



# VOTING RECORDS

2021 Regular  
Session of the  
Florida Legislature



ASSOCIATED  
INDUSTRIES  
OF FLORIDA

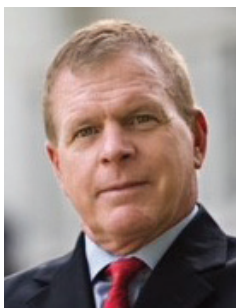
*The Voice of Florida  
Business Since 1920*

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**CHAMPIONS**  
for **BUSINESS**

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## a message from the CEO



Tom C. Feeney  
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 2021 Regular Session. 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 4,389 votes cast by legislators on 55 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 *Daily Brief* on the activities of that day, highlighting bills of interest to business 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 46 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-scene 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 10 legislators and the Governor (see page 22) honored this year are the epitome of a "Champion for Business."



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Tom C. Feeney  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# A Session Like No Other

It was obvious that 2021 would be consumed with COVID-19 recovery and the immense task of rebooting Florida's economy.

The 2021 Legislative Session was unlike any session that has come before it. In the midst of a global pandemic, we welcomed a new Speaker of the House, Representative Chris Sprowls, and Senate President, Senator Wilton Simpson. Of the 160 members that comprise our state legislature, 48 were freshmen eager to fulfill campaign promises and help their constituents overcome hardships brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

In early 2020 when the pandemic hit, it was obvious that the 2021 session would be consumed with COVID-19 recovery and the immense task of rebooting Florida's economy. Businesses and health care providers needed civil liability protection, the economy needed a jumpstart, and some industries needed to rethink their business model. Thanks in part to the AIF-led RESET Task Force, legislators began session with a detailed roadmap to Florida's economic recovery.

COVID-19 liability protection for businesses was of the utmost importance as it could impact every industry and every business in the state. **SB 72**, passed by both chambers, signed by the Governor, and supported by AIF, protects the businesses driving the economic recovery from opportunistic lawsuits. AIF will always support efforts to protect the business community from frivolous and costly litigation that drives up the cost of doing business.



To add to the complexity of the session for Florida's employers, while the COVID-19 issues were a primary focus, two pieces of legislation that would be as fatal to the business community as the COVID-19 liability issue were filed. While AIF supports protecting consumers from unscrupulous actors profiting off their personal data, **HB 969** and **SB 1734** cast too wide a net that would have caught far too many businesses that processed data in day-to-day transactions. These bills would have drastically impacted every business in the state who collected the data of their consumers. Additionally, the proposed private cause of action would have opened a Pandora's box of costly class action lawsuits for these businesses. The legislation presented would have put a significant financial burden on Florida's businesses who are already dealing with the challenges of COVID-19 and facing the implementation of an increase in

minimum wage, which could have dramatic effects on our state's economy. Through AIF's tireless efforts and the willingness of the bill sponsors to work with us, these bills were amended to remove the private right of action. Ultimately, AIF opposed these bills as the excessive cost of compliance to businesses was of great concern.

Though the Capitol looked different this year with lobbyists and the public granted limited access, 229 bills passed both the House and Senate and were presented to the Governor for his action.

Associated Industries of Florida is committed to working with all elected officials. Our strong, pro-business agenda puts Florida's job creators and their employees first to make Florida the premier state in which to do business. ■



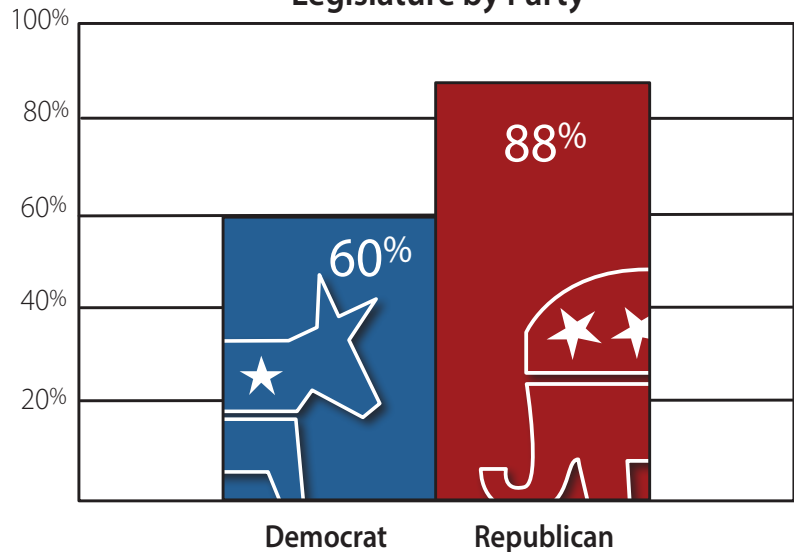
**Brewster Bevis** is Senior VP of State and Federal Affairs for Associated Industries of Florida and may be reached at [bbevis@aif.com](mailto:bbevis@aif.com).



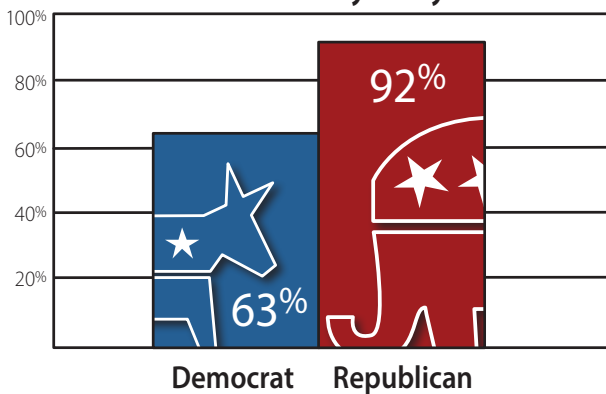
# 2021 Florida Legislature *by the Numbers*

