



FLORIDA AFL-CIO
UNITED LABOR LOBBY



*2001
Final Legislative Report*

& Legislator's Rankings

A Publication of the Florida AFL-CIO
Marilyn P. Lenard, President & Chief Lobbyist

FLORIDA AFL-CIO UNITED LABOR LOBBY

The United Labor Lobby provides a way for unions to work together during the legislative session. The Florida AFL-CIO and its union affiliates form the core of the coalition. Others with similar interests sometimes join in the combined efforts.

Each year lobbyists who are sponsored by industrial, building trades, service and public employee unions work on legislation that relates specifically to their unions' interests, as well as general labor legislation. Through the United Labor Lobby, the union lobbyists share information, take specific lobbying assignments and coordinate committee testimony. Following is a list of the ULL lobbyists who participated in the 2000 Legislative

Florida AFL-CIO	Marilyn Lenard, President & Chief Lobbyist Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer L. W. Fowler, VIP Director
AFSCME Council 79	Jeanette Wynn Mark Neimeiser Ted Pye
Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers	David Lavery
CWA Council of Florida	Gail Marie Perry
Florida Education Association	Maureen Dinnen Cathy Kelly Members of the FEA Lobbying Team
Duval Teachers United	Terrie Brady
United Teachers of Dade	Cindy Hall Elsa Lopez Joe Minor
Florida Building Trades Council	Mike Williams
Florida Electrical Workers Assn.	J. B. Clark
IBEW 359	Terry Kammer
Florida State Council of Machinists	Frank Ortis
Int'l Union of Police Associations	Jim Rhyne
Service Employees International Union	Dale Ewart Monica Russo Maribeth Healy

Session.

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FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICTS AND SENATORS

District Number - Office	Senator	Counties
S - 1 Crestview	Durrell Peaden Jr. (R)	Bay Escambia Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton Washington
S - 2 Jacksonville	Betty S. Holzendorf (D)	Alachua Clay Duval Putnam St. Johns
S - 3 Tallahassee	Alfred Lawson (D)	Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison,
S - 4 Jasper	Richard Mitchell (D)	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson,
S - 5 Gainesville	Rod Smith (D)	Alachua Bradford Clay Columbia Levy Marion Putnam Suwannee Union
S - 6 Orange Park	Jim Horne (R)	Clay Duval St. Johns
S - 7 Destin	Charlie Clary (R)	Bay Escambia Okaloosa Santa Rosa Walton
S - 8 Jacksonville	James F. King Jr. (R)	Duval Flagler Marion St. Johns Volusia
S - 9 Altamonte Springs	D. Lee Constantine (R)	Orange Seminole
S - 10 Brooksville	Virginia Brown-Waite (R)	Hernando Pasco Polk Sumter
S - 11 Leesburg	Anna Cowin (R)	Citrus Lake Marion Seminole Sumter
S - 12 Winter Garden	Daniel Webster (R)	Orange Osceola Seminole Volusia
S - 13 Tampa	Victor D. Crist (R)	Hillsborough Pasco
S - 14 Orlando	Buddy Dyer (D)	Orange Seminole
S - 15 Rockledge	Bill Posey (R)	Brevard Indian River St. Lucie
S - 16 Ormond Beach	Locke Burt (R)	Volusia
S - 17 Bartow	John E. Laurent (R)	Highlands Okeechobee Polk
S - 18 Indian Harbour Beach	Charlie Bronson (R)	Brevard Osceola
S - 19 Palm Harbor	Jack Latvala (R)	Pasco Pinellas
S - 20 St. Petersburg	Jim Sebesta (R)	Hillsborough Pinellas
S - 21 Tampa	Lesley I. Miller (D)	Hillsborough Manatee Pinellas
S - 22 St. Petersburg	Donald C. Sullivan (R)	Pinellas
S - 23 Brandon	Tom Lee (R)	Hillsborough Polk
S - 24 Osprey	Lisa Carlton (R)	Charlotte Lee Sarasota
S - 25 Cane Coral	Burt I. Saunders (R)	Collier Lee
S - 26 Bradenton	John McKay (R)	DeSoto Hardee Highlands Manatee Sarasota
S - 27 Port St. Lucie	Ken Pruitt (R)	Indian River Martin Palm Beach St. Lucie
S - 28 Delray Beach	Ron Klein (D)	Broward Palm Beach
S - 29 Hallandale Beach	Steven Geller (D)	Broward Collier Hendry Palm Beach
S - 30 Ft. Lauderdale	Mandy Dawson (D)	Broward Palm Beach
S - 31 Ft. Lauderdale	Debbie P. Sanderson (R)	Broward Palm Beach
S - 32 Pembroke Pines	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D)	Broward Miami-Dade
S - 33 Tamarac	Walter "Skin" Campbell (D)	Broward
S - 34 Miami	Alex Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Miami-Dade
S - 35 Royal Palm Beach	Tom Rossin (D)	Charlotte Glades Lee Martin Okeechobee Palm Beach
S - 36 Miami	Kendrick Meek (D)	Miami-Dade
S - 37 Miami	Alex Villalobos (R)	Miami-Dade
S - 38 North Miami	Ronald A. Silver (D)	Miami-Dade
S - 39 Hialeah	Rudy Garcia (R)	Miami-Dade
S - 40 Miami	Daryl L. Jones (D)	Miami-Dade, Monroe



FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

House District – Office	Representative	Counties
H – 1 Milton	Jefferson B. Miller (R)	Escambia Okaloosa Santa Rosa
H – 2 Pensacola	Jerry I. Mavrogarden (R)	Escambia
H – 3 Pensacola	Holly Benson (R)	Escambia
H – 4 Ft. Walton Beach	Jerry Melvin (R)	Escambia Okaloosa Santa Rosa
H – 5 DeFuniak Springs	Donald Brown (R)	Holmes Okaloosa Santa Rosa
H – 6 Panama City	Allan Bense (R)	Bay
H – 7 Marianna	Rev. Kilmer (R)	Bay Calhoun Gadsden Gulf Jackson Leon Liberty Walton
H – 8 Tallahassee	Curtis Richardson (D)	Gadsden Leon
H – 9 Tallahassee	Loranne Ausley (D)	Leon
H – 10 Carrabelle	Will S. Kendrick (D)	Alachua Dixie Franklin Gilchrist Jefferson Leon Levy Marion Taylor Wakulla
H – 11 Live Oak	Dwight Stansel (D)	Columbia Dixie Gilchrist Hamilton Lafayette Madison Suwannee
H – 12 Yulee	Aaron P. Bean (R)	Baker Bradford Duval Nassau Union
H – 13 Jacksonville	Mike Hogan (R)	Clay Duval
H – 14 Jacksonville	Terry Fields (D)	Duval
H – 15 Jacksonville	E. Denise Lee (D)	Duval
H – 16 Jacksonville	Mark H. Mahon (R)	Duval
H – 17 Jacksonville	Stan Jordan (R)	Duval
H – 18 Jacksonville Beach	Don Davis (R)	Duval St. Johns
H – 19 Orange Park	Dick Kravitz (R)	Clay Duval St. Johns
H – 20 St. Augustine	Doug Wiles (D)	Clay Flagler St. Johns Volusia
H – 21 Palatka	Joe R. Pickens (R)	Clay Marion Putnam
H – 22 Gainesville	Perry C. Mcgriff Jr. (D)	Alachua Marion
H – 23 Gainesville	Ed Jennings Jr. (D)	Alachua Marion
H – 24 Ocala	Dennis K. Baxley (R)	Marion
H – 25 Eustis	Carey Baker (R)	Lake Marion Seminole Volusia
H – 26 Deland	Joyce Cusack (D)	Flagler Lake Volusia
H – 27 Ormond Beach	Evelyn Lynn (R)	Volusia
H – 28 New Smyrna Beach	Suzanne M. Kosmas (D)	Volusia
H – 29 Titusville	Randy Ball (R)	Brevard
H – 30 Melbourne	Mike Haridonolos	Brevard
H – 31 Melbourne	Mitch Needelman	Brevard
H – 32 Merritt Island	Bob Allen (R)	Brevard Indian River Orange
H – 33 Oviedo	Tom Feenev (R)	Orange Seminole Volusia
H – 34 Lake Marv	David I. Meador (R)	Orange Seminole
H – 35 Winter Park	Jim Kallinger (R)	Orange Seminole
H – 36 Winter Park	Allen Trovillion (R)	Orange
H – 37 Altamonte Springs	David Simmons (R)	Orange Seminole
H – 38 Apopka	Frederick C. Brummer (R)	Lake Orange
H – 39 Orlando	Gary A. Sinlin (D)	Orange
H – 40 Orlando	Andy Gardiner (R)	Orange
H – 41 Winter Garden	Randy Johnson (R)	Lake Orange Osceola
H – 42 The Villages	Hugh Gibson (R)	Lake Marion Sumter
H – 43 Crystal River	Nancy Argenziano (R)	Citrus Hernando Marion
H – 44 Spring Hill	David D. Russell Jr. (R)	Hernando Lake Pasco Polk Sumter
H – 45 New Port Richey	Mike Easano (R)	Hernando Pasco
H – 46 New Port Richey	Heather Fiorentino (R)	Pasco
H – 47 Tampa	Rob Wallace (R)	Hillsborough Pinellas
H – 48 Palm Harbor	Gus Micheal Bilirakis (R)	Hillsborough Pinellas
H – 49 Dunedin	Larry Crow (R)	Pinellas
H – 50 Clearwater	Kim Berfield (R)	Pinellas
H – 51 Largo	Leslie Waters (R)	Pinellas
H – 52 St. Petersburg	Frank Farkas (R)	Pinellas
H – 53 St. Petersburg	Charlie Justice (D)	Pinellas
H – 54 Largo	John Carassas (R)	Pinellas
H – 55 St. Petersburg	Frank Peterman Jr. (D)	Hillsborough Manatee Pinellas
H – 56 Tampa	Sandra L. Murman (R)	Hillsborough
H – 57 Tampa	Chris Hart IV (R)	Hillsborough
H – 58 Tampa	Bob Henriquez (D)	Hillsborough
H – 59 Tampa	Arthenia I. Iovner (D)	Hillsborough
H – 60 Tampa	Sara Romeo (D)	Hillsborough

FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

continued

House District - Office	Representative	Counties
H - 61 Zenephyr Hills	Kenneth W. "Ken" Littlefield (R)	Hillsborough Pasco
H - 62 Plant City	Johnnie B. Byrd, Jr. (R)	Hillsborough
H - 63 Lakeland	Dennis A. Ross (R)	Polk
H - 64 Lakeland	Paula Dockery (R)	Polk
H - 65 Winter Haven	Marty Bowen (R)	Polk
H - 66 Winter Haven	ID Alexander (R)	Hillsborough Polk
H - 67 Sarasota	Michael S. Bennett (R)	Hillsborough Manatee Sarasota
H - 68 Bradenton	Mark G. Flanagan (R)	Manatee
H - 69 Sarasota	Donna Clarke (R)	Sarasota
H - 70 Venice	Nancy C. Detert (R)	Sarasota
H - 71 Port Charlotte	Jerry Paul (R)	Charlotte Sarasota
H - 72 Punta Gorda	Lindsay M. Harrington (R)	Charlotte DeSota Hardee Lee
H - 73 Ft. Myers	Bruce Kyle (R)	Lee
H - 74 Cape Coral	Jeff Kottkamp (R)	Charlotte Lee Sarasota
H - 75 Ft. Myers	Carole Green (R)	Collier Lee
H - 76 Naples	I. Dudley Goodlette (R)	Collier
H - 77 Sebring	Joseph R. Spratt (R)	Collier Glades Hendry Highlands
H - 78 Delray Beach	Richard A. Machek (D)	Highlands Martin Okeechobee Palm Beach St. Lucie
H - 79 Kissimmee	Frank Attkisson (R)	Okeechobee Osceola
H - 80 Vero Beach	Stan F. Mayfield (R)	Indian River St. Lucie
H - 81 Port St. Lucie	Gayle Harrell (R)	Martin St. Lucie
H - 82 Stuart	Joe Negron (R)	Martin Palm Beach
H - 83 North Palm Beach	Jeff Atwater (R)	Palm Beach
H - 84 West Palm Beach	James "Hank" Harner, Jr. (D)	Palm Beach
H - 85 West Palm Beach	Lois I. Frankel (D)	Palm Beach
H - 86 West Palm Beach	Susan Bucher (D)	Palm Beach
H - 87 Delray Beach	William "Bill" Andrews (R)	Palm Beach
H - 88 Delray Beach	Anne M. Gannon (D)	Palm Beach
H - 89 Boca Raton	Irving Slosberg (D)	Palm Beach
H - 90 Deerfield Beach	Mark Weissman (D)	Broward
H - 91 Ft. Lauderdale	Connie Mack (R)	Broward Palm Beach
H - 92 Ft. Lauderdale	John P. Seiler (D)	Broward
H - 93 Ft. Lauderdale	Christopher "Chris" Smith (D)	Broward
H - 94 Lauderdale Hill	Matthew I. Meadows (D)	Broward
H - 95 Coconut Creek	Ron Greenstein (D)	Broward
H - 96 Coral Springs	Stacy I. Ritter (D)	Broward
H - 97 Sunrise	Nan H. Rich (D)	Broward
H - 98 Plantation	Roger B. Wishner (D)	Broward
H - 99 Dania Beach	Timothy M. "Tim" Ryan (D)	Broward
H - 100 Hollywood	Eleanor Sobel (D)	Broward
H - 101 Miramar	Kenneth A. "Ken" Gottlieb (D)	Broward Miami-Dade
H - 102 Hialeah	Rafael "Ralph" Arza (R)	Collier Miami-Dade
H - 103 Miami	Wilbert "Tee" Holloway (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 104 Miami	Frederica S. "Freddi" Wilson (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 105 North Miami Beach	Sally A. Heyman (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 106 Miami Beach	Dan Gelber (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 107 Miami	Gustavo A. Barreiro (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 108 North Miami	Phillip I. Brutus (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 109 Miami	Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 110 Hialeah	Rene Garcia (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 111 Miami	Marco Rubio (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 112 Miami	Mario Diaz-Balart (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 113 Miami	Manuel Preiguez (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 114 Sweetwater	Gaston Cantens (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 115 Miami	Renier Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 116 Miami	Annie Betancourt (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 117 Miami	Carlos A. Lacasa (R)	Miami-Dade
H - 118 Miami	Edward B. Bullard (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 119 Miami	Cindy Lerner (D)	Miami-Dade
H - 120 Key Largo	Ken Sorensen (R)	Miami-Dade, Monroe

IT'S OVER! .. .AT LEAST 'TILL JANUARY

On May 4 the 2001 Legislative Session ended with all the order and dignity of a cowboy herding cats. The Senate ended on time but the House ran right up until the midnight deadline. The final hours of the session were filled with last minute shady deals and hidden amendments. When the dust began to clear, most session watchers had no real idea about what passed, what didn't and the impact the session would have on the people of Florida. During the last ten weeks the Florida AFL-CIO and United Labor Lobby have been working to analyze the final status of the major pieces we followed this session. The following report provides a brief description of these pieces, the action taken on them, and the final status of each one. We have also included important roll-call votes so that each of our members may see the way each legislator voted. Finally, we have included this year's Legislator Rankings compiled by the ULL Lobbyists. If you are interested in legislation that has not been included in this final report you can access the Florida Legislature's web-site at www.leg.state.fl.us or

State Government, Employment and Taxation

Service Worst

HB 369 by Diaz-Balart. Co-sponsors: Lynn, Murman

SB 466 by Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Garcia. Co-Sponsors: Sanderson, Bronson, Sebesta

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 369 – Replaced by SB 466, laid on table in House.

SB 466 – Replaced HB 369, passed by House and Senate

Passed

Enacted by Governor

The "Service First" initiative was the Governor's plan to radically re-structure Florida's successful Career Service program in an effort to please the politically influential businesses in the Florida Council of 100 and eliminate state workers who may not agree with his policies. This was one of the most egregious attacks on Florida's working families seen this session and it generated an incredible amount of public opposition. The Florida AFL-CIO and the United Labor Lobby kept you informed about our battles surrounding this legislation and thanks to your help and a very successful mass rally organized by AFSCME Florida Council 79 we were able to beat back some of the worst provisions. In the final hours of session it was questionable whether or not the legislation would even pass. The following represents a recap of the legislation's action in those last few days.

The House passed HB 369 by Diaz-Balart on March 22nd with a vote of 74 yeas and 43 nays. This version of the bill was closely related to the Governor's original proposal and included almost all of the most damaging provisions. Every single Democrat voted against the measure and all but 3 Republicans voted for the bill. Lobbyists from the United Labor Lobby had been working closely with members of the Senate and had been assured that a more moderate proposal would be crafted in their respective chamber. As Senate Bill 466 moved through the committee process many of most egregious provisions supported by the Governor and many of the Republican members, were removed thanks in large part to the efforts of Senators Lawson, Mitchell and Smith. In fact, it was questionable whether or not the bill would be voted out of the Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee but on April 10th while the Democratic members were attending the funeral for former Secretary of Labor Doug Jamerson the Republican members of the committee voted the measure out. The final version of 466 was approved by the entire Senate on May 2nd with a vote of 33 yeas to 7 nays. Many of the members voting for the bill claimed on the floor that they were supporting this version in order to build a stronger bargaining position for it when the legislation went to a conference committee between the House and Senate. They cautioned that if the House positions were adopted by the conference committee they would not vote for final passage. The House refused to alter their original position and a conference committee was appointed on May 3rd. The conference committee met throughout the evening and late that night a compromise was reached and the report was sent back to each chamber for final passage.

