

# VOTING RECORDS

2023 Regular and Special Session A of the Florida Legislature

**CHAMPIONS**  
for **BUSINESS**  
Award Winners  
(see page 26)

**ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA**

*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*





# a message from the CEO



Brewster B. Bevis  
President &  
Chief Executive  
Officer

## Dear Employer:

It is my pleasure to provide you with this tabulation of the voting conduct of each member of the Florida Legislature during the 2023 Regular Session and Special Session A. The *Voting Records* reports on the votes made by every legislator on bills that were advocated, promoted, or opposed by Associated Industries of Florida (AIF).

By reporting on the 3,813 votes cast by legislators on 42 bills, this publication embodies the most exhaustive and complete record of the Legislature's approach to the concerns of Florida's employers.

We go to great lengths to ensure that legislators are aware of AIF's positions on issues of great importance to the business community. Every year before the session begins, we produce AIF's *Session Priorities*, which explains why we support or oppose key issues. In addition, during the session we provide each legislator with a *Weekly Brief* on the activities of that week, highlighting bills of interest to businesses and our positions on those issues. Our greatest asset, however, is our experienced and accomplished legislative team which has compiled a record of success second to none.

For 49 years, AIF has published *Voting Records*, yet these records only tell part of the story. AIF also helps its member companies detect which bills and amendments are filed and by whom, and who is taking part in behind-the-scenes efforts and debates on behalf of the business community. These intangible forms of support through non-voting actions are also of vital importance and merit recognition. AIF instituted the "**Champions for Business**" awards in 2003 to acknowledge lawmakers who provide leadership on key legislation.

A "**Champion for Business**" is a legislator who takes risks for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate and faces down the opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens. Each of the six legislators (see page 26) honored this year are the epitome of a "**Champion for Business.**"

I encourage you to take a moment and read the following page where we discuss the method of these rankings and how top-tier issues are dealt with and their impact on the rankings contained in this publication.



Published by  
Associated Industries  
of Florida © 2023.  
All rights reserved.  
516 North Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
850.224.7173  
E-mail: [aif@aif.com](mailto:aif@aif.com)  
[AIF.com](http://AIF.com)

Brewster B. Bevis  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# Recognizing Top-Tier Issues

Highlighting top-priority issues helps provide context for *Voting Records*.

Since 1975, AIF has published *Voting Records* — the definitive legislative scorecard for the business community. From a mathematical perspective, all votes cast are equal. The *Voting Records* compares the votes cast in support of business to the total number of votes cast on those bills. The calculated percentages are a simple and easy tool used by both AIF members and legislators.



T O R T R E F O R M

However, although the AIF *Voting Records* considers each vote equal, it is clear that some issues rise to the level of being considered a “Top-Tier Issue”. From time to time, an issue is taken up that affects the majority of all Florida businesses regardless of industry, size, location, etc. Issues such as workers’ compensation, across the board business taxes and broad regulatory schemes are always top priorities for AIF. Just last year, we recognized that consumer data privacy was a top-tier issue due to its wide impact on a broad swath of the business community.

This year, AIF identified tort reform as the top-tier issue for the 2023 legislative session. Leading up to session, we hosted a business forum dedicated to the topic as well as highlighting tort reform as the top-tier issue in our *Session Priorities* publication. Additionally, we made it a point to communicate the importance of this top-tier issue in our daily and weekly briefings, as well as in public testimony.

Because of the importance of this issue, we are highlighting the specific vote on this top-priority issue (page 4) so the business community is able to clearly see how each legislator voted on this critical issue. This ensures that we have communicated to the business community both the overall vote % on all AIF selected business issues and the key votes cast on top-tier issues for each legislator.

We have immense respect for the dedication of elected officials who come to Tallahassee each year to serve the citizens of their districts and the state, and we applaud those legislators who consistently vote in support of Florida’s employers. Yet, a simple voting percentage does not always provide a complete picture of a legislator’s support of the business community.

Because of the level of importance of the tort reform issue to the entirety of the business community, we believe it is important to highlight how individual

legislators voted on this issue to provide further context for our overall voting records.

AIF will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of each legislator through their overall voting percentage, their votes on specific top-priority issues, as well as how they publicly address issues that are important to the business community. All of these factors are considered when AIF makes recommendations to our members as to which legislators truly show strong support for Florida’s business community. ■



**Adam Basford** is VP of Governmental Affairs for Associated Industries of Florida and may be reached at [abasford@aif.com](mailto:abasford@aif.com).

# 2023 Session Top-Tier Issue: Tort Reform



**Tort reform was the top priority for AIF and its members during the 2023 session** due to its far-reaching impact on all sectors of the state's business community. The two main bills dealing with the tort reform issue were **HB 837** and **SB 236**. These bills took a giant leap in correcting an unfair and unbalanced legal system for employers.

The following are votes taken on **HB 837** and **SB 236** and how each legislator voted when compared to AIF's position.

- ✓ **SUPPORTED** the position of AIF and the business community
- X **OPPOSED** the position of AIF and the business community
- No vote cast

Visit **AIF.com** for more information on *Voting Records* and the 2023 Session.

## FLORIDA SENATE

% with AIF	Legislator	For	Against	Final Passage Vote
100%	Albritton (R)	4		✓
100%	Avila (R)	2		✓
100%	Baxley (R)	3		✓
0%	Berman (D)		3	X
0%	Book (D)		3	X
100%	Boyd (R)	5		✓
0%	Bradley (R)		2	X
0%	Brodeur (R)		2	X
100%	Broxson (R)	4		✓
100%	Burgess (R)	3		✓
100%	Burton (R)	5		✓
100%	Calatayud (R)	3		✓
100%	Collins (R)	3		✓
0%	Davis (D)		2	X
80%	DiCeglie (R)	4	1	✓
100%	Garcia (R)	2		✓
0%	Grall (R)		2	X
50%	Gruters (R)	1	1	✓
100%	Harrell (R)	3		✓
100%	Hooper (R)	2		✓
100%	Hutson (R)	4		✓
100%	Ingoglia (R)	2		✓
0%	Jones (D)		3	X
0%	Martin (R)		2	X
100%	Mayfield (R)	4		✓
0%	Osgood (D)		3	X
100%	Passidomo (R)	2		✓
100%	Perry (R)	2		✓
0%	Pizzo (D)		2	X
0%	Polsky (D)		2	X
0%	Powell (D)		3	X
100%	Rodriguez (R)	3		✓
0%	Rouson (D)		2	X
100%	Simon (R)	3		✓
100%	Stewart (D)	4		✓
0%	Thompson (D)		5	X
0%	Torres (D)		4	X
80%	Trumbull (R)	4	1	✓
67%	Wright (R)	2	1	✓
100%	Yarborough (R)	3		✓



# FLORIDA HOUSE

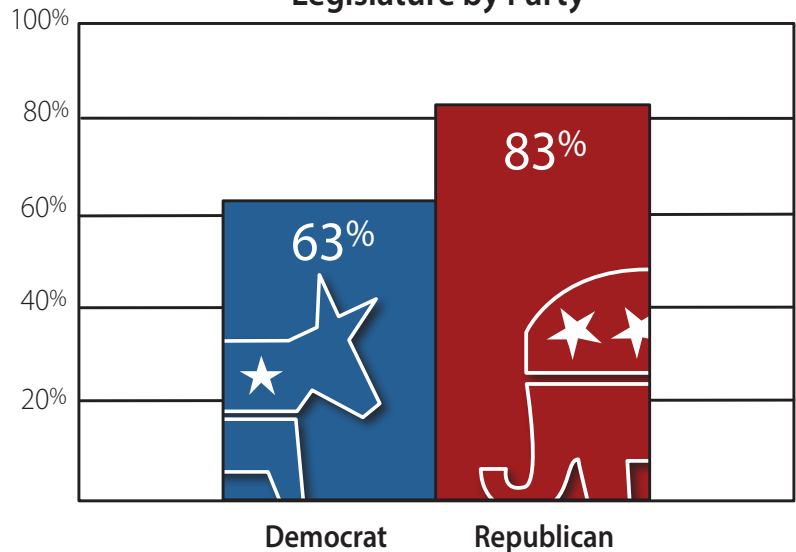
% with AIF	Legislator	For	Against	Final Passage Vote	% with AIF	Legislator	For	Against	Final Passage Vote	% with AIF	Legislator	For	Against	Final Passage Vote
100%	Abbott (R)	1		✓	0%	Eskamani (D)		1	✗	100%	Payne (R)	2		✓
100%	Altman (R)	2		✓	100%	Esposito (R)	1		✓	100%	Perez (R)	1		✓
100%	Alvarez (R)	3		✓	100%	Fabricio (R)	2		✓	100%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	1		✓
100%	Amesty (R)	1		✓	100%	Fernandez-Barquin (R)	1		✓	100%	Plakon (R)	1		✓
100%	Anderson (R)	1		✓	100%	Fine (R)	1		✓	100%	Plasencia (R)	1		✓
100%	Andrade (R)	1		✓	0%	Franklin (D)		1	✗	100%	Porras (R)	1		✓
0%	Antone (D)		1	✗	0%	Gantt (D)		3	✗	0%	Rayner-Goolsby (D)		1	✗
0%	Arrington (D)		2	✗	100%	Garcia (R)	1		✓	100%	Renner (R)	1		✓
100%	Baker (R)	1		✓	100%	Garrison (R)	1		✓	100%	Rizo (R)	3		✓
100%	Bankson (R)	1		✓	100%	Giallombardo (R)	2		✓	100%	Roach (R)	1		✓
100%	Barnaby (R)	2		✓	100%	Gonzalez Pittman (R)	1		✓	0%	Robinson, F. (D)		1	✗
0%	Bartleman (D)		1	✗	100%	Gossett-Seidman (R)	1		✓	100%	Robinson, W. (R)	4		✓
100%	Basabe (R)	1		✓	0%	Gottlieb (D)		2	✗	100%	Rommel (R)	1		✓
100%	Bell (R)	1		✓	100%	Grant (R)	1		✓	100%	Roth (R)	3		✓
0%	Beltran (R)		3	✗	100%	Gregory (R)	2		✓	100%	Rudman (R)	1		✓
0%	Benjamin (D)		1	✗	100%	Griffitts (R)	1		✓	100%	Salzman (R)	1		✓
100%	Berfield (R)	1		✓	0%	Harris (D)		1	✗	100%	Shoaf (R)	1		✓
100%	Black (R)	3		✓	0%	Hart (D)		2	✗	0%	Silvers (D)		1	✗
100%	Borrero (R)	1		✓	100%	Hawkins (R)	1		✓	100%	Sirois (R)	3		✓
100%	Botana (R)	1		✓	0%	Hinson (D)		2	✗	0%	Skidmore (D)		1	✗
100%	Brackett (R)	1		✓	100%	Holcomb (R)	1		✓	100%	Smith (R)	3		✓
0%	Bracy Davis (D)		2	✗	0%	Hunschofsky (D)		1	✗	100%	Snyder (R)	4		✓
100%	Brannan (R)	2		✓	100%	Jacques (R)	2		✓	0%	Stark (R)		2	✗
100%	Buchanan (R)	1		✓	0%	Joseph (D)		1	✗	100%	Steele (R)	1		✓
100%	Busatta Cabrera (R)	1		✓	100%	Killebrew (R)	1		✓	100%	Stevenson (R)	1		✓
0%	Campbell (D)		3	✗	100%	Koster (R)	1		✓	100%	Temple (R)	1		✓
100%	Canady (R)	1		✓	100%	LaMarca (R)	1		✓	100%	Tomkow (R)	1		✓
100%	Caruso (R)	1		✓	100%	Leek (R)	2		✓	100%	Trabulsy (R)	1		✓
0%	Casello (D)		1	✗	0%	López, J. (D)		4	✗	100%	Tramont (R)	2		✓
0%	Cassel (D)		3	✗	100%	Lopez, V. (R)	1		✓	100%	Truenow (R)	2		✓
0%	Chambliss (D)		2	✗	100%	Maggard (R)	4		✓	100%	Tuck (R)	1		✓
100%	Chaney (R)	1		✓	100%	Maney (R)	4		✓	0%	Valdés (D)		1	✗
100%	Clemons (R)	1		✓	100%	Massullo (R)	1		✓	0%	Waldron (D)		1	✗
0%	Cross (D)		1	✗	100%	McClain (R)	1		✓	0%	Williams (D)		1	✗
0%	Daley (D)		1	✗	100%	McClure (R)	1		✓	0%	Woodson (D)		1	✗
0%	Daniels (D)		2	✗	100%	McFarland (R)	3		✓	100%	Yarkosky (R)	1		✓
0%	Driskell (D)		1	✗	100%	Michael (R)	3		✓	100%	Yeager (R)	1		✓
100%	Duggan (R)	1		✓	100%	Mooney (R)	1		✓		Melo (R)	-	-	
0%	Dunkley (D)		1	✗	0%	Nixon (D)		1	✗		Tant (D)	-	-	
0%	Edmonds (D)		1	✗	100%	Overdorf (R)	4		✓					



