



What Passed, What Didn't and What it Means

Legislature Passes 31 of 36 Florida Chamber-Backed Pro-Jobs Measures




While lawmakers were busy filing more than 2,100 bills with thousands of amendments and passing more than 230 bills during the 2011 Legislative Session, the Florida Chamber was making sure Floridians saw no new taxes, no new union mandates and no increased litigation. In good news for Florida's economy, the Legislature listened to our pro-jobs priorities and made them priorities for the state.










“The Florida Chamber thanks our members, local chambers of commerce, association partners, Governor Rick Scott, and the legislative leadership for making this session a success for Florida’s business climate and job creation.”

– ALLAN BENSE









Florida Chamber Board of Directors Chairman
Former Florida Speaker of the House of Representatives
Partner, GAC Contractors

Bill Name	Pro-Biz or No-Biz	Summary of Bill and What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
TALENT AND EDUCATION PILLAR			
PERFORMANCE PAY FOR TEACHERS SB 736 (Sen. Wise) (Rep. Fresen)		Improves our state education system by rewarding teachers for excellence in the classroom by establishing a merit-based pay system and eliminating tenure for new teachers. Against the constant objection of the teacher's union, restores respect and paves way for higher salaries for teachers. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED Signed by governor on March 24, 2011
EXPAND VIRTUAL LEARNING HB 7197 (Rep. Stargel) (Sen. Flores)		Prepares tomorrow's workforce and helps modernize Florida's education system by expanding access to online courses for all students. At least one online course will now be required. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED Awaiting governor's signature
CHARTER SCHOOLS SB 1546 (Sen. Thrasher) (Rep. Stargel)		Improves education innovation, competition and choice by increasing access to great charter schools. FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED	PASSED Awaiting governor's signature








Saturday, May 7, 2011 • Florida House Sine Die: 2:08 a.m.; Florida Senate Sine Die: 3:35 a.m.

<p>EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT</p> <p>SB 1550 (Sen. Negron) HB 1225 (Rep. Brandes)</p>		<p>Empowers parents with choices and fosters a K-20 system by building a career path for college access and affordability, and saves taxpayers 15 percent for every public school student who chooses an ESA.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</p> <p>DID NOT PASS</p> <p>No action taken by legislature</p>
<p>INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PILLAR</p>			
<p>STREAMLINING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>SB 2156 (Sen. Gaetz)</p>		<p>In order to make Florida more competitive, this bill creates a more effective and efficient method for job creation by streamlining Florida's economic development processes. This legislation reduces the amount of time allowed for the state to approve economic development incentives and reduces the size of government by merging and restructuring several state agencies.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>DUPLICATIVE SEAPORT SECURITY</p> <p>HB 283 (Rep. Young) (Sen. Latvala)</p>		<p>Removes the duplicative and burdensome layer of state regulations that mirror federal regulations and have put Florida's ports at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states and surrounding countries.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>SPACEFLIGHT LIABILITY</p> <p>SB 652 (Sen. Simmons) (Rep. Goodson)</p>		<p>In an effort to grow space business and to attract companies to the space coast, this bill creates a more predictable and fair legal environment in which to grow jobs and make investments.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>SPACE INDUSTRY INCENTIVES</p> <p>SB 1224 (Sen. Altman) HB 873 (Rep. Crisafulli)</p>		<p>Encourages economic growth in Florida's space flight industry, and helps retain high-skill, high-wage space-related jobs like scientists and engineers.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Language included in conforming bill (HB 143)</p>
<p>RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES</p> <p>SB 942 (Sen. Bogdanoff) HB 671 (Rep. Workman)</p>		<p>Adds a \$9 million economic development tool for Florida to help grow high-wage research and development activities and jobs.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Language included in conforming bill (HB 143)</p>
<p>TELECOMMUNICATIONS MODERNIZATION</p> <p>HB 1231 (Rep. Horner) (Sen. Simmons)</p>		<p>Increases access, innovation, and competition in telecommunications, and paves way for rural economic development. Modernizes Florida's antiquated telecommunications laws and removes barriers to new jobs and economic development.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Signed by governor on May 5, 2011</p>