However, as had been the case throughout the session, "Service First" was still mired in controversial

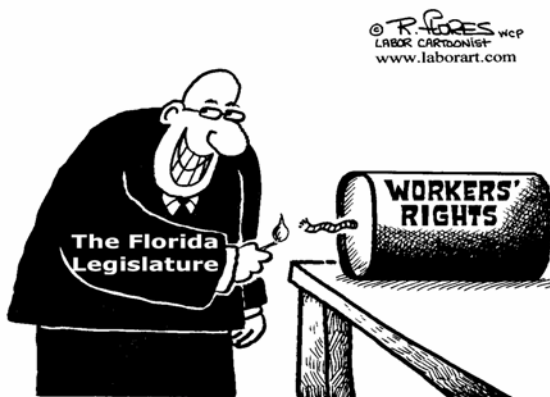
"fudging" of the Legislature's rules and procedures. Once a measure has been sent to conference committee there can be no new issues added for discussion, the committee may only address provisions that had been voted on by the entire House and Senate. The versions of "Service First" that had passed both the House and Senate had exempted law enforcement, correctional officers and firefighters from the provisions of the plan. The House members of the conference committee were seeking to add nursing professionals to the list of those exempted from the bill. Senate Democrats on the committee were quick to point out that this was a violation of the rules and the committee agreed to pull that provision from consideration. However, when the conference report was issued the next day, that provision had in fact been added. Senator Al Lawson pointed this out on the Senate floor and argued that the only way the bill could be passed was with a 2/3 vote. Senate President John McKay posed the question to Rules Committee Chairman Senator Tom Lee. Sen. Lee offered no evidence or argument for his claim that no rules had been violated and Sen. McKay ruled that the vote would proceed and that only a simple majority would be required for passage. So, on May 4th 2001 one of the most sweeping changes to Florida's Career Service program was passed after weeks of legislative tricks, political strong-arming and a coordinated campaign by the House and Senate leadership to stifle discussion and debate. The passage of this bill may be the most significant event in the Governor's campaign to hand our state over to the big businesses that have supported him by returning state service to an earlier age of political patronage and cronyism.

Original "Service First" provisions

1. Legal standard for "Just Cause" in dismissals, demotions, etc. eliminated.
2. Employees considered "guilty until proven innocent." Burden of proof on employees.
3. Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) is abolished. Replaced with a 3 member executive board appointed by the governor.
4. Rights for employees with seniority in times of layoff (bumping rights) eliminated.
5. Annual employee evaluations performed quarterly, 40% of evaluation based on peer review.
6. Automatic direct deposit of paychecks mandatory.
7. Surcharge for deduction of voluntary payroll deductions implemented.
8. 16,000 employees moved from "career service" to "select exempt" or "at will" status.
9. Bonus and pay for performance plans instituted with no standards for implementation. Bonuses may be awarded for political reasons.
10. Hiring procedures "streamlined" i.e. current standards designed to protect against patronage are eliminated.
11. Law enforcement, correctional officers and firefighters exempt from the above provisions.

"Service First" as passed by the Legislature

1. 1. Legal standard of "Just Cause" is retained, but expanded to make firings easier.
2. Burden of Proof remains on the employer.
3. PERC is retained; they no longer have the ability to mitigate a penalty assessed by an employer. Employees may no longer appeal layoffs or transfers.
4. Seniority rights are eliminated.
5. Employee evaluations remain annual.
6. Direct deposit of paychecks not mandatory.
7. Surcharge for payroll deductions not enacted.
8. 16,000 – 18,000 employees moved from "career service" to SES or SMS, or "at will." This gives Florida an incredibly high management to staff ratio, more than double that in the private sector. This also increases the number of positions that may be subject to politically motivated firings.
9. Bonus and pay for performance plans instituted. There are no objective standards.
10. Hiring no longer must be based on any objective criteria. Candidates need only meet "minimum qualifications." Records of applicants not hired do not need to be maintained. In other words, no protections against patronage.
11. Law enforcement, correctional officers and firefighters **and** professional nurses exempt from the above provisions. These groups have supported both Jeb and George W. Bush.
12. The process whereby unions and management may seek the input from a neutral special master in disputes is eliminated. This provision was added late in the session after a special master appointed to help resolve a dispute between AFSCME and the Governor went on record as calling this plan "service worst."



SERVICE FIRST CONTINUED

A "NO" VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE'S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. . . .



NO

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Bronson(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Laurent(R)	Y	Rossin(D)	N
Brown-Waite(R)	Y	Dyer(D)	N	Lawson(D)	N	Sanderson(R)	Y
Burt(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Lee(R)	Y	Saunders(R)	Y
Campbell(D)	N	Geller(D)	N	McKay(R)	Y	Sebesta(R)	Y
Carlton(R)	Y	Holzendorf(D)	N	MEEK(D)	N	Silver(D)	N
Clary(R)	Y	Horne(R)	Y	Miller(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Constantine(D)	Y	Jones(D)	N	Mitchell(D)	N	Sullivan(D)	Y

