

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!!!!

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Hillsborough County's "Local Bill No. 1" is officially House Bill 723 sponsored by Kevin Ambler. There are two committees in which this bill is scheduled to be heard – the first is **Committee on Urban and Local Affairs**. It is not on the agenda this week. The email addresses of the Chair, Vice Chair and Staff Director of this committee are:

Rep. Julio Robaina: julio.robaina@myfloridahouse.gov
Chair

Rep. Eduardo Gonzalez: eddy.gonzalez@myfloridahouse.gov
Vice Chair

Mark Kruse: Mark.Kruse@myfloridahouse.gov
Staff Director

REQUEST:

Please email the Chair, Vice Chair and Staff Director and ask that this bill NOT BE PLACED ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA. If it is going to be on the agenda, then WE WOULD LIKE AT LEAST A WEEK'S NOTICE SO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITIZENS CAN ARRANGE TO BE THERE!

TALKING POINTS:

- Not one local government supports this bill in Hillsborough County (not the Cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City nor Hillsborough County)
- Not one citizen has come forward to support this bill locally.

- The bill got here through two highly controversial hearings (all but two speakers opposed), and by “waiving local rules” to get the necessary votes by Hillsborough County’s Legislative Delegation. Local bills are supposed to be noncontroversial and a passed by a consensus of the Legislative Delegation (usually 100%). This was done by majority vote instead by our local rules of consensus voting.
- This bill is supported locally by only one county commissioner (through the county’s administrator contrary to the vote of the commission) and one development representative. Recently, the Tampa Bay Home Builders Association hired a lobbyist to push this bill through!
- There was no public outcry to change two of these boards - only for the EPC board. The EPC board change was in a separate local bill that was forced to be withdrawn during the delegation hearing.
- This bill appears to be a personal agenda of a few in the name of “equitable representation”. HB 723 will have negative consequences on our county when the need for change has not even been established other than the EPC’s board. There isn’t even agreement on the makeup of the EPC board as yet.
- This bill was not created in the public’s best interest.
- This bill should not be placed on any agenda of any committee.
- HB 723 is in Tallahassee for all the wrong reasons!