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## House clears affordable housing bill

### \$711 million measure headed to DeSantis

Jim Turner  
NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE – With approval Friday from the Florida House, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo's \$711 million effort to make housing more affordable for working Floridians is headed to Gov. Ron DeSantis.



Passidomo

The House voted 103-6 to pass a bill (SB 102) dubbed the "Live Local Act." The bill would provide incentives for private investment in affordable housing and encourage mixed-use development in struggling commercial areas, while barring local rent controls and pre-empting local government rules on zoning, density and building heights in certain circumstances.

In a statement, Passidomo, R-Naples, said the measure aims to end "affordable housing stereotypes" in creating options needed by the workforce. She also pointed to continued population growth and the demand for housing. "It is clear that the broad appeal of the free state of Florida has impacted our population and our housing needs," Passidomo said.

House sponsor Demi Busatta Cabrera, R-Coral Gables, said "innovative concepts" in the proposal will allow Flo-

ridians to live close to where they work.

"As our state continues to grow, we need to make sure that Floridians can live close to good jobs, schools and hospitals and other centers of their communities that fit within their household budgets, no matter their stage of life or income," Busatta Cabrera said.

The Senate unanimously passed the measure on March 8, meaning it is now ready to go to DeSantis.

See HOUSING, Page 2A



Allison Fisher, 20, is seen at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital, three months after her surgeon, Dr. Martin Martino, removed her 104-pound ovarian tumor. Pain and discomfort from her bulging stomach was initially diagnosed by other doctors as just a weight issue. Fisher is now on her way to a healthy life, with gastric bypass surgery next.

BOB SELF/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

## 'It feels amazing'

### Jacksonville woman begins new life after removal of 104-pound ovarian tumor

Beth Reese Cravey  
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Allison Fisher had just turned 20 and couldn't remember the last time she could look down and see her feet.

Or even bend over.

For several years, her abnormally large and bloated stomach, in fact her entire abdomen, had been in the way. The Jacksonville resident had long been overweight — reaching almost 500 pounds — but she knew there was

something more at play.

She knew her stomach "should not be bulging or be this hard," she said. Her longtime pediatrician had told her to just lose weight. She tried but struggled; meanwhile, the pain, discomfort and irregular menstrual cycle remained.

That negative experience with the only doctor she had ever seen — and the pandemic — stopped her from seeking another medical opinion. But in November 2022, after watching her mother battle and recover from cancer, she finally built up the strength to find out

what plagued her own body.

The answer from Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside Hospital? A 104-pound ovarian tumor.

### Surgeon used robotic technology

Fisher credits Dr. Heather Sharp, an Ascension St. Vincent's Primary Care physician, and Dr. Martin Martino, medical director of Ascension's gynecologic oncology and robotic

See TUMOR, Page 4A

## Florida House votes to scrap 'government permission slip' for guns

### Bill would sweep away concealed-carry process

James Call  
Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Gun rights advocates passed a major milestone Friday in their drive to get a permitless carry bill to Gov. Ron DeSantis for his signature.

The Florida House approved HB 543 on a mostly party line 76-32 vote, with one Republican, Rep. Vicki Lopez of Miami voting with 31 Democrats in opposition.

The measure, and its Senate companion, SB 150, does away with background checks, training, and fees for a concealed-carry weapons license. The Department of Agriculture has issued more than 2.66 million CWLs.

See GUNS, Page 2A



David Hogg, a survivor of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, speaks to supporters gathered outside the Florida Capitol for the March for Our Lives Rally as the crowd demanded stricter gun control laws on Thursday in Tallahassee.

ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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