**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.**

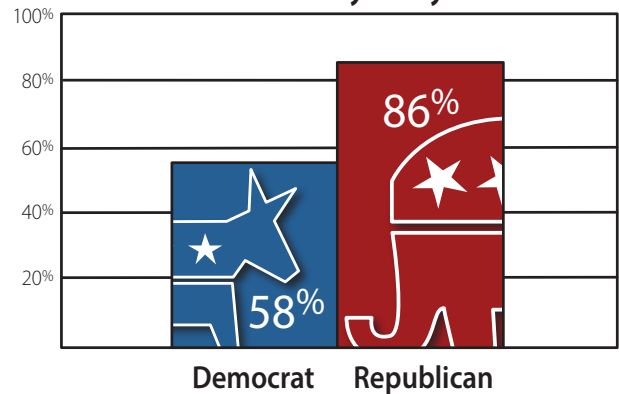
### Legislature by Party



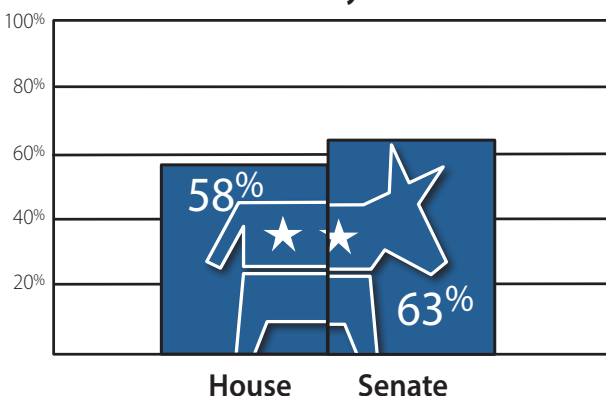
### Senate by Party



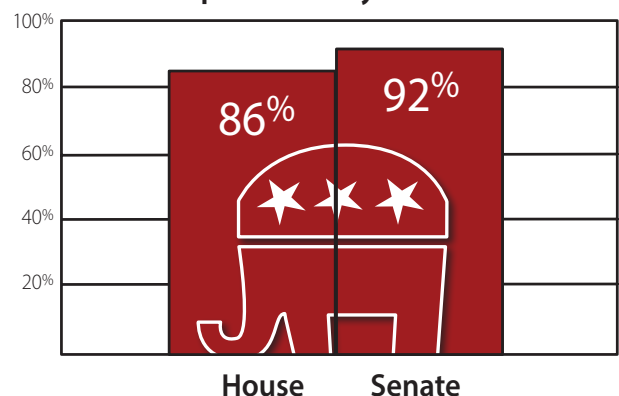
### House by Party



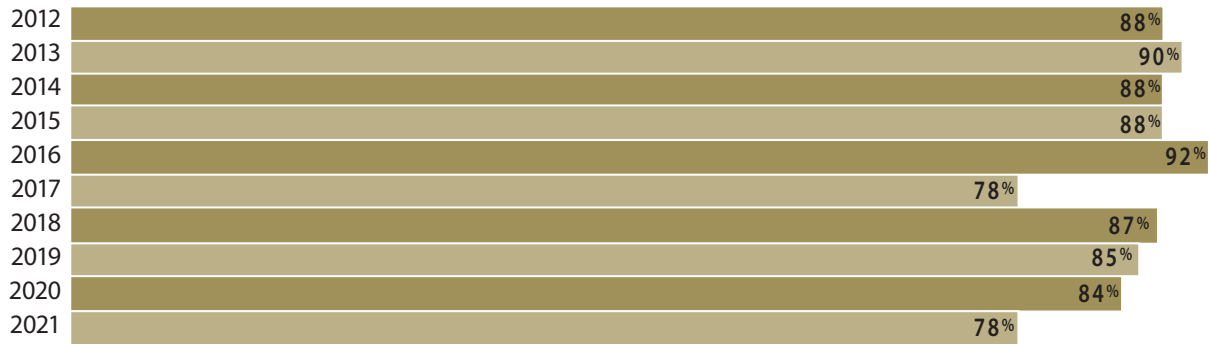
### Democrats by Chamber



### Republicans by Chamber

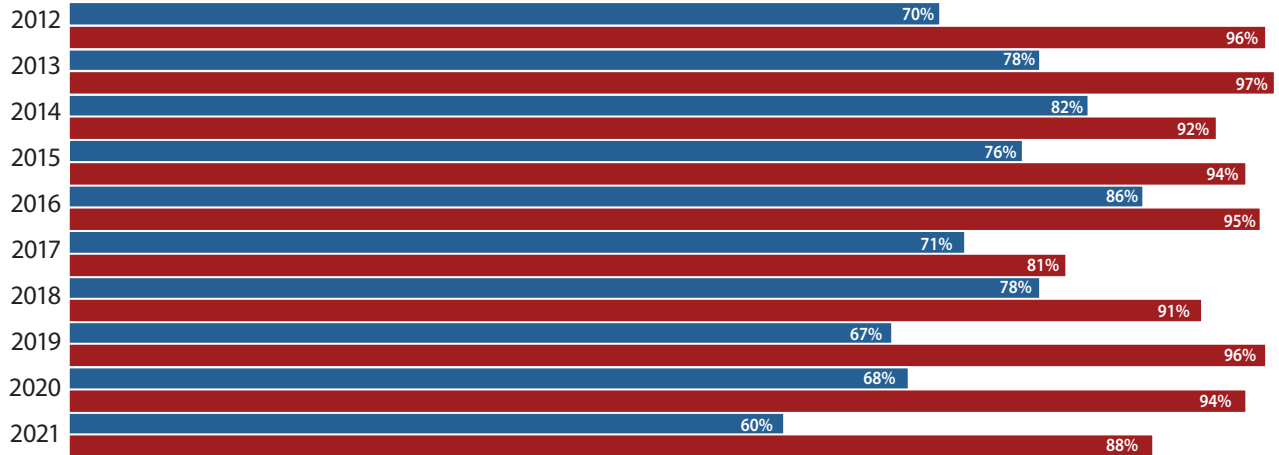


## Legislature Voting Records — Past Ten Years



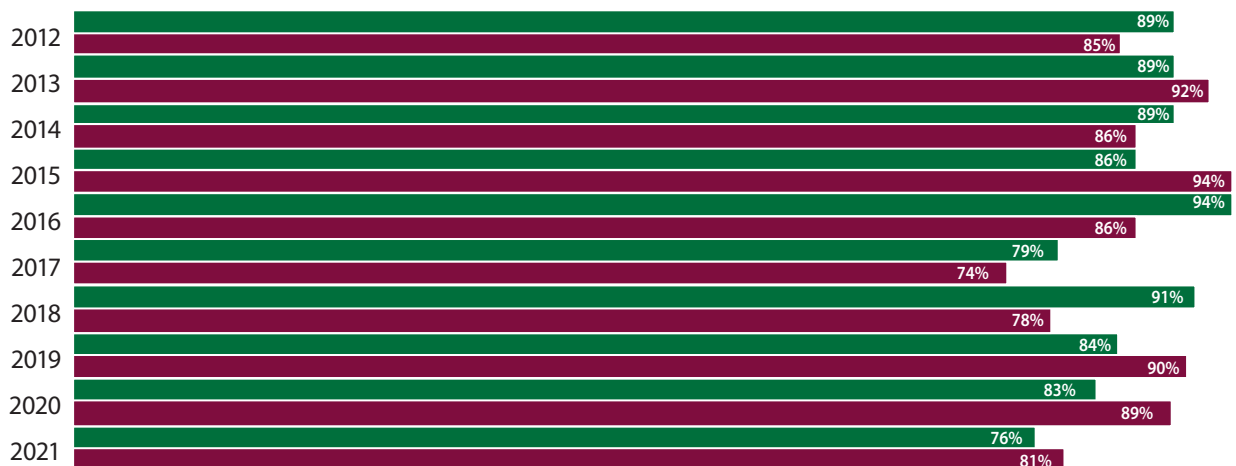
## Party Voting Records — Past Ten Years

■ Democrats ■ Republicans



## Chamber Voting Records — Past Ten Years

■ House ■ Senate



# 2021 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 as of 5/24/2021

Visit [AIF.com](http://AIF.com) for more information on *Voting Records* and the 2021 Session.

#### BY RANK

#### FLORIDA SENATE

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
97%	Harrell (R)	29	1
95%	Simpson (R)	18	1
94%	Albritton (R)	44	3
94%	Bean (R)	32	2
94%	Bradley (R)	30	2
94%	Brandes (R)	44	3
94%	Hutson (R)	51	3
94%	Perry (R)	30	2
94%	Stargel (R)	31	2
93%	Brodeur (R)	28	2
93%	Mayfield (R)	42	3
93%	Passidomo (R)	39	3
93%	Rodriguez (R)	28	2
93%	Wright (R)	39	3
92%	Broxson (R)	33	3
92%	Hooper (R)	49	4
91%	Burgess (R)	30	3
91%	Gruters (R)	41	4
90%	Boyd (R)	27	3
90%	Diaz (R)	43	5
90%	Gainer (R)	26	3
89%	Baxley (R)	40	5
88%	Garcia (R)	43	6
86%	Rodrigues (R)	37	6
81%	Pizzo (D)	30	7
81%	Stewart (D)	29	7
77%	Bracy (D)	27	8
74%	Book (D)	32	11
69%	Jones (D)	22	10
69%	Powell (D)	34	15
66%	Berman (D)	19	10
66%	Torres (D)	21	11
65%	Taddeo (D)	22	12
61%	Ausley (D)	14	9
60%	Cruz (D)	21	14
57%	Rouson (D)	24	18
53%	Polsky (D)	17	15
51%	Gibson (D)	21	20
44%	Thurston (D)	18	23
37%	Farmer (D)	14	24

