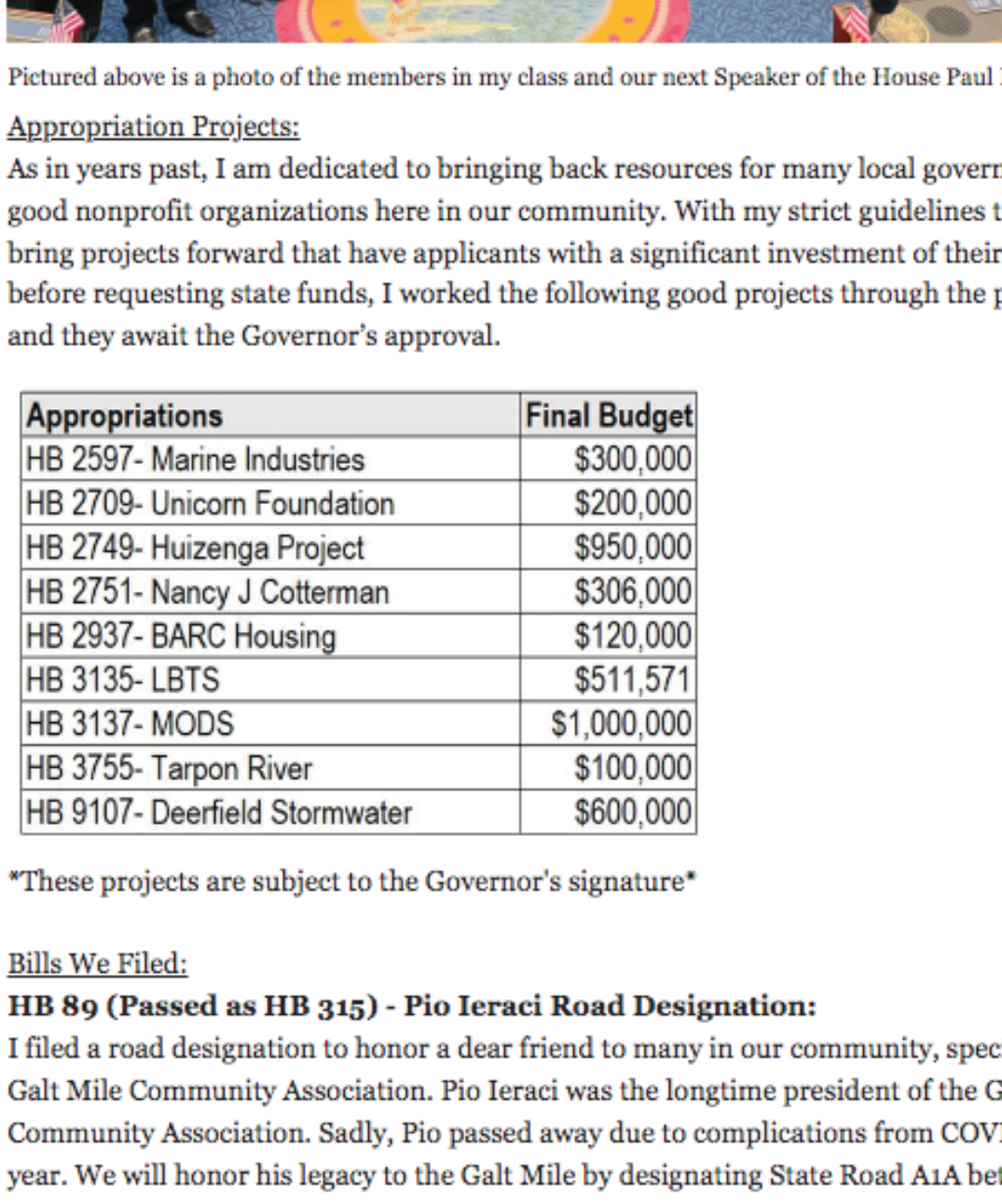




## The LaMarca Letter ! 2022 Legislative Session Update

We had another productive Legislative Session in Tallahassee this year. I am happy to say that we officially completed the 2022 Legislative Session on March 14<sup>th</sup>. We accomplished a great deal by working together.

