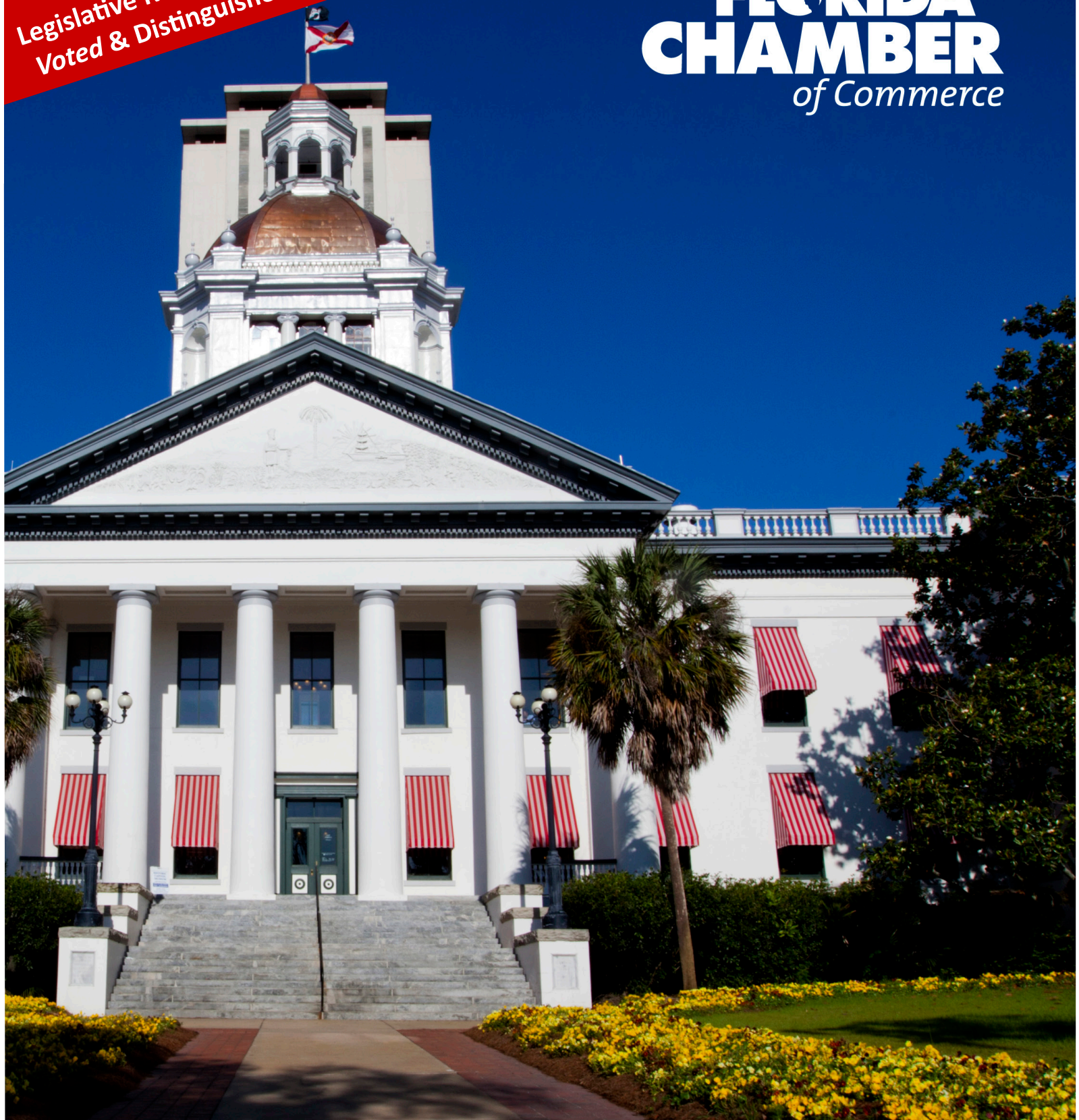


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FLORIDA
CHAMBER
of Commerce



2018 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

2018 FLORIDA CHAMBER BUSINESS AGENDA Legislative Summary



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.







Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE INSTRUCTION	 SB 1056: Sen. Passidomo HB 1213: Rep. Porter HB 495: Rep. Diaz	Requires computer science and coding instruction to be a greater priority in Florida's K-12 classrooms.	 PASSED HB 495 Passed March 9, 2018
	MASTERY- BASED EDUCATION	 HB 1035: Rep. Sullivan SB 968: Sen. Brandes SB 88: Sen. Hukill	Allows all school districts to participate in a competency-based educational environment where students' progress is based upon the mastery of concepts and skills.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	HIGHER EDUCATION	 SB 4: Sen. Galvano HB 423: Rep. Rodrigues	Fully funds the bright futures scholarship and allows it to be used during summer enrollment. Establishes the State University Professional and Graduate Degree Excellence Program.	 PASSED SB 4 Passed March 5, 2018
	POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	 SB 540: Sen. Hukill HB 831: Rep. Grutes	Revises the governance structure and performance funding metrics of Florida's state colleges, caps the number of bachelor degree programs offered by the system, and requires colleges and universities to have at least one "2+2" agreement in place.	 DEFEATED

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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.



Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	 SB 1646: Sen. Montford HB 1103: Rep. Albritton	Provides for increased funding for Rural Areas of Opportunity and transparency measures.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	 SB 1496: Sen. Gainer HB 1193: Rep. Latvala	Provides for increased funding for Rural Areas of Opportunity.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PREPARING FLORIDA'S INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SMARTER GROWTH

In 2017, more than 112 million visitors came to Florida and it's estimated that by 2030, more than 5.5 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.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	LINEAR FACILITIES	 SB 494: Sen. Lee HB 405: Rep. Williamson and Rep. Payne	Corrects a judicial opinion that brings uncertainty into the siting of critical infrastructure.	 PASSED HB 405 Passed Feb. 21, 2018. Presented to Governor Scott March 9, 2018
	HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER RAIL	 SB 572: Sen. Mayfield HB 525: Rep. Grall and Rep. Magar	Discourages private transportation investment by creating an unnecessary set of state and local regulations in a system that is adequately regulated and preempted by federal law.	 DEFEATED

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	STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND	 SB 874: Sen. Passidomo HB 191: Rep. Shaw	Stops raids on the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES	 SB 712: Sen. Brandes HB 353: Rep. Fischer and Rep. Brodeur	Improves the current regulatory framework around autonomous vehicles by fostering innovation while maintaining safety	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

KEEPING FLORIDA'S BUSINESS CLIMATE COMPETITIVE







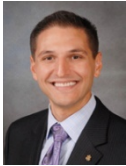










Florida is on the right track toward a more competitive and global economy and businesses are taking notice. Last year several large employers moved their headquarters or expanded to Florida because of Florida's attractive business climate. Instead of short-term solutions from well-funded trial lawyers 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.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	CORPORATE INCOME TAX	 SB 58: Sen. Hukill	Increases the exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the Corporate Income Tax.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	BUSINESS RENT TAX	 HB 939: Rep. Toledo SB 60: Sen. Hukill	Continues decreasing the business rent tax with the goal of eventual repeal.	Contained in the Tax Package the Legislature will take up on March 11, 2018.
	SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY	 HB 519: Rep. Brown SB 76: Sen. Garcia	Supports small businesses by creating a sales tax holiday for purchases at small businesses on Small Business Saturday.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS














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	SUPER MAJORITY VOTE TO INCREASE TAXES	 HB 7001: Rep. Leek SB 1742: Sen. Stargel	Requires any legislation that increases taxes or fees to pass by a supermajority vote by the legislature.	 PASSED HB 7001 Passed March 5, 2018
	ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS	 HB 7015: Rep. Trumbull SB 62: Sen. Hukill	Fixes assignment of benefits fraud by addressing attorney fees while protecting consumers.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR WINDSHIELD GLASS/ AOB	 HB 811: Rep. Plasencia	Addresses assignment of benefits for autoglass by allowing for an inspection prior to replacement.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
MONITORING	MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR WINDSHIELD GLASS/ AOB	 SB 396: Sen. Hukill	Addresses assignment of benefits for autoglass by allowing for an inspection prior to replacement.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	FLORIDA HURRICANE CATASTROPHE FUND (CAT FUND)	 HB 97: Rep. Santiago SB 1454: Sen. Brandes	Makes the CAT Fund less stable and more susceptible to a "hurricane tax" by eliminating a key mechanism to fund the CAT Fund.	 DEFEATED
	PROPERTY INSURANCE/ AOB	 SB 256: Sen. Farmer	Creates an unworkable process for assignment of benefits reform that fails to protect consumers, address attorney fees and will destabilize rates.	 DEFEATED