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	Y	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	Y	Byrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	N
Argenziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	Y	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	N	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	Y	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	Y
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	Y	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubio(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	Y	Harper(D)	N	Lynn(R)	Y	Russell(R)	Y
Ausley(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	N	Ryan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	Y	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	Y	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Y	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	NV	Siplin(D)	N
Baxley(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	Y	Heyman(D)	N	Maygarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	Y	McGriff(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall (D)	Y	Farkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	Y	Meadows(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	N	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	Y
Bense(R)	Y	Feeney(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	Y	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	Y
Benson(R)	Y	Fields(D)	N	Jordan(R)	NV	Miller(R)	Y	Stansel(D)	N
Berfield(R)	Y	Fiorentino(R)	NV	Joyner(D)	N	Murman(R)	Y	Trovillion(R)	Y
Betancourt(D)	N	Flanagan(R)	Y	Justice(D)	N	Needelman(R)	N	Wallace(R)	Y
Bilirakis(R)	Y	Frankel(D)	N	Kallinger(R)	Y	Negron(R)	Y	Waters(R)	Y
Bowen(R)	Y	Gannon(D)	N	Kendrick(D)	N	Paul(R)	Y	Weissman(D)	N
Brown(R)	NV	Garcia(R)	Y	Kilmer(R)	N	Peterman(D)	N	Wiles(D)	N
Brummer(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Kosmas(D)	N	Pickens(R)	Y	Wilson(D)	N
Brutus(D)	N	Gelber(D)	N	Kottkamp(R)	Y	Prieguez(R)	Y	Wishner(D)	N

Election Reform

Passed

There was a flurry of elections and campaign finance reform bills presented this session. Rather than attempt to present a comprehensive report of each of these bills we will discuss only the major reform measure that was passed by the Legislature.

HB 1118 – by Senate Ethics and Elections Committee. Co-sponsors: Posey, Lawson, Bronson, Sebesta, Brown-Waite, Dyer, Smith, Constantine, Carlton, Jones, Crist.

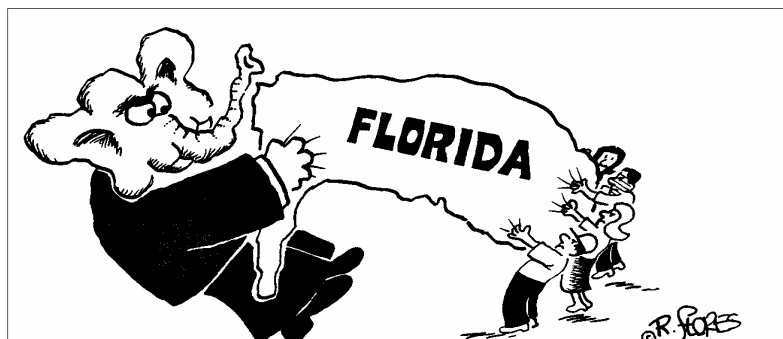
Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position – **Watch**

Enacted by the Governor

The fall-out of the 2000 Presidential Elections that led to the selection of George W. Bush highlighted many egregious failures of Florida's elections system. The legislature responded with sweeping reforms of Florida's election system at both the state and local levels. The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL view these changes as a partial victory because many of the fundamental problems that led to the systematic disenfranchisement of thousands of voters, primarily minority voters, have yet to be addressed. Many of these problems have been highlighted in a report issued by the Federal Civil Rights Commission, which has been discussed at length in the media over the last month. Governor Jeb Bush and Secretary of State Katherine Harris have rejected the findings of this report so it is unclear whether the recommendations made in that report will be addressed any time in the near future. Additionally, some of these changes, such as the elimination of the second primary, out of state contributions for matching funds and deadlines for overseas absentee ballots, appear to give the current majority in the House and Senate an unfair advantage in upcoming elections. The following presents a review of the major changes made this session. There is still a long way to go in our fight to ensure that every citizen's right to vote is protected and that every lawful vote is counted in a fair and efficient manner. We will continue to work with our coalition partners on these issues in the months to come and in the next legislative session. This discussion should not be considered any form of binding legal opinion, for specific questions the statutes should be examined.

Changes to Florida's election system:

- Punchcards, paper ballots, mechanical lever machines and central-count voting machines are no longer permitted in the State of Florida.
- The Division of Elections will develop a uniform ballot for each type of approved voting machine.
- \$24 million dollars (a portion of the total necessary) is allocated to assist counties in the purchasing of new voter technology.
- All approved voting technologies must be precinct-based systems.
- A provisional ballot system is established. This allows voters whose eligibility cannot be determined to vote on Election Day. Provisional ballots will be evaluated later by the county canvassing boards to see if the votes should be counted.
- Automatic recounts are mandated in any race or ballot question if the margin of victory is .5% or less.
- Manual recounts of Overvotes (ballots which may have more than one choice selected) and Undervotes (ballots which may not have any clear choice selected) will be conducted when the margin of victory is between .25% or .5%, provided a written request is made no later than 5 PM on the second day following the election.
- In statewide elections recounts will be conducted in every county to address issues of equal protection raised by the Supreme Court in the Bush V. Gore decision.
- In multi-county races, all of the counties in the district of the candidacy or ballot measure will be required to conduct a recount when applicable.
- All discretion is removed from local canvassing boards in the case of manual recounts.
- The concept of "voter intent" is clarified. A vote for a candidate or ballot question will count if there is a "clear indication that the voter has made a definite choice." The Department of State is charged with defining how this intent is represented for each type of voting technology and with establishing uniform recount procedures.
- Certain legal grounds for contesting elections are eliminated and restrictions are placed on circuit court judges' abilities to fashion orders to solve contests.
- Certification deadlines are clarified and the Elections Canvassing Commission is directed to ignore returns submitted after the deadline except in the case of emergencies defined by statute.
- The second primary for the 2000 elections is eliminated. (Many have claimed that this provision favors the party with an incumbent Governor)
- The definition of absent elector is clarified to allow any registered voter to vote absentee without showing cause.
- Social Security numbers are no longer required for absentee ballots.
- A procedure for the development of a statewide voter registration database is



established. This procedure includes a process by which the database is created and subsequently cross-referenced by individual supervisors of elections. The provisions also require that the information be made available to each district and allocates \$2 million for the creation of the database.