I want to share my thoughts on this session. There has been a perception shared by some that this session was a session filled with partisan divide over culture wars. However, the reality tells a much different story. There were 3,735 Bills and PCBs (Committee Bills) filed, with 1,896 Amendments. There were 4,324 votes taken, and 285 bills passed both chambers and were sent to Governor DeSantis for his signature. Of those 285 bills, 60% passed unanimously (every single member voted for them), 98% passed with bipartisan support (members from both sides of the aisle voted for them) and 7 bills were passed with no support from the other side. I will always work together to accomplish our shared goals.



Pictured above is a photo of the members in my class and our next Speaker of the House Paul Renner.

### Appropriation Projects:

As in years past, I am dedicated to bringing back resources for many local governments and good nonprofit organizations here in our community. With my strict guidelines to only bring projects forward that have applicants with a significant investment of their own before requesting state funds, I worked the following good projects through the process and they await the Governor's approval.

Appropriations	Final Budget
HB 2597- Marine Industries	\$300,000
HB 2709- Unicorn Foundation	\$200,000
HB 2749- Huizenga Project	\$950,000
HB 2751- Nancy J Cotterman	\$306,000
HB 2937- BARC Housing	\$120,000
HB 3135- LBTS	\$511,571
HB 3137- MODS	\$1,000,000
HB 3755- Tarpon River	\$100,000
HB 9107- Deerfield Stormwater	\$600,000

\*These projects are subject to the Governor's signature\*

### Bills We Filed:

#### HB 89 (Passed as HB 315) - Pio Ieraci Road Designation:

I filed a road designation to honor a dear friend to many in our community, specifically the Galt Mile Community Association. Pio Ieraci was the longtime president of the Galt Mile Community Association. Sadly, Pio passed away due to complications from COVID last year. We will honor his legacy to the Galt Mile by designating State Road A1A between the northern and southern ends of the Galt Ocean Mile as "Pio Ieraci Memorial Drive".

#### HB 423- Building Regulations:

This bill broadens the field of potential Building Inspectors and Plans Examiners to help reduce permitting and inspection delays by allowing qualified staff of private entities, such as Private Providers, to obtain Provisional Certificates when under the direct supervision of a person licensed as a Building Code Administrator.

This legislation creates an additional opportunity for individuals to become Certified Plans Examiners or Building Inspectors by allowing private entities to offer internal training programs and allowing internships to be transferred between jurisdictions and private entities so that continuation of a candidates training is not contingent on them staying with one employer throughout the internship program.

Closing out permits and issuing Certificates of Occupancy or Certificates of Completion often takes a long time once all proper documentation has been submitted with the local jurisdiction. This change will help to reduce delays in property sales and the completion of work for insurance claims and property enhancements

