













Legislative Summary

IMPROVING FLORIDA'S TALENT PIPELINE FOR A BETTER WORKFORCE













Florida wins when we put students ahead of special interests. A qualified workforce remains a top concern for job creators across Florida. Therefore, the Florida Chamber continues to work closely with education, local business and workforce leaders to champion the best possible education and close Florida's talent gap.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	K-12 EDUCATION	 SB 7070: PCB Bill by Education	SB 7070 establishes and modifies K-12 education programs to support students and families, public schools, and teachers. The bill expands educational choice and opportunity for low income families, supports public schools by expanding student support services and reducing regulations, and benefits teachers by removing teacher certification barriers and providing incentive awards.	 PASSED SB 7070 Passed April 30, 2019
	ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	 SB 770: Sen. Hutson HB 661: Rep. Duggan	Allows Florida's high school educational system the ability to promote an alternate graduation path through a Career and Technical diploma.	 PASSED Added to HB 7071 and Passed May 2, 2019
	MASTERY- BASED EDUCATION	 SB 226: Sen. Brandes HB 401: Rep. DiCeglie	Allows a diversified pathway for students by providing an educational environment that allows students to progress to higher levels of learning based upon the mastery of concepts and skills.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	SCHOOL CHOICE	 HB 7075: Education Committee	Establishes the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (FESP) to provide parents of kindergarten and public school students a scholarship to attend an eligible private school. The scholarship award for eligible students is based upon the student's grade level and is calculated as 97 percent of the district average per student funding for either grades K-3, 4-8, or 9-12. The FESP is funded from general revenue through the Florida Education Finance Program.	 PASSED Added to SB 7070 and Passed April 30, 2019

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CREATING QUALITY JOBS BY DIVERSIFYING FLORIDA'S ECONOMY

Growing and diversifying Florida's economy is essential to creating jobs and opportunities for all Floridians. At the Florida Chamber, we continue to believe that building on Florida's foundational industries - tourism, agriculture and construction - and investing in innovative next generation sectors, Florida can continue to attract a world class workforce and lead the way in job creation.













Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	FLORIDA TOURISM MARKETING	 SB 178: Sen. Gruters HB 6031: Rep. Ponder	Reauthorizes VISIT FLORIDA, Florida's tourism marketing organization, which is scheduled to be eliminated on October 1, 2019 without legislative action.	 PASSED Included in SB 2502 and Passed May 4, 2019
	REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	 SB 596: Sen. Albritton HB 671: Rep. Clemons	Encourages economic development in underserved rural communities by focusing on workforce training and infrastructure, including improving access to private broadband internet.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY	 SB 526: Sen. Gruters HB 1401: Rep. Buchanan	Creates a new grant program for family friendly TV productions, movies and digital media that are produced in Florida using Florida talent.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT	 SB 750: Sen. Gruters	Encourages high wage jobs and capital investments by increasing the amount of tax credits available for qualified research and development activities in Florida.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2019 FLORIDA CHAMBER BUSINESS AGENDA Legislative Summary












PREPARING FLORIDA'S INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SMART GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Florida Chamber Foundation research shows that about 900 people move to Florida each day, and by 2030, Florida's population will reach 26 million. The Florida Chamber is focused on creating long-term investments in Florida's energy, water, transportation, telecommunications, agriculture, and other infrastructure. Recognizing the need for new and disruptive technologies, the Florida Chamber supports making Florida the global epicenter of all things autonomous, and will continue to support targeted funding for smart infrastructure projects - positioning Florida for even smarter growth.







Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES	 SB 932: Sen. Brandes HB 311: Rep. Fischer	Modernizes the autonomous vehicle regulatory structure to make Florida the most autonomous-friendly state in the union.	 PASSED HB 311 Passed May 1, 2019
	TRANSPORTATION	 SB 7068: Infrastructure and Security HB 7113: Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee and Rep. Trumbull	Prepares Florida's transportation system for millions of new visitors, residents, and goods expected to be on our streets in the coming decades, and mirrors many of the recommendations of the Florida Chamber's Infrastructure Coalition recommendations.	 PASSED SB 7068 Passed May 1, 2019
	PUBLIC UTILITY STORM PROTECTION PLANS TRUST FUND	 SB 796: Sen. Gruters HB 797: Rep. Fine	Hardens our electrical grid to prepare Florida for future hurricanes and other disasters.	 PASSED SB 796 Passed May 2, 2019
	WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS	 SB 1022: Sen. Albritton HB 973: Rep. Payne	Implements many Florida Chamber-backed recommendations that will help improve Florida's water quality through smart wastewater treatment policies.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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	IMPACT FEES	 SB 144: Sen. Gruters HB 207: Rep. Donalds	Provides that a local government cannot charge a development an impact fee until the impact actually occurs.	 PASSED HB 207 Passed April 4, 2019
	COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	 SB 1000: Sen. Hutson HB 693: Rep. Fischer	Reduces barriers for the deployment of small cell devices.	 PASSED HB 207 Passed May 1, 2019
	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING	 SB 1730: Sen. Lee HB 7103: Commerce Committee and Rep. Fischer	Streamlines the permitting process by setting reasonable deadlines and forbids the government from controlling housing unit prices.	 PASSED HB 7103 Passed May 3, 2019