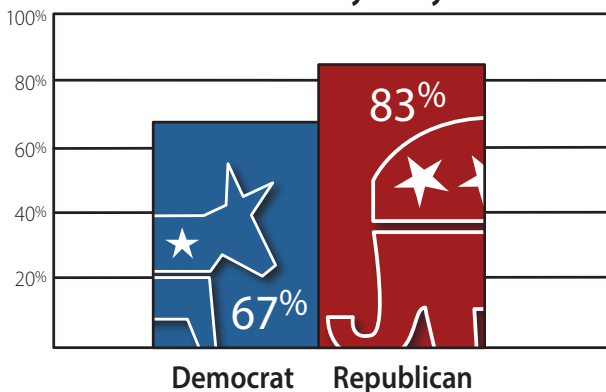
# 2023 Florida Legislature *by the Numbers* on Key Business Issues

**K**nowing how individual legislators cast their votes is extremely important when evaluating their stance on the issues facing our members. However, it is also important to look at other areas of the data to find clues on how different segments of the Florida Legislature are casting their votes. For instance, which party in which chamber tends to support business issues more than the other? How do the current voting records compare to those from past years? This section will break down different segments of the votes and provide some interesting **snapshots of the Florida Legislature's direction on business issues.**

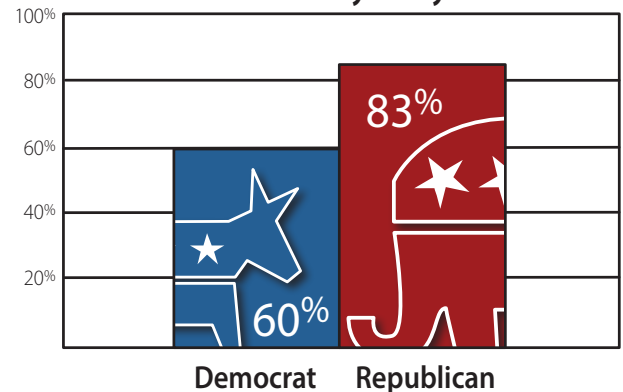
### Legislature by Party



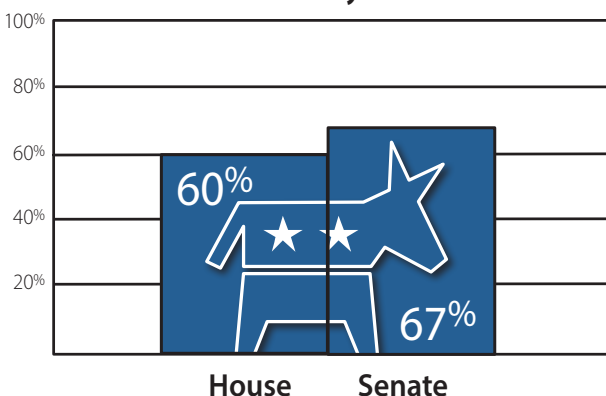
### Senate by Party



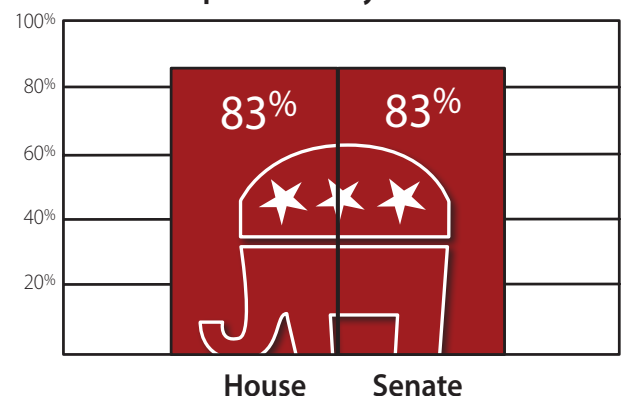
### House by Party



### Democrats by Chamber

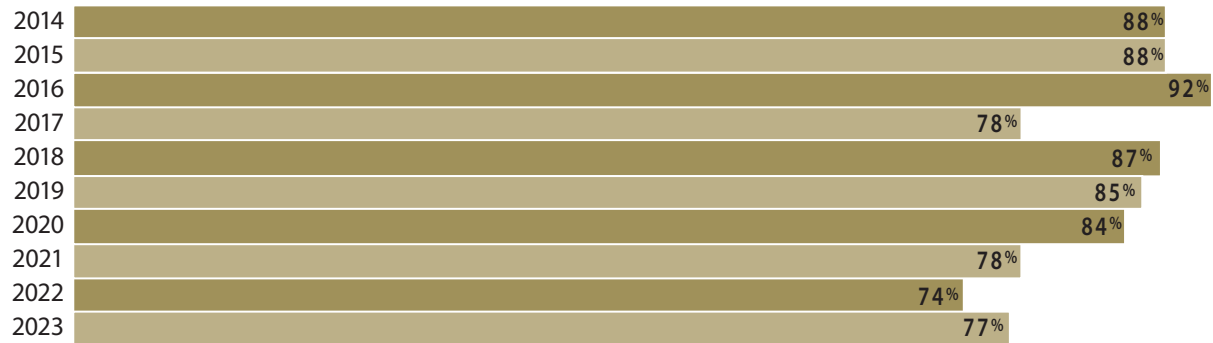


### Republicans by Chamber



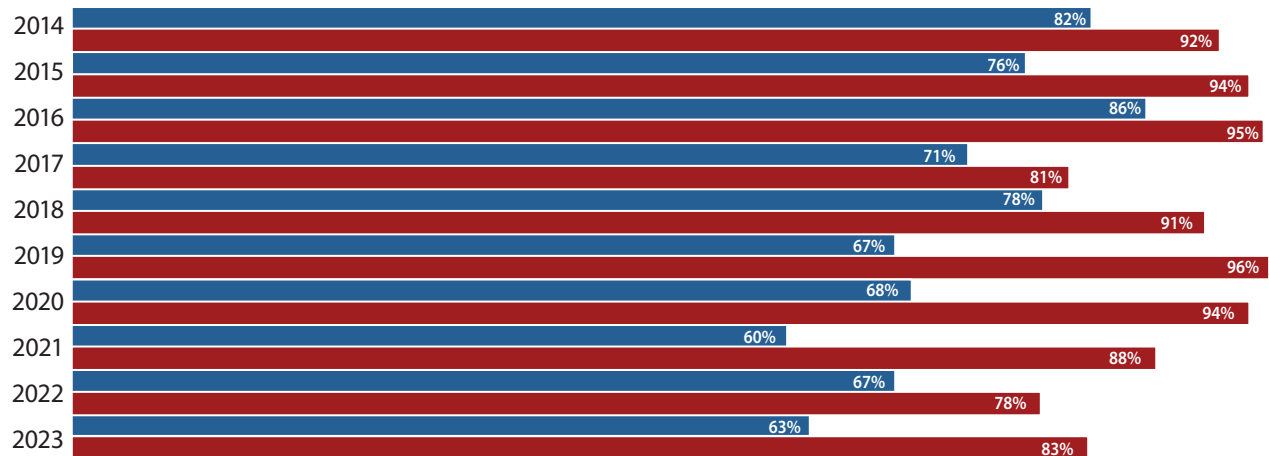


## Legislature Voting Records — Past Ten Years



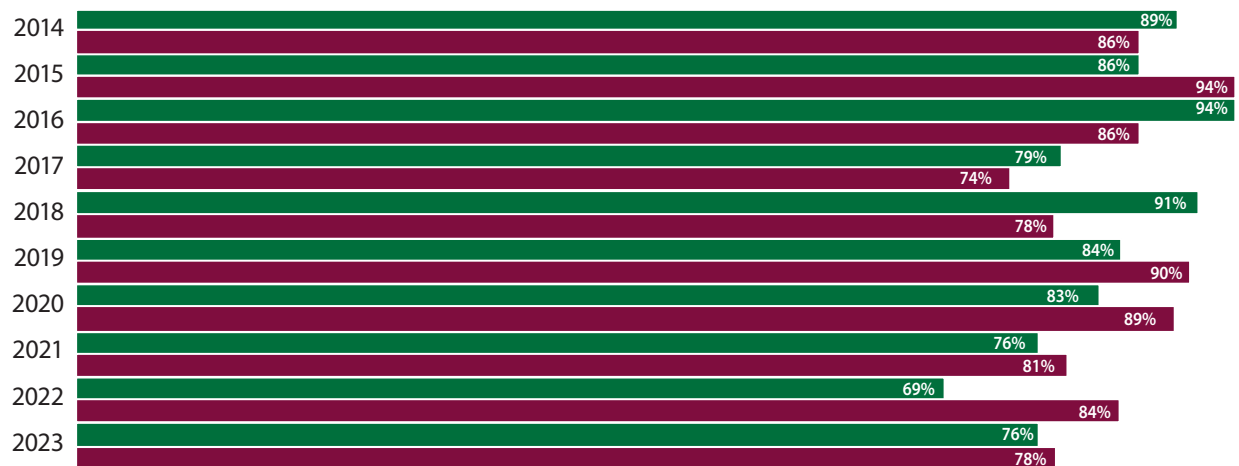
## Party Voting Records — Past Ten Years

■ Democrats ■ Republicans



## Chamber Voting Records — Past Ten Years

■ House ■ Senate





# 2023 Florida Legislature VOTING RECORDS

*On Key Business Issues*



**The *Voting Records* is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.**

**Note:** Includes votes after roll call

Visit [AIF.com](https://aif.com) for more information on *Voting Records* and the 2023 Session.

## BY RANK

### FLORIDA SENATE

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
88%	Baxley (R)	29	4
88%	Ingoglia (R)	23	3
88%	Mayfield (R)	35	5
87%	Albritton (R)	26	4
87%	Stewart (D)	26	4
86%	Avila (R)	18	3
86%	Boyd (R)	36	6
86%	Burgess (R)	25	4
86%	Harrell (R)	19	3
86%	Perry (R)	24	4
85%	Broxson (R)	23	4
85%	Calatayud (R)	22	4
85%	Collins (R)	22	4
85%	Simon (R)	28	5
83%	Burton (R)	29	6
83%	Hutson (R)	33	7
83%	Passidomo (R)	15	3
83%	Yarborough (R)	24	5
82%	Rodriguez (R)	32	7
81%	Bradley (R)	22	5
81%	Brodeur (R)	26	6
81%	Hooper (R)	29	7
80%	Gruters (R)	28	7
79%	Garcia (R)	22	6
79%	Wright (R)	23	6
78%	DiCeglie (R)	31	9
78%	Trumbull (R)	28	8
76%	Davis (D)	19	6
76%	Martin (R)	19	6
71%	Pizzo (D)	20	8
71%	Polsky (D)	17	7
68%	Rouson (D)	19	9
67%	Book (D)	18	9
67%	Grall (R)	14	7
66%	Berman (D)	23	12
66%	Osgood (D)	23	12
65%	Jones (D)	22	12
64%	Powell (D)	16	9
60%	Torres (D)	25	17
54%	Thompson (D)	15	13

**Total Votes with AIF/Business = 78%**



## BY RANK

### FLORIDA HOUSE

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
89%	Lopez, V. (R)	17	2	84%	Rizo (R)	21	4	75%	Maney (R)	24	8
88%	Brckett (R)	22	3	84%	Temple (R)	16	3	74%	Amesty (R)	14	5
