



WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE

Hello everyone! Being that it is still relatively early in this year's legislative session, the majority of the work happening in Tallahassee is taking place in the different committees and not yet in front of the full Senate and House of Representatives.

Last week I mentioned that the Florida Chamber is tracking legislation that relates to these six different pillars:

- 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.

This week, I will be providing an overview of the final three pillars, Business Climate & Competitiveness, Civic & Governance Systems, and Quality of Life & Quality Places. The below mentioned pieces of legislation are those that the Florida Chamber is actively supporting through this year's legislative session. Not all pieces of legislation have matching or similar accompanying legislation in the other chamber, but that does not mean that an accompanying piece of legislation is not on the horizon.

Business Climate & Competitiveness

Property Insurance - SB 186 sponsored by Senator Jeff Brandes / SB 1728 sponsored by Senator Jim Boyd and HB 1307 sponsored by Rep. Tommy Gregory. Increases the competitiveness in the property insurance marketplace by allowing for more takeouts from Citizens Property Insurance, the state's intended insurer of last resort.

Contingency Risk Multiplier - SB 1910 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and a HB has not yet been filed. Returns the use of the contingency fee multiplier to rare and unusual circumstances to address out of control attorney fees in commonplace insurance litigation.

Solicitation of Nonmedical Services - SB 1762 sponsored by Senator Jeff Brandes and HB 1537 sponsored by Rep. Clay Yarborough. Improves health safety by adding certain requirements and disclosures for advertisements that intend to solicit legal services from patients of medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

Small Business Saturday - SB 712 sponsored by Senator Annette Taddeo and HB 439 sponsored by Rep. Carlos Smith. Supports shopping at local small businesses by eliminating the sales tax on purchases the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Business Rent Tax - SB 1558 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and HB 6093 sponsored by Rep. Tommy Gregory. Eliminates the Florida-only business rent tax after July 1, 2026.

Corporate Income Tax - SB 1090 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and a HB has not yet been filed. Mitigates a \$1.2 billion corporate income tax increase by addressing key provisions of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in Florida's tax code.

Tax Exemptions - SB 952 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters and HB 1293 sponsored by Rep. Tommy Gregory. Improves the Florida R&D Tax Credit by increasing the amount of credits available and provides a documentary stamp tax exemption for federal emergency loans.



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Civic & Governance Systems

Requiring Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendments - SB 950 sponsored by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and HB 177 sponsored by Rep. Rick Roth. Protects Florida's foundational document by proposing an amendment to the Constitution that would increase the threshold of voter approval to further amend the State Constitution.

Amendments of the State Constitution by Citizen Initiative - SB 1412 sponsored by Senator Jason Brodeur and HB 1127 sponsored by Rep. Mike Beltran. Protects Florida's foundational document from special interests by proposing an amendment to the State Constitution that would limit citizens' initiatives to procedural subjects or the structure of the government.

Local Ordinances - SB 280 sponsored by Senator Travis Hutson and HB 403 sponsored by Rep. Mike Giallombardo. Prevents burdensome regulations by requiring local governments to adopt a business impact statement before the adoption of an ordinance and awards attorney fees if it is found by the courts that a local ordinance is arbitrary or unreasonable, or that the ordinance is prohibited by law.

Local Government - SB 620 sponsored by Senator Travis Hutson and HB 569 sponsored by Lawrence McClure. Allows businesses to recover damages from local governments if an ordinance or local governmental provision creates a significant loss in revenue.

Employee Organizations - SB 1458 sponsored by Senator Dennis Baxley and HB 1197 sponsored by Rep. Scott Plakon. Creates transparency and accountability in the collection of union dues for public sector employees.

Quality of Life & Quality Places

COVID-19 Liability Protections - Health Care - SB 610 sponsored by Senator Jeff Brandes / SB 7014 sponsored by Senator Danny Burgess and HHS1 sponsored by Rep. Colleen Burton. Extends the commonsense COVID-19 liability protections expiring for health care facilities to continue to protect our healthcare heroes as the pandemic continues.

Florida Kidcare Program Income Eligibility - SB 640 sponsored by Senator Ed Hooper / SB 1422 sponsored by Senator Keith Perry and HB 419 sponsored by Rep. Chip LaMarca / HB 1181 sponsored by Rep. Robin Bartleman. Increases the Florida Kidcare Program income eligibility threshold to reduce fiscal cliffs and facilitate a pathway for families towards economic self-sufficiency.

As I have mentioned before, these are more of an overview of legislation that has been submitted in at least one chamber of the Florida Legislature. All of these pieces of legislation are currently being supported by the Florida Chamber of Commerce for the above mentioned reasons. If any of these bills are important to you, please make sure to sign up for bill tracking online through www.flsenate.gov and www.myfloridahouse.gov. I will continue to provide updates on these bills as they move or don't move through their respective committees.

Thank you for reading and have a great week,

Justin Taylor
Public Policy Co-Chair