- Minimum standards and hourly requirements are outlined for the training of pollworkers.
- Counties are required to submit proposals for voter education and pollworker training. Upon submission of the proposals the state may provide funding to implement these programs.
- A Voter's Bill of Rights is required to be posted at each polling site and a uniform polling place policy manual must be made available to each precinct on Election Day.
- The Elections Canvassing Commission will consist of the Governor and two members of the cabinet. If a vacancy occurs, the remaining members of the cabinet will serve. Other vacancies will be filled by an elected public official chosen by the Commission.
- A study regarding the impact of uniform poll opening and closing times is to be conducted by the Division of Elections.
- Out of state contributions will not be counted toward the amounts needed for matching funds and will not be considered qualifying matching contributions.

Department of Labor and Employment Security Failed

HB 1655 by Rep. Clarke

SB 2224 by Appropriations, Banking and Insurance, Clary

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 1655: Replaced SB 2224, passed by the house, amended and passed by Senate, died in returning House messages.

SB 2224: Replaced by HB 1655, laid on table in Senate.

In order to trim millions of dollars from the state budget and pass those savings on to the

A "NO" VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE'S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. .



Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Bronson(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Laurent(R)	Y	Rossin(D)	NV
Brown-Waite(R)	Y	Dyer(D)	Y	Lawson(D)	Y	Sanderson(R)	Y
Burt(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	NV	Lee(R)	Y	Saunders(R)	Y
Campbell(D)	Y	Geller(D)	Y	McKay(R)	Y	Sebesta(R)	NV
Carlton(R)	Y	Holzendorf(D)	N	Meek(D)	Y	Silver(D)	Y
Clary(R)	Y	Horne(R)	Y	Miller(D)	N	Smith(D)	Y

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	Y	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	NV	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	Y	Byrd(R)	NV	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	N
Argenziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	NV	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	N	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	Y	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	Y
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	Y	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubio(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	NV	Harper(D)	N	Lynn(R)	NV	Russell(R)	Y
Ausley(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	N	Ryan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	Y	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	Y	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Y	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Siplin(D)	N
Baxley(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	NV	Heyman(D)	N	Maygarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	Y	McGriff(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall (D)	N	Farkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	N	Meadows(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	Jordan(D)	N	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	Y
Bense(R)	Y	Feeney(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	Y	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	Y
Benson(D)	Y	Fields(D)	N	Jordan(D)	Y	Miller(D)	Y	Stancil(D)	Y

Workers' Compensation

Passed

HB 1803 by Council for Competitive Commerce, Insurance, Waters. Co-Sponsors; Melvin, Brown, Berfield, Kallinger, McGriff, Clarke, Simmons, Sobel, Ross, Negron, Fields, Wiles, Murman.

SB 1926 by Banking and Insurance, King.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Watch**

HB 1803 – Replaced SB 1926, passed by House and Senate.

SB 1926 – Replaced by HB 1803, laid on the table in Senate.

HB 1803 enacted by Governor

There were several pieces of legislation relating to workers' compensation this session. Most were considered "non-controversial" and the Florida AFL-CIO and United Labor Lobby followed these pieces to ensure that there were no provisions included that would have proved overly detrimental to Florida's working families. HB 1803 and SB 1926 contained several of these "non-controversial" provisions, although the legislation does call for the removal of many responsibilities and positions from DLES and the Division of Workers' Compensation. This legislation made changes in the administration of the system, the procedures followed in compensation claims and the resolution of disputes in compensation claims. The following represents a comprehensive list of these changes. This summary does not represent any specific legal opinions, for specific questions please refer to the statutes. (Excerpt taken from the final bill analysis compiled by the House Insurance Committee)

- The Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims would be transferred, as a unit, from the Department of Labor and Employment Security to the Division of Administrative Hearings of the Department of Management Services along with 18 administrative support positions from the Division of Workers' Compensation.
- The position of Chief Judge of Compensation Claims would be eliminated; the position of Deputy Chief Judge of Compensation Claims would be created and would report to the Director of the Division of Administrative Hearings.
- The Workers' Compensation Law's Code of Judicial Conduct would be repealed and the judges of compensation claims would be required to adhere to the Code of Judicial Conduct adopted by the Supreme Court of Florida.
- Certain duties and responsibilities of the Department of Labor and Employment Security and the Division of Workers' Compensation would be reassigned to the Division of Administrative Hearings or the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims.
- The monetary amount signifying "casual" labor would be increased from \$100 to \$500.
- Certain interscholastic "sports officials," as defined in the engrossed bill, would not be considered "employees" for purposes of workers' compensation coverage requirements.
- County inmates would be made expressly ineligible for workers' compensation benefits, as is now the case for state prisoners.
- Employees covered by the federal Defense Base Act would be ineligible for workers' compensation, as employees covered under other federal compensation acts are now ineligible. Carriers would be authorized to make benefit payments to injured workers electronically.
- Carriers would be required to submit medical bills to the Division only if requested.
- Physicians would be relieved of the 5-hour workers' compensation education requirement.
- The Division would be authorized to contract with a private entity for data collection.
- "Gross income" under child support guidelines would be revised to include all workers' compensation benefits and settlements.
- The Division would no longer be a party to indigency petitions for appellate actions.
- Self-insured employers could no longer use certificates of deposit, U.S. Treasury Notes, and direct obligations of the state government as security deposits with the Division.
- The Division would be authorized to require carriers or vendors submitting certain data electronically to be certified by the Division and meet certain performance standards, subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500.
- The Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association would be authorized to use policyholder surplus from any year to eliminate deficits.
- Certain carrier reports submitted to the Department of Insurance would be revised or repealed.
- Division-compiled quarterly injury reports would be repealed.