88%	Buchanan (R)	22	3	83%	Baker (R)	15	3	73%	Sirois (R)	22	8
88%	Caruso (R)	21	3	83%	Basabe (R)	15	3	71%	Antone (D)	17	7
88%	Duggan (R)	23	3	83%	Black (R)	20	4	71%	Melo (R)	17	7
88%	Fabricio (R)	22	3	83%	Chaney (R)	19	4	68%	Jacques (R)	15	7
88%	Fernandez-Barquin (R)	23	3	83%	Garcia (R)	15	3	68%	Skidmore (D)	13	6
88%	Griffitts (R)	22	3	83%	Hawkins (R)	15	3	67%	Casello (D)	16	8
88%	Killebrew (R)	21	3	83%	Snyder (R)	19	4	67%	Edmonds (D)	12	6
88%	Truenow (R)	23	3	82%	Anderson (R)	14	3	67%	Hunschofsky (D)	16	8
87%	Andrade (R)	20	3	82%	Barnaby (R)	23	5	65%	Beltran (R)	15	8
87%	Botana (R)	20	3	82%	Fine (R)	9	2	65%	Chambliss (D)	13	7
87%	Payne (R)	20	3	82%	Giallombardo (R)	23	5	65%	Franklin (D)	11	6
87%	Smith (R)	27	4	82%	Grant (R)	14	3	65%	Robinson, F. (D)	15	8
86%	Alvarez (R)	19	3	82%	LaMarca (R)	23	5	65%	Silvers (D)	13	7
86%	Bankson (R)	18	3	82%	Massullo (R)	14	3	64%	Benjamin (D)	14	8
86%	Brannan (R)	18	3	82%	McFarland (R)	18	4	64%	Valdés (D)	14	8
86%	Busatta Cabrera (R)	18	3	82%	Perez (R)	14	3	62%	Bartleman (D)	13	8
86%	Canady (R)	18	3	82%	Robinson, W. (R)	28	6	62%	Cassel (D)	18	11
86%	Esposito (R)	18	3	82%	Salzman (R)	14	3	62%	Gottlieb (D)	16	10
86%	Garrison (R)	18	3	82%	Tant (D)	18	4	62%	Nixon (D)	13	8
86%	Leek (R)	18	3	81%	Gonzalez Pittman (R)	13	3	61%	Bracy Davis (D)	11	7
86%	Mooney (R)	19	3	81%	Koster (R)	13	3	61%	Woodson (D)	11	7
86%	Porras (R)	18	3	81%	Plasencia (R)	17	4	59%	Driskell (D)	10	7
86%	Roth (R)	25	4	81%	Renner (R)	13	3	58%	Hinson (D)	11	8
86%	Tomkow (R)	18	3	81%	Trabulsy (R)	13	3	57%	Hart (D)	12	9
85%	Abbott (R)	17	3	79%	Maggard (R)	19	5	57%	Joseph (D)	13	10
85%	Berfield (R)	17	3	79%	Overdorf (R)	23	6	57%	Rayner-Goolsby (D)	13	10
85%	Clemons (R)	17	3	79%	Steele (R)	19	5	56%	Cross (D)	9	7
85%	Michael (R)	22	4	78%	Borrero (R)	18	5	56%	Daniels (D)	9	7
85%	Roach (R)	17	3	78%	Gossett-Seidman (R)	18	5	56%	Waldron (D)	9	7
85%	Stevenson (R)	17	3	78%	Holcomb (R)	18	5	55%	Harris (D)	12	10
85%	Tuck (R)	17	3	78%	Shoaf (R)	18	5	54%	Eskamani (D)	14	12
85%	Yarkosky (R)	17	3	77%	Rommel (R)	17	5	53%	Arrington (D)	16	14
84%	Altman (R)	16	3	77%	Stark (R)	17	5	53%	Dunkley (D)	9	8
84%	Gregory (R)	16	3	76%	Bell (R)	13	4	53%	Williams (D)	9	8
84%	McClain (R)	16	3	76%	Daley (D)	16	5	52%	Campbell (D)	15	14
84%	McClure (R)	16	3	76%	Rudman (R)	16	5	50%	López, J. (D)	14	14
84%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	16	3	76%	Tramont (R)	16	5	36%	Gantt (D)	9	16
84%	Plakon (R)	16	3	76%	Yeager (R)	22	7				

**Total Votes with AIF/Business = 76%**



# 2023 Florida Legislature VOTING RECORDS

*On Key Business Issues*



**The *Voting Records* is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.**

**Note:** Includes votes after roll call

Visit [AIF.com](http://AIF.com) for more information on *Voting Records* and the 2023 Session.