**Total Senate Votes with AIF/Business = 81%**

## BY RANK

### FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
96%	Clemons (R)	24	1	88%	Trumbull (R)	15	2	70%	Silvers (D)	21	9
93%	McFarland (R)	26	2	88%	Tuck (R)	15	2	69%	Grieco (D)	18	8
92%	Altman (R)	22	2	87%	Ingoglia (R)	20	3	68%	Chambliss (D)	13	6
92%	Caruso (R)	22	2	86%	Buchanan (R)	25	4	68%	Grall (R)	17	8
92%	Payne (R)	24	2	86%	Fetterhoff (R)	18	3	68%	Gregory (R)	19	9
92%	Roth (R)	23	2	86%	Harding (R)	19	3	65%	Arrington (D)	11	6
92%	Trabulsy (R)	24	2	86%	Killebrew (R)	18	3	65%	Benjamin (D)	15	8
92%	Zika (R)	24	2	86%	Maggard (R)	24	4	65%	Bush (D)	11	6
91%	LaMarca (R)	21	2	86%	Perez (R)	18	3	65%	Duran (D)	13	7
91%	Shoaf (R)	30	3	86%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	19	3	63%	Hart (D)	15	9
90%	DiCeglie (R)	27	3	86%	Plakon (R)	25	4	62%	Woodson (D)	13	8
90%	Drake (R)	28	3	86%	Roach (R)	18	3	61%	Robinson, F. (D)	11	7
90%	Leek (R)	19	2	86%	Robinson, W. (R)	19	3	61%	Willhite (D)	14	9
90%	Massullo (R)	19	2	85%	Brannan (R)	17	3	60%	Hunschofsky (D)	12	8
90%	McClain (R)	18	2	85%	Byrd (R)	22	4	60%	Slosberg (D)	21	14
90%	Rizo (R)	18	2	85%	Fabricio (R)	22	4	59%	Alexander (D)	13	9
90%	Smith D. (R)	19	2	85%	Fischer (R)	17	3	59%	Brown (D)	16	11
89%	Bell (R)	17	2	85%	Rommel (R)	23	4	58%	Hinson (D)	14	10
89%	Borrero (R)	16	2	84%	Garrison (R)	21	4	57%	Casello (D)	13	10
89%	Burton (R)	17	2	84%	Sirois (R)	16	3	57%	Geller (D)	13	10
89%	Chaney (R)	24	3	84%	Yarborough (R)	21	4	57%	Tant (D)	12	9
89%	Giallombardo (R)	24	3	83%	Botana (R)	20	4	56%	Davis (D)	14	11
89%	Grant (R)	17	2	83%	Mariano (R)	20	4	56%	DuBose (D)	9	7
89%	Koster (R)	17	2	82%	Hawkins (R)	18	4	56%	McCurdy (D)	10	8
89%	Plasencia (R)	17	2	82%	Learned (D)	18	4	56%	Morales (D)	10	8
89%	Stevenson (R)	17	2	82%	Mooney (R)	18	4	56%	Rayner (D)	10	8
89%	Williamson (R)	24	3	82%	Sabatini (R)	18	4	56%	Thompson (D)	14	11
88%	Andrade (R)	15	2	81%	Duggan (R)	22	5	56%	Williams (D)	9	7
88%	Barnaby (R)	23	3	81%	Fernandez-Barquin (R)	21	5	52%	Bartleman (D)	11	10
88%	Beltran (R)	28	4	81%	Salzman (R)	22	5	52%	Jenne (D)	11	10
88%	Hage (R)	21	3	81%	Truenow (R)	21	5	52%	Joseph (D)	13	12
88%	Latvala (R)	21	3	78%	Busatta Cabrera (R)	18	5	50%	Goff-Marcil (D)	14	14
88%	Maney (R)	15	2	78%	Fine (R)	18	5	50%	Gottlieb (D)	12	12
88%	McClure (R)	21	3	77%	Aloupis (R)	17	5	50%	Nixon (D)	13	13
88%	Melo (R)	21	3	76%	Avila (R)	13	4	48%	Driskell (D)	12	13
88%	Overdorf (R)	22	3	75%	Omphroy (D)	21	7	47%	Valdés (D)	8	9
88%	Renner (R)	15	2	74%	Toledo (R)	17	6	46%	Smith C. (D)	11	13
88%	Snyder (R)	23	3	72%	Skidmore (D)	18	7	45%	Hardy (D)	9	11
88%	Sprowls (R)	15	2	70%	Daley (D)	21	9	42%	Diamond (D)	11	15
88%	Tomkow (R)	21	3	70%	Rodriguez (R)	21	9	33%	Eskamani (D)	9	18

Total House Votes with AIF/Business = 76%

# 2021 Florida Legislature

# VOTING RECORDS

## *On Key Business Issues*

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**Note:** Includes votes after roll call as of 5/24/2021

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### ALPHABETICALLY

#### FLORIDA SENATE

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
94%	Albritton (R)	44	3
61%	Ausley (D)	14	9
89%	Baxley (R)	40	5
94%	Bean (R)	32	2
66%	Berman (D)	19	10
74%	Book (D)	32	11
90%	Boyd (R)	27	3
77%	Bracy (D)	27	8
94%	Bradley (R)	30	2
94%	Brandes (R)	44	3
93%	Brodeur (R)	28	2
92%	Broxson (R)	33	3
91%	Burgess (R)	30	3
60%	Cruz (D)	21	14
90%	Diaz (R)	43	5
37%	Farmer (D)	14	24
90%	Gainer (R)	26	3
88%	Garcia (R)	43	6
51%	Gibson (D)	21	20
91%	Gruters (R)	41	4
97%	Harrell (R)	29	1
92%	Hooper (R)	49	4
94%	Hutson (R)	51	3
69%	Jones (D)	22	10
93%	Mayfield (R)	42	3
93%	Passidomo (R)	39	3
94%	Perry (R)	30	2
81%	Pizzo (D)	30	7
53%	Polsky (D)	17	15
69%	Powell (D)	34	15
86%	Rodrigues (R)	37	6
93%	Rodriguez (R)	28	2
57%	Rouson (D)	24	18
95%	Simpson (R)	18	1
94%	Stargel (R)	31	2
81%	Stewart (D)	29	7
65%	Taddeo (D)	22	12
44%	Thurston (D)	18	23
66%	Torres (D)	21	11
93%	Wright (R)	39	3

