

www.FloridaChamber.com

Securing Florida's Future



"The Florida Chamber will soon release the actual grades lawmakers earned this session on key legislative priorities. We look forward to sharing those with Floridians" Syd Kitson, CHAIR, FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; CHAIRMAN & CEO, KITSON & PARTNERS

CLOSING FLORIDA'S TALENT GAP BY IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

At the Florida Chamber, we believe a quality education and workforce development system is Florida's best long-term economic development strategy. We need to work toward filling the gap created between Florida's current education system and the needs of Florida's employers by diversifying our economy and creating job opportunities for future generations.

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
K12 ASSESSMENTS SB 926 Sen. Anitere Flores HB 549 Rep. Manny Diaz and Rep. Randy Fine HB 773 Rep. Manny Diaz	Rep. Manny Diaz, Jr. R-Hialeah Gardens	Requires the Commissioner of Education to review nationally-recognized college entrance exams to determine alignment to Florida's standards. Additionally, it provides teachers more time to teach by moving the state assessment window to the last three weeks of school and requires easy-to-understand, parent-friendly score reports be utilized. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	HB 7069: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017



www.FloridaChamber.com

www.rioridachamber.co	****		ing i fortua 3 i uture
Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
READING HB 79 Rep. Gayle Harrell SB 468 Sen. Kelli Stargel HB 757 Rep. Byron Donalds	Sen. Kelli Stargel R-Lakeland	Requires professional development programs to include reading instruction and interventions for teachers in grades K-12 FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	HB 7069: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017
SCHOOL CHOICE SB 796 Sen. Aaron Bean HB 7101 Rep. Bob Cortes	Rep. Bob Cortes R-Altamonte Springs	Removes barriers that inhibit high-performing charter management organizations from replicating their success and expanding. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	HB 7069: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS HB 15 Rep. Jennifer Sullivan SB 902 Sen. David Simmons SB 1314 Sen. Denise Grimsley	Rep. Jennifer Sullivan R-Eustis	Expands eligibility for the Gardiner Scholarship Program and revises provisions relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 15 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott
DIGITAL LEARNING & VIRTUAL EDUCATION SB 692 Sen. Baxley SB 868 Sen. Baxley HB 833 Rep. Jennifer Sullivan	Son. Connis Baxley R-Lady Lake	Removes a requirement of previous enrollment in public school for eligibility to participate in virtual instruction. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	HB 7069: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017
COMPUTER CODING SB 104 Sen. Jeff Brandes No Identical House Bill Exists	Sen. Jeff Brandes R-St. Petersburg	Allows students to take computer coding courses in order to satisfy the high school foreign language course requirements. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS

2017 FLORIDA CHAMBER BUSINESS AGENDA Legislative Summary Report



www.FloridaChamber.com

Securing Florida's Future

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
STEM SB 274 Sen. Perry Thurston HB 403 Rep. Wengay Newton	Rep. Wengay Newton D-St. Petersburg	Creates the STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION SB 2 Sen. Bill Galvano SB 374 Sen. Dorothy Hukill HB 3 Rep. Bryan Avila	Sen. Bill Galvano R-Bradenton	Promotes on-time student graduation while responsibly increasing student financial aid and tuition assistance- including allowing students to use their Bright Futures Scholarship award for summer courses. Additionally, a world-class faculty and scholar program is established, which promotes the prominence of Florida's graduate schools and links education to job opportunities by providing internship opportunities to students. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	SB 374: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017
EMPOWERING FLORIDA'S BEST TEACHERS HB 7069 Rep. Michael Bileca SB 1410 Sen. Keith Perry SB 1552 Sen. David Simmons	Rep. Michael Bileca R-Miami	Expands eligibility criteria for the Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship Program, which will increase access, and establishes the Best and Brightest Principal Program in order to recognize principals who are able to recruit and retain excellent teachers. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	HB 7069: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017

DIVERSIFYING FLORIDA'S ECONOMY AND CREATING HIGH-WAGE JOBS

With two out of three new jobs in Florida created by small businesses specializing in areas from international trade to rural economic development, Florida needs to stay the course of diversifying our economy.

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HB 1415 Rep. Mel Ponder SB 936 Sen. Bill Montford	Rep. Mel Ponder R-Fort. Walton Beach	Improves economic development initiatives for rural areas of opportunity. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS



www.FloridaChamber.com

Securing Florida's Future

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
ECONOMIC PROGRAMS HB 7005 Careers and Competition Subcommittee No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Paul Renner R-Palm Coast	Eliminates the state's role in economic development by eliminating Enterprise Florida and two dozen economic development initiatives. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
VISIT FLORIDA HB 9 Rep. Paul Renner HB 5501 No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Paul Renner R-Palm Coast	Significant reforms to VISIT FLORIDA that hinder the organization's ability to do business. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	HB 5501: Pending Budget Passage on May 8, 2017

PREPARING FLORIDA'S INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SMARTER GROWTH

In 2016, more than 112 million visitors came to Florida and it's estimated that by 2030, more than six million new residents will call Florida home. We must prepare for this growth in smart and sustainable ways. Securing Florida's future will require changing the way we view issues such as water and energy supply, agriculture, land development, roads, bridges, ports and telecommunications.