ALPHABETICALLY

## FLORIDA SENATE

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
87%	Albritton (R)	26	4
86%	Avila (R)	18	3
88%	Baxley (R)	29	4
66%	Berman (D)	23	12
67%	Book (D)	18	9
86%	Boyd (R)	36	6
81%	Bradley (R)	22	5
81%	Brodeur (R)	26	6
85%	Broxson (R)	23	4
86%	Burgess (R)	25	4
83%	Burton (R)	29	6
85%	Calatayud (R)	22	4
85%	Collins (R)	22	4
76%	Davis (D)	19	6
78%	DiCeglie (R)	31	9
79%	Garcia (R)	22	6
67%	Grall (R)	14	7
80%	Gruters (R)	28	7
86%	Harrell (R)	19	3
81%	Hooper (R)	29	7
83%	Hutson (R)	33	7
88%	Ingoglia (R)	23	3
65%	Jones (D)	22	12
76%	Martin (R)	19	6
88%	Mayfield (R)	35	5
66%	Osgood (D)	23	12
83%	Passidomo (R)	15	3
86%	Perry (R)	24	4
71%	Pizzo (D)	20	8
71%	Polsky (D)	17	7
64%	Powell (D)	16	9
82%	Rodriguez (R)	32	7
68%	Rouson (D)	19	9
85%	Simon (R)	28	5
87%	Stewart (D)	26	4
54%	Thompson (D)	15	13
60%	Torres (D)	25	17
78%	Trumbull (R)	28	8
79%	Wright (R)	23	6
83%	Yarborough (R)	24	5

**Total Votes with AIF/Business = 78%**



## ALPHABETICALLY

## FLORIDA HOUSE

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
85%	Abbott (R)	17	3	54%	Eskamani (D)	14	12	79%	Overdorf (R)	23	6
84%	Altman (R)	16	3	86%	Esposito (R)	18	3	87%	Payne (R)	20	3
86%	Alvarez (R)	19	3	88%	Fabricio (R)	22	3	82%	Perez (R)	14	3
74%	Amesty (R)	14	5	88%	Fernandez-Barquin (R)	23	3	84%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	16	3
82%	Anderson (R)	14	3	82%	Fine (R)	9	2	84%	Plakon (R)	16	3
87%	Andrade (R)	20	3	65%	Franklin (D)	11	6	81%	Plasencia (R)	17	4
71%	Antone (D)	17	7	36%	Gantt (D)	9	16	86%	Porras (R)	18	3
53%	Arrington (D)	16	14	83%	Garcia (R)	15	3	57%	Rayner-Goolsby (D)	13	10
83%	Baker (R)	15	3	86%	Garrison (R)	18	3	81%	Renner (R)	13	3
86%	Bankson (R)	18	3	82%	Giallombardo (R)	23	5	84%	Rizo (R)	21	4
82%	Barnaby (R)	23	5	81%	Gonzalez Pittman (R)	13	3	85%	Roach (R)	17	3
62%	Bartleman (D)	13	8	78%	Gossett-Seidman (R)	18	5	65%	Robinson, F. (D)	15	8
83%	Basabe (R)	15	3	62%	Gottlieb (D)	16	10	82%	Robinson, W. (R)	28	6
76%	Bell (R)	13	4	82%	Grant (R)	14	3	77%	Rommel (R)	17	5
65%	Beltran (R)	15	8	84%	Gregory (R)	16	3	86%	Roth (R)	25	4
64%	Benjamin (D)	14	8	88%	Griffitts (R)	22	3	76%	Rudman (R)	16	5
85%	Berfield (R)	17	3	55%	Harris (D)	12	10	82%	Salzman (R)	14	3
83%	Black (R)	20	4	57%	Hart (D)	12	9	78%	Shoaf (R)	18	5
78%	Borrero (R)	18	5	83%	Hawkins (R)	15	3	65%	Silvers (D)	13	7
87%	Botana (R)	20	3	58%	Hinson (D)	11	8	73%	Sirois (R)	22	8
88%	Brackett (R)	22	3	78%	Holcomb (R)	18	5	68%	Skidmore (D)	13	6
61%	Bracy Davis (D)	11	7	67%	Hunschofsky (D)	16	8	87%	Smith (R)	27	4
86%	Brannan (R)	18	3	68%	Jacques (R)	15	7	83%	Snyder (R)	19	4
88%	Buchanan (R)	22	3	57%	Joseph (D)	13	10	77%	Stark (R)	17	5
86%	Busatta Cabrera (R)	18	3	88%	Killebrew (R)	21	3	79%	Steele (R)	19	5
52%	Campbell (D)	15	14	81%	Koster (R)	13	3	85%	Stevenson (R)	17	3
86%	Canady (R)	18	3	82%	LaMarca (R)	23	5	82%	Tant (D)	18	4
88%	Caruso (R)	21	3	86%	Leek (R)	18	3	84%	Temple (R)	16	3
67%	Casello (D)	16	8	50%	López, J. (D)	14	14	86%	Tomkow (R)	18	3
62%	Cassel (D)	18	11	89%	Lopez, V. (R)	17	2	81%	Trabulsy (R)	13	3
65%	Chambliss (D)	13	7	79%	Maggard (R)	19	5	76%	Tramont (R)	16	5
83%	Chaney (R)	19	4	75%	Maney (R)	24	8	88%	Truenow (R)	23	3
85%	Clemons (R)	17	3	82%	Massullo (R)	14	3	85%	Tuck (R)	17	3
56%	Cross (D)	9	7	84%	McClain (R)	16	3	64%	Valdés (D)	14	8
76%	Daley (D)	16	5	84%	McClure (R)	16	3	56%	Waldron (D)	9	7
56%	Daniels (D)	9	7	82%	McFarland (R)	18	4	53%	Williams (D)	9	8
59%	Driskell (D)	10	7	71%	Melo (R)	17	7	61%	Woodson (D)	11	7
88%	Duggan (R)	23	3	85%	Michael (R)	22	4	85%	Yarkosky (R)	17	3
53%	Dunkley (D)	9	8	86%	Mooney (R)	19	3	76%	Yeager (R)	22	7
67%	Edmonds (D)	12	6	62%	Nixon (D)	13	8				

Total Votes with AIF/Business = 76%

# Historical Florida Legislature VOTING RECORDS

*On Key Business Issues*



**The *Voting Records* is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.**

**Note:** Includes votes after roll call

Visit [AIF.com](https://aif.com) for more information on *Voting Records* and the 2023 Session.

## FLORIDA SENATE

Name/Party	2023	History
Albritton (R)	87%	96%
Avila (R)	86%	88%
Baxley (R)	88%	95%
Berman (D)	66%	65%
Book (D)	67%	77%
Boyd (R)	86%	96%
Bradley (R)	81%	90%
Brodeur (R)	81%	95%
Broxson (R)	85%	96%
Burgess (R)	86%	88%
Burton (R)	83%	92%
Calatayud (R)	85%	85%
Collins (R)	85%	85%
Davis (D)	76%	69%
DiCeglie (R)	78%	87%
Garcia (R)	79%	86%
Grall (R)	67%	76%
Gruters (R)	80%	89%
Harrell (R)	86%	95%
Hooper (R)	81%	94%
Hutson (R)	83%	93%
Ingoglia (R)	88%	89%
Jones (D)	65%	77%
Martin (R)	76%	76%
Mayfield (R)	88%	95%
Osgood (D)	66%	64%
Passidomo (R)	83%	96%
Perry (R)	86%	96%
Pizzo (D)	71%	78%
Polsky (D)	71%	63%
Powell (D)	64%	77%
Rodriguez (R)	82%	92%
Rouson (D)	68%	69%
Simon (R)	85%	85%
Stewart (D)	87%	83%
Thompson (D)	54%	67%
Torres (D)	60%	71%
Trumbull (R)	78%	88%
Wright (R)	79%	92%
Yarborough (R)	83%	87%

# FLORIDA HOUSE

Name/Party	2023	History	Name/Party	2023	History	Name/Party	2023	History
Abbott (R)	85%	85%	Eskamani (D)	54%	46%	Overdorf (R)	79%	87%
Altman (R)	84%	91%	Esposito (R)	86%	86%	Payne (R)	87%	89%
Alvarez (R)	86%	86%	Fabricio (R)	88%	79%	Perez (R)	82%	89%
Amesty (R)	74%	74%	Fernandez-Barquin (R)	88%	86%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	84%	81%
Anderson (R)	82%	82%	Fine (R)	82%	88%	Plakon (R)	84%	84%
Andrade (R)	87%	90%	Franklin (D)	65%	65%	Plasencia (R)	81%	81%
Antone (D)	71%	71%	Gantt (D)	36%	36%	Porras (R)	86%	86%
Arrington (D)	53%	67%	Garcia (R)	83%	83%	Rayner-Goolsby (D)	57%	54%
Baker (R)	83%	83%	Garrison (R)	86%	79%	Renner (R)	81%	89%
Bankson (R)	86%	86%	Giallombardo (R)	82%	82%	Rizo (R)	84%	81%
Barnaby (R)	82%	81%	Gonzalez Pittman (R)	81%	81%	Roach (R)	85%	84%
Bartleman (D)	62%	61%	Gossett-Seidman (R)	78%	78%	Robinson, F. (D)	65%	62%
Basabe (R)	83%	83%	Gottlieb (D)	62%	51%	Robinson, W. (R)	82%	89%
Bell (R)	76%	87%	Grant (R)	82%	95%	Rommel (R)	77%	86%
Beltran (R)	65%	84%	Gregory (R)	84%	84%	Roth (R)	86%	90%
Benjamin (D)	64%	66%	Griffitts (R)	88%	88%	Rudman (R)	76%	76%
Berfield (R)	85%	91%	Harris (D)	55%	55%	Salzman (R)	82%	74%
Black (R)	83%	83%	Hart (D)	57%	65%	Shoaf (R)	78%	88%
Borrero (R)	78%	80%	Hawkins (R)	83%	78%	Silvers (D)	65%	77%
Botana (R)	87%	79%	Hinson (D)	58%	59%	Sirois (R)	73%	86%
Brackett (R)	88%	88%	Holcomb (R)	78%	78%	Skidmore (D)	68%	71%
Bracy Davis (D)	61%	61%	Hunschofsky (D)	67%	63%	Smith (R)	87%	88%
Brannan (R)	86%	89%	Jacques (R)	68%	68%	Snyder (R)	83%	78%
Buchanan (R)	88%	88%	Joseph (D)	57%	58%	Stark (R)	77%	77%
Busatta Cabrera (R)	86%	76%	Killebrew (R)	88%	85%	Steele (R)	79%	79%
Campbell (D)	52%	54%	Koster (R)	81%	79%	Stevenson (R)	85%	91%
Canady (R)	86%	86%	LaMarca (R)	82%	90%	Tant (D)	82%	72%
Caruso (R)	88%	88%	Leek (R)	86%	91%	Temple (R)	84%	84%
Casello (D)	67%	65%	López, J. (D)	50%	50%	Tomkow (R)	86%	88%
Cassel (D)	62%	62%	Lopez, V. (R)	89%	89%	Trabulsy (R)	81%	83%
Chambliss (D)	65%	69%	Maggard (R)	79%	84%	Tramont (R)	76%	76%
Chaney (R)	83%	81%	Maney (R)	75%	75%	Truenow (R)	88%	80%
Clemons (R)	85%	93%	Massullo (R)	82%	87%	Tuck (R)	85%	81%
Cross (D)	56%	56%	McClain (R)	84%	89%	Valdés (D)	64%	56%
Daley (D)	76%	73%	McClure (R)	84%	91%	Waldron (D)	56%	56%
Daniels (D)	56%	81%	McFarland (R)	82%	85%	Williams (D)	53%	68%
Driskell (D)	59%	63%	Melo (R)	71%	76%	Woodson (D)	61%	63%
Duggan (R)	88%	87%	Michael (R)	85%	85%	Yarkosky (R)	85%	85%
Dunkley (D)	53%	53%	Mooney (R)	86%	79%	Yeager (R)	76%	76%
Edmonds (D)	67%	70%	Nixon (D)	62%	54%			