**Total Senate Votes with AIF/Business = 81%**

# ALPHABETICALLY

## FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
59%	Alexander (D)	13	9	84%	Garrison (R)	21	4	86%	Perez (R)	18	3
77%	Aloupis (R)	17	5	57%	Geller (D)	13	10	86%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	19	3
92%	Altman (R)	22	2	89%	Giallombardo (R)	24	3	86%	Plakon (R)	25	4
88%	Andrade (R)	15	2	50%	Goff-Marcil (D)	14	14	89%	Plasencia (R)	17	2
65%	Arrington (D)	11	6	50%	Gottlieb (D)	12	12	56%	Rayner (D)	10	8
76%	Avila (R)	13	4	68%	Grall (R)	17	8	88%	Renner (R)	15	2
88%	Barnaby (R)	23	3	89%	Grant (R)	17	2	90%	Rizo (R)	18	2
52%	Bartleman (D)	11	10	68%	Gregory (R)	19	9	86%	Roach (R)	18	3
89%	Bell (R)	17	2	69%	Grieco (D)	18	8	61%	Robinson, F. (D)	11	7
88%	Beltran (R)	28	4	88%	Hage (R)	21	3	86%	Robinson, W. (R)	19	3
65%	Benjamin (D)	15	8	86%	Harding (R)	19	3	70%	Rodriguez (R)	21	9
89%	Borrero (R)	16	2	45%	Hardy (D)	9	11	85%	Rommel (R)	23	4
83%	Botana (R)	20	4	63%	Hart (D)	15	9	92%	Roth (R)	23	2
85%	Brannan (R)	17	3	82%	Hawkins (R)	18	4	82%	Sabatini (R)	18	4
59%	Brown (D)	16	11	58%	Hinson (D)	14	10	81%	Salzman (R)	22	5
86%	Buchanan (R)	25	4	60%	Hunschofsky (D)	12	8	91%	Shoaf (R)	30	3
89%	Burton (R)	17	2	87%	Ingoglia (R)	20	3	70%	Silvers (D)	21	9
78%	Busatta Cabrera (R)	18	5	52%	Jenne (D)	11	10	84%	Sirois (R)	16	3
65%	Bush (D)	11	6	52%	Joseph (D)	13	12	72%	Skidmore (D)	18	7
85%	Byrd (R)	22	4	86%	Killebrew (R)	18	3	60%	Slosberg (D)	21	14
92%	Caruso (R)	22	2	89%	Koster (R)	17	2	46%	Smith C. (D)	11	13
57%	Casello (D)	13	10	91%	LaMarca (R)	21	2	90%	Smith D. (R)	19	2
68%	Chambliss (D)	13	6	88%	Latvala (R)	21	3	88%	Snyder (R)	23	3
89%	Chaney (R)	24	3	82%	Learned (D)	18	4	88%	Sprowls (R)	15	2
96%	Clemons (R)	24	1	90%	Leek (R)	19	2	89%	Stevenson (R)	17	2
70%	Daley (D)	21	9	86%	Maggard (R)	24	4	57%	Tant (D)	12	9
56%	Davis (D)	14	11	88%	Maney (R)	15	2	56%	Thompson (D)	14	11
42%	Diamond (D)	11	15	83%	Mariano (R)	20	4	74%	Toledo (R)	17	6
90%	DiCeglie (R)	27	3	90%	Massullo (R)	19	2	88%	Tomkow (R)	21	3
90%	Drake (R)	28	3	90%	McClain (R)	18	2	92%	Trabulsy (R)	24	2
48%	Driskell (D)	12	13	88%	McClure (R)	21	3	81%	Truenow (R)	21	5
56%	DuBose (D)	9	7	56%	McCurdy (D)	10	8	88%	Trumbull (R)	15	2
81%	Duggan (R)	22	5	93%	McFarland (R)	26	2	88%	Tuck (R)	15	2
65%	Duran (D)	13	7	88%	Melo (R)	21	3	47%	Valdés (D)	8	9
33%	Eskamani (D)	9	18	82%	Mooney (R)	18	4	61%	Willhite (D)	14	9
85%	Fabricio (R)	22	4	56%	Morales (D)	10	8	56%	Williams (D)	9	7
81%	Fernandez-Barquin (R)	21	5	50%	Nixon (D)	13	13	89%	Williamson (R)	24	3
86%	Fetterhoff (R)	18	3	75%	Omphroy (D)	21	7	62%	Woodson (D)	13	8
78%	Fine (R)	18	5	88%	Overdorf (R)	22	3	84%	Yarborough (R)	21	4
85%	Fischer (R)	17	3	92%	Payne (R)	24	2	92%	Zika (R)	24	2

Total House Votes with AIF/Business = 76%

# Historical Florida Legislature VOTING RECORDS

*On Key Business Issues*

**The AIF Historical  
Voting Records  
provides a cumulative  
tally of all the votes  
cast by legislators on  
AIF issues over their  
careers in the  
Florida Legislature.**

Visit [AIF.com](http://AIF.com) for more  
information on *Voting Records*  
and the 2021 Session.

## FLORIDA SENATE

Name/Party	2021	History
Albritton (R)	94%	97%
Ausley (D)	61%	73%
Baxley (R)	89%	95%
Bean (R)	94%	92%
Berman (D)	66%	65%
Book (D)	74%	78%
Boyd (R)	90%	97%
Bracy (D)	77%	79%
Bradley (R)	94%	94%
Brandes (R)	94%	94%
Brodeur (R)	93%	96%
Broxson (R)	92%	96%
Burgess (R)	91%	89%
Cruz (D)	60%	64%
Diaz (R)	90%	93%
Farmer (D)	37%	60%
Gainer (R)	90%	85%
Garcia (R)	88%	88%
Gibson (D)	51%	75%
Gruters (R)	91%	90%
Harrell (R)	97%	95%
Hooper (R)	92%	95%
Hutson (R)	94%	93%
Jones (D)	69%	78%
Mayfield (R)	93%	95%
Passidomo (R)	93%	96%
Perry (R)	94%	96%
Pizzo (D)	81%	80%
Polsky (D)	53%	62%
Powell (D)	69%	77%
Rodrigues (R)	86%	91%
Rodriguez (R)	93%	94%
Rouson (D)	57%	69%
Simpson (R)	95%	92%
Stargel (R)	94%	95%
Stewart (D)	81%	84%
Taddeo (D)	65%	70%
Thurston (D)	44%	63%
Torres (D)	66%	73%
Wright (R)	93%	96%

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name/Party	2021	History	Name/Party	2021	History	Name/Party	2021	History
Alexander (D)	59%	69%	Garrison (R)	84%	84%	Perez (R)	86%	93%
Aloupis (R)	77%	91%	Geller (D)	57%	60%	Persons-Mulicka (R)	86%	86%
Altman (R)	92%	92%	Giallombardo (R)	89%	89%	Plakon (R)	86%	94%
Andrade (R)	88%	95%	Goff-Marcil (D)	50%	50%	Plasencia (R)	89%	93%
Arrington (D)	65%	65%	Gottlieb (D)	50%	45%	Rayner (D)	56%	56%
Avila (R)	76%	90%	Grall (R)	68%	80%	Renner (R)	88%	91%
Barnaby (R)	88%	88%	Grant (R)	89%	95%	Rizo (R)	90%	90%
Bartleman (D)	52%	52%	Gregory (R)	68%	87%	Roach (R)	86%	89%
Bell (R)	89%	93%	Grieco (D)	69%	68%	Robinson, F. (D)	61%	61%
Beltran (R)	88%	92%	Hage (R)	88%	93%	Robinson, W. (R)	86%	95%
Benjamin (D)	65%	65%	Harding (R)	86%	86%	Rodriguez (R)	70%	88%
Borrero (R)	89%	89%	Hardy (D)	45%	45%	Rommel (R)	85%	90%
Botana (R)	83%	83%	Hart (D)	63%	63%	Roth (R)	92%	93%
Brannan (R)	85%	93%	Hawkins (R)	82%	82%	Sabatini (R)	82%	88%
Brown (D)	59%	63%	Hinson (D)	58%	58%	Salzman (R)	81%	81%
Buchanan (R)	86%	91%	Hunschofsky (D)	60%	60%	Shoaf (R)	91%	95%
Burton (R)	89%	95%	Ingoglia (R)	87%	92%	Silvers (D)	70%	77%
Busatta Cabrera (R)	78%	78%	Jenne (D)	52%	59%	Sirois (R)	84%	93%
Bush (D)	65%	77%	Joseph (D)	52%	62%	Skidmore (D)	72%	70%
Byrd (R)	85%	88%	Killebrew (R)	86%	87%	Slosberg (D)	60%	68%
Caruso (R)	92%	93%	Koster (R)	89%	89%	Smith, C. (D)	46%	63%
Casello (D)	57%	64%	LaMarca (R)	91%	95%	Smith, D. (R)	90%	94%
Chambliss (D)	68%	68%	Latvala (R)	88%	93%	Snyder (R)	88%	88%
Chaney (R)	89%	89%	Learned (D)	82%	82%	Spowls (R)	88%	92%
Clemons (R)	96%	95%	Leek (R)	90%	94%	Stevenson (R)	89%	93%
Daley (D)	70%	71%	Maggard (R)	86%	90%	Tant (D)	57%	57%
Davis (D)	56%	68%	Maney (R)	88%	88%	Thompson D)	56%	68%
Diamond (D)	42%	64%	Mariano (R)	83%	91%	Toledo (R)	74%	84%
DiCeglie (R)	90%	93%	Massullo (R)	90%	90%	Tomkow (R)	88%	92%
Drake (R)	90%	95%	McClain (R)	90%	92%	Trabulsy (R)	92%	92%
Driskell (D)	48%	62%	McClure (R)	88%	95%	Truenow (R)	81%	81%
DuBose (D)	56%	72%	McCurdy (D)	56%	56%	Trumbull (R)	88%	92%
Duggan (R)	81%	91%	McFarland (R)	93%	93%	Tuck (R)	88%	88%
Duran (D)	65%	77%	Melo (R)	88%	88%	Valdés (D)	47%	51%
Eskamani (D)	33%	45%	Mooney (R)	82%	82%	Willhite (D)	61%	78%
Fabricio (R)	85%	85%	Morales (D)	56%	56%	Williams (D)	56%	69%
Fernandez-Barquin (R)	81%	90%	Nixon (D)	50%	50%	Williamson (R)	89%	94%
Fetterhoff (R)	86%	94%	Omphroy (D)	75%	68%	Woodson (D)	62%	62%
Fine (R)	78%	90%	Overdorf (R)	88%	92%	Yarborough (R)	84%	91%
Fischer (R)	85%	93%	Payne (R)	92%	91%	Zika (R)	92%	93%

