

The 2017 Legislative Session got off to a quick start this week. Job creators found themselves immediately in a defense posture with attacks to economic development and diversification - seemingly the priorities of at least one chamber.

The Florida House voted to dismantle economic incentive initiatives and send a message nationwide that Florida isn't interested in growing jobs and businesses. Until the Florida Legislature makes Florida the most competitive business climate in the world - by continuing to reduce regulation, lowering workers' compensation costs, eliminating lawsuit abuse, insurance fraud, and the business rent tax, as well as providing targeted incentives for high-paying, sustainable jobs - the Florida Chamber believes that the last thing Florida should do is take tools off the table.

Also this week, the Florida Chamber and Florida's business community took a stand against the trial lawyers' number one legislative priority and prevailed - despite a full frontal assault by the trial lawyers. Prejudgment interest was temporarily halted in the powerful Senate Rules Committee. Florida already has a bottom-10 legal climate, and bills like prejudgment interest will only increase the costs of Florida's litigious legal climate and force job creators into a worsening cycle of "sue and settle".

Next week, the Florida Chamber will lead the state legislative charge on efforts to reform our state's workers' comp system and resolve Florida's increasing Homeowners Fraud Tax resulting from Assignment of Benefits abuse. And in Washington, D.C., we'll be advocating for tax reform and healthcare reform with members of Florida's Congressional Delegation.

Below is a review of legislative activity from Week 1 of the 2017 Legislative Session.

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

[Talent Supply & Education](#)

[Innovation & Economic Development](#)

[Infrastructure & Growth Leadership](#)

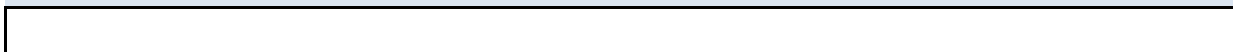
[Business Climate & Competitiveness](#)







[Civic & Governance Systems](#)




[Quality of Life and Quality Places](#)





## **TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION**



At the Florida Chamber, we believe a quality education and workforce development system is Florida's best long-term economic development strategy. We need to work toward filling the gap created between Florida's current education system and the needs of Florida's employers by diversifying our economy and creating job opportunities for future generations.



<p><b>READING</b></p> <p><b>HB 79</b> Rep. Gayle Harrell</p> <p><b>SB 656</b> Sen. Aaron Bean</p> <p><b>SB 468</b> Sen. Kelli Stargel</p> <p><b>HB 757</b> Rep. Byron Donalds</p>	  <p>Sen. Kelli Stargel R-Lakeland</p>	<p>Promotes better identification and an enhanced focus on struggling readers in PreK - 3rd grade.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>HB 79</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>SB 656</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>SB 468</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 757</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>SCHOOL CHOICE</b></p> <p><b>SB 796</b> Sen. Aaron Bean</p>	  <p>Sen. Aaron Bean R-Jacksonville</p>	<p>Removes barriers that inhibit high-performing charter management organizations from replicating their success and expanding.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 796</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS</b></p> <p><b>HB 15</b> Rep. Jennifer Sullivan</p> <p><b>SB 902</b> Sen. David Simmons</p> <p><b>SB 1314</b> Sen. Denise Grimsley</p>	  <p>Rep. Jennifer Sullivan R-Eustis</p>	<p>Expands eligibility for the Gardiner Scholarship Program and revises provisions relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>HB 15</b> Passed the House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee and is now in PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.</p> <p><b>SB 902</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>SB 1314</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>