# 2023 Bill Index

Bill	Page	Bill	Page
<b>Agriculture &amp; Environment</b> .....	15	<b>General Government</b> .....	20
HB 1279 & SB 1164		SB 170 & HB 1515	
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services		Local Ordinances	
HB 1343 & SB 1184		<b>Housing</b> .....	20
Agricultural Lands		SB 102 & HB 627	
<b>Business Regulation</b> .....	15	Housing	
SB 814		<b>Information Technology</b> .....	21
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Soft Drinks		SB 262 & HB 1547	
<b>Civil Justice</b> .....	16	Technology Transparency	
HB 837 & SB 236		HB 1511 & SB 1708	
Civil Remedies		Cybersecurity	
HB 761 & SB 1308		<b>Legal &amp; Judicial</b> .....	22
Telephone Solicitation		SB 376 & HB 593	
SB 1002 & HB 541		Criminal History Information	
Motor Vehicle Glass		<b>Taxation</b> .....	22
SB 2A & HB 1A		HB 7063 & SB 7062	
Property Insurance		Taxation	
<b>Economic Development</b> .....	17	SB 1432 & HB 1153	
HB 5 & SB 1664		Communications Services	
Economic Programs		<b>Telecommunications</b> .....	23
HB 7053		SB 626 & HB 1221	
A Proposed Committee Bill (PCB)		Rural Electric Cooperatives	
<b>Employment</b> .....	18	<b>Transportation</b> .....	23
SB 1718 & HB 1617		HB 1191 & SB 1258	
Immigration		Use of Phosphogypsum	
<b>Energy</b> .....	19	HB 637 & SB 712	
SB 1162 & HB 821		Motor Vehicle Sales	
Renewable Energy Cost Recovery		HB 645 & SB 908	
SB 322 & HB 529		Unmanned Aircraft Systems	
Natural Gas Fuel Taxes			
SB 844 & HB 867			
Sales Tax Exemption for RNG Machinery and Equipment			

Visit [AIF.com](https://aif.com) for more information.



## AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

### **HB 1279 & SB 1164**

#### **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

by Rep. Danny Alvarez (R-Fishhawk) and Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa)

This bill primarily creates a program for sales tax exemptions on production materials used by agricultural producers. The program will allow farmers to apply for and use a Farm Tax Exempt Agricultural Materials (TEAM) card to receive the exemptions. This program works similarly in Georgia and is beneficial to the agriculture community there as well. The bill requires state agencies, universities, and colleges to give preference to food commodities grown or produced in Florida under certain purchasing agreements. The bill also makes technical changes and revises and eliminates several advisory councils under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

*HB 1279 was signed into law on May 25 and went into effect July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** sales tax exemptions for Florida's agricultural producers and efforts to make these exemptions easier to access.

### **HB 1343 & SB 1184**

**Agricultural Lands** by Rep. Kaylee Tuck (R-Sebring) and Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa).

This bill was designed to help prevent excessive fire tax assessments on agricultural buildings as well as allow for housing for agricultural employees to be built on agricultural land. As the bill made its way through the process, it was amended to prohibit counties from levying virtually any special assessments on agricultural buildings. Ultimately, this provision was included in the tax package,

HB 7063. With regard to the employee housing section, the House and Senate took different positions as to the size of the property necessary to build and the setbacks required.

*The bill passed both chambers but in different forms. Ultimately, a compromise was not able to be reached, and the bill died in messages after bouncing between the chambers during the last week of session.*

**AIF supported** this bill because it would have prevented excessive taxes on businesses and included measures that would help them meet employee housing needs.

## BUSINESS REGULATION

### **SB 814**

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Soft Drinks** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota).

In its original form, SB 814 would have requested that Congress prohibit recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients from using such benefits to purchase carbonated beverages sweetened with natural or artificial sweeteners, also known as "soft drinks."

**AIF supported** an amendment that was added to the bill that changed the intent to instead urge Congress to perform an updated study on the foods typically purchased by users of SNAP. The last study was performed in 2011.

*SB 814 died in the Senate Rules Committee.*

**AIF supports** gathering updated data before suggesting significant changes to the implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assurance Program.

## CIVIL JUSTICE

### **HB 837 & SB 236**

**Civil Remedies** by Rep. Tommy Gregory (R-Lakewood Ranch) and Sen. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast).

This bill is a transformative tort reform package designed to eliminate the cottage industry of trial lawyers and frivolous legal artists that has undermined the integrity of Florida's civil justice system for years. The bill addressed several loopholes in law and court procedure. The bill had seven sections that addressed critical areas:

**1. Transparency in Damages** – The bill institutes true transparency in damages so that juries get a comprehensive view of actual costs of medical treatment. In the past, attorneys and doctors have been able to shield information about agreements between them which leads to inflating the cost of the treatment. This bill creates a transparent process that discloses these agreements and allows juries to get a clear picture of the actual cost of the medical treatment.

**2. One-Way Attorney Fees** – The bill reverses the system that incentivizes attorneys to bring frivolous lawsuits by limiting the recovery of one-way fees to only declaratory judgment actions seeking a determination of coverage against the insurer that denied coverage.

**3. Premises Liability** – The bill protects property owners from lawsuits stemming from criminal actions of others. It states that in a lawsuit against a property owner for "negligent security," a jury may consider the fault of the person who actually committed the underlying criminal act. It also provides liability protection for multifamily residential properties that implement specific security requirements.

**4. Modified Comparative Liability** – The bill promotes personal responsibility by stating that a party that is more than 50 percent at fault for their own injuries may not recover damages from other minimally-at-fault parties. However, medical malpractice claims are exempted from this new threshold.

**5. Third-Party Bad Faith** – The bill encourages settlements and discourages litigation by requiring third parties to cooperate in good faith. It allows insurers to pay the lesser of policy limits or the demand within 120 days after receiving actual notice of a claim accompanied by sufficient evidence. It also reverses Florida Supreme Court rulings that have led to ordinary negligence being deemed as bad faith.



AIF President & CEO Brewster Bevis addresses members at the the 2023 Florida Business Forum in Tallahassee.

**6. Contingency Risk Multiplier** – In 2017, the Florida Supreme Court rejected the federal standard that attorney fee multipliers should only be applied in "rare and exceptional" circumstances, ruling instead that multipliers could be applied in almost any case. This bill restores the award of contingency risk multipliers to only rare and exceptional circumstances for all litigation.

**7. Statute of Limitations** – The bill reduces the statute of limitations for negligence cases from four years to two years.

*HB 837 was signed into law on March 23 and went into effect immediately.*

This bill faced strong opposition from the trial bar throughout the session. Yet, instead of being watered down throughout the session, the bill actually became stronger. The sections dealing with premises liability and the statute of limitations were added to the House bill after the first committee stop and were later incorporated into the Senate version.

**AIF supported** this legislation because it will help eliminate unnecessary legal costs and provide much needed stability for Florida businesses and consumers. Florida has been labeled a "judicial hellhole" for far too



long. This important tort reform will go a long way to spur future investment and alleviate the concerns of those who fear the cost of doing business in Florida due to frivolous litigation.

### **HB 761 & SB 1308**

**Telephone Solicitation** by Rep. Tom Fabricio (R-Miami Lakes) and Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville).

This legislation closes a loophole created by a 2021 consumer protection bill that limited unsolicited telephone sales calls. While the 2021 bill increased consumer protection, it also allowed for increased litigation on businesses contacting their customers for legitimate reasons. By creating a definition of “automatic telephone dialing system” and inserting some clarifying language, HB 761 will prevent crafty plaintiff’s bar attorneys from suing businesses attempting to legitimately contact customers. This bill does not remove any consumer protections originally passed in 2021.

HB 761 was signed into law on May 25 and went into effect immediately.

**AIF supports** legislative efforts to remove loopholes that help enrich trial lawyers at the expense of businesses that produce goods and services on which all Floridians rely.

### **SB 1002 & HB 541**

**Motor Vehicle Glass** by Sen. Linda Stewart (D-Orlando) and Rep. Griff Griffiths (R-Panama City).

The bill makes multiple changes around the process of windshield replacement. It prohibits the deceptive practice of motor vehicle glass repair shops offering a rebate, gift, gift card, coupon, or other items of value to a customer in exchange for making an insurance claim. It also prohibits consumers from entering an assignment of benefits (AOB) contract for the replacement and calibration of the windshield.

*SB 1002 was signed into law on May 25 and went into effect at the time it was signed.*

**AIF supported** the efforts by the legislature to bring more transparency and fairness in the auto repair market between insurance providers and policy holders. Litigation should not be auctioned off frivolously when the alternative is better for the policy holder in the long run.

### **SB 2A & HB 1A**

**Property Insurance** by Sen. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) and Rep. Tom Leek (R-Daytona Beach).

