

FLORIDA



AFL-CIO



2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SINE DIE BRIEF

SINE DIE BRIEF

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



The following is a quick look at some of the bills that we have been tracking throughout the 2022 Florida Legislative Session and their final status. The list is neither exclusive or exhaustive but represents some of our top priorities.

	PASS	FAIL
<p>EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS – OPPOSE</p> <p>SB 1458 by Baxley/HB 1197 by Plakon</p> <p>These bills, which would have applied to all public sector unions except those representing police officers, firefighters and correctional officers, would have prevented automatic paycheck deductions, require that all public sector unions represent 50 percent of the total bargaining unit, require re-authorization of dues deductions yearly, include anti-union language on membership forms, and add new data collection requirements. These bills were an existential threat to our public sector workers. HB 1197 passed in the House, but was not heard in the Senate.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>BLANKET PREEMPTION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES – BUSINESS DAMAGES - OPPOSE</p> <p>SB 620 by Hutson / HB 569 by McClure</p> <p>This package of legislation creates a new legal pathway to allow local businesses to quash municipal ordinances they don't like through excessive litigation. The bills create a new cause of action for any business owner who can show an ordinance has negatively impacted their profits, regardless of the benefits of the ordinance for the community. The bill also allows for excessive legal fees for those filing suit, creating the possibility of a new cottage industry for lawsuits that could bring local governments to a standstill as they work to solve problems in the community.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>BLANKET PREEMPTION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES – BUSINESS VETO - OPPOSE</p> <p>SB 280 by Hutson / HB 403 by Giallombardo</p> <p>These bills were similar to the ones listed prior and would have allowed local businesses to block any ordinance they disagree with simply by filing suit. These bills could have brought local governments to a standstill.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Pass

Fail

PREEMPTION OF LOCAL LIVING WAGE WAGE ORDINANCES- OPPOSE



SB 1124 by Gruters / HB 943 by Harding

These bills would have preempted local governments from raising wages above the state minimum for contractors and sub-contractors providing public services. The bills would have wiped out existing laws that provide for these higher wages, cutting the paychecks for tens of thousands of workers. These bills would have prevented local governments from investing in their workers and local economies.

THE UNIVERSITY SECRECY BILL- OPPOSE



SB 520 by Brandes / HB 703 by Garrison

This legislation moves the selection of university and college presidents out of the public eye, making the process largely secret and controlled by politically appointed officials. These bills could open up the selection process to cronyism and corruption. We have beaten back these bills for years, with Democrats in both chambers preventing the super-majority vote required for Sunshine Law exemptions. Unfortunately, enough Democrats in both chambers voted for the legislation, allowing for passage.

REQUIRING PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS -OPPOSE



SJR 244 by Gruters/HJR 35 Roach

This legislation would have forced all local school board races to be partisan, regardless of the precedent set by local communities. These bills would have only exacerbated the culture wars and partisan divisions that are increasing in school boards across the country.

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION- SUPPORT



SB 732 by Rodriguez (A)/HB 887 by Chambliss

As temperatures continue to rise, heat exposure-related illnesses and injuries have increased. This bi-partisan legislation would have enacted protections for workers exposed to heat, including access to water, breaks, and shade. These bills would have also provided training for workers and supervisors to recognize and treat heat stress.



Pass

Fail

TAXATION- OPPOSE

SB 1090 by Gruters

SB 952 by Gruters/HB 1293 by Gregory

Taxation in Florida is unfair for the average working Floridian and serves to benefit big-money special interests. Every year the state cuts recurring revenue and creates loopholes for the wealthy. These proposals were some of the most impactful we have seen and would have meant billions lost for vital services, shifted into the pockets of giant corporations.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ELIGIBILITY-SUPPORT

SB 1568 by Bracy/ HB 1489 by Joseph

Florida's unemployment insurance system catastrophically failed Florida's working people in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. These bills would have increased Florida's absurdly low weekly benefit, implemented the alternative base system, and removed more barriers to eligibility for Florida's working families.



UNITED STATES-PRODUCED IRON AND STEEL IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS- SUPPORT

SB 1336 by Boyd / HB 619 by Rodriguez (Ant)

A win for America's workers, this bill would have required state and local government entities to use American-made steel on public works projects. This legislation would have invested in American industries and fought back against the off-shoring of solid, good-paying jobs.



2022 HOUSE TAX CUT PACKAGE- SUPPORT

HB 7071 by Payne

Every year, without fail, the Florida Legislature enacts a tax cut package. This is not a requirement, but a conscious choice by the Florida Legislature. These bills usually cut recurring revenue that will never be recovered. This year's was a more positive one, and is almost exclusively focused on non-recurring revenue and programs benefiting consumers.





Pass

Fail

BANNING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SALARIES (NOW TERM LIMITS)-OPPOSE



HB 1467 by Garrison/SB 1300 by Gruters (similar)

These bills are part of efforts by the school privatization force to restructure Florida's 67 school boards. At the start of Session, these bills, driven by the school privatization movement, would have banned school boards from paying their members so that only wealthy individuals could serve. The legislation was amended on the House floor to remove the elimination of school board salaries, but added mandatory term-limits for members, along with provisions allowing anyone to challenge curriculum and library resources and to create a state-wide registry of banned materials.

LIMITING SUBJECTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY CITIZEN INITIATIVE- OPPOSE



SB 1412 by Brodeur/HB 1127 by Beltran

Florida's Citizen Initiative process allows us to amend our constitution when the legislature refuses to act in our best interests. Past wins for Florida's working families include the increase of Florida's minimum wage, voting rights for returning citizens, smaller class sizes, and increased protections for our environment. This proposed constitutional amendment would have limited the subjects that can be proposed by the Citizen's Initiative process to basic government structure and processes, thus silencing the voices of the voters on all other subjects.