<p><b>DIGITAL LEARNING &amp; VIRTUAL EDUCATION</b></p> <p><b>SB 692</b> Sen. Baxley</p> <p><b>HB 833</b> Rep. Jennifer Sullivan</p>	 <p>Sen. Dennis Baxley R-Lady Lake</p>	<p>Removes a requirement of previous enrollment in public school for eligibility to participate in virtual instruction.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 692</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 833</b> Passed the House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee, and is now in the PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>COMPUTER CODING</b></p> <p><b>SB 104</b> Sen. Jeff Brandes</p> <p><b>HB 265</b> Rep. Elizabeth Porter</p>	 <p>Sen. Jeff Brandes R-St. Petersburg</p>	<p>Allows students to take computer coding courses in order to satisfy the high school foreign language course requirements.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 104</b> Passed the Senate Education Committee, and is now in the Rules Committee.</p> <p><b>HB 265</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>K12 ASSESSMENTS</b></p> <p><b>HB 773</b> Rep. Manny Diaz</p> <p><b>SB 926</b> Sen. Anitere Flores</p>	 <p>Rep. Manny Diaz, Jr. R-Hialeah</p>	<p>Requires the Commissioner of Education to review nationally-recognized college entrance exams to determine alignment to Florida's standards. Additionally, it provides teachers more time to teach by moving the state assessment window to the last three weeks of school and requires easy-to-understand, parent-friendly score reports be utilized.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA</b></p>	<p><b>HB 773</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>SB 926</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>


		<b>CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b>	
<p><b>STEM</b></p> <p><b>SB 274</b> Sen. Perry Thurston</p> <p><b>HB 403</b> Rep. Wengay Newton</p>	  <p>Rep. Wengay Newton D-St. Petersburg</p>	<p>Creates the STEM Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 274</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 403</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION</b></p> <p><b>SB 2</b> Sen. Bill Galvano</p> <p><b>HB 3</b> Rep. Bryan Avila</p> <p><b>HB 5</b> Rep. Bryan Avila</p>	  <p>Sen. Bill Galvano R-Bradenton</p>	<p>Promotes on-time student graduation while responsibly increasing student financial aid and tuition assistance-including allowing students to use their Bright Futures Scholarship award for summer courses. Additionally, a world-class faculty and scholar program is established, which promotes the prominence of Florida's graduate schools and links education to job opportunities by providing internship opportunities to students.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 2</b> Passed the Florida Senate.</p> <p><b>HB 3</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 5</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>EMPOWERING FLORIDA'S BEST</b></p>		<p>Expands eligibility criteria for the Best and Brightest</p>	<p><b>PCB EDC2</b> Passed the House Education Committee.</p>

<p><b>TEACHERS</b></p> <p><b>PCB EDC2</b> <b>Rep. Michael Bileca</b></p>	  <p>Rep. Michael Bileca R-Miami</p>	<p>Teacher Scholarship Program, which will increase access, and establishes the Best and Brightest Principal Program in order to recognize principals who are able to recruit and retain excellent teachers.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
--	--	--	--

**INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**





With two out of three new jobs in Florida created by small businesses specializing in areas from international trade to rural economic development, Florida needs to stay the course of diversifying our economy.



<p><b>RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p><b>HB 1415</b> <b>Rep. Mel Ponder</b></p> <p><b>SB 936</b> <b>Sen. Bill Montford</b></p>	  <p>Rep. Mel Ponder R-Fort. Walton Beach</p>	<p>Improves economic development initiatives for rural areas of opportunity.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>HB 1415</b> Referred to three committees, and is awaiting its first hearing in the House Agriculture &amp; Property Rights Subcommittee.</p> <p><b>SB 936</b> Placed on the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee for a March 13 hearing.</p> <p><a href="#">LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>ECONOMIC PROGRAMS</b></p> <p><b>HB 7005</b> <b>Careers and Competition Subcommittee</b></p>		<p>Eliminates the state's role in economic development by eliminating Enterprise Florida and two dozen economic development initiatives.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA</b></p>	<p><b>HB 7005</b> Passed the Florida House.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>

		<b>CHAMBER OPPOSED</b>	
<b>VISIT FLORIDA</b>  HB 9 Rep. Paul Renner		Significant reforms to VISIT FLORIDA that hinder the organization's ability to do business.  <b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b>	<b>HB 9</b> Passed the Florida House.  <a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a>

## INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP



In 2016, more than 112 million visitors came to Florida and it's estimated that by 2030, more than six million new residents will call Florida home. We must prepare for this growth in smart and sustainable ways. Securing Florida's future will require changing the way we view issues such as water and energy supply, agriculture, land development, roads, bridges, ports and telecommunications.

