



Florida AFL-CIO Working Families Lobby Corps 2023 SINE DIE LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

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Please Note: The following is merely a brief look at the final dispensation of some of the major bills we were following during the 2023 Legislative Session.

Employee Organizations-Eliminating Workers' Rights SB 256/HB 1445.....PASSED

OPPOSED (Our 12-year long struggle against this legislation is finally over. Governor DeSantis strong-armed the legislature, and the bill has finally passed. The legislation impacts all public sector unions (except for those representing law enforcement, firefighters and corrections officers) and bans automatic union dues deductions, requires unions to maintain membership that is 60% of the total bargaining unit to remain certified and imposes many other bureaucratic hurdles for our unions. Florida's Labor Movement will now organize and come back stronger than ever. Thanks to everybody's hard work, 14 Republican legislators broke with the Governor and supported our workers, the most defections on any other issue this session.)

Universal Private School Vouchers SB 202/HB 1.....PASSED

OPPOSED (This legislation will allow any Floridian, regardless of income, to receive an approximately \$8,000 per child tax rebate (voucher) to attend any private school regardless of that school's accreditation status. The legislation also provides similar funding for students who are home schooled. This is estimated to take \$4 billion from our public schools in the first year. The legislation essentially privatizes our public education system and is the culmination of a decades long effort by the school privatization industry.)

Immigration SB 1718/HB 1617.....PASSED

OPPOSED (This legislation creates new felonies for giving undocumented workers a ride, requires business to employ the failed E-Verify system, invalidates otherwise legal out of state drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants and many others changes.)

Elections SB 7050/HB 7067.....PASSED

OPPOSED (The legislation makes it much harder to registers new voters, makes confusing and unnecessary changes to voting by mail, makes it more difficult for voters to know their registration status and further politicizes the recently created Governor's elections police among other changes.)

The Political Takeover of Higher Education SB 266/HB 999.....PASSED

OPPOSED (This legislation restricts free speech on university and college campus, eliminates courses the Governor does not agree with, increases the power of the politically appointed boards of trustees and eliminates some collective bargaining rights for faculty.)

Restricting Investments in the FL Retirement System SB 302/HB 3.....PASSED

OPPOSED (This legislation injects the Governor's "anti-woke" crusade into the investment decisions made by public pension funds at the state and local level. These changes will restrict investments in well performing funds if the Governor does not agree with their politics or corporate governance policies. This could lead to losses in the funds and threaten the retirement security of our public sector workers and retirees.)

Minimum Wage/Collective Bargaining SB 892/HB 917.....PASSED

OPPOSED (This legislation will carve out Minor League Baseball players and other employees of Major League Baseball from the state's minimum wage. This was while these workers were negotiating their first contract with MLB. They have secured their contract so it is unclear what the impacts will be. An amendment to the bill creating a dangerous preemption that would have eliminated local living wage laws was defeated.)

Blanket Preemption of Local Ordinances SB 170 / HB 1515.....PASSED

OPPOSED (This legislation creates a new cause of action allowing any business owner to sue over an ordinance they don't agree with and grants an immediate stay upon the filing of that suit. This greatly reduces the ability of local governments to solve local problems through local laws.)

Fees on Renters in Lieu of Security Deposits SB 494/HB 133.....PASSED

OPPOSED *(This legislation creates a new predatory scheme for renters. Renters will no longer have to pay a security but will be charged a monthly fee each month. Unlike a security deposit, the fees are non-refundable, and the renter is still responsible for any damage to the property.)*

Imposing Term Limits on Local School Boards SB 1110/HB 477.....PASSED

OPPOSED *(This legislation mandates 8-year term limits for local school board members, whether a local community approves of these term limits or not.)*

Requiring Partisan Elections for Local School Boards SB 94/HB 31.....PASSED

OPPOSED *(This legislation mandates that all local school races are now partisan elections other than non-partisan.)*

Making Constitutional Amendments More Difficult SB 1410/HB129.....FAILED

OPPOSED *(This proposal would have raised the vote threshold for constitutional amendments from 60% to 66.67%.)*