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# 2021 Bills

## Agriculture

### **HB 1601 & SB 88**

**Farming Operations** by Rep. Jay Williamson (R-Pace) and Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford)

The bills amend and strengthen the Florida Right to Farm Act, which is intended to protect reasonable agricultural activities conducted on farmland from nuisance lawsuits. The bills provide stronger liability protections to farms that comply with best management practices and environmental regulations, and:

- Adds Agritourism to the list of practices protected by the Right to Farm Act;
- Institutes parameters regarding punitive and compensatory damages; and
- Limits eligibility to file a lawsuit to individuals located within one half mile of the activity.

*SB 88 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-007.*

**AIF supports** this legislation as it protects Florida's farmers and helps to eradicate bad faith litigation which drives up the cost of doing business, insurance rates, and negatively affects those providing food and resources to the state.

## Economic Development

### **SB 1444**

**Florida Small Manufacturing Business Recovery Act** by Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange)

The bill creates the Florida Small Manufacturing Business Recovery Act to be administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). The bill uses tax credits against the state insurance premium tax to incentivize investors to give funds, known as "relief contributions," to certified relief funds that will make capital or equity investments or loans with a maturity date of at least 2 years in an impact business. The total relief investment authorities are capped at \$100 million and relief contributions are capped at \$80 million.

An impact business is one that:

- Has fewer than 200 employees;
- Has its principal business operations in Florida; and
- Is engaged in manufacturing under NAICS code 31-33.

A business not engaged in manufacturing is considered an impact business under the bill if the DEO has determined that an investment in such a business will benefit the state's recovery.

*SB 1444 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**AIF will continue to support** legislation that assists Florida manufacturers who provide over 380,000 high wage jobs which drive the economy and furthers economic development in the state.

### **HB 947 & SB 78**

**Dues and Uniform Assessments** by Rep. Scott Plakon (R-Longwood) and Sen. Ray Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers)

The State Constitution of Florida forbids an employer from denying citizens the right to work based on membership or non-membership in any employee organization. These bills require an employee wanting to join a union to submit a signed membership authorization form; further, the union must revoke the membership if the employee submits a signed request for revocation. The union may not require a reason for the employee's decision to revoke membership.

The bills also require an employee to submit a signed dues deduction form before an employer may deduct union dues from an employee's pay. The employer must confirm with the employee that the deduction is authorized.

*HB 947 died in the House State Affairs Committee.*

*SB 78 died in the Senate Rules Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislation that helps Florida compete for and protect workers and further enhances the economic development in the state.

**Voting Records** was compiled using committee, amendment, and floor votes cast.

 Supported by AIF  Opposed by AIF

## **HB 73**

**Malt Beverage Advertising Agreements** by Rep. Josie Tomkow (R-Auburndale)

Florida's "Tied House Evil Law" prohibits a manufacturer or distributor of alcoholic beverages from having a financial interest in the establishment or business of a licensed vendor, and prohibits a manufacturer or distributor from giving gifts, loans, property, or rebates to retail vendors.

This bill provides that a manufacturer or importer of malt beverages and a vendor may enter into a written agreement for brand-naming rights and associated advertising if, among others:

- The agreement is negotiated at arm's length for no more than fair market value;
- The vendor operates places of business where consumption on the premises is permitted;
- The premises are located within a theme park complex that is owned, managed, controlled, and operated by the vendor;
- At least 1 million visitors annually pay admission fees to the theme park complex;
- The vendor, as a result of the agreement, does not give preferential treatment to the alcoholic beverage brand(s) of the manufacturer or importer; and
- The agreement does not limit, directly or indirectly, the sale of alcoholic beverages of another manufacturer, importer or distributor.

*HB 73 died in the House Commerce Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislative efforts to revise outdated laws that impose burdens and restrictions on any sector of the business community, including vendors and distributors of malt beverages.

## **SB 704**

**Entertainment Industry** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota)

This bill creates the Film, Television, and Digital Media Targeted Rebate Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity to broaden the entertainment industry's impact on the state, enhance tourism, and encourage more family-friendly productions in Florida. The program gives rebates on qualified expenditures to film, television, and digital media production projects that employ a crew of which at least 60% are Florida residents and spend at least 70% of their production days in Florida. A certified project may only receive a grant after it has completed production and the Office of Film and Entertainment has verified its expenditures.

*SB 704 died in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development.*

**AIF will continue to support** the Entertainment Tax Credit Program due to the jobs a more robust film industry would produce in the state of Florida.



AIF CEO Tom Feeney addresses business leaders during a Session Briefing in Tallahassee.

## **SB 778**

**Florida Tourism Marketing** by Sen. Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor)

VISIT FLORIDA is the name for the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, a non-profit that serves as Florida's statewide destination marketing organization and represents the state's tourism industry. This bill permits VISIT FLORIDA to carry forward any unexpended state appropriations into succeeding fiscal years. The bill also removes the scheduled repeal date of October 1, 2023, for both VISIT FLORIDA and the Division of Tourism Marketing within Enterprise Florida.

*SB 778 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**AIF supports** investment in building a world-class marketing engine with top talent, analytics, and funding that develops and executes data-driven branding strategies to bolster tourism and further the economic growth of Florida.

## **SB 148 & HB 329**

**Beverage Law** by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Orange Park) and Rep. Josie Tomkow (R-Auburndale)

Throughout the last year, day to day life has changed for everyone. The pandemic brought a multitude of hurdles to small and large businesses alike and the hospitality industry bore the brunt of the effects. The restaurant industry is notoriously difficult and

 Supported by AIF  Opposed by AIF

outdated laws only add to their operational hurdles. A byproduct of the pandemic is that “alcohol-to-go” has come to Florida. Under previous law, qualifying restaurants could sell beer, wine, and liquor for consumption on the premises only. The issue was raised by the Restore Economic Strength through Employment & Tourism (RESET) Task Force, an AIF-led group. These bills repeal the prohibition of sale for off-premises consumption of alcohol, thereby allowing restaurants to sell sealed containers of “alcohol-to-go” with the sale of food on the same order. The law requires food and nonalcoholic beverages to account for at least 25% of the order.

*SB 148 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-30.*

**AIF supports** legislation removing antiquated regulations on restaurant and lodging establishments to encourage the development of new businesses and increase the financial success of existing businesses, especially during the pandemic.

## **SB 510**

**State Funds** by Sen. Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor)

This bill exempts the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund from a provision authorizing the Legislature to transfer unappropriated cash balances to the Budget Stabilization Fund and General Revenue Fund.

*SB 510 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislation that shields funding allocated for the development of affordable housing which enables communities to grow, businesses to hire local workers, and continued economic growth in the state.



Brewster Bevis, AIF's Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, addresses members at AIF's Champions for Business awards presentation in Orlando.