A special session was called to deal with what is considered a property insurance crisis in Florida. There were several significant reforms in the bill with the primary one being the elimination of one-way attorney fees for property insurance claims. One-way attorney fees had allowed a plaintiff who files litigation against an insurer to be protected from paying the legal fees of the insurer if the case is judged in favor of the defendant (the insurer). This policy opened the door for thousands of frivolous lawsuits against insurers and caused higher premiums. This bill ended this practice in Florida.

The bill also reformed Florida law regarding “Notice of Claims.” Until this bill passed, Florida law allowed residents up to three years after a natural disaster to file a claim. This bill shortens the timeframe, which encourages home and business owners to file claims in a timely manner and will help reduce fraudulent claims. Additionally, the bill added more protections to help ensure Citizens Property Insurance remains a residual market entity.

*SB 2A was passed during a special session, signed into law on December 12, 2022, and went into effect immediately.*

**AIF supports** legislation that helps keep property insurance affordable and transparent between consumers and providers by eliminating one-way attorney fees, eliminating assignment of benefits, and restoring the statute of limitations for filing claims after a natural disaster.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **HB 5 & SB 1664**

**Economic Programs** by Rep. Tiffany Esposito (R-Fort Myers) and Sen. Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor).

This bill significantly reshapes Florida’s approach to economic development by eliminating Enterprise Florida, a public-private partnership that has been in effect since 1996. As initially drafted, the bill would have eliminated essentially all programs and duties of Enterprise Florida, but in the end, many of the programs were preserved and the operations will be significantly restructured. The bill changes the name of the Department of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Commerce and the preserved programs will be maintained there.



Attorney General Ashley Moody at the 2023 Policy Retreat in St. Pete Beach.

*HB 7053 died in the Ways & Means Committee.*

**AIF supports** full funding for Visit Florida to ensure that it can continue to bring visitors to our state. **AIF opposes** legislation that could significantly weaken or lead to the elimination of Visit Florida.

## EMPLOYMENT

### **SB 1718 & HB 1617**

**Immigration** by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill) and Rep. Kiyan Michael (R-Jacksonville Beach).

In a press conference before session, Governor DeSantis proposed legislation focused on disincentivizing illegal immigration in Florida. Sen. Blaise Ingoglia and Rep. Kiyan Michael introduced bills based largely on the Governor's proposal. Federal law requires employers to verify the employment eligibility of their employees when they are hired.

AIF fully supports this policy that helps ensure employees are properly documented and legally authorized to work. In past years, AIF has worked to ensure that employers have discretion as to how workers were authorized, and not mandated to use the E-Verify system. The E-Verify system continues to be a pilot program at the federal level and has been known to be unreliable and inconsistent. AIF believes the current I-9 process for verification of employment eligibility is sufficient and an E-Verify mandate is unnecessary.

The Senate and House versions had several significant differences. While both were focused on increasing enforcement and discouraging illegal immigration, the original Senate version did not include an E-Verify mandate for private employers. Unfortunately, the bill would not stay in this form. Ultimately, the bill was amended and passed in a way that has an E-Verify mandate for most employers.

- Beginning July 1, 2023, the bill requires private employers with 25 or more employees to use the E-Verify system for new employees.
- Beginning July 1, 2024, the bill amends the penalties for an employer's noncompliance to register and use the E-Verify system, including imposing a daily fine of \$1,000 and allowing for the suspension of employer

AIF has been a supporter of Enterprise Florida and the programs focused on growing existing companies and attracting new business to the state. Programs of interest to many AIF members that were in jeopardy, but were ultimately maintained, were the Urban-High Crime Tax Credit, the Capital Investment Tax Credit, the Brownfield Tax Credit, and others.

*HB 5 was signed into law on May 31 and went into effect July 1, 2023.*

**AIF is concerned** with the elimination of several key programs and with how the newly restructured department will be able to work to help grow Florida business.

### **HB 7053**

**A Proposed Committee Bill (PCB)** by the House Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee.

Tourism is Florida's leading industry and Visit Florida has played a large role in creating a world-class marketing engine that has helped bring millions of visitors to the state.

This PCB would have totally changed the funding structure of Visit Florida by funding it solely through local tourism development taxes (TDTs). It would have required Visit Florida to expend at least seventy-five percent of all funds to directly assist rural counties and Florida's state parks and forests. Among other things, the bill would have also required all TDTs to expire after six years and be renewed by referendum.

licenses after multiple findings of noncompliance.

- The bill also creates substantial penalties for employers who knowingly employ unauthorized aliens, effective July 1, 2024, including the suspension or revocation of employer licenses in certain circumstances. The penalties for non-compliance are also significant and should be adjusted to be more proportionate. Although this law takes effect on July 1, 2023, the penalties for not using E-Verify will not be enforced until July 1, 2024.

*SB 1718 was signed into law on May 10 and went into effect on July 1, 2023. However, there are certain penalties that will not be enforced until July 1, 2024.*

**AIF opposed** this legislation because it creates a mandate for most employers to utilize an unreliable E-Verify system and could lead to confusion and instability in the workforce. Moreover, the penalties are excessive. The possibility of large employers having business licenses revoked because of a handful of clerical mistakes is not a good precedent.

## ENERGY

### **SB 1162 & HB 821**

**Renewable Energy Cost Recovery** by Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) and Rep. Brad Yeager (R-New Port Richey).

This bill would allow electric and natural gas public

utilities to be approved for cost recovery for renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen infrastructure projects. RNG is biogas that has been upgraded to use in place of fossil fuel natural gas. This is a product that has great potential to be a renewable source of energy used as a transportation fuel for electric generation. Allowing for cost recovery would help encourage the production and use of RNG and provide for fuel diversification.

*HB 821 died when it was not heard by the Commerce Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislation that will enable utilities to develop renewable energy resources using the technology and scale that makes most sense for those utilities and their customers, many of which are businesses.

### **SB 322 & HB 529**

**Natural Gas Fuel Taxes** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota) and Rep. Jim Mooney (R-Key Largo).

In 2014, the Florida legislature passed a measure that provided for a sales tax exemption for natural gas fuels until January 1, 2024. This legislation would extend this tax exemption until January 1, 2026. Many logistical and industrial operators in Florida use natural gas fleets to service their customers. This relief has allowed Florida businesses to keep operating costs low, which trickles down to lower costs for consumers.

*The language of SB 322 was included in the tax package, HB 7063.*



AIF President & CEO Brewster Bevis speaks to members at the the Champions for Business Awards Dinner in St. Pete Beach.



**AIF supports** legislation that reduces the state sales tax on natural gas. These cost-cutting measures keep Florida's business market competitive with other states, improve our energy independence, and retain jobs in the Sunshine State.

## **SB 844 & HB 867**

### **Sales Tax Exemption for RNG Machinery and Equipment**

by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and Rep. Griff Griffiths (R-Panama City)

This legislation exempts machinery and equipment used at a fixed location that produces, stores, transports, compresses, or blends renewable natural gas from the Florida standard 'sales and use' tax rate. This exemption helps encourage the production of RNG at landfills, livestock operations, and wastewater treatment plants.

*The language of SB 844 was included in the tax package, HB 7063.*

**AIF supports** energy policies that allow for the research, development, and distribution of alternative energy fuels.

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

## **SB 170 & HB 1515**

**Local Ordinances** by Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) and Rep. Robbie Brackett (R-Vero Beach).

This bill deals with the passage and challenging of local ordinances and gives certain rights to those challenging local ordinances.

- It requires counties and cities to produce a "business impact estimate" prior to passing an ordinance.
- It requires local governments to suspend the enforcement of ordinances when they are challenged.
- It allows courts to award up to \$50,000 in attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff who successfully challenges an ordinance as arbitrary or unreasonable.

*SB 170 was signed into law on June 29 and will go into effect on October 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** legislation which holds local governments accountable for the actions they take that can have a negative impact on businesses in their jurisdiction. This is vital to securing a more free-market, business friendly environment so businesses are protected from unnecessary, burdensome regulations.

 Supported by AIF  Opposed by AIF



## **HOUSING**

## **SB 102 & HB 627**

**Housing** by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and Rep. Demi Busatta Cabrera (R-Coral Gables).

The lack of affordable workforce housing is an issue that has impacted Florida's business community for years. This year, Senate President Passidomo prioritized a comprehensive strategy designed to increase the availability of attainable housing options for Florida workers who seek to live in the communities they serve.

Senate Bill 102, named the "Live Local Act," is designed to take significant steps to address Florida's backlog of affordable workforce housing in the state. The Live Local Act maintains the high level of funding for Florida's State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) programs and provides additional funding for SAIL. It specifies local strategies to help increase attainable and affordable housing options throughout the state for Floridians of all income levels and all stages of life. It also encourages private sector investment to accelerate new workforce housing construction through new partnerships, creates a new sales tax refund on building materials and provides additional incentives.

*SB 102 was signed into law on March 29 and went into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** legislation which allows for continued and more reliable access to affordable housing in underdeveloped communities. These proposals create jobs and broaden the economic impact of communities with historically low economic returns.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### SB 262 & HB 1547

**Technology Transparency** by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Orange Park) and Rep. Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota).

For the third session in a row, legislation was filed for the stated goal of protecting consumer data privacy. The 2021 and 2022 versions were **strongly opposed** by AIF and ultimately failed because many Florida businesses would have been subject to regulations that were costly and burdensome, as well as a private cause of action that could have led to an onslaught of frivolous litigation.

This year's legislation was initially drafted with a much narrower scope, focusing on companies that make an excess of \$1 billion in annual revenue and either derive 50% of revenue from targeted advertising or operate a smart speaker device. It also did not contain a private cause of action.

While these were positive steps, the bill still had significant problems. Early versions of the bill continued to be based on a 2018 California law that has proven to be a problematic and unworkable model. All other states have addressed this issue and have used a different model with a more reasonable approach. Throughout the session, AIF worked to support changes that would more closely align Florida's bill with these states to promote consistency for businesses that operate in multiple states.

The bill would also have had a significant impact on Florida companies of all sizes who use large online

platforms for targeted advertising. Online advertising is an important tool, and this bill would significantly impair a company's ability to effectively utilize targeted advertising, even if the consumer's data is not being sold or shared.

