

SINE DIE BRIEF

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



NOTE: The following is just a brief look at the final dispensation of some of the major working family bills we were following during the 2020 Legislative Session.

	PASS	FAIL
<p>Employee Organization Dues and Uniform Assessments (Union Busting)</p> <p>SB 804 Brandes/ HB 1 Grant - OPPOSE</p> <p>This legislation is yet another in a long line of attacks meant to weaken our public sector unions. If passed, the bills would have put the dues authorization process in the hands of the employer for the first time ever. SB 804 would force workers to authorize dues yearly, while HB 1 would require it every three years or at the signing of a new contract. The bills would also force anti-union text on all dues authorization forms.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Preemption of Conditions of Employment</p> <p>SB 1126 Gruters/ HB 305 Rommel - OPPOSE</p> <p>These bills are textbook examples of preemption from the Capitol. If they were to pass, the bills would ban any local ordinance or regulation pertaining to “conditions of employment”. The bills are incredibly broad and could apply to everything from wage theft protection to civil rights in the workplace. These bills would drastically limit the power local governments have over their communities.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Weakening of Local Licensing</p> <p>SB 890 Perry/ HB 1161 Plakon - OPPOSE</p> <p>Local licensing allows communities to enforce their own standards. SB 890 and HB 1161 would force jurisdictions to accept licenses from all jurisdictions regardless of differing standards. These bills are an attempt to “de-skill” many skilled trades and would put craftsmen and their consumers at risk.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing</p> <p>SB 1336 Perry/ HB 3 Grant - OPPOSE</p> <p>This bill would have allowed drastically under qualified individuals to participate in a wide range of skilled trades. If passed, these bills would have drastically damaged Florida’s quality of life for both workers and consumers.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Pass

Fail

Destroying the Citizens' Initiative Process

SB 1794 Hutson/HB 7037 House Judiciary Committee, Grant - OPPOSE

The Citizens' Initiative process gives Floridians a say in their government by voting on constitutional amendments on issues that the state legislature either cannot or will not implement.

These bills are part of a longer "death by a thousand cuts" strategy to make the initiative process increasingly difficult for grassroots groups to get their issues on the ballot. This legislation would raise the cost of signature verification ten-fold as well raising the threshold for Supreme Court review from 10% of the total signatures required to 33%, leaving only big business groups able to afford the process.



Petition Threshold Requirements for Citizen Initiatives

SB 7062 Senate Judiciary Committee/HB 7093 House Judiciary Committee, Rommell - OPPOSE

Another attack on the Citizens' Initiative process, these bills would amend the Florida Constitution to force groups seeking to amend the constitution to collect signatures from every congressional district statewide.

The current requirement is 50% of districts; this legislation would have required 100% of districts.



Public Records & Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search

SB 774 by Diaz/ HB 7081 (formerly PCB SAC 4) by House State Affairs, Latvala - OPPOSE

Florida has some of the best "sunshine laws" in the country, laws that ensure government transparency. This legislation would have exempted the searches for college and university presidents from these laws.

These positions are some of the most powerful unelected officials in the state, controlling billions of dollars in tax-payer money. It's vital that these search and hiring processes remain out in the open.





Pass

Fail

Imposing Term Limits on Local School Boards



SB 1216 Gruters/SB 1480 Book/HB 157 by Sabatini- OPPOSE

School privatization advocates have been consistently pushing legislation seeking to weaken the power of local school boards in an effort to silence any push back against for-profit charter schools. These bills would have put school board term limits on the ballot as a constitutional amendment, in yet another attempt to influence local elections.

Special Risk Retirement-Forensic & Other Hospital Workers



SB 796 Book/ SB 1178 Montford/ HB 937 Aloupis- SUPPORT

Our Forensic Health Care workers provide medical and humanitarian services for mentally disabled people whose illnesses have forced them into the criminal justice system or to be civilly committed. Every day these workers are subject to violence and abuse, and while managers, supervisors, nurses and other personnel were granted special risk status, frontline staffers were not. These bills would have corrected that.

Protecting Public Transit Operators



SB 1416 Perry/HB 951 Beltran - SUPPORT

Across both the country and Florida, assaults on our transit operators are on the rise. This legislation would have required transit companies and local governments to post notices that outline serious legal consequences for the assault of transit operators and as well as developing risk reduction programs. It also would provide stiffer penalties for assaults. We in the Labor community believe there is more to be done, but this legislation was a solid start in protecting our transit workers.

Repealing Tuition Waivers for Apprenticeship Programs



SB 1322 Wright/ HB 6035 - OPPOSE

Tuition and fee waivers provide opportunities for economically disadvantaged individuals to learn and develop skills as part of broader economic and job development programs. This legislation would have been disastrous for apprenticeship programs with no real savings for taxpayers.