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	PROPERTY INSURANCE/ AOB	 SB 1168: Sen. Steube	Creates an unworkable process for assignment of benefits reform that fails to protect consumers, address attorney fees and will destabilize rates.	 DEFEATED
	INSURANCE RATES	 SB 258: Sen. Farmer	Creates restrictions that would cause insurance rates to not be actuarially sound, which might cause insolvency.	 DEFEATED
NEUTRAL	WORKERS' COMP	 HB 7009: Rep. Burgess	Creates a new attorney fee schedule and addresses other provisions related to the Florida Supreme Court cases that resulted in 14.5 percent higher workers' comp premiums	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS	 SB 798: Sen. Braynon HB 1223 :Rep. McGhee	Prohibits job creators from considering an applicant's criminal history when determining to offer an initial interview.	 DEFEATED
	EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS	 HB 433 :Rep. Henry SB 102: Sen. Bracy	Prohibits job creators from considering an applicant's criminal history on an initial employment application.	 DEFEATED
	MINIMUM WAGE	 SB 166: Sen. Rodriguez HB 1441: Rep. Jacquet	Increases the state's minimum wage to \$15.25 an hour by 2023, beginning with a \$1 an hour increase in 2018.	 DEFEATED

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	PIP REPEAL	 HB 19: Rep. Grall SB 150: Sen. Lee	Repeals Personal Injury Protection auto insurance and replaces with mandatory Bodily Injury Insurance.	 DEFEATED
	FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS	 HB 307: Rep. Antone SB 300: Sen. Rouson	Proposes changes to the Florida Commission on Human Relations, which investigates charges against businesses of discrimination	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS	 SB 1828: Sen. Rodriguez HB 225: Rep. Davis	Creates a new cause of action against employers who take an action against an employee for failing to return to work within 14 days of an emergency evacuation.	 DEFEATED
	TARGETED TAX REFORM	 HB 7087: Rep. Renner SB 620: Sen. Passidomo, Sen. Stargel	Continues the reduction of the business rent tax, and includes sales tax holidays and hurricane recovery efforts.	Contained in the Tax Package the Legislature will take up on March 11, 2018.
MONITORING	CORPORATE INCOME TAX "PIGGYBACK"	 SB 502: Sen. Stargel HB: 7093: Rep. Renner	Adopts federal income tax code for purposes of Florida corporate income tax, with some exceptions related to the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.	 PASSED HB 7093 Passed March 9, 2018

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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.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	404 PERMITTING DEREGULATION	 HB 7043: Rep. Raschein SB 1402: Sen. Simmons	Reduces uncertainty and the significant wait time for permit decisions, while maintaining necessary environmental resource protections.	 PASSED HB 7043 Passed March 8, 2018
	DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS	 SB 348: Sen. Rodriguez	Prohibits businesses from using plastic bags, even in the storage of perishable foods.	 DEFEATED
	LABOR ORGANIZATIONS	 HB 25: Rep. Plakon SB 1036: Sen. Steube	Will add transparency into all levels of collective bargaining and lobbying by giving the public a clearer understanding of how many people a union represents.	 PASSED HB 7055 Passed March 5, 2018
	IMPACT FEES	 SB 324: Sen. Young HB 697: Rep. Miller	Provides that a local government cannot charge a development and impact fee until the impact actually occurs.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	FIREARMS	 SB 120: Sen. Steube	Creates significant liability for businesses who exercise their property right to limit firearms on their premises.	 DEFEATED
	INTERRUPTION OF SERVICES	 HB 971: Rep. Fine SB 1368: Sen. Mayfield	Adds additional government regulation on business practices and increases costs of certain services.	 DEFEATED

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	VACATION RENTALS	 SB 1400: Sen. Steube HB 773: Rep. La Rosa	Protects the private property rights of owners by establishing a statewide framework for the use of short term vacation rentals.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
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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.

Pro-Biz / No-Biz	Bill Name	Bill Sponsor(s)	What it Means to Your Business	Outcome
	RELATING TO TELEHEALTH	 SB 280: Sen. Bean HB 793: Rep. Massullo, MD	Sets the framework for telehealth providers and technology guidelines in the State of Florida.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	GAMBLING	 HB 7067: Rep. La Rosa	Ratifies and approves a 2018 Compact between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida, and authorizes the Governor to execute the 2018 Compact.	 UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	GAMBLING	 SB 840: Sen. Hutson	Calls for a vast expansion of slot machines and gambling.	 DEFEATED
	RELATING TO PATIENT SAFETY CULTURE SURVEYS	 HB 35: Rep. Grant SB 1458: Sen. Brandes	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.	 DEFEATED