## **HB 1239**

**Broadband Internet Infrastructure** by Rep. Josie Tomkow (R-Auburndale)

The pandemic brought with it a new age of working from home and remote learning. While inconsistent internet coverage in rural areas is not a new problem, the reliance on broadband for work and school helped reiterate the need to expand quality access. This bill provides a procedure for access by broadband providers for attachments to utility poles of municipal electric utilities. It directs the Florida Office of Broadband to create a strategic plan to increase broadband internet services in the state. Additionally, the bill provides a grant program for providers who seek to expand broadband internet services to unserved areas of the state. The amendment provides for a geographic information system map of broadband internet service availability throughout the state.

*HB 1239 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-024.*

**AIF supports** increased access to broadband internet as quality connectivity has become imperative to business operations across the state, especially during a time when so many businesses are operating remotely.

## **SB 1390**

**Capital Investment Tax Credit** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota)

The bill allows eligible projects that create or develop intellectual property to qualify for the Capital Investment Tax Credit. Under the bill, a project that creates intellectual property is eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of the project's eligible capital costs if the capital costs of one or more projects is in aggregate of at least \$50 million per year for 3 consecutive years. A qualifying business that establishes a “strategic priority project,” an intellectual property project that demonstrates the potential for measurable value to the state, is eligible for a tax credit equal to 20% of the eligible capital costs if the costs are at least \$75 million.

*SB 1390 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislative efforts to modernize the Capital Investment Tax Credit program to help Florida compete for sustainable high wage jobs for the development of leading-edge intellectual property projects.

## **Employers**

## **SB 912 & HB 859**

**Tolling and Extension of Permits and Other Authorizations During States of Emergency** by Sen. Ben Albritton (R-Bartow) and Rep. Michael Grant (R-Port Charlotte)

Permits, such as development or consumptive use, have an expiration date. Businesses are the driving force behind the



Sen. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) speaks with members at AIF's Session Briefing in Tallahassee.

economy and when circumstances beyond their control such as weather or health mandates arise and prevent them from working, they should not be penalized in lost permitted time.

The bills add certain permits and development agreements, including consumptive use permits and local government development agreements, to the current emergency tolling statute. The tolling statute allows for the tolling of the time of the state of emergency plus an additional six months. For example, if a state of emergency is declared for a hurricane that lasts for two months, at the end of the state of emergency, a permit holding entity can exercise the tolling option and receive those two months back to the permitted time allotment and add on an additional six months. The bill is retroactive to include the entirety of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

*SB 912 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-179.*

**AIF supports** legislation that prevents Florida businesses from being penalized on permitted time due to a state of emergency that is out of their control. Economic recovery after an emergency is imperative and businesses drive recovery via employment and production, none of which is possible if an operating permit has expired.

 Supported by AIF  Opposed by AIF

## Energy

### **HB 839 & SB 856**

**Express Preemption of Fuel Retailers and Related Transportation Infrastructure** by Rep. Tom Fabricio (R-Hialeah) and Sen. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast)

The bills preempt the regulation of transportation energy infrastructure to the state and specifies that any existing or future law, ordinance, regulation, policy, or resolution that is contrary to the preemption is void. Specifically, the bill prohibits local governments from:

- Prohibiting the redevelopment of a fuel retailer or the necessary related transportation infrastructure within that specific local government's entire jurisdiction;
- Any action resulting in a de facto jurisdiction-wide prohibition against a fuel retailer or related and necessary transportation infrastructure; and
- Mandating any required infrastructure on a fuel retailer, including electric vehicle charging stations.

The bills do not preempt a municipality, county, special district, or political subdivision from adopting and implementing ordinances, regulations, policies, or resolutions on the siting, development, or redevelopment of fuel retailers or necessary related transportation infrastructure that are consistent with other allowable uses and general law.

*HB 839 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-111.*

**AIF supports** legislation that removes onerous regulations on Florida businesses that will streamline operations and allow these entities to operate on a statewide regulation basis rather than a patchwork of local ordinances.

### **HB 919**

**Preemption Over Restriction of Utility Services** by Rep. Josie Tomkow (R-Auburndale)

The bill preempts municipalities, counties, special districts, or other political subdivisions of the state from restricting utility service choice, regardless of fuel source. The bill prohibits these entities from enacting or enforcing any resolutions, ordinances, rules, codes, or policies that restrict a property owner, tenant, or utility service customer's choice of utility service type from a utility service provider.

*HB 919 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-150.*

**AIF supports** legislation that enhances free market decisions by consumers and allows Florida businesses equal opportunity to serve and operate in the various corners of the state.

## Environment & Agriculture

### SB 2516

**Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee** by the Senate Appropriations Committee

The bill requires the South Florida Water Management District, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to expedite implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP). The LOWRP is a project that provides water storage north of Lake Okeechobee.

The bill provides a \$50 million annual appropriation for the LOWRP.

*SB 2516 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-40.*

**AIF supports** efforts to capture and store water north of Lake Okeechobee that will support the reduction of harmful discharges from the lake, thus preserving Florida's most important natural resource and the businesses that depend on clean water.

## Health Care

### SB 58

**Hospitals' Community Benefit Reporting** by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral)

Florida's Constitution grants various exemptions that exempt all or part of a property's assessed value from taxation, including exemptions for charitable purposes by hospitals.

This bill repeals the requirement for charitable hospitals

to submit to the Department of Revenue the amount of community benefit expense the hospital reported to the IRS. If the hospital's net community benefit expense does not equal or exceed the value of its tax exemption for two consecutive years, the Department of Revenue will notify the property appraiser to limit the hospital's property tax exemption to the value of the hospital's community benefit expense.

*SB 58 died in House messages.*

**AIF supports** removing unnecessary and burdensome administrative regulations that will allow health care providers to redirect resources and continue to provide greater access to care.

### HB 485 & SB 1142

**Personal Care Attendants** by Rep. Sam Garrison (R-Orange Park) and Sen. Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville)

The bills will allow nursing homes to employ personal care attendants (PCA) and to allow a PCA to work as a nursing assistant (and count as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) for the purposes of staffing requirements) for a period of up to four months if the PCA is participating in the PCA training program established by the Agency for Health Care Administration in consultation with the Board of Nursing. The training program must consist of at least 16 hours of education which will lead to a PCA becoming a CNA. The bills define a PCA as a person who provides care to and assists residents with tasks related to the activities of daily living and prohibits a PCA from performing any task that requires clinical assessment, interpretation, or judgment, or from working as a PCA for more than one nursing home before becoming a CNA.



Senators Jason Pizzo (D-Miami) and Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) at the Foundation of Associated Industries of Florida Lunch & Learn Series.

The bills also specify that a PCA must complete the 16 hours of education prior to having any direct contact with a resident.

*HB 485 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-163.*

**AIF supports** legislative efforts that expand access to care and keep health care costs low for Florida businesses.

## **SB 786**

**Prescription Insulin Drugs** by Sen. Janet Cruz (D-Tampa)

The bill requires individual and group health insurance policies and health maintenance organization (HMO) contracts that provide coverage for prescription insulin drugs for the treatment of diabetes to cap the cost-sharing obligation of an insured or subscriber for a 30-day supply of such drugs at an amount not to exceed \$100.

The Department of Management Services estimates that implementation of the bill will result in a negative fiscal impact.

*SB 786 died in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.*

**AIF opposes** legislation imposing additional burdens on health insurance providers that increase the cost of doing business for Florida's employer community.

## **Insurance**

## **SB 76**

**Property Insurance** by Sen. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton)

The bill implements litigation reform that:

- Subjects first party property lawsuits to a similar attorney fee structure as the 2019 Assignment of Benefits law;
- Cracks down on contractor solicitation; and
- Enhances authority of the Office of Insurance Regulation to examine domestic companies and their affiliates to ensure amounts paid to managing general agents are reasonable.

Notably, the Senate backed off on provisions regarding actual cash value payments on roofs and the contingency fee multiplier. In the final hours of session, after a number of questions were raised about the application of the proposal for settlement statute, amendments were negotiated to clarify that attorney's fees can only be awarded under s. 57.105 and the new statute for attorney's fees.

