

WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



Hello everyone! If you are reading this, thank you for taking the time out of your busy day to read this week's Tallahassee update. Being that this is just the second week of Florida's annual legislative session, there is still plenty of negotiating, discussing, and voting to be done in Tallahassee. Large legislative packages and items such as the State of Florida budget usually linger until the final few days of session, and even can force the session to be extended until these items are resolved. The Senate President and Florida House Speaker each have their own legislative priorities, as well as Governor DeSantis and the other members of the Florida Cabinet. The Florida Chamber is an organization based in Tallahassee that advocates in favor of business friendly legislation and against anti-business legislation. The Florida Chamber categorizes business related legislation into six categories which are the following:

- Talent Supply & Education - Improving Florida's talent pipeline for a better workforce.
- Innovation & Economic Development - Creating good jobs by diversifying Florida's economy.
- Infrastructure & Growth Leadership - Preparing Florida's infrastructure for smart growth and development.
- Business Climate & Competitiveness - Building the perfect climate for business.
- Civic & Governance Systems - Making government and civics more efficient and effective.
- Quality of Life & Quality Places - Championing Florida's quality of life.

The Florida Chamber's list of the bills they support and oppose will grow throughout the session as more bills are heard in committee meetings as they might make their way to their respective chamber floors. For this week's update, I am going to focus on legislation that the Florida Chamber will be publicly supporting this legislative session. I will be focusing on the first three categories this week due to the volume of bills that the Florida Chamber is publicly supporting.

Talent Supply & Education

Computer Science and Technology Instruction - SB 790 sponsored by Senator Ed Hooper and HB 365 sponsored by Rep. Fred Hawkins. Reinforces the importance of computer science and technology in all K-12 grade levels and allows qualifying computer science courses and certifications to count toward high school graduation requirement.

Student Assessments - SB 1048 sponsored by Senator Manny Diaz, Jr., and HB 1193 sponsored by Rep. Rene Plasencia. Replaces the end of the year Florida Statewide Assessment with a state standards-aligned progress monitoring testing system to better support student growth and improvement throughout the year.

Schools of Innovation - SB 766 sponsored by Senator Jason Brodeur and HB 961 sponsored by Rep. Nick DiCeglie. Expands and makes permanent a Chamber-backed program that increases public school instructional flexibility by allowing students to progress based on the mastery of concepts and skills.

Creating Quality Jobs by Diversifying Florida's Economy

Film, Television and Digital Media Project Rebate Program - SB 946 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and HB 217 sponsored by Rep. Dana Trabulsky. Creates the Targeted High Wage Production Program to broaden the film, television and digital media industry in Florida, create high wage jobs and encourage the production of family-friendly movies and television.

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Florida Tourism Marketing - SB 434 sponsored by Senator Ed Hooper and HB 489 sponsored by Rep. Linda Chaney. Reauthorizes Visit Florida, the state's tourism marketing arm, beyond October 1, 2023, to provide certainty and allow Visit Florida to long-term plan and hire top talent.

Rural Economic Development - SB 800 sponsored by Senator Ben Albritton and HB 685 sponsored by Rep. Brad Drake. Encourages development and job growth in opportunity zones and rural communities.

Crowdfunding - SB 1880 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and HB 779 Rep. Mike Giallombardo. Enhances capital formation opportunities for small businesses and provides investor protections.

Capital Investment Tax Credit - SB 1878 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and an accompanying HB has not been filed. Expands the Capital Investment Tax Credit program to include intellectual property as a form of capital investment.

Improving Florida's Infrastructure for Smart Growth and Development

School Concurrency - SB 706 sponsored by Senator Keith Perry and HB 851 sponsored by Rep. Stan McClain. Requires local governments that adopt school concurrency to equally apply such concurrency to develop across the district.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Fees - SB 918 sponsored by Senator Jeff Brandes and an accompanying HB has not been filed. Expands the charging network for electric vehicles through a grant program that derives funding from an annual electric vehicle flat fee.

Net Metering - SB 1024 sponsored by Senator Jennifer Bradley and HB 741 sponsored by Rep. Lawrence McClure. Ensures that all energy customers pay their fair share for the maintenance of Florida's reliable, efficient, and resilient energy grid.

If any of these bills are interesting or applicable to your interests, please make sure you sign up for bill tracking on either the Florida Senate or Florida House of Representatives website and follow along with the progress of those bills.

There is not much to update on these bills because many of these bills haven't been heard in a committee or haven't made it through the necessary committees to make it to the floor of their respective chamber.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to providing updates for the next few months on the Florida Legislature.