

N.B. / VI. F. 1



**AGENDA REPORT**  
**February 20, 2018**

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**SUBJECT:**

Supporting the Passage of SB 1714

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

District 3

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

The Board pass the attached resolution

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Florida Senator Michael Perry has introduced Senate Bill 1714. It would increase the levels of transparency and accountability of economic development agencies and tourism promotion agencies.

**CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:**

Provide a copy of the attached resolution to the offices of Senators Hukill and Mayfield.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- |   | Description |
|---|-------------|
| □ | Resolution  |

**REVIEWERS:**

Department	Reviewer
District 3	Tobia, John



February 21, 2018

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** John Tobia, Commissioner District 3

**RE:** Item VI.F.1., Resolution Supporting the Passage of Senate Bill 1714

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 20, 2018, denied resolution supporting the passage of SB1714.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK**

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds

**Resolution 18-\_\_\_\_\_**

**Supporting the Passage of Senate Bill 1714 During the 2018 Regular Session of the Florida Senate**

**WHEREAS**, Florida Sen. Michael Perry has introduced Senate Bill 1714 ("SB 1714") for consideration during the 2018 Regular Session; and

**WHEREAS**, a related bill, House Bill 3, was passed by the Florida House of Representatives on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Brevard County is honored to have a highly effective and responsible Senate delegation in Florida Senators Hukill and Mayfield; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 streamlines existing requirements for Economic Development Agencies and Tourism Promotion Agencies by treating public and private agencies more equally under the law; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 increases transparency by requiring such agencies to disclose and protect against conflicts-of-interest; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 would bring more sunshine to government by requiring these agencies to post videos of their meetings online and making certain contracts public record; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 would lead to more accountability by requiring a more robust annual report, including performance standards; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 further requires the Auditor General to conduct periodic audits of these agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 prevents abuses in the use of taxpayer funds by requiring that all Economic Development Agencies and Tourism Promotion Agencies be transparent in their travel expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1714 places reasonable limits on the use of taxpayer funds in paying exorbitant salaries.



## SUPPORT LETTER SB1714



January 29, 2018

Re: Opposition to SB1714

Senator Bill Montford, Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Tourism

Dear Senator Montford:

On behalf of the EDC and our 175 investor companies, **I urge you to oppose SB 1714, as passage of this bill will adversely impact economic development both in Brevard County and throughout Florida.** The resulting effect will be a decline in the state's competitiveness for jobs and capital investment.

SB 1714 attempts to shift the balance of oversight from the local level, where funds are invested, to the state level, from which no funds are received. This burdensome process will not only disrupt local and state efforts in economic development, it will become burdensome and costly to implement.

SB 1714 jeopardizes Florida's competitiveness by requiring local board meetings and strategic initiatives to be posted on the web; enabling our competitors to easily access this information and use it to their advantage.

SB 1714 disregards and puts at risk the valuable business acumen of private Board members who provide leadership, oversight and financial resources to the economic activities benefiting all of Florida.

The EDC believes in accountability. We provide annual financial statements and an executive report to Brevard County specific to the use of funds from our grant. We also provide an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor and reviewed by an Audit Review Committee and Executive Committee.

It is for these reasons, I ask for your support of economic development success in Florida through the opposition of SB1714.

Sincerely,

Lynda Weatherman  
President/CEO

SpaceCoastEDC.org • 6525 3<sup>rd</sup> Street • Suite 304 • Rockledge, FL 32955 • (321) 638.2000 • info@SpaceCoastEDC.org

**Alward, Elizabeth M**

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**From:** Kathryn Rudloff <[ksrudloff@businessvoicepac.com](mailto:ksrudloff@businessvoicepac.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 12:13 PM  
**To:** Commissioner, D2  
**Subject:** county resolution re sb 1714

Commissioner Barfield - -

I wanted to reach out, because I guess there is a resolution on the agenda to encourage senate to pass SB1714. While it passed the house, the companion bill in the Senate is assigned to three more committees where it has yet to be scheduled. It did not make it on the agenda in any of them this week, so that makes it all but certain this bill will not be coming up in the Senate this session. (only 2.5 weeks to go)

I spoke to Debbie Mayfield last Thursday, and she confirmed that Senate rules prohibit a bill that has not been through committee from being amended to another bill on the floor. She is confident that this bill will not make it through the Senate before Sine Die.

This is similar to what I had previously heard, and what other senators told me when I was in Tally on the 30th with the Join Chamber Fly-Up.

I just wanted you to have full facts, as I think it is clear this legislation is not going anywhere and a resolution from a county commission would have absolutely no effect on that either way.

... I'm sure you will hear from EDC folks why it is a bad bill, so I'll save my breathe there.

best,

Kathryn

Kathryn S. Rudloff  
Executive Director  
Business Voice Political Committee  
321-549-7852 office  
202-306-2331 cell  
[ksrudloff@businessvoicepac.com](mailto:ksrudloff@businessvoicepac.com)



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