Procedure

- Employers and carriers would be permitted to choose whether to deliver medical benefits through a workers' compensation managed care arrangement; the employee would be entitled to one change of physician, as currently under managed care, if medical benefits are delivered without a workers' compensation managed care arrangement.
- "Qualified rehabilitation providers" would be granted access to medical records.
- Earnings from concurrent employment (i.e., second job) would not be included in the average weekly wage calculation until provided by the injured employee; employees not providing this information would be deemed to have waived any right to interest, penalties, and attorney's fees during the period in which the information is not provided, and carriers and employers would not be subject to penalties by the Division for untimely payment of indemnity benefits associated with incomplete concurrent employment information.
- Child support and alimony claims would be excluded from the general exemption of workers' compensation benefits from the claims of creditors.
- Claimants, and the adjuster for the employer or carrier, would be permitted to attend mediation conferences by telephone.
- When a carrier is uncertain of their obligation to pay compensation, the carrier would be specifically required to pay compensation within 14 days of the notice of injury.
- The First District Court of Appeal would be required to hear workers' compensation cases in a specialized division.

The statewide nominating commission would be directed to consider compliance with certain statutory requirements in evaluating judges' performance and request legislative review of statutory requirement judges are generally unable to meet for reasons beyond their control; the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims would be required to gather the information necessary for the commission to conduct its review of judges.

- When vacancies occur, the Governor would be authorized to appoint judges of compensation claims on an interim basis for a period not exceeding 120 days.
- A conflict relating to the prerequisites for obtaining a contractor's license and a workers' compensation exemption would be resolved.
- Workers' compensation premium discounts would be allowed for safety programs that comply with the provisions of an approved rating plan; public employers seeking workers' compensation premium credits for work place safety would have to implement a safety program containing certain specified components.
- Claimants would be required to file petitions directly with the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims, rather than the Division.
- Judges of compensation claims would be allowed to dismiss portions of petitions for benefits. Claimants would be required to provide in the petition for benefits the date(s) of accident, the classification of compensation, and additional information regarding medical mileage requests. The "response to petition" would replace the term "notice of denial" when answering claimant petitions.
- The 120-day requirement for lump sum settlements would begin with the date the employer is notified of the injury . If an attorney represents the claimant, the judge of compensation claims would not be required to approve these settlements, except as to attorney's fees. In those instances where judges of compensation claims are required to review and approve lump-sum settlements, judges would be required to consider whether or not the allocation of the lump-sum settlement would provide for recovery of child support arrearages. Judges of compensation claims would be required to enter a final order within 30 days of the final hearing or the close of the record; the judge would be able to issue an abbreviated final order in cases where compensability is not denied; the parties would be permitted to request separate findings of facts and conclusions of law.
- Local rules of judicial procedure would be eliminated.
- The written consent of the claimant would be required to grant more than one continuance of the final hearing.
- Docketing review would be eliminated.

Workers' Compensation

Failed

HB 1927 by Council for Competitive Commerce, Insurance, Waters. Co-sponsors; Ross, Melvin, Fields, Clarke, Brown, Simmons, Negron, Kallinger, Sobel, Lee.
SB 1188 by Banking and Insurance

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 1927 – Passed House, passed Senate, returned to House, died in returning messages.
SB 1188 – Replaced by HB 1927, laid on the table in Senate.

Florida's corporate community introduced its own legislative package designed to change the state's workers' compensation system. Associated Industries of Florida worked behind the scenes to craft these bills which were introduced late in the session. AIF and their supporters embarked on a massive "hit and run" campaign introducing scores of last minute, late night amendments designed to keep our lobbyists misinformed and under the gun. The exact text of many of these "strike all" amendments was made available after the deadline by which our supporters in the House and Senate could respond with amendments of their own. This led to numerous late night sessions for the ULL as they worked to stay on top of the various issues. Their efforts were successful in that many of the worst provisions were amended out of the bill that was presented for final approval by both chambers. However, for various reasons (i.e. our ability to make the bill less of a gift to corporate interests) the political will to adopt these substantive changes to the system faded and the final bill was not considered in the final hours of session. One much needed reform that died along with the bill was a provision which closed the construction loophole but the Florida AFL-CIO and ULL will be back next session to ensure that this is remedied. The negative aspects of the bill were hard fought for by the AIF and other corporate interests so it will not be surprising if they reappear next session. The following represents some of these negative aspects.

- Severely restricted the ability for disabled workers to be eligible for permanent total disability benefits.
- Raised the legal standard for proving the cause of occupational disease or repetitive trauma to impossible levels.
- Created an even higher level of difficulty in proving the cause of occupational diseases, including diseases caused by exposure to a toxic substance.
- Prohibited employees from being compensated for psychiatric impairment.
- Expanded employer immunity from liability, except where an employer acts with intent to cause injury or death.
- Restricted independent medical examinations paid for by the carrier to one *per accident*.
- Changed the method of determining the average weekly wages of injured employees, which could have resulted in a lowering of compensation.
- Reduced benefits for older, disabled workers.
- Limited attorneys' fees making it difficult for injured or disabled workers to secure qualified legal counsel.

Again, it is important to note that many of these provisions were amended out due to many long days and

 **A "NO" VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE'S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. . . .**

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Bronson(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Laurent(R)	Y	Rossin(D)	Y
Brown-Waite(R)	Y	Dyer(D)	Y	Lawson(D)	Y	Sanderson(R)	Y
Burt(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Lee(R)	Y	Saunders(R)	Y
Campbell(D)	Y	Geller(D)	N	McKav(R)	Y	Sebesta(R)	Y
Carlton(R)	Y	Holzendorf(D)	N	Meek(D)	Y	Silver(D)	Y
Clary(R)	Y	Horne(R)	Y	Miller(D)	Y	Smith(D)	Y
Constantine(R)	Y	Jones(D)	Y	Mitchell(d)	Y	Sullivan(R)	Y
Cowin(R)	Y	King(R)	Y	Peaden(R)	Y	Villalobos(R)	Y
Crist(R)	Y	Klein(D)	Y	Posey(R)	Y	Wasserman Schultz	Y
Dawson(D)	Y	Latvala(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	Y	Webster(R)	Y

