

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
October 14, 2021**

Members in attendance:

**Representative Ardian Zika, Chair
Senator Dennis Baxley, Vice Chair
Senator Jennifer Bradley
Senator Janet Cruz
Representative Tracie Davis
Representative Anna Eskamani
Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka
Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr.
Representative Keith L. Truenow**

Senator Jim Boyd and Representative Webster Barnaby were excused

Consideration of a request for an Auditor General operational audit of the Use of Tourist Development Tax Revenue in Escambia County submitted by the Escambia County Legislative Delegation and Chair of the Escambia County Tourist Development Council

Senator Broxson presented the audit request to the Committee.

Erik Figlio, Attorney with the Ausley, McMullen law firm, representing the Escambia County Tourist Development Council also spoke in favor of the audit.

Senator Baxley moved that the Committee direct the Auditor General to perform an operational audit of the use of Tourist Development Tax Revenues in Escambia County. The Auditor General, pursuant to the authority provided in Section 11.45(3), F.S., shall finalize the scope of the audit during the course of the audit, providing that the audit-related concerns of the Escambia County Legislative Delegation as included in their request letter are considered.

Motion was adopted.

Presentations and discussion related to the Transparency Florida Act, s. 215.985, F.S.

Mike Jones, Policy Coordinator for Systems Design and Development with the Governor's office, gave an overview of the Transparency Florida website.

Mark Merry, Assistant Director of the Division of Accounting and Auditing at the Department of Financial Services, presented the CFO's Transparency website and the status of the Department's implementation of the XBRL project.

Kathy DuBose, JLAC Coordinator, presented the draft report on Transparency Florida.

Chair Zika asked members to submit any recommendations or suggestions they may have to Committee staff by October 29, 2021.

Consideration of the Department of the Lottery’s audit for the 2021-22 fiscal year

Representative Zika recognized Senator Baxley who moved that the Committee direct the Auditor General and OPPAGA to conduct the audit of the Department of Lottery for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Auditor General will be responsible for the financial statements, internal control, and compliance issues. The Auditor General may also use her discretion to include operational topics.

OPPAGA will be responsible for developing recommendations to enhance the earning capability of the lottery and to improve the efficiency of the department’s operations.

Motion was adopted.

The Committee is expected to consider taking action against local governmental entities that have met a condition of a financial emergency and have failed to respond to the Governor’s Office, pursuant to s. 218.503(3), F.S.

Chair Zika called on Debbie White, JLAC’s Chief Legislative Analyst, to explain the list of entities that have met one or more financial emergency conditions and have failed to respond to the Governor’s office.

Chair Zika entertained a motion to have the Committee accept staff recommendations (as noted in tables below). Senator Baxley moved the motion.

	Entity (County)	Date Governor’s Office Notified Committee	Financial Emergency Condition(s) Identified in the 2019-20 Fiscal Year Audit Report	Staff Recommendation
SPECIAL DISTRICTS				
1	Buckeye Park Community Development District (Manatee)	8/18/2021	The District failed to make required debt service payments when due because of the continued lack of funding.	Take action if Governor’s office does not receive a response by December 6, 2021
2	Concorde Estates Community Development District (Osceola)	7/19/2021	The District failed to make required debt service payments when due, as a result of a lack of funds.	
3	Southern Hills Plantation II Community Development District (Hernando)	6/16/2021	The District failed to make required debt service payments when due, as a result of a lack of funds.	
4	SWI Community Development District (Volusia)	10/8/2021	The District failed to make required debt service payments when due, as a result of a lack of funds.	

	Entity (County)	Date Governor's Office Notified Committee	Comments	Staff Recommendation
SPECIAL DISTRICT				
1	<u>CBL / BM Port Orange West Community Development District (Volusia)</u>	8/18/2021	<p>As part of its 2019-20 Annual Financial Report (AFR) to the Department of Financial Services required by Section 218.32, <i>Florida Statutes</i>, the District indicated that it had experienced a financial emergency during the 2019-20 fiscal year. The AFR does not include a section to include a further explanation of the financial emergency.</p> <p>[Note: The District's revenue and expenditure amounts included in that AFR were below the thresholds requiring an audit, as established in Section 218.39(1), <i>Florida Statutes</i>.]</p>	Take action if Governor's office does not receive a response by December 6, 2021

Motion was adopted.

Representative Eskamani moved to adjourn.