*SB 76 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-77.*

**AIF supports** legislative efforts that prevent unscrupulous actors from taking advantage of property insurance disputes which keeps insurance rates low and allows growth in Florida businesses.



## **Legal & Judicial**

## **SB 74 & HB 7005**

**COVID-19-Related Claims Against Health Care Providers**

by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) and the House Health & Human Services Committee

These bills limit civil claims against health care providers related to the COVID-19 pandemic and requires that the initial complaint in a COVID-19-related lawsuit be pled with "particularity" (a standard traditionally met by alleging the specifics of who, what, where, why and how). The trial court must dismiss a case if not pled with particularity.

The bill requires the claimant to prove that the health care provider was grossly negligent or engaged in intentional misconduct in failing to substantially comply with government health standards or guidance, in interpreting or applying the standards or guidance, or in the provision of a novel or experimental treatment. Additionally, a health care provider is immune from civil liability if supplies or personnel were not readily available to comply with the standards or guidance. A COVID-19-related claim against a health care provider must be commenced within 1 year.

*The substance of SB 74 was added to SB 72 which was signed by the Governor.*

**AIF supports** legislation that protects the Florida health care community from frivolous and costly litigation by plaintiffs suing to settle.



Supported by AIF



Opposed by AIF

## **SB 72 & HB 7**

### **Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19**

by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) and Rep. Lawrence McClure (R-Plant City)

The bills provide civil immunity from COVID-19 liability to businesses, educational institutions, religious institutions, governmental entities, health care providers, and other covered entities that acted in good faith during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill protects reasonably acting entities and institutions so that they can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's well-being.

*SB 72 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-001.*

**AIF supports** legislation that protects the Florida business community from frivolous and costly litigation by plaintiffs suing to settle that drives up the cost of doing business and deters further economic growth in the state.

## **SB 846**

### **Medical Expenses** by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg)

The bill significantly alters the current method of proving medical cost damages at trial. The bill limits the scope of evidence that is admitted to prove past paid and unpaid medical charges in a personal injury or wrongful death lawsuit. To prove past paid medical expenses that have been satisfied, evidence is limited to the amount paid. The damages that may be recovered by a plaintiff for the cost or value of medical services provided may not exceed the sum of the amounts paid to the health care provider and any amounts necessary to satisfy charges that have been incurred but remain unpaid.

*SB 846 died in the Senate Health Policy Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislation that creates transparency around medical expenses, thereby reducing the costs of health care and insurance while increasing access to care for all Floridians.

## **SB 1876**

### **Relief from Burdens on Real Property Rights** by Sen. Ben Albritton (R-Bartow)

The bill amends the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Private Property Rights Protection Act and the Florida Land Use and Environmental Dispute Resolution Act. Both acts provide procedures and remedies to landowners whose property is inordinately burdened by a local government regulation.

*The substance of SB 1876 was amended on to HB 421 and was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-203.*

**AIF supports** legislation that protects the rights of Florida property owners and the businesses unnecessarily burdened by government overreach.

## **HB 969 & SB 1734**

### **Consumer Data Privacy** by Rep. Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota) and Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Orange Park)

Every day, businesses collect data on consumers. From email addresses to send out warranty reminders to phone numbers to birthdays, businesses have more consumer data than ever. However, as responsible Florida companies, protecting consumers' data is of the utmost importance to AIF and our members.

These bills gave consumers certain rights related to personal information collected by a business that controls the processing of personal information of 100,000 or more consumers, or 25,000 consumers and derives over 50% of revenue from selling the information. It requires businesses to comply with consumer requests on stored information and makes the information available on the business' website. The bill allows the Department of Legal Affairs to bring an action against, and collect civil penalties from, a business who violates these requirements. The estimated total cost to businesses to comply is \$36.5 billion.

Through the efforts of AIF, the proposed private cause of action was removed. This cause of action would have opened a Pandora's box of costly class actions lawsuits for businesses in possession of consumer data. In the end, the legislation became more palatable but the cost of compliance to businesses was of great concern, and therefore, AIF strongly opposed these bills.

*HB 969 was substituted for SB 1734 and died in House returning messages.*

**AIF opposes** legislation that imposes onerous and costly mandates on private businesses. The expense created by this legislation will be passed on to the consumer. This legislation casts a wide net that will catch and harm small businesses that drive Florida's economy.

## **HB 35 & SB 402**

### **Legal Notices** by Rep. Randy Fine (R-Palm Bay) and Sen. Ray Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers)

The Florida Constitution requires that public notice be given for meetings at which official acts are to be taken or where public business is to be conducted. All meetings of a county, municipality, school board, or special district at which official acts are to be taken or at which public business is to be discussed or transacted, must be open to the public and notice must be given. All legal notices and publications must be made in a

newspaper that meets the following qualifications:

- Published at least once a week;
- At least 25% of its words are in English;
- Available to the general public; and
- Contains information of interest or value to the general public in the affected area.

The bills would allow a governmental agency the option to deviate from print and publish legally required advertisements and notices, such as impending sale of real property, on a publicly accessible website.

*HB 35 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-017.*

**AIF opposes** internet-only public notice, as it eliminates the wide net created by print media and the Internet combined. Webpages are present one day and gone the next; the internet is an inherently unreliable platform for critical information.

### **SB 386 & HB 557**

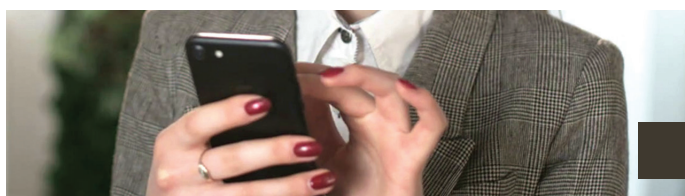
**Payments to Clerks of the Circuit Courts** by Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange) and Rep. Chip LaMarca (R-Lighthouse Point)

The bills require clerks of court to establish uniform payment plans for court-related fees, service charges, costs, and fines for persons who apply for a payment plan. When a person seeks to be enrolled in a payment plan, the clerk must require the person to set up automatic withdrawals, if the person has such capability. If the person is unable to comply with the payment plan terms, a court may modify the plan or convert the outstanding amount to community service. The bills provide a 30-day grace period for certain payments prior to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles being notified to suspend a person's driver license. The bills also remove the clerk's authority to suspend a driver license based on a failure to pay fines or fees if the underlying offense is not driving-related. The bills allow a person whose driver license is suspended for nonpayment of such fines and fees to reinstate his or her license upon payment of a reinstatement fee.

*SB 386 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

*HB 557 died in the House Judiciary Committee.*

**AIF supports** legislation that clarifies regulations and helps protect jobs by preventing employees from losing their means to get to and from work.



## **Taxation**

### **SB 598**

**Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** by Sen. Keith Perry (R-Gainesville)

This bill establishes a 10-day "back-to-school" sales tax holiday from Friday, July 30 to Sunday, August 8, 2021, for certain clothing, school supplies, personal computers, and personal computer-related accessories.

*SB 598 died but portions of this bill were added to HB 7061 which was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-31.*

**AIF supports** legislative actions that reduce taxes on consumers and allows further growth and employment opportunities for Florida businesses.

### **SB 734**

**Sales Tax Holiday for Disaster Preparedness Supplies** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota)

This bill establishes a 17-day "disaster preparedness" sales tax holiday from Friday, May 28 to Sunday, June 13, 2021, for certain disaster preparedness supplies such as radios, tarps, and other disaster supplies.

*SB 734 died but portions of this bill were added to HB 7061 which was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-31.*

**AIF supports** legislation that reduces taxes and provides Floridians with a preparedness tax exemption encouraging them to protect their assets against potential destruction.

### **SB 50 & HB 15**

**Taxation** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota) and Rep. Chuck Clemons (R-Jonesville)

The bills require marketplace providers and out-of-state retailers with no physical presence in Florida (such as online retailers) to collect Florida's sales tax on sales of taxable items delivered to purchasers in Florida if the marketplace provider or out-of-state retailer makes a substantial number of sales into Florida. A substantial number of remote sales means conducting any number of taxable remote sales in an amount exceeding \$100,000 during the previous calendar year.

