On Monday, May 24th, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) announced Florida will be ending its participation in the $300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, effective June 26, 2021 as part of DEO’s "Return to Work" initiative.

Between March and April, Florida's unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.8%, despite over 450,000 available positions posted across the state for interested job seekers. This action by DEO is a vital, in order to get Florida's economy back to full strength, as our state continues to rebound from the impacts of COVID-19.

Earlier this month, CFHLA sent letters to our elected officials advocating for these necessary actions. To read these advocacy letters, please click on the following links below:

Letter to Governor Ron DeSantis
Letter to Senator Rick Scott

Last week, the Florida Legislature reconvened for a Special Session to address the 30-year Gaming Compact established between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Governor Ron DeSantis. Lawmakers voted on legislation to ratify and implement the agreement, which is currently estimated to bring in a guaranteed $500 million per year and more than $6 billion by 2030. All bills related to the Gaming Compact were sent to the Governor and signed into law on Tuesday, May 25th.
Now the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, has 45 days to sign off on the agreement under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which allows the Legislature to negotiate contracts for “casino gambling on tribal lands.”

However, many expect elements of the gaming compact will be headed to the courts system in the upcoming months, as they address concerns surrounding the constitutionality of the agreement.

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### GA COMMITTEE

The CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee met on Wednesday, May 12th at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando (Thank you, Mark Politte!). Representatives Kristen Arrington and Kamia Brown served as panelists for a 2021 Legislative Session Recap. Chris Carmody and Robert Stuart, Jr. of GrayRobinson moderated the discussion.

Representative Brown, serving in her fifth legislative session, successfully advocated for legislation to improve postpartum healthcare, particularly for minority women.

Serving in her first legislative session, Representative Arrington focused on opportunities educating middle and high school students, regarding all of the technical career paths that are available, in addition to the information already provided about higher education options.

Both of the legislators also served as tourism champions in 2021, supporting the continued preservation of the Tourist Development Tax (TDT).

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CFHLA PAC/PC Chairman Jay Leonard, State Representatives Kamia Brown and Kristen Arrington, and CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa

Moderators Robert Stuart Jr. and Chris Carmody of GrayRobinson
The next Governmental Affairs Committee is scheduled to occur on **Wednesday, June 9th** at the **Hilton Orlando** (Thank you, Chris Mueller!).

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**TEE-IT-UP FOR TOURISM**

On **Thursday, August 12th** the CFHLA PAC/PC Boards of Directors will host our annual “**Tee-it-Up for Tourism**” at **TopGolf Orlando (new location)**.

Bay sponsorships are NOW available for purchase for only **$250** with exciting benefits including:

- Company Logo rotating on bay monitors
- Verbal recognition at the event
- Company signage at assigned bay
- Attendee Registration list
- Recognition on CFHLA Website
- Back of the House Recognition
- 1 Spectator ticket

To purchase a Bay Sponsorship, [PLEASE CLICK HERE.](#)

For more information, please contact CFHLA Staff Member Madison Youngman at publicpolicy@cfhla.org

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**HAITI**

For your information, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro N. Mayorkas has designated Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the United States for the next 18 Months. Any Haitian nationals meeting all eligibility requirements and residing in the US as of May 2021, will be granted Temporary Protected Status under this designation.

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**PAC/PC MEETING**
The next CFHLA PAC/PC boards of Directors will meet at the CFHLA Offices on **Wednesday, June 23rd from 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM**.

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**IN THE NEWS**

*Orlando airport sees big jump in passenger traffic. Here's what that means for summer.*

*Florida to cut federal unemployment aid as return to normal continues*

*Orlando-area attractions, leaders hopeful for 2021 summer crowds*

*Visit Florida looks to boost international tourism*

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**DONATE**

To support CFHLA's continued advocacy efforts, please [CLICK BELOW](#) to make a donation to the CFHLA PAC.

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