

## WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



If you have ever been inside the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce building, you will probably remember that in big letters it says “Promoting Business Growth and Success since 1925” proudly on the wall. If you have picked up a VACC flyer, attended the annual golf tournament, or even talked to a VACC member, you will definitely know that our local chamber works tirelessly toward their mission. As our local chamber works to support local businesses, the Florida Chamber of Commerce is an advocacy group located in Tallahassee, FL that has a similar mission of fighting for greater economic opportunity and job creation throughout Florida. As the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce fights for businesses in the Venice area, the Florida Chamber advocates for businesses all the way from Key West to Pensacola.

The Florida Chamber recently conducted a survey where a total of 610 respondents comprising of 249 Democrats, 256 Republicans, and 105 Others. The poll results were collected from January 14, 2021 to January 22, 2021 by live telephone interviews of likely voters. The margin of error was +/- 4 percent. The poll shows an overwhelming 74% support for COVID-19 liability protections for businesses that made efforts to follow governmental public health guidelines. The Florida Chamber uses its resources that local chambers do not have so they can provide data and statistics behind their business advocacy efforts whether it is at the federal, state, or municipal level. When analyzing statistics, I always recommend people look beyond the headline when understanding polling. What I truly mean here is to pay special attention to the number of people polled, the margin of error, and other key indicators provided within the poll. The Florida Chamber provided an exact breakdown of number of people polled based on political party, which is roughly proportional with political party affiliation in the State of Florida. Additionally, I believe this poll has strong validity because the results were overwhelmingly out of the margin of error. In polling, the margin of error decreases as the sample size increases. In this case, 74% support compared to 26% opposition is far outside of the margin of error, meaning that it would not provide any further clarification to poll more individuals, all things held equal. The article detailing the findings of the poll can be found at the end of this post.

CS/SB 72 - Civil Liabilities for Damages Relating to COVID-19, sponsored by Senator Brandis, and CS/HB 7 - Civil Liabilities for Damages Relating to COVID-19 sponsored by Representative McClure, have both successfully made it through their respective committees and floor votes, and should be expected to be signed into law by Governor DeSantis as it was a known legislative priority of his.

CS/HB 1507 - Workforce Related Programs and Services, sponsored by Representative Yarborough is aiming to create the "Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help" along with creating and revising provisions relating to workforce services including apprenticeship program grants, money-back guarantee program, local workforce development boards, the workforce opportunity portal, and workforce development metrics. CS/HB 1507 has successfully passed through the Secondary Education & Career Development Subcommittee, the Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee, and unanimously through the Appropriations Committee. The Senate companion of this bill, SB 98 - Workforce Related Programs and Services, has been filed by Senator Albritton. SB 98 has successfully passed through the Commerce and Tourism Committee unanimously, and is waiting for a hearing in the Education Committee. In summary, the bill analysis says it aims "to create a system-wide approach to improve the equity and access for all Floridians to have the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency."

It has been fun each week so far working on creating these posts. The positive comments I have received has been appreciated, and as I have previously stated, please email in any issues or bills that you would like me to consider for these posts. To the people that have submitted bills and areas of interest, I promise your submissions have not gone unheard if they haven't been mentioned yet in one of my posts.

Thanks for reading!

**Justin Taylor**

Public Policy Co-Chair

**Sources:**

[www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

[www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

<https://www.flchamber.com/statewide-poll-shows-strong-voter-support-for-covid-19-liability-protections/>