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<p>FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS</p> <p>House Memorial 189 (Rep. Ray)</p>		<p>A House memorial urging Congress to approve free trade agreements between the United States and Colombia, Panama and South Korea. The Florida Chamber urges Congress to pass these agreements this summer.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p>
<p>TRADE AND LOGISTICS: QUALIFIED TARGETED INDUSTRIES STATUS</p> <p>HB 879 (Rep. Eisnagle) (Sen. Benacquisto)</p>		<p>Provides targeted incentives to businesses engaged in domestic and international trade, and makes trade and logistics a priority sector eligible for QTI incentives.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>OIL SPILL RECOVERY PACKAGE</p> <p>SB 248 (Sen. Gaetz) HB 1309 (Rep. Coley)</p>		<p>Provides economic development relief incentives to Panhandle businesses impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Language included in conforming bill (SB 2156)</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH LEADERSHIP PILLAR</p>			
<p>PERMITTING AND REGULATORY REFORM</p> <p>HB 993 (Rep. Roberson) (Sen. Bennett)</p>		<p>Streamlines Florida's environmental permitting process to improve job creation and economic development while providing safeguards for our environment.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>GROWTH MANAGEMENT</p> <p>HB 7207 (Rep. Aubuchon) SB 1122 (Sen. Bennett) HB 7129 (Rep. Workman)</p>		<p>Modernizes Florida's growth management laws, empowers local governments to determine what growth is best for their community, and adds predictability to businesses considering expanding in Florida.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>GROWTH MANAGEMENT: GLITCH BILL</p> <p>HB 7001 (Rep. Workman) (Sen. Bennett)</p>		<p>Resolves a judge's 2010 court ruling that threw out SB 360 – a growth management bill that was passed by the 2009 Florida Legislature that addressed road and school requirements for new communities.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Signed by governor on April 27, 2011</p>
<p>RURAL LAND STEWARDSHIP</p> <p>HB 7207 (Rep. Aubuchon) SB 1440 (Sen. Hays) HB 945 (Rep. Young)</p>		<p>Streamlines the Rural Land Stewardship Area designation process by giving local governments more control, and removes bureaucratic barriers to making smart development decisions.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>SECTOR PLANS</p> <p>HB 7207 (Rep. Aubuchon) SB 1904 (Sen. Altman) HB 987 (Rep. Crisafulli)</p>		<p>Revises the role population projections play in the optional sector planning process and provide additional guidelines for implementation of the process.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>








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<p>NUMERIC NUTRIENT STANDARDS</p> <p>SB 1490 (Sen. Evers) HB 239 (Rep. Williams)</p>		<p>Prohibits local governments from implementing the EPA's Florida-only federal water quality standards and helps Florida in its legal challenge against the federal government's overreaching and costly Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) rule.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</p> <p>DID NOT PASS</p> <p>House: Passed 90-27 Senate: No Action Taken</p>
BUSINESS CLIMATE AND COMPETITIVENESS PILLAR			
<p>CORPORATE INCOME TAX</p> <p>HB 7185 (Rep. Precourt) (Sen. Bogdanoff)</p>		<p>The Florida Chamber proposal eliminates Corporate Income Taxes on nearly half of Florida corporations.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM: CRASHWORTHINESS</p> <p>SB 142 (Sen. Richter) (Rep. O'Toole)</p>		<p>Against the objection of plaintiff trial lawyers, jurors will now hear more information and be allowed to apportion fault based on who is actually at fault in automobile accidents versus only those being sued.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM: EXPERT WITNESS</p> <p>SB 822 (Sen. Bogdanoff) HB 391 (Rep. Metz)</p>		<p>Improves Florida's legal climate by moving away from "junk science" and outdated standards to the same high standard as the Federal court. This bill moves Florida from the outdated Fry standard to the better Daubert standard.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</p> <p>DID NOT PASS</p> <p>House: Passed 83-33 Senate: No Action Taken</p>
<p>ENDING FRIVOLOUS THIRD PARTY LAWSUITS</p> <p>SB 1592 (Sen. Thrasher) HB 1187 (Rep. Baxley)</p>		<p>Clarifies the proof necessary to demonstrate bad faith, allows the insured to bring action for bad faith, and adds protection for small businesses by imposing obligations on insurers to offer policy limits even when the claimant makes no written offer to settle.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</p> <p>DID NOT PASS</p> <p>No action taken by legislature</p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM: SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY</p> <p>HB 395 (Rep. O'Toole) (Sen. Thrasher)</p>		<p>Ensures that certain teaching hospitals are protected by sovereign immunity.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>LEGAL REFORM: MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REFORM</p> <p>HB 479 (Rep. Horner) (Sen. Hays)</p>		<p>Will make Florida a more predictable place for doctors to practice medicine and will ultimately help lower healthcare costs.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>