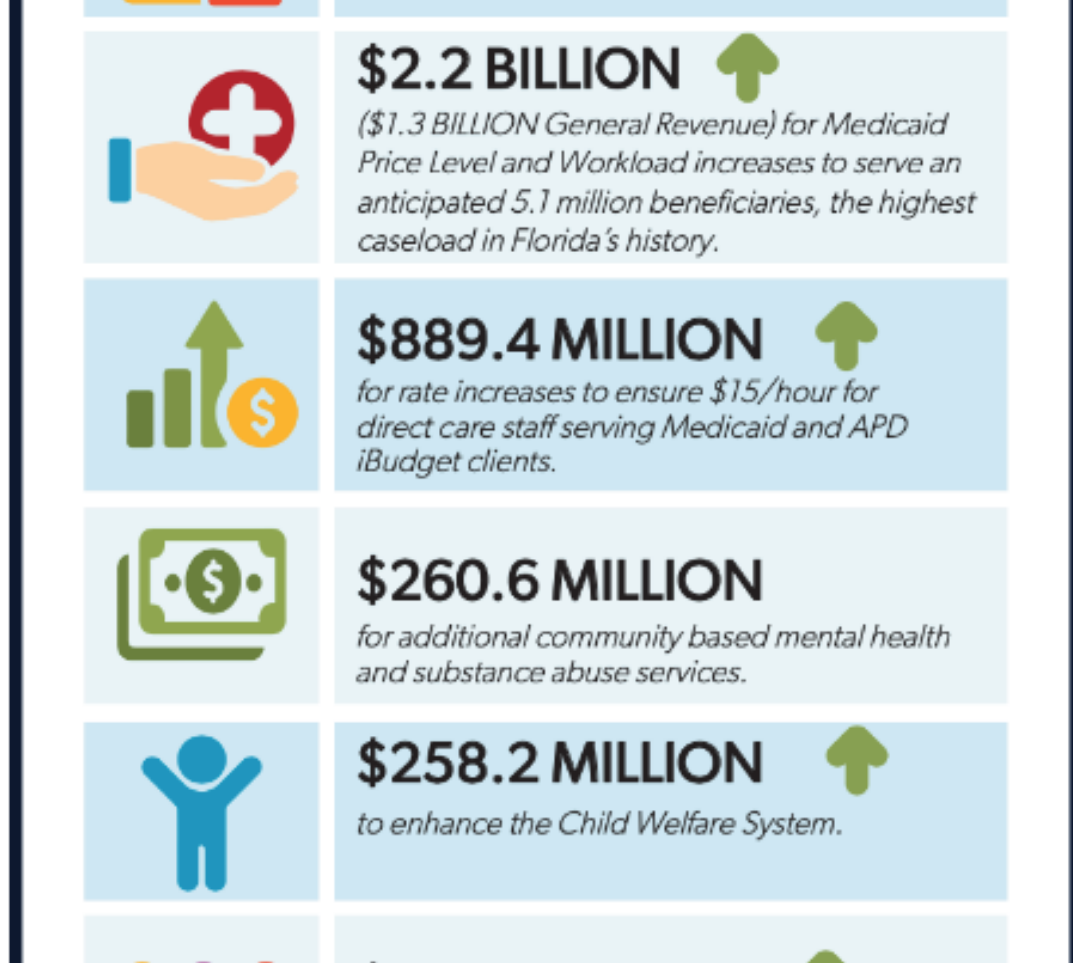
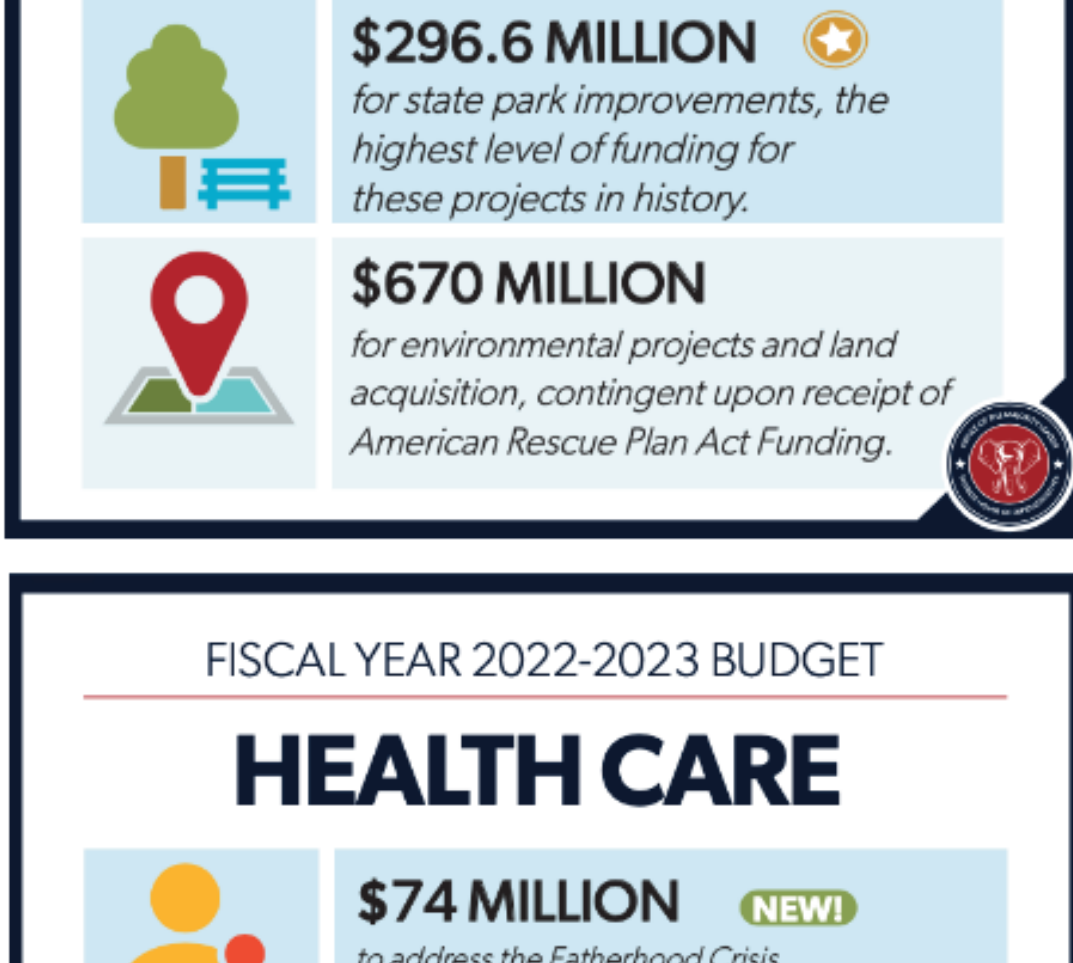
#### HB 959- Department of Financial Services:

This bill protects Florida Consumers and streamlines the Department's processes by: improving the Division of Workers' Compensation's "one-size fits all" approach for employer non-compliance penalties, requiring insurance agencies to notify customers and companies prior to closing their business, repealing the Patients Compensation Fund, and improving local government reporting processes.

### Budget highlights:

The final budget for 2022-2023 totals \$112.1 billion, including \$43.7 billion General Revenue, \$29.1 billion State Trust Funds, and \$39.2 billion Federal Trust Funds.

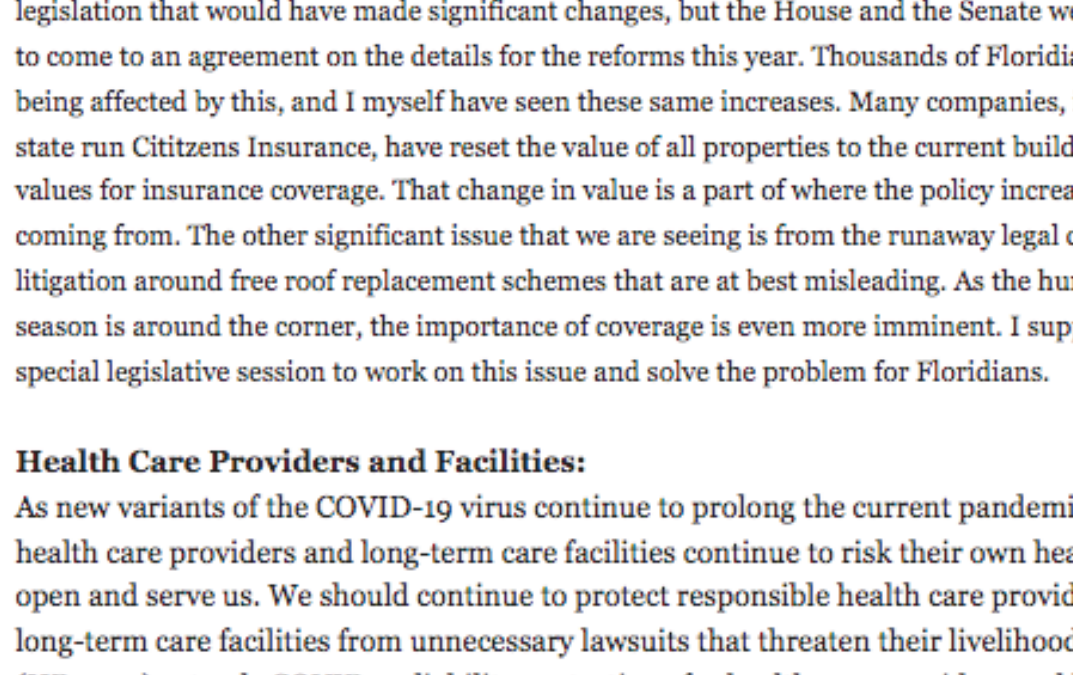
- \$8.9 billion dollars for reserves, totaling \$15.2 billion over the past two years.
- \$1 billion dollar investment in accelerating the minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour for all state employees and Medicaid health care providers.
- \$470.9 million to the Flood and Sea Level Rise Program.
- \$400 million for the Broadband Opportunity Grant Program.
- \$54.2 million for cultural facilities and grant projects, fully funding these programs.
- \$362.7 million for Affordable Housing Programs.
- \$156.2 million to Florida Cancer Hospitals.
- \$260.6 million to additional community based mental health/substance abuse services.
- \$29 million for the New World Reading Program.
- \$296.6 million for State Park Improvements, the highest level of funding for these projects in history
- \$125 million for \$1,000 bonuses which will benefit local government law police officers, sheriff's deputies, paramedics, EMTs, and firefighters throughout the state.