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES SB 340 Sen. Jeff Brandes/ Sen. Bill Galvano HB 221 Rep. Chris Sprowls/ Rep. Michael Grant	Rep. Chris Sprowls R-Clearwater	Creates a statewide regulatory framework for the use of ridesharing companies that protects consumers and allows for innovation. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 221 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott
AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES HB 865 Rep. Jayer Williamson HB 725 Rep. Jason Brodeur SB 1066 Sen. Jeff Brandes SB 1118 Sen. George Gainer	Rep. Jason Brodeur R-Sanford	Improves the current regulatory framework by improving safety and fostering innovation. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 865 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott



www.FloridaChamber.com

Securing Florida's Future

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
ADVANCED WELL STIMULATION SB 442 Sen. Dana Young HB 451 Rep. Alexandra Miller Rep. Janet Cruz	Sen. Dana Young R-Tampa	Will decrease Florida's energy independence by banning safe and reliable exploration technologies. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
HIGH -SPEED PASSENGER RAIL SB 386 Sen. Debbie Mayfield HB 269 Rep. MaryLynn Magar/ Rep. Erin Grall	Sen. Debbie Mayfield R-Melbourne	Discourages private investment by creating an unnecessary set of state and local regulations in a system that is adequately regulated and preempted by federal law. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED

KEEPING FLORIDA'S BUSINESS CLIMATE COMPETITIVE

Florida is on the right track toward a more competitive and global economy and businesses are taking notice. Last year several large employers moved their headquarters or expanded to Florida because of Florida's attractive business climate. Instead of short-term solutions from well-funded trial lawyers with special interest agendas, the Florida Chamber is focused on creating long-term sustainable solutions so Florida can continue to attract, add and grow the top businesses in the nation.

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
WORKERS' COMP HB 7085 (formerly PCB IBS1) Insurance & Banking Subcommittee and Rep. Danny Burgess	Rep. Danny Burgess, Jr. R-Zephyrhills	Reforms portions of the workers' compensation system. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
WORKERS' COMP PUBLIC RECORDS HB 1107 Rep. Ben Albritton SB 1008 Sen. Keith Perry	Sen. Keith Perry	Protects private information on workers' comp claims from public record. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 1107 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott



www.FloridaChamber.com

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
LAWSUIT ABUSE REFORM/ADA DRIVE-BY LAWSUITS HB 727 Rep. Tom Leek SB 1398 Sen. Linda Stewart	Rep. Tom Leek R: Daytona Beach	Protects against ADA drive-by lawsuits by putting an inspection process and remediation plan in place. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 727 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott
ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS SB 1038 Sen. Dorothy Hukill HB 1421 Rep. Jamie Grant	Sen. Dorothy L. Hukill R. Port Orange	Improves access to homeownership by keeping the cost of property insurance low through the reduction of AOB abuse. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS SB 1218 Sen. Gary Farmer	Sen. Gary Farmer Dent Lauderdale	Uses licensure to address AOB abuses and fails to address the underlying problem of one-way attorney fees. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS SJR 76 Sen. Tom Lee HJR 21 Rep. Colleen Burton	Sen. Tom Lee R-Brandon	Proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution that continues a cap of 10 percent on assessments for non-homestead properties. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED Joint Resolution 21 will be submitted to the Secretary of State for inclusion on the 2018 ballot.
RELATING TO DAMAGES RECOVERABLE FOR THE COST OF MEDICAL OR HEALTH CARE SERVICES/ ACCURACY IN DAMAGES SB 146 Sen. Kathleen Passidomo HB 583 Rep. Jay Fant	Sen. Kathleen Passidomo R-Naples	Improves Florida's bottom-ten legal climate by requiring juries see the amount paid for medical services, not just the amount billed. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS



www.FloridaChamber.com

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SB 372 Sen. Kelli Stargel HB 671 Rep. Mike La Rosa	Rep. Mike LaRosa R-St. Cloud	Reduces reemployment assistance fraud by allowing the department to access drivers' license photos. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 671 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott
CORPORATE INCOME TAX SB 486 Sen. Dorothy Hukill No House Bill Exists	Sen. Dorothy L. Hukill R. Port Orange	Increases the exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 against the state's Corporate Income Tax. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
BUSINESS RENT TAX - TAX ON TAX SB 704 Sen. Rene Garcia HB 463 Rep. Holly Raschein	Sen. Rene Garcia R-Hialeah	Exempts property taxes from the business rent tax. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
SB 484 Sen. Dorothy Hukill No House Bill Exists	Sen. Dorothy L. Hukill R. Port Orange	Reduces the business rent tax by 1 percent. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS Elements of SB 484 are contained in HB 7109.
TAX PACKAGE HB 7109 Rep. Jim Boyd No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Jim Beyd R-Bradenton	The bill reduces the business rent tax, increases the R&D Tax Credit and provides for sales tax holidays. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	HB 7109: Pending Tax Cut Package Passage on May 8, 2017
RELATING TO CRAFT DISTILLERIES SB 166 Sen. Greg Steube HB 141 Rep. Cyndi Stevenson	Rep. Cyndi Stevenson R-St. Augustine	Levels the playing field for craft distilleries. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 141 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott



www.FloridaChamber.com

Pill Nama	50000°	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	Quitagna
Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
BACKGROUND SCREENING HB 31 Rep. Shevrin Jones No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Shevrin Jones D-West Park	Creates restrictions on hiring practices. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
MINIMUM WAGE SB 160 Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez HB 945 Rep. Al Jacuet	Rep. Al Jacquet D-West Palm Beach	Creates an additional mandate on job creators. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
RELATING TO PREJUDGEMENT INTEREST SB 334 Sen. Greg Steube HB 469 Rep. Shawn Harrison	Sen. Greg Steube R-Sarasota	Increases the cost of personal injury lawsuits by requiring interest from the date of loss. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
RELATING TO FLORIDA HURRICANE CATASTROPHE FUND HB 597 Rep. David Santiago SB 1772 Sen. Tom Lee	Sen. Tom Lee R-Brandon	Increases the risk of "hurricane taxes" by putting additional risk on the state's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX CREDIT SB 378 Sen. Anitere Flores	Sen. Anitere Flores R-Miami	Eliminates a tax exemption that supports jobs in the insurance industry. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED



www.FloridaChamber.com

Securing Florida's Future

MAKING FLORIDA GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

At the Florida Chamber, we believe efficient and transparent government systems allow businesses to grow in a globally competitive economy. As our state grows, taxpayers deserve an efficient government that provides the highest return to taxpayers with the lowest burden on job creators.

return to taxpayers with the	ic lowest builden	on job creators.	
Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM SB 428 Sen. Jeff Brandes HB 353 Rep. Jason Fischer/ Rep. Michael Grant	Rep. Michael Grant Raport Charlotte	Moves any new local government retirement plan to the more sustainable market based plans instead of the state's underfunded pension system. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
RELATING TO LABOR ORGANIZATIONS HB 11 Rep. Scott Plakon SB 1292 Sen. Dennis Baxley	Rep. Scott Plakon R-Longwood	Will add transparency into all levels of collective bargaining and lobbying by giving the public a clearer understanding of how many people the union represents. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREEMPTION HB 17 Rep. Randy Fine No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Randy Fine R-Palm Bay	Prohibits local government from placing any new regulations on local businesses. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
JUDICIAL TERM LIMITS HB 1 Rep. Jennifer Sullivan No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Jennifer Sullivan R-Eustis	Decreases the efficacy of the judicial branch by discouraging good applicants from applying and increased turnover. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
RELATING TO UTILITIES HB 687 Rep. Mike La Rosa SB 596 Sen. Travis Hutson	Rep. Mike Lafosa R-St. Cloud	Allows the placement of small devices on certain public utility poles, leading to greater data connectivity and better service. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED HB 687 Awaiting Action by Governor Scott
RELATING TO VACATION RENTALS SB 188 Sen. Greg Steube HB 425 Rep. Mike La Rosa	Sen. Greg Seu. Greg Steube R-Sarasota	Protects the private property rights of owners by establishing a statewide framework for the use of short term vacation rentals. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS



www.FloridaChamber.com

Securing Florida's Future

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
FIREARMS SB 610 Sen. Greg Steube HB 819 Rep. Cord Byrd	sen. Greg Steube R-Sarasota	Creates significant liability for businesses who exercise their property right to exclude firearms on their premises. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS SB 162 Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez HB 93 Rep. David Richardson	Rep. David Richardson D-Miami Beach	Prohibit businesses from using plastic bags, even in the storage of perishable foods. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED

CHAMPIONING FLORIDA'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Florida's unique quality of life is one reason Florida is consistently ranked as an attractive place to visit, live, learn, play and work. Retaining and attracting the right employers who fuel jobs and great communities are key to Florida's long-term success. Families, students and businesses alike cause us to examine the policies that can either strengthen or harm Florida's future job growth.

Bill Name	Pro-Biz /No-Biz	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
GAMBLING SB 8 Sen. Bill Galvano	Sen. Bill Galvano R-Bradenton	Calls for a vast expansion of slot machines and gambling. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED
GAMBLING HB 7037 Rep. Mike LaRosa	Rep. Mike Laftosa R-St. Cloud	Ratifies and approves a 2017 Compact between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida, and authorizes the Governor to execute the 2017 Compact. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
HEALTH CARE ACCESS HB 7011 Rep. Cary Pigman No Senate Bill Exists	Rep. Cary Pigman R-Sebring	Authorizes Florida-licensed health care professionals to use telehealth and articulates a standard of care. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS
PATIENT SAFETY CULTURE SURVEY HB 375 Rep. Michael Grant SB 1434 Sen. Keith Perry	Rep. Michael Grant R-Port Charlotte	Requires health care facilities to assess patient safety culture and publish the resulting survey data as a condition of licensure. This legislation has the potential for abuse and could create unintended consequences, such as this process being used as a bargaining chip or leverage point in employer-employee contractual relationships. FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED	DEFEATED