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<p>LEGAL REFORM: PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION (PIP) SB 1694 (Sen. Richter) HB 967 (Rep. Horner)</p>		<p>Puts in place a fee schedule for attorney fees, and reduces fraud and abuse in Florida's PIP system.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS</p> <p>No action taken by legislature</p>
<p>PAYCHECK PROTECTION SB 830 (Sen. Thrasher) HB 1021 (Rep. Dorworth)</p>		<p>Allows government union workers the ability to opt-out of having their dues used for political purposes, and prohibits government unions from collecting dues, using taxpayer-funded payroll systems.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS</p> <p>House: Passed 73-40 Senate: No Action Taken</p>
<p>UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION MODERNIZATION HB 7005 (Rep. Holder) (Sen. Detert)</p>		<p>Ties unemployment benefits to the state's unemployment rate and reduces, from 26 to 23, the number of weeks unemployed workers may receive benefits.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>PROPERTY INSURANCE REFORM SB 408 (Sen. Richter) (Rep. Wood)</p>		<p>Increases competition and creates a more predictable property insurance market by addressing primary cost-drivers like sinkhole claims within Florida's property insurance market, and making adjustments to claims filing periods.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>COMMERCIAL PROPERTY INSURANCE REFORM HB 99 (Rep. Drake) (Sen. Oelrich)</p>		<p>Will reduce regulatory requirements for insurance companies offering commercial motor vehicle insurance policies.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED</p> <p>Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>STREAMLINED SALES TAX SB 1548 (Sen. Lynn) HB 455 (Rep. Rehwinkel Vasilinda)</p>		<p>Puts Florida retailers on a level playing field by requiring online-only retailers to collect or remit state sales tax.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS: DID NOT PASS</p> <p>No action taken by legislature</p>

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<p>ELECTIVE SINGLE SALES FACTOR HB 7203 (Rep. Precourt)</p>		<p>Encourages job creation in Florida by allowing corporations investing at least \$250 million over a two-year period in qualified capital expenditures to elect SSF apportionment of their corporate income taxes.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED Language included in conforming bill (HB 143)</p>
CIVIC AND GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS PILLAR			
<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REFORM HB 1355 (Rep. Baxley) (Sen. Simmons)</p>		<p>Paid signature gatherers will now have two years to collect signatures instead of four years. This is another step in the right direction toward improving Florida's constitutional amendment process.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>STATE GOVERNMENT PENSION REFORM SB 1130 (Sen. Ring) HB 1405 (Rep. Workman)</p>		<p>Before this bill, Florida was the only state in America where government workers pay nothing into their retirement. Now, state workers will pay three percent into their pensions. This is a good first step in fixing Florida's broken government pension system.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED Language included in conforming bill (SB 2100)</p>
<p>IMMIGRATION SB 2040 HB 7089</p>		<p>Mandates Florida employers use the flawed E-Verify system when hiring candidates for jobs and opposes fines for employers if they later learn they hired illegal immigrants.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</p>	<p>DEFEATED</p>
QUALITY OF LIFE AND QUALITY PLACES PILLAR			
<p>FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM SB 2 (Sen. Haridopolos) (Rep. Plakon)</p>		<p>Allows voters to decide their individual or employer health care choices instead of being forced to accept the unworkable Federal government health care mandate.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>WELLNESS INCENTIVES HB 445 (Rep. Ingram) (Sen. Gaetz)</p>		<p>Allows health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to offer voluntary wellness programs and encourages and rewards participation with incentives.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED Awaiting governor's signature</p>
<p>MEDICAID REFORM HB 7109 (Rep. Schenck) (Sen. Negron)</p>		<p>Creates a statewide, integrated Medicaid managed care program for medical assistance and long-term care services. Additionally, it revises Medicaid eligibility requirements.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</p>	<p>PASSED Awaiting governor's signature</p>