<b>TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES</b>  SB 340 Sen. Jeff Brandes/ Sen. Bill Galvano  HB 221 Rep. Chirs Sprowls/ Rep. Michael Grant	  Rep. Chris Sprowls R-Clearwater	Creates a statewide regulatory framework for the use of ridesharing companies that protects consumers and allows for innovation.  <b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b>	<b>SB 340</b> Placed on the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee for a March 14 hearing.  <b>HB 221</b> The House did not take action this week.  <a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a>
<b>AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES</b>  HB 725 Rep. Jason Brodeur  SB 1066 Sen. Jeff Brandes	  Rep. Jason Brodeur R-Sanford	Improves the current regulatory framework by improving safety and fostering innovation.  <b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b>	<b>HB 725</b> Passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee, and is now in the Senate Government Accountability Committee.  <b>SB 1066</b> Received four committee references.  <a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a>







<p><b>WATER RESOURCES</b></p> <p><b>SB 10</b> Sen. Rob Bradley</p> <p><b>HB 761</b> Rep. Thad Altman</p>		<p>Moves hundreds of millions of dollars away from vetted and science-based projects and towards a scientifically disproven new project.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 10</b> Passed the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources.</p> <p><b>HB 761</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>ADVANCED WELL STIMULATION</b></p> <p><b>SB 442</b> Sen. Dana Young</p> <p><b>HB 451</b> Rep. Alexandra Miller Rep. Janet Cruz</p>		<p>Will decrease Florida's energy independence by banning safe and reliable exploration technologies.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 442</b> Passed the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation, and is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources.</p> <p><b>HB 451</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</a></p>

## BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS











Florida is on the right track toward a more competitive and global economy and businesses are taking notice. Last year several large employers moved their headquarters or expanded to Florida because of Florida's attractive business climate. Instead of short-term solutions from well-funded trial lawyers with special interest agendas, the Florida Chamber is focused on creating long-term sustainable solutions so Florida can continue to attract, add and grow the top businesses in the nation.





<p><b>WORKERS' COMP</b></p> <p><b>SB 1582</b> Sen. Rob Bradley</p>	 <p>Sen. Rob Bradley R-Orange Park</p> 	<p>Reforms portions of the workers' compensation system.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 1582</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
--	---	--	--



<p><b>ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS</b></p> <p><b>SB 1038</b> Sen. Dorothy Hukill</p> <p><b>HB 1421</b> Rep. Jamie Grant</p>	  <p>Sen. Dorothy L. Hukill R-Port Orange</p>	<p>Improves access to homeownership by keeping the cost of property insurance low through the reduction of AOB abuse.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 1038</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 1421</b> Referred to two committees, and now awaits a hearing in the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>RELATING TO LIMITATIONS ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS</b></p> <p><b>SB 76</b> Sen. Tom Lee</p> <p><b>HB 21</b> Rep. Colleen Burton</p>	  <p>Sen. Tom Lee R-Brandon</p>	<p>Proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution that continues a cap of 10 percent on assessments for non-homestead properties.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 76</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 21</b> Passed the House Commerce Committee and is was placed on the House Calendar.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>RELATING TO DAMAGES RECOVERABLE FOR THE COST OF MEDICAL OR HEALTH CARE SERVICES/ACCURACY IN DAMAGES</b></p> <p><b>SB 146</b> Sen. Kathleen Passidomo</p> <p><b>HB 583</b> Rep. Jay Fant</p>	  <p>Sen. Kathleen Passidomo R-Naples</p>	<p>Improves Florida's bottom-ten legal climate by requiring juries see the amount paid for medical services, not just the amount billed.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 146</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 583</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>