For these reasons, **AIF opposed** these bills throughout much of the session.

During the final weeks of the session there was a flurry of activity with the bill. The Senate adopted a strike all amendment in the Rules Committee that essentially adopted a model consistent with other business-friendly state legislation. Although the fine structure in the amendment was much higher than other states, AIF supported the amendment because it allowed businesses to utilize targeted advertising in the proper context. It also largely aligned with other states, helping to ease concerns about compliance.

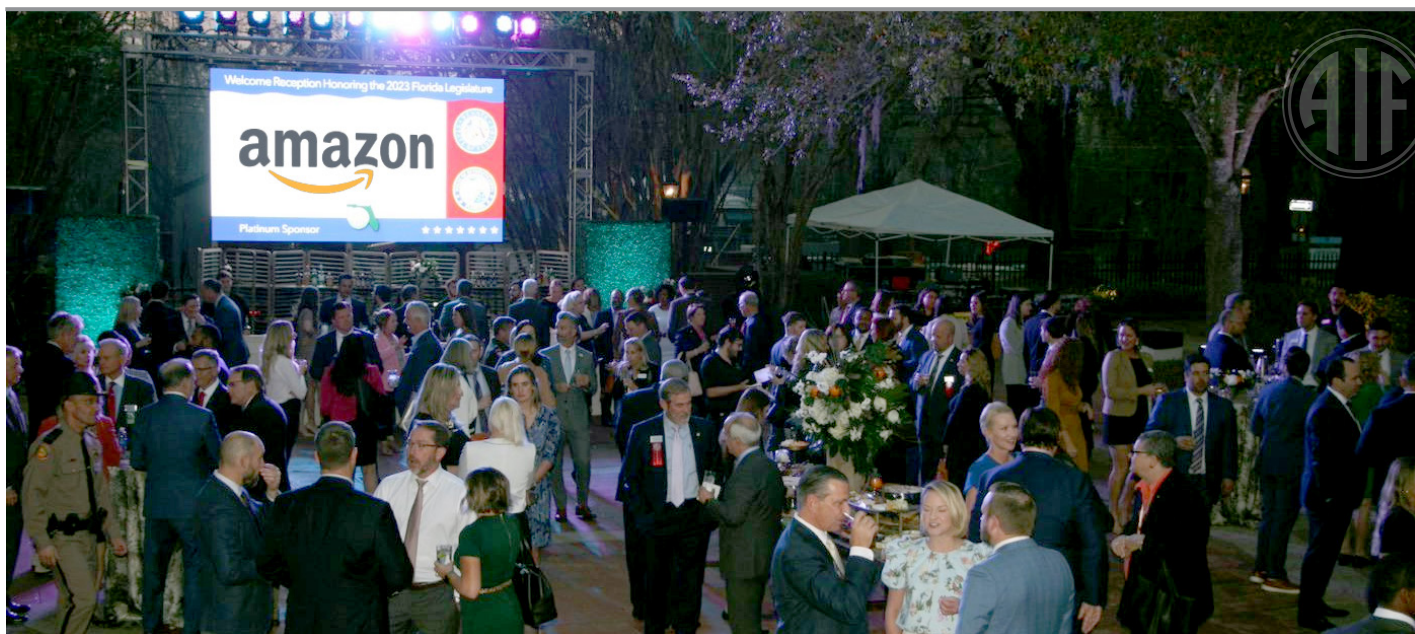
While this amendment put the bill in a significantly improved posture, the House made significant changes, including a section with language that would place significant regulations on any Florida business that uses tracking or monitoring technology. Additionally, a section regarding online child protection with confusing standards is included. **AIF opposed** both amendments.

During the final week of session, the bill bounced back and forth between the chambers and was amended eight times before final passage. Ultimately, these amendments largely reverted the bill back to a posture that will negatively impact a business' ability to utilize targeted advertising and will create additional confusing

AIF President & CEO Brewster Bevis, AIF VP of Government Affairs Adam Basford and AIF Chairman Jose Gonzalez present Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) with the 2023 Champion for Business award.







AIF members, business leaders and legislators gather at the 2023 AIF Legislative Reception in Tallahassee.

and ambiguous regulations surrounding online child protections.

*SB 262 passed on May 4 and was signed into law on June 6 and will become effective on July 1, 2024.*

**AIF opposed** the bill in its final form. But with an implementation date of July 1, 2024, we are hopeful that some positive changes can be made next session, if the Governor signs the bill and before the bill comes into effect.

## **HB 1511 & SB 1708**

**Cybersecurity** by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) and Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg).

Cybersecurity is a significant and growing concern, and recent cyberattacks have continued to place a focus on the harm that they can cause to Florida businesses. Among other things, this legislation was written to provide liability protection for businesses that have adopted a cybersecurity program that complies with industry-recognized cybersecurity standards. This would help to encourage businesses to take the proper cybersecurity safeguards while protecting them from liability if they have taken the proper precautions.

*HB 1511 and SB 1708 both died in committee after having one hearing each.*

**AIF supports** measures that help aid the prevention of cyberattacks and data breaches on Florida's businesses and that provide liability protection.

 Supported by AIF  Opposed by AIF

## LEGAL & JUDICIAL

### **SB 376 & HB 593**

**Criminal History Information** by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) and Rep. Spencer Roach (R-Fort Myers).

Accurate criminal history reporting is important to both employers and their potential employees. There are situations where some criminal history records are automatically sealed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) but are not sealed at the local level. This can create confusion in the background check process. The bill revises the process for a court-ordered sealing of a criminal history record so that if it is properly sealed by FDLE, it will be sealed at the local level as well. This ensures that if a potential employee's not guilty verdict or judgment acquittal has been sealed by FDLE, that it is also sealed at the local level.

*SB 376 was passed on May 4, was signed into law by the Governor on June 5 and went into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** legislation that helps create consistency in reporting of criminal history records.

## TAXATION

### **HB 7063 & SB 7062**

**Taxation** by Rep. Stan McClain (R-Ocala) and Sen. Blaise Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill).

HB 7063 is a comprehensive tax overhaul that has a multifaceted approach and is friendly to Florida businesses. This \$1.3 billion tax package is very broad and contains



provisions that were pulled from several other bills relating to taxation. It also incorporates many consumer-friendly items contained in Governor DeSantis' tax cut proposal. It creates several sales tax holidays, including back-to-school, disaster preparedness and recreational holidays, as well as a one-year exemption for gas ranges and ENERGY STAR appliances.

Below is a list of some of the provisions of the bill that will impact Florida businesses:

- Provides a decrease in the tax rate on the retail sale of communication services and keeps the decreased rate until 2026. (HB 1153/SB 1432)
- Reduces the business rent tax from 5.5% to 4.5% beginning in December 2023.
- Provides for two 14-day "back-to-school" sales tax holidays.
- Provides for two 14-day "disaster preparedness" sales tax holidays.
- Prohibits local governments from applying special assessments on agricultural lands. (HB 1343/SB 1184)
- Provides a permanent sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment used in the production of renewable natural gas. (SB 844/HB 867)
- Extends sales tax exemptions on natural gas fuel taxes until January 1, 2026, rather than the current deadline in 2024. (SB 322/HB 529)
- Provides a permanent sales tax exemption for certain agricultural fencing.

*HB 7063 was signed into law on May 25 and went into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** legislative efforts to provide tax relief for all businesses operating in Florida. These incentives drive future investment and foster a well-rounded, vibrant economy that creates jobs and lowers costs for consumers.

## **SB 1432 & HB 1153**

**Communications Services Tax** by Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) and Rep. Kevin Steele (R-Dade City).

This legislation provides a decrease in the tax rate on the retail sale of communication services and keeps the decreased rate until 2026. The term "communications services" means the transmission, conveyance, or routing of voice, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals, including video services, to a point, or between or among points, by or through any electronic, radio, satellite, cable, optical, microwave, or other medium or method, regardless of the protocol used for such transmission or conveyance.

*SB 1432 was included in the tax package, HB 7063.*

**AIF supports** continued reductions in the state portion of the communications services tax and supports reviewing and standardizing the local communications services tax rates.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **SB 626 & HB 1221**

**Rural Electric Cooperatives** by Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) and Rep. Josie Tomkow (R-Auburndale).

As originally filed, this bill sought to create a level playing field in broadband deployment. AIF initially supported the bill because access to Cooperative Utility poles on reasonable terms and conditions is necessary for broadband services to be deployed in many areas across Florida. AIF believes parties should be encouraged to come to an agreement related to pole access and reasonable terms and conditions.

*HB 1221 was signed into law on June 5 and will go into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** the expansion of broadband services to all Floridians and supports legislation that seeks to promote that goal.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **HB 1191 & SB 1258**

**Use of Phosphogypsum** by Rep. Lawrence McClure (R-Plant City) and Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City).

Phosphogypsum (PG) is a byproduct of the phosphate manufacturing process. It has limited use in some agricultural applications, but the vast majority is stored in large stacks. There are currently 24 stacks in the state containing approximately 1 billion tons of PG. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has gone back and forth on allowing PG to be used as a road construction material.

This bill directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to study the use of PG as a road construction aggregate material. If FDOT determines it is suitable for use in road construction, the bill allows PG to be used in accordance with EPA approval.

*HB 1191 was signed into law on June 29 and went into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supports** efforts to utilize manufacturing byproducts for beneficial purposes. Expanding the use of PG will directly address critical infrastructure needs and create jobs.

### **HB 637 & SB 712**

**Motor Vehicle Sales** by Rep. Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe) and Sen. Bryan Avila (R-Miami).

HB 637 amends the Florida Automobile Dealers Act, which primarily regulates the contractual business relationship between franchised motor vehicle dealers (dealers), and manufacturers, factory branches, distributors, and importers (manufacturers) and provides for the licensure of manufacturers. Many pieces of this bill were successfully worked out between the stakeholders involved. However, there was one provision of particular concern to AIF. The bill legislatively sets a profit-sharing arrangement for over-the-air updates that allows dealers to profit from these sales, regardless of their involvement.