WORKER'S COMPENSATION CONTINUED

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	Y	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	NV	Byrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	Y
Argenziano(R)	N	Cantens(R)	Y	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	NV	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	Y	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	Y
Attkisson(R)	NV	Clark(R)	Y	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubio(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	NV	Crow(R)	Y	Harper(D)	N	Lynn(R)	Y	Russell(R)	Y
Ausley(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	N	Ryan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	Y	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	N	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	NV	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	N	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Siplin(D)	N
Baxley(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	Y	Heyman(D)	N	Maygarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	Y	McGriff(D)	Y	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall (D)	N	Farkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	N	Meadows(D)	NV	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	Y	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	Y
Bense(R)	Y	Feeney(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	NV	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	Y
Benson(R)	Y	Fields(D)	Y	Jordan(R)	NV	Miller(R)	Y	Stansel(D)	N
Berfield(R)	Y	Fiorentino(R)	NV	Joyner(D)	N	Murman(R)	Y	Trovillion(R)	Y
Betancourt(D)	N	Flanagan(R)	Y	Justice(D)	N	Needelman(R)	Y	Wallace(R)	Y
Billirakis(R)	Y	Frankel(D)	N	Kallinger(R)	N	Negron(R)	Y	Waters(R)	Y
Bowen(R)	Y	Gannon(D)	N	Kendrick(D)	Y	Paul(R)	Y	Weissman(D)	N
Brown(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Kilmer(R)	NV	Peterman(D)	N	Wiles(D)	N
Brummer(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Kosmas(D)	N	Pickens(R)	Y	Wilson(D)	N
Brutus(D)	NV	Gelber(D)	N	Kottkamp(R)	Y	Prieguez(R)	Y	Wishner(D)	N

Unemployment Compensation for Birth and Adoption Failed

HB 1245 by Cusack. Co-sponsors; Rich, Joyner.

SB 500 by Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Wasserman Schultz. Co-sponsors; Crist

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 1245 – **Died in House State Administration Committee**, first committee of reference

SB 500 – Passed Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, Banking and Insurance Committee. **Died in Finance and Taxation Committee.**

Current state law only requires that new parents be granted unpaid medical leave to care for their newborn or newly adopted children. This leaves millions without any type of economic safety net in the time period following the birth or adoption of a child. This legislation would have allowed parents to receive unemployment compensation benefits while taking time off work to care for their new born or newly adopted children. While our efforts to have this legislation passed were unsuccessful this session the Florida AFL-CIO and ULL will continue to fight for responsible legislation such as this that helps working families balance their responsibilities between child care and work.

Special Risk Retirement Benefits for Forensic Health-Care Worker

Failed

HB 1609 by Richardson

SB 1384 by Lawson

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 1609 – Passed House State Administration Committee, died in House Crime Prevention, Corrections, and Safety.

SB 1384 – Died in Senate Criminal Justice Committee, first committee of reference.

Forensic health care workers provide much needed medical attention for mentally ill individuals whose illness has forced them into the criminal justice system. These patients suffer from a wide range of psychopathologies that make them dangerous both to themselves and those around them. These workers provide an invaluable service to our state and do so under the constant threat of verbal and physical assault of those they care for. It is not uncommon for these workers to be bit, spat upon, or hit by thrown urine or fecal matter. Last year the Legislature granted special risk retirement status to the managers, supervisors and registered nurses at these facilities but did nothing for the front-line staff who have the most contact with these dangerous patients. These bills would have extended special risk status to those who need and deserve it most. The ruling majorities in the House and Senate did not seem to possess the political will to correct this injustice this session. The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL will continue to work with our supporters in both chambers to ensure that we correct this situation and provide adequate compensation for our forensic health care workers.

Unemployment Compensation – Alternative Base **Failed**

SB 1740 by Dyer

No companion bill in the House

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position – **Support**

SB 1740 – Passed Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

Current law automatically excludes a worker's most recent work history in determining eligibility for unemployment compensation due to the way in which the "base period" is defined. The base period is the period of time used for calculating whether or not unemployed individuals' earnings are sufficient to qualify them for unemployment insurance. Florida defines this base period as the first four of the past five full calendar quarters. This means that between three and six months of an individual's most recent work experience is excluded from consideration in calculating eligibility for benefits. This has proven extremely problematic in the new economy where duration of employment is shorter and people often rely on contingent work. The estimated cost of implementing this change is only \$4 million out of a \$2 billion trust fund for the program. This inexpensive book keeping change would have an incredible positive impact on some of our most at-risk workers, primarily minorities and women. The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL will continue to push for this progressive change.

Tax Breaks for Intangibles Tax and Corporate Income Tax **Passed**

HB 21 – by Fasano, Kyle. Co-sponsors: Cantens, Carassas, Fiorentino, Lynn, Gibson, Meador, Paul, Clarke, Berfield, Mayfield, Kravitz, Brown, Haridopolos, Mahon, Benson, Bowen, Baker, Kottkamp, Negron, Rubio, Ross, Baxley, Mack, Pickens, Hogan, Kallinger, Davis, Atwater, Jordan, Bennett, Harlem, Allen, Green, Sorensen, Merman, Trovillion, Johnson, Crow, Byrd, Harrington, Flanagan, Waters.

NO COMPANION FILED IN THE SENATE

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Watch / Oppose**

HB 21 – Passed House Fiscal Policy and Resources Committee, Fiscal Responsibility Council, passed House, referred to Senate,



"Jeb is a very compassionate man...
That's why he's giving us a big tax break."

passed Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, amended on Senate Floor to include language relating to corporate income tax credits for private school vouchers, passed senate, referred back to House, passed House.

Enacted by Governor

The final version of HB 21 contained several provisions relating to taxation in Florida