BUILDING THE PERFECT CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS



















As one of the nation's top business climates, Florida needs to remain focused on being globally competitive. While Florida boasts a growing economy and job creation numbers that outpace the national average, Florida also bears the title as the second worst "Judicial Hellhole" in the nation. To ensure Florida is on the right path toward becoming the number one business climate by 2030, we will continue to work to create world-class opportunities for companies, entrepreneurs, employees and students.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	SALES TAX MODERNIZATION	 SB 1112: Sen. Gruters	Modernizes Florida's tax code and levels the playing field for main street businesses by allowing for the collection of sales tax from internet retailers and reduces the business rent tax with the increased revenue.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	ACCURACY IN DAMAGES	 SB 80: Sen. Stargel HB 17: Rep. Leek SB 1320: Sen. Stargel	Improves Florida's bottom five legal climate by requiring a jury to know the amount generally accepted for a health care service instead of what was billed (known as accuracy in damages).	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
















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	ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS REFORM	 SB 122: Sen. Broxson HB 7065: Rep. Rommel	Eliminates assignment of benefits fraud by clarifying that attorney fees are not assignable in an insurance claim. These attorney fees are the carrot driving bad behavior by a handful of scrupulous vendors and attorneys, which is driving up homeowners' insurance rates for everyone.	 PASSED HB 7065 Passed April 24, 2019
	MEDICAL MALPRACTICE	 HB 7077: Rep. Gregory	Improves Florida's bottom five legal climate and addresses Florida's growing doctor shortage by capping noneconomic damages for medical malpractice lawsuits which will lower costs.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS	 SB 440: Sen. Rouson HB 283: Rep. Antone	Clarifies that for discrimination complaints before the Florida Commission on Human Relations, the statute of limitations is one year for an aggrieved party to file a claim regardless of whether the Commission made a reasonable cause determination within 180 days. This fixes a 2000 Florida Supreme Court decision, Joshua v. City of Gainesville.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTALITY DOCTRINE	 SB 862: Sen. Stargel HB 355: Rep. Leek	Clarifies that the dangerous instrumentality doctrine, which has been created by the Florida courts, does not apply to specialty equipment meeting certain insurance requirements.	 PASSED SB 862 Passed April 30, 2019
	BUSINESS RENT TAX	 SB 1642: Sen. Gainer	Continues the reduction of the Florida-only business rent tax.	 PASSED Included in HB 7123 and Passed May 3, 2019
	FAIR SETTLEMENT ACT	 SB 1464: Sen. Brandes HB 751: Rep. Andrade	Improves Florida's bottom five legal climate by requiring a written notice of loss to the insurer and an appropriate time for the insurer to investigate and pay the claim prior to a bad faith claim being filed..	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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	PREEMPTION OF CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT	 SB 432: Sen. Gruters HB 847: Rep. Rommel	Prohibits local governments from passing regulations on businesses that interfere with conditions of employment, including wages, scheduling, benefits, and background screening.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	THIRD PARTY AGREEMENTS IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS	 SB 794: Sen. Baxley HB 1059: Rep. Hill	Requires disclosure if a third party has a right to receive compensation on the proceeds of any civil action.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	PIP REPEAL WITH BAD FAITH	 SB 896: Sen. Brandes	Repeals Florida's no-fault automobile system and sets minimums for Bodily Injury Protection while fixing potential lawsuit abuse.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	WORKERS' COMPENSATION	 SB 1636: Sen. Perry	Fixes three court decisions in 2016 that resulted in a 14.5 percent workers' comp rate increase to bring stability to the workers' comp system in the form of lower rates.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	TAXATION	 HB 7123: Rep. Avila	The House tax package includes a reduction in the business rent tax and sales tax holidays for back-to-school and hurricane preparedness.	 PASSED HB 7123 Passed May 3, 2019
	TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT IMPLEMENTATION /CIT PIGGYBACK	 SB 576: Finance and Tax Committee and Sen. Perry HB 7127: Ways and Means Committee and Rep. Avila	Subtracts Global Intangible Low-Tax Income (GILTI) from FL Corporate Income Tax. Piggybacks other changes in the Internal Revenue Code. Provides for refund and/or rate reduction mechanisms after certain thresholds are met.	 PASSED HB 7127 Passed May 2, 2019

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	EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES	 SB 692: Sen. Cruz HB 393: Rep. Joseph	<p>Interferes with the employer-employee relationship by mandating job creators provide up to six months of paid family leave for the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a new child and creates a new cause of action.</p>	 DEFEATED
	DISCRIMINATION IN LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT	 SB 474: Sen. Cruz HB 1355: Rep. Joseph	<p>Interferes in employment practices by prohibiting a job creator from requesting or relying on previous wage or salary information to interview, hire, promote or employ an employee.</p>	 DEFEATED
	MINIMUM WAGE	 SB 1352: Sen. Rodriguez HB 517: Rep. Jacquet	<p>Incrementally increases the state minimum wage to over \$15 an hour plus inflation to the detriment of small businesses and certain employees.</p>	 DEFEATED
	BACKGROUND SCREENING (BAN THE BOX)	 SB 946: Sen. Powell HB 945: Rep. Omphroy	<p>Prohibits job creators from requesting information about an applicant's criminal history prior to the initial interview.</p>	 DEFEATED
	CORPORATE INCOME TAX COMBINED REPORTING AND SALES TAX ON SERVICES	 SB 1692: Sen. Rodriguez HB 1377: Rep. Mercado	<p>Mandates an affiliated group of corporations with common ownership file a combined water's edge corporate income tax return, which may include income that may not be attributable to Florida. HB 1377 additionally creates a tax on services.</p>	 DEFEATED