*HB 637 was signed into law on June 13 and went into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF stood in opposition** to the bill because arrangements like these should be negotiated between private entities, not the legislature.

### **HB 645 & SB 908**

**Unmanned Aircraft Systems** by Rep. Robbie Brackett (R-Vero Beach) and Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral).

Florida law has restricted the use of drones around critical infrastructure facilities such as military bases, airports, refineries, and other facilities. These restrictions provide important protections, but Florida's deepwater ports and railyards were not included in the original list of protected facilities. This bill simply amends the definition of "critical infrastructure facility" to include a deepwater port or a railroad switching yard, ensuring drones are restricted from flying in their area.

*HB 645 was signed into law on May 25 and went into effect on July 1, 2023.*

**AIF supported** adding greater protection for Florida's deepwater ports and railyards by including them and their facilities as critical infrastructure in Florida law.



Supported by AIF



Opposed by AIF

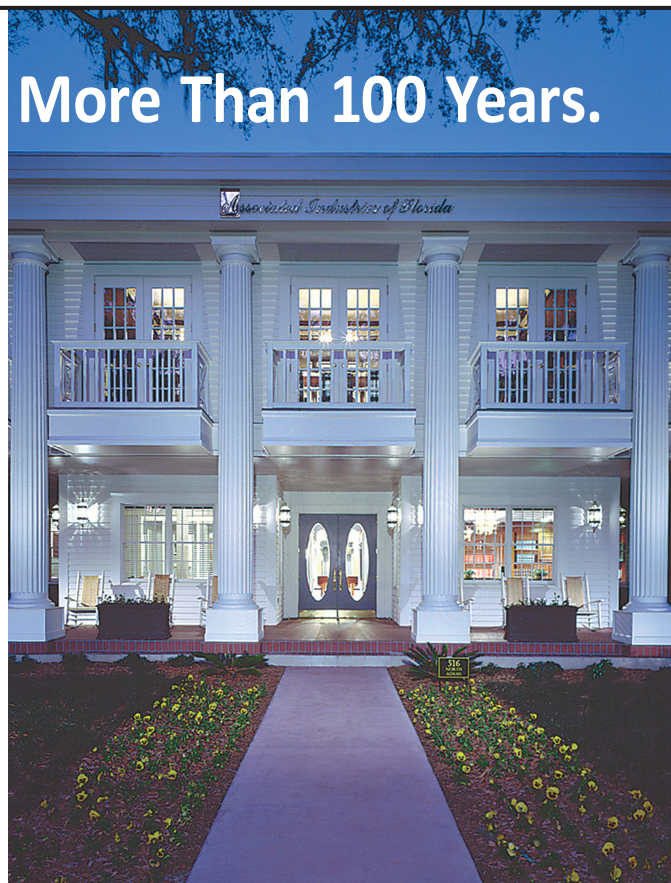
## Taking Care of Business for More Than 100 Years.

**Government is full of people who have never run a business, turned a profit, or met a payroll. That's why Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) exists.**

Whenever politicians and bureaucrats gather, AIF is there to protect your business against new laws and regulations that stifle the energy and creativity of the free market. AIF minds your business in the state capital so you can concentrate on providing the services and products Floridians want and need.

AIF provides you with the support and the tools you need to defend yourself against attacks on your business' bottom line.

**To learn more about AIF membership services and/or apply for membership, please contact: Adam Basford, Vice President of Governmental Affairs, at 850.224.7173 or [abasford@aif.com](mailto:abasford@aif.com).**





# Associated Industries of Florida Policy Councils & Coalition

Our councils bring together unique sectors of the business community in order to develop and promote issues vital to those respective industries.

These Councils are the backbone of policy making at AIF as the member companies of each Council voice their issues, concerns and ideas and help develop the policies that are presented to our Board of Directors for approval.

## Want to Participate?

As a member, you can take a leadership role in the public policy issues that affect your company. Membership is required to participate on AIF's Councils and to receive our member communications.

To learn more about AIF membership services and/or apply for membership, please contact:

**Adam Basford, Vice President  
of Governmental Affairs at**  
**850.224.7173** or  
**[abasford@aif.com](mailto:abasford@aif.com)**



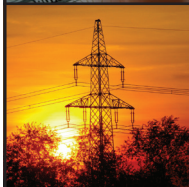
### **Environmental Sustainability & Agriculture Council**

Addressing recycling, water quality, product stewardship, and other environmental issues important to the business community.



### **Financial Services Council**

Insurance and financial industries, working in concert with other interested parties, to secure a stable fiscal climate for Florida.



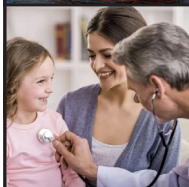
### **Florida Energy Council**

Developing resources to meet Florida's future energy needs — producers, suppliers, storage facilities, marketers, retailers, wholesalers and users.



### **Florida Transportation & Maritime Council**

Ensuring their continued economic prowess in a global marketplace for businesses that operate or support operations at any of Florida's 14 deep water ports.



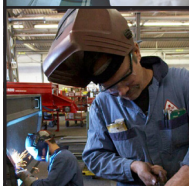
### **Health Care Council**

Working to craft a more functional and sustainable health care delivery system for Florida, incorporating the core principles of access, quality and affordability.



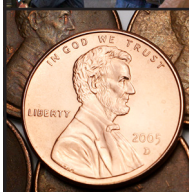
### **Information Technology Council**

Promoting Florida's move to the cutting edge of technology to meet the demands of a diverse, fast-growing population, while balancing the needs of the state and private sector.



### **Manufacturing, Aerospace & Defense Council**

Advancing the interests of Florida's manufacturing community to help Florida diversify its economy and provide more high-wage and high value-added jobs in the state.



### **Taxation Council**

State tax revenues are necessary to fund essential state services and programs, but those needs must be balanced against the impact of taxation on Florida's businesses.



### **H2O Coalition**

Supporting science-based solutions and adequate funding to address Florida's water quality and water capacity issues.



*Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.*



A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes a stand for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate and who faces down opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

The *Champion for Business* is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has supported business and who hasn't, we leave no stone unturned.

In our collective wisdom, these six legislators are the epitome of what a *Champion for Business* should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.



**Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples)**

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo is receiving her fifth **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds President Passidomo for her impeccable leadership during the 2023 Legislative Session. President Passidomo was an essential part in passing a historic tort reform bill, as well as spearheading efforts to increase access to affordable workforce housing. President Passidomo also worked closely with AIF to promote business-friendly solutions to several bills that pose significant challenges. AIF thanks President Passidomo for her unwavering commitment to keeping Florida a strong, free-flowing economy with unlimited opportunities for economic growth.



**House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast)**

Speaker of the House Paul Renner is receiving his second **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Speaker Renner for his steadfast leadership in passing landmark legislation that will finally begin to put an end to lawsuit abuse. Florida's difficult legal climate has plagued businesses in our state for too long and was holding our economy back from achieving even greater prosperity. AIF thanks Speaker Renner for his bold leadership that helped pass one of the most monumental civil justice reform bills in history.



**Representative Tommy Gregory (R-Lakewood Ranch)**

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Tommy Gregory is receiving his first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Chairman Gregory for his dedication to reshaping the legal climate in Florida by spearheading the revolutionary tort reform law **HB 837**. As the bill sponsor, Chairman Gregory faced fierce opposition from the powerful trial bar. Yet, instead of watering down the bill through the committee process, he pushed to provide even stronger protections for businesses that are at risk of frivolous lawsuits. AIF thanks Chairman Gregory for his efforts to significantly improve Florida's legal climate for both businesses and consumers.

**The *Champion for Business* award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.**



#### **Senator Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast)**

Senator Travis Hutson is receiving his first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Sen. Hutson for his role in passing the Senate's tort reform package during the 2023 Legislative Session. Sen. Hutson, who is not an attorney, masterfully presented the complex legal issues in the bill and was able to successfully guide the bill throughout the committee process and on the Senate Floor. Additionally, Sen. Hutson made a concerted effort to work with all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that the reforms passed were meaningful and had a lasting impact on businesses and consumers. AIF thanks Sen. Hutson for his years of legislative service to the State of Florida and looks forward to working with him during his final session in the Senate.



#### **Senator Linda Stewart (D-Orlando)**

Senator Linda Stewart is receiving her first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Sen. Stewart's willingness to cross party lines and be the only Democratic senator to vote for the sweeping tort reform bill. She also sponsored a bill that will significantly cut back on the amount of litigation in the auto glass industry. Like many aspects facing Florida businesses, the auto glass market was continuously burdened by a system that incentivized excessive litigation. The bill removed the ability for auto glass repair shops to provide incentives for customers to file claims, as well as eliminated the assignment of benefits for auto glass claims. AIF thanks Sen. Stewart for her years of service in the Florida legislature and for her commitment to protect Florida businesses during her tenure.



#### **Representative Tom Fabricio (R-Miami Lakes)**

Representative Tom Fabricio is receiving his first **Champion for Business Award**. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Rep. Fabricio for his stellar work as prime co-sponsor of **HB 837** that will help put an end to lawsuit abuse in the Sunshine State. As prime co-sponsor, he presented substantial pieces of the legislation and played a significant role in the bill's success. Rep. Fabricio also sponsored **HB 761** that clarifies the Florida Telephone Solicitation Act to prevent frivolous litigation when businesses call or text customers for legitimate reasons. AIF is thankful to Rep. Fabricio for providing steady, insightful leadership in passing monumental civil justice reforms during the 2023 Session.

Visit [AIF.com/CFB](https://aif.com/cfb) for a complete list of past AIF Champion for Business winners.

[FlaWaterForum.com](https://FlaWaterForum.com)



# FLORIDA Water Forum 2023

Addressing the critical issues  
of Florida's water supply,  
planning & quality.



# Associated Industries of Florida



516 North Adams Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32301



850.224.7173



[aif@aif.com](mailto:aif@aif.com)



[AIF.com](http://AIF.com)



[@VoiceofFLBIZ](https://twitter.com/VoiceofFLBIZ)