Please Note: FOCUS will not publish reports next week due to the holidays. Your next weekly report will be published on January 2. Have a happy holiday!

**Affordable Housing**

**Florida** [HB 987](#) was prefilled on December 18 by Rep. Mike Gottlieb, D-Plantation, and will be introduced when the legislature convenes on January 14. This bill would create the Broward County Affordable Housing Improvement Act. It would authorize the county to levy a discretionary surtax on documents for the purpose of establishing and financing an affordable housing trust fund.

**Massachusetts** [HB 1315](#) is scheduled for a January 14 hearing in the Joint Housing Committee. This bill would authorize municipalities to adopt a local option tenant’s right to purchase in specified real estate transactions. Companion bill [SB 801](#) is also scheduled to be heard in this hearing. A similar bill, [HB 1769](#), passed the House Steering, Policy and Scheduling Committee on December 5.

**Emotional Support Animals**

**Florida** [SB 1084](#) was prefilled on December 13 by Sen. Manny Diaz, R-Hialeah Gardens, and will be introduced when the legislature convenes on January 14. This bill would prohibit discrimination in the rental of a dwelling to a person with an emotional support animal. It would also prohibit landlords from requiring individuals with emotional support animals from paying extra for such animals. Finally, the bill would prohibit the falsification of documents for emotional support animals and hold owners liable for damage caused by said animals.

**Session Overview**

**Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania** and **Wisconsin** are in regular session. The **District of Columbia** Council, **Puerto Rico** and the **U.S. Congress** are also in regular session.

**New Hampshire** and **New York** are in recess subject to the call of the chair.

The following states are scheduled to adjourn their 2019 sessions on the dates provided: **District of Columbia** Council, **Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania** and **Wisconsin** (December 31); **U.S. Congress** (January 3); **New York** (January 8) and **New Jersey** (January 14).

The following states are expected to convene their 2020 sessions on the dates provided: **Massachusetts** (January 1); **California, Idaho, Ohio** and the **U.S. Congress** (January 6); the **District of Columbia** Council, **Kentucky, Mississippi, Pennsylvania** and **Rhode Island** (January 7); **Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Vermont, Virginia** and **West Virginia**.
(January 8); Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas and Washington (January 13); Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin (January 14); and Hawaii (January 15).

Utah convened a special session on December 12 to consider a sweeping tax reform plan. According to The Salt Lake Tribune, the legislature adjourned early on December 13 after passing legislation lowering the state’s income tax but raising the sales tax on grocery sales, streaming media and motor fuels. Republican Gov. Gary Herbert has promised to sign the proposal.

The West Virginia House ended its special session on December 16 after passing a measure to extend the state’s tourism tax credit program, reports WDTV. Republican Gov. Jim Justice called the special session last month and tasked lawmakers with the tax credit bill and a measure to allow the state to pay off a road bond.

Connecticut adjourned its special session on December 19 following a unanimous vote to accept the settlement of a lawsuit in which the hospital industry claimed billions in damages from a taxing scheme that increased federal Medicaid reimbursements for the state without producing new revenue for hospitals, reports the CT Mirror. The legislature is expected to open with another special session in the new year.

Alaska Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy has 20 days from delivery, Sundays excepted, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. Delaware Democratic Gov. John Carney has 10 days, Sundays excepted, to act on legislation or it becomes law. Illinois Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker has 60 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. Maine Democratic Gov. Janet Mills has three days after the convening of the next meeting of the legislature to act on legislation presented on or after June 8 or it becomes law without signature. North Carolina Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper has 10 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. West Virginia Republican Gov. Jim Justice has five days to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature.

The following states are currently holding 2019 interim committee hearings: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California Assembly and Senate, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida House, Georgia House and Senate, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois Senate, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi House and Senate, Missouri House and Senate, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire House and Senate, New Mexico, New York Assembly and Senate, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma House and Senate, Rhode Island, South Carolina House and Senate, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas House, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

The following states are currently posting 2019 bill drafts, prefiles and interim studies: Alabama House, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida House and Senate, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas House, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri House and Senate, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma House and Senate, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

Special Elections

Texas House District 28 will hold a special election on January 28. House districts 100 and 148 will hold special elections on a date to be determined by the governor.