2019 FLORIDA CHAMBER BUSINESS AGENDA Legislative Summary





















MAKING FLORIDA GOVERNMENT AND CIVICS MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE

As Florida prepares for 26 million residents by 2030, it is crucial that our government systems remain transparent, efficient, aligned and functional for taxpayers. The Florida Chamber continues to fight against burdensome regulations and out-of-state special interests working to buy their way into Florida's Constitution. The Florida Chamber will continue to fight for an efficient government that provides the highest return to taxpayers with the lowest burden on job creators and residents.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	STATE FUNDS	 SB 70: Sen. Mayfield HB 1103: Rep. Silvers	Protects the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and makes housing more attainable for Florida families and workforce.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	COLLECTIVE BARGAINING	 HB 13: Rep. Williamson	Removes the obligation of the state to compensate third parties for employee organization activities.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	PREEMPTION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS ORGANIZATIONS	 SB 588: Sen. Hutson HB 603: Rep. Fine	Brings certainty and predictability to local regulations involving over-the-counter cosmetic and other similar consumer products.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	ATTORNEY FEES FOR IMPROPER LOCAL ACTIONS	 SB 1140: Sen. Hutson HB 829: Civil Justice Subcommittee	Brings accountability to local government overreach by providing a mechanism for recovering costs due to improper local actions.	 PASSED HB 829 Passed May 2, 2019
	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS	 HB 5: Rep. Jamie Grant	Protects Florida's Constitution by bringing transparency to the signature gathering process and financial impact of the proposed amendment.	 PASSED HB 5 Passed May 3, 2019











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	COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL OF SERVICES	 SB 698: Sen. Stewart	Repeals a Chamber-backed priority that brings accountability and transparency to bargaining unit negotiations	 DEFEATED
	SALE OF SUNSCREEN	 SB 708: Sen. Stewart	Bans the sale and possession of FDA-approved sunscreen outside of very narrow provisions.	 DEFEATED
	PREEMPTION OF RECYCLABLE AND POLYSTYRENE MATERIALS	 SB 88: Sen. Stewart	Creates a patchwork of regulatory environment for the packaging of food and other goods.	 DEFEATED
	VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY	 SB 164: Sen. Bean HB 89: Rep. Altman	Mandates a flawed E-Verify system to every employer in the state, creating more unneeded regulations without commiserate benefit.	 DEFEATED
	PROHIBITION OF PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND STRAWS	 SB 502: Sen. Rader	Removes a statewide standard for what types of food service products can be banned at the local level.	 DEFEATED
	DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS	 SB 694: Sen. Rodriguez	Authorizing certain municipalities to establish pilot programs to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags; providing for the adoption and expiration of a certain required ordinance, etc.	 DEFEATED

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CHAMPIONING FLORIDA'S QUALITY OF LIFE

Protecting Florida's unique quality of life is essential to maintaining Florida's family-friendly brand. With an increasing population, and visitors for all over the world, it is important that we focus on creating a healthy and sustainable place for Florida's residents and visitors to work, live, play and learn. This means focusing on stopping the expansion of Law Vegas-style casino gambling, breaking the cycle of generational poverty, and embracing cost-saving, value driven adaptations to Florida's healthcare system.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	TELEHEALTH	 HB 23: Rep. Yarbrough	Telehealth is the remote provision of health care services through the use of technology. HB 23 defines telehealth and authorizes its use in this state.	 PASSED HB 23 Passed April 29, 2019
	ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES	 SB 972: Sen. Brandes HB 821: Rep. Pigman	Revises definition of term "health care provider" to include certain advanced practice registered nurses; revises application requirements for advanced practice registered nurses; authorizes such nurses to sign certain documents that require physician's signature; provides for registration of such nurses to engage in independent practice & specifies requirements therefor.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS PROGRAMS	 SB 524: Sen. Diaz, Jr. HB 1113: Rep. Renner	Creates the Patient Savings Act, which allows health insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to create a shared savings incentive program that may provide financial incentives to insureds with individual policies or contracts when they obtain shoppable health care services offered by their health insurer or HMO through their shared savings list.	 PASSED HB 1113 Passed May 3, 2019
NEUTRAL	PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY MEASURES	 SB 1194: Sen. Broxson HB 319: Rep. Grant	Requires hospitals to provide specified information & data relating to patient safety & quality measures to patient under certain circumstances or to any person upon request; requires hospitals & ambulatory surgical centers to submit patient safety culture survey data to AHCA.	DID NOT PASS