Legislators also agreed to the annual tax package which delivers \$685 million in savings for Floridians across the state.

### The tax package includes:

- 14-day Back-to-School sales tax holiday from July 25 through August 7, 2022, for clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$100 or less, school supplies and learning aids costing \$50 or less, and personal computers or computer-related accessories, including non-recreational software costing \$1,500 or less.
- 14-day Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday from May 28 through June 10, 2022, for supplies like lanterns costing \$40 or less, radios costing \$50 or less, and generators costing \$1,000 or less.
- Seven-day Freedom Week Sales Tax Holiday in July for specified recreational items and activities like admissions to music, sporting and cultural events.
- Property tax relief for homestead property rendered uninhabitable for 30 days or more due to a catastrophic event in 2023 or thereafter.
- Property tax relief from all assessments to owners affected by the sudden and unforeseen collapse of a residential building in 2021.
- One-month moratorium on the state's \$0.25 gas tax beginning on October 1, 2022.



Other Bills:

### Homeowners Insurance:

We are approaching a crisis in home insurance in Florida. In the Florida House, we worked on legislation that would have made significant changes, but the House and the Senate were unable to come to an agreement on the details for the reforms this year. Thousands of Floridians are being affected by this, and I myself have seen these same increases. Many of companies, including state run Citizens Insurance, have reset the value of all properties to the current building market values for insurance coverage. That change in value is a part of where the policy increases are coming from. The other significant issue that we are seeing is from the runaway legal costs from litigation around free roof replacement schemes that are at best misleading. As the hurricane season is around the corner, the importance of coverage is even more imminent. I support a special legislative session to work on this issue and solve the problem for Floridians.

### Health Care Providers and Facilities:

As new variants of the COVID-19 virus continue to prolong the current pandemic, and health care providers and long-term care facilities continue to risk their own health to stay open and serve us. We should continue to protect responsible health care providers and long-term care facilities from unnecessary lawsuits that threaten their livelihood. SB 7014 (HB 7021) extends COVID-19 liability protections for health care providers and long-term care facilities passed last year in SB 72 to claims that accrue before June 1, 2023. Liability protections for non-health care related business owners, schools, nonprofits, and religious institutions remain in place.

### Emergency Preparedness:

Florida needs to be prepared for threats posed by any emergency and act quickly to mitigate negative effects. SB 96 & SB 98 (HB 7023 & HB 7025) create the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Fund for the Governor to use exclusively during emergencies. This ensures that funding for disaster relief or response comes first from state and local agency funds, then from the EPR Fund if demands on those funds are too great, and it allow the Governor to request additional funds from the Legislative Budget Commission, if necessary.

### Resiliency:

As the nation's third-largest state and one surrounded by water on three sides, Florida has experienced its share of natural and man-made disasters. This session, the Florida Legislature made great strides to build on last session's work to protect residents, communities and institutions against future threats to Floridians' way of life. HB 7053, builds on last year's "Always Ready" plan by establishing the Statewide Office of Resilience in the Governor's Office and directing state highway officials to identify roads subject to flooding and create an action plan by June 30, 2023. As you might remember, I filed a Resiliency bill of my own last year so I was proud to co-sponsor and vote for this bill.

### Election Integrity:

SB 524 (HB 7061) takes proactive measures to strengthen election security, improve election administration, and ensure vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot integrity. The bill strengthens election security by creating the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Department of State, and it will be staffed by non-sworn investigators. Additionally, the bill provides for sworn-FDLE officers to investigate election crimes and increases criminal penalties for crimes such as illegal ballot harvesting and petition circulating. SB 524 (HB 7061) improves integrity in our elections by requiring Supervisors of Elections to take stronger action to validate voter rolls and allowing the Department of State (DOS) to use more information to confirm voter eligibility. To ensure VBM ballot integrity, DOS is directed to create a plan and report the plan and any proposed legislative changes to the Legislature to further secure VBM ballots by verifying them with a government-issued identification number such as a driver license or social security number. Since serving as your county commissioner, I have always worked to make access to voting easy and convenient, but most importantly secure.

We accomplished many great things by working together, and I look forward to what we can do next. Finally, after redistricting our new district number will be House District **90**

Best Wishes,

Representative Chip LaMarca  
Florida House District 93

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