*SB 50 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-002.*

**AIF supports** legislation that provides a level playing field for Florida's brick and mortar stores and online retailers.

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

## **SB 982 & HB 6071**

**Tax Refund Program for Qualified Target Industry Businesses** by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota) and Rep. Chip LaMarca (R-Lighthouse Point)

The Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund Program was created by the Legislature to encourage the creation and retention of high-quality, high-wage jobs by providing a state grant equal to the amount paid for certain state and local taxes to eligible businesses creating jobs in target industries. The bills reauthorize the QTI Tax Refund Program by repealing the June 30, 2020, deadline for applicants to be certified for the program.

*SB 982 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

*HB 6071 died in the House Tourism, Infrastructure & Energy Subcommittee.*

**AIF supports** QTI legislation that encourages economic investment in Florida, creates additional jobs, and will continue to drive Florida's business-friendly climate.

## **Transportation**

### **HB 57**

**Transportation** by Rep. Alex Andrade (R-Pensacola)

The bill creates statutory provisions to increase safety for road construction workers on our state's highways, allows larger Personal Delivery Devices to deliver packages within the state, makes changes to the State Arbitration Board, allows airports and seaports to have certifications for design-build projects and expands the ability for innovative design projects on road resurfacing projects.

*The substance of HB 57 was included in SB 1194 which was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-188.*

**AIF supports** legislation that will improve the quality of life for Floridians through innovation, streamlining and increased safety in Florida's transportation systems.

### **SB 566**

**Motor Vehicle Rentals** by Sen. Keith Perry (R-Gainesville)

A person renting a car in Florida is levied a \$2 per day rental car surcharge. The 6% sales tax is also due on the transaction. Peer-to-peer car sharing programs are app-based platforms where owners list and rent out their personal vehicle. However, these businesses are not collecting the rental car surcharge or the 6% sales tax. The proceeds from the rental car surcharge funds the building and maintenance of the state's infrastructure, which is very important to Florida businesses statewide.

The bill clarifies that rental transactions made on peer-to-

peer car sharing platforms are subject to a \$1 per day surcharge and applicable sales taxes. It also establishes operational and insurance requirements for peer-to-peer vehicle sharing programs to protect consumers.

*SB 566 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-175.*

**AIF supports** the proposed measures in this bill to hold all rental car services accountable, regardless of how the vehicle is accessed.

### **SB 100**

**Highway Projects** by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart)

The bill repeals the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) Program but retains the associated funding within the State Transportation Trust Fund. The bill draws on the recommendations of the M-CORES task forces and prioritizes strategic improvements to existing highway facilities. The bill builds on a primary focus of the M-CORES task forces to maximize the use of existing facilities to evaluate existing roadways or portions of existing roadways for development, upgrades, and improvements.

*SB 100 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-161.*

**AIF supports** efforts to reassess and update Florida's existing roadway infrastructure that businesses rely on to move products and resources which further drives economic development in the state.

### **HB 223 & SB 578**

**Marina Evacuations** by Rep. Rene Plasencia (R-Titusville) and Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange)

The bill prohibits, upon the issuance of a hurricane watch that affects marinas located in a deep-water seaport, vessels under 500 gross tons from remaining in the waters of marinas that have been deemed not suitable for refuge during a hurricane. The bill requires that vessel owners promptly remove their vessels from the waterways upon issuance of an evacuation order by the deep-water seaport. Additionally, the bill grants the marina owner, operator, employee, or agent the right to remove vessels that have not been removed by the vessel owner. The bill also shields the marina from liability concerning the movement of the vessel.

*HB 223 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2021-108.*

**AIF supports** legislative efforts that protect Florida's seaport operators in the event of a hurricane. Florida's seaports are vitally important to economic development in the state and abroad and derelict vessels must not burden business operations in our ports.

*Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the leaders we*



A *Champion for Business* is a leader 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 10 legislators and the Governor are the epitome of a *Champion for Business*. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these leaders are the ones who made a difference this session.



**Governor Ron DeSantis** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Governor DeSantis for keeping the state safely "open for business" during the pandemic and being a champion for COVID liability protection for Florida's business community. Without the Governor's leadership, Florida would not be leading the way in economic recovery.



**President Wilton Simpson** is receiving his second AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds President Simpson for recognizing the importance of civil liability protections as well as implementing the online sales tax to offset the proposed unemployment tax. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's economic recovery and well-being.



**Speaker Chris Sprowls** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Speaker Sprowls for recognizing the importance of civil liability protections as well as implementing the online sales tax to offset the proposed unemployment tax. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's economic recovery and well-being.

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

*Visit [AIF.com](http://AIF.com) for a complete list of past AIF Champions for Business winners.*

turned to when we needed someone we could depend upon.



**Senator Ben Albritton** is receiving his third AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Albritton for sponsoring permit tolling legislation that prevents Florida businesses from being penalized on permitted time due to a state of emergency that is out of their control. Thanks to Senator Albritton's efforts, consumptive use permits and local government development agreements were added to the emergency tolling statute which allows economic recovery to begin as soon as possible following a state of emergency.



**Representative Colleen Burton** is receiving her first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Burton for her efforts in crafting and shepherding COVID liability legislation to protect health care providers from frivolous lawsuits. Thanks to Representative Burton's tireless efforts, COVID liability health care protections were included in the overall COVID liability legislation. Florida's health care providers can now return to providing high quality care on the frontlines without fear of malicious litigation.



**Senator Jeff Brandes** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Brandes for his efforts in sponsoring legislation to provide civil immunity from COVID-19 liability for businesses that acted in good faith during the coronavirus pandemic. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's economic recovery and well-being. Senator Brandes was also a voice of reason during the data privacy debate.



**Representative Michael Grant** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Grant for sponsoring permit tolling legislation that prevents Florida businesses from being penalized on permitted time due to a state of emergency that is out of their control. Thanks to Representative Grant's efforts, consumptive use permits and local government development agreements were added to the emergency tolling statute which allows economic recovery to begin as soon as possible following a state of emergency.



**Senator Jason Brodeur** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Brodeur on his efforts to provide legal protections for Florida's farmers who provide necessary resources and food to the state. Farmers have a right to farm, and thanks to Senator Brodeur's leadership, the Florida Right to Farm Act will continue to protect these individuals from bad faith litigation and frivolous lawsuits.



**Representative Lawrence McClure** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative McClure for his efforts in sponsoring legislation to provide civil immunity from COVID-19 liability for businesses that acted in good faith during the coronavirus pandemic. With this legislation, Florida businesses can predict their COVID-19-related litigation risks, remain viable, and continue to contribute to the state's economic recovery and well-being.



**Senator Kathleen Passidomo** is receiving her third AIF *Champions for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida commends Senator Passidomo for her diligent efforts in working with AIF on the proposed data privacy legislation and allowing the business community to provide input and feedback. AIF thanks Senator Passidomo for her unwavering commitment to the Florida business community.



**Representative Jayer Williamson** is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business Award*. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Williamson on his efforts to provide legal protections for Florida's farmers who provide necessary resources and food to the state. Farmers have a right to farm, and thanks to Representative Williamson's leadership, the Florida Right to Farm Act will continue to protect these individuals from bad faith litigation and frivolous lawsuits.

## ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

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### Is your company ready?

Staying in the know on Florida politics is no longer an every other year effort.

New data, shifting demographics, and Special Elections all require Florida businesses to be educated on the very latest information all year, every year. Through the efforts of the **AIF Political Council (AIFPC)**, members are more informed and better prepared for Florida elections.

The Political Council provides access to information and insight on candidates, exclusive data and analyses, and reports on the overall political environment in Florida.



For more information about AIF's political operations and to experience the benefits of being a Political Council member, please contact AIF President & CEO Tom Feeney at 850.224.7173 or email him at [tfeeney@aif.com](mailto:tfeeney@aif.com).