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LEGISLATURE BRIEFS

Bills address findings on impact fees

TALLAHASSEE - Bills address findings on impact fees

The issue of how local governments levy and spend impact fees has come back again for the 2006 legislative session.

In the landmark growth management bill lawmakers passed last year, an impact fee task force was created to review the collection and expenditures of impact fees across the state.

Senate and House versions of a bill that would implement those recommendations each passed a committee Tuesday.

The task force concluded that impact fees are a vital source of revenue for local governments to keep up with growth. It also found that local governments don't have enough ability to generate revenue to keep up with growth.

In the legislation, lawmakers address recommendations that impact fee waivers or reductions be provided to those who develop affordable housing options. The legislation will also mandate that impact fee collections and expenditures be accounted and reported.

Under an amendment adopted Tuesday over objections from the Florida Association of Counties, the House version mandates how credits would be provided in cases where a developer is already paying taxes or other fees on a particular project. The task force deadlocked on the issue of whether there should be a statewide standard for providing credits.

The House and Senate versions must be reconciled with one another and signed by the governor before they can become law.

- *Herald Staff Writer*

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