<p><b>UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION</b></p> <p><b>SB 372</b> Sen. Kelli Stargel</p> <p><b>HB 671</b> Rep. Mike La Rosa</p>	  <p>Rep. Mike LaRosa R-St. Cloud</p>	<p>Reduces reemployment assistance fraud by allowing the department to access drivers' license photos.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 372</b> Placed on the Senate Transportation Calendar for a March 14 hearing.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>CORPORATE INCOME TAX</b></p> <p><b>SB 486</b> Sen. Dorothy Hukill</p>	  <p>Sen. Dorothy L. Hukill R-Port Orange</p>	<p>Increases the exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 against the state's Corporate Income Tax.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 486</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>BUSINESS RENT TAX - TAX ON TAX</b></p> <p><b>SB 704</b> Sen. Rene Garcia</p> <p><b>HB 463</b> Rep. Holly Raschein</p>	  <p>Sen. Rene Garcia R-Hialeah</p>	<p>Exempts property taxes from the business rent tax.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 704</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 463</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>BUSINESS RENT TAX</b></p> <p><b>SB 484</b> Sen. Dorothy Hukill</p>	  <p>Sen. Dorothy L. Hukill R-Port Orange</p>	<p>Reduces the business rent tax by 1 percent.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 484</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>RELATING TO CRAFT DISTILLERIES</b></p> <p><b>SB 166</b> Sen. Greg Steube</p>	  <p>Rep. Cyndi Stevenson R-St. Augustine</p>	<p>Levels the playing field for craft distilleries.</p>	<p><b>SB 166</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 141</b> The House did not</p>

<p>HB 141 Rep. Cyndi Stevenson</p>		<p>FLORIDA CHAMBER <b>SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p>take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>BACKGROUND SCREENING</b></p> <p>HB 31 Rep. Shevrin Jones</p>		<p>Creates restrictions on hiring practices.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER <b>OPPOSED</b></p>	<p>HB 31 The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>MINIMUM WAGE</b></p> <p>SB 160 Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez</p> <p>HB 945 Rep. Al Jacuet</p>		<p>Creates an additional mandate on job creators.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER <b>OPPOSED</b></p>	<p>SB 160 The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p>HB 945 The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>RELATING TO PREJUDGEMENT INTEREST</b></p> <p>SB 334 Sen. Greg Steube</p> <p>HB 469 Rep. Shawn Harrison</p>		<p>Increases the cost of personal injury lawsuits by requiring interest from the date of loss.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER <b>OPPOSED</b></p>	<p>SB 334 Temporarily postponed in the Senate Rules Committee.</p> <p>HB 469 The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>RELATING TO FLORIDA HURRICANE CATASTROPHE FUND</b></p> <p>HB 597 Rep. David Santiago</p> <p>SB 1772 Sen. Tom Lee</p>		<p>Increases the risk of "hurricane taxes" by putting additional risk on the state's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER <b>OPPOSED</b></p>	<p>HB 597 The House did not take action this week.</p> <p>SB 1772 Bill was filed in the Florida Senate.</p> <p><b>VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</b></p>

## CIVIC & GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

At the Florida Chamber, we believe efficient and transparent government systems allow businesses to grow in a globally competitive economy. As our state grows, taxpayers deserve an efficient government that provides the highest return to taxpayers with the lowest burden on job creators.






<p><b>PARTICIPATION IN THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM</b></p> <p><b>SB 428</b> Sen. Jeff Brandes</p> <p><b>HB 353</b> Rep. Jason Fischer/ Rep. Michael Grant</p>	  <p>Rep. Michael Grant R-Port Charlotte</p>	<p>Moves any new local government retirement plan to the more sustainable market based plans instead of the state's underfunded pension system.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 428</b> Passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee and is now in the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee.</p> <p><b>HB 353</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>RELATING TO LABOR ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p><b>HB 11</b> Rep. Scott Plakon</p> <p><b>SB 1292</b> Sen. Dennis Baxley</p>	  <p>Rep. Scott Plakon R-Longwood</p>	<p>Will add transparency into all levels of collective bargaining and lobbying by giving the public a clearer understanding of how many people the union represents.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>HB 11</b> Passed the House Oversight, Transparency &amp; Administration Subcommittee, and is now in the House Government Accountability Committee.</p> <p><b>SB 1292</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREEMPTION</b></p> <p><b>HB 17</b> Rep. Randy Fine</p>	  <p>Rep. Randy Fine R-Palm Bay</p>	<p>Prohibits local government from placing any new regulations on local businesses.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>HB 17</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</a></p>

<p><b>FIREARMS</b></p> <p><b>SB 610</b> Sen. Greg Steube</p> <p><b>HB 819</b> Rep. Cord Byrd</p>		<p>Creates significant liability for businesses who exercise their property right to exclude firearms on their premises.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 610</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 819</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BAGS</b></p> <p><b>SB 162</b> Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez</p> <p><b>HB 93</b> Rep. David Richardson</p>		<p>Prohibit businesses from using plastic bags, even in the storage of perishable foods.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 162</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 93</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</b></p>
<p><b>MINIMUM WAGE</b></p> <p><b>SB 160</b> Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez</p> <p><b>HB 945</b> Rep. Al Jacquet</p>		<p>Mandates minimums for wages and limits both the rights of the employer and employee to negotiate salaries.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 160</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>HB 945</b> The House did not take action this week.</p> <p><b>LEARN WHERE WE STAND &gt;</b></p>

## QUALITY OF LIFE & QUALITY PLACES

Florida's unique quality of life is one reason Florida is consistently ranked as an attractive place to visit, live, learn, play and work. Retaining and attracting the right employers who fuel jobs and great communities are key to Florida's long-term success. Families, students and businesses alike cause us to examine the policies that can either strengthen or harm Florida's future job growth.

<p><b>HEALTH CARE ACCESS</b></p> <p><b>HB 7011</b></p>		<p>Authorizes Florida-licensed health care professionals to use telehealth and articulates a standard</p>	<p><b>HB 7011</b> The House did not take action this week.</p>
--	--	---	--

<p>Rep. Cary Pigman</p>	  <p>Rep. Cary Pigman R-Sebring</p>	<p>of care.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>GAMING</b></p> <p><b>HB 7037</b> Rep. Mike LaRosa</p>	  <p>Rep. Mike LaRosa R-St. Cloud</p>	<p>Ratifies and approves a 2017 Gaming Compact between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida, and authorizes the Governor to execute the 2017 Compact.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER SUPPORTED</b></p>	<p><b>HB 7037</b> Was discussed during the EDR Revenue Estimating Impact Conference; no votes were taken.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>
<p><b>GAMING</b></p> <p><b>SB 8</b> Sen. Bill Galvano</p>		<p>Calls for a vast expansion of slot machines and gaming.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA CHAMBER OPPOSED</b></p>	<p><b>SB 8</b> The Senate did not take action this week.</p> <p><a href="#">VISIT OUR ISSUE PAGE &gt;</a></p>

**PATIENT  
SAFETY  
CULTURE  
SURVEY**

**HB 375**  
Rep. Michael Grant

**SB 1434**  
Sen. Keith Perry



Requires health care facilities to assess patient safety culture and publish the resulting survey data as a condition of licensure. This legislation has the potential for abuse and could create unintended consequences, such as this process being used as a bargaining chip or leverage point in employer-employee contractual relationships.

**FLORIDA  
CHAMBER  
OPPOSED**

**HB 375**  
Passed the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

**SB 1434**  
Bill status and update here.

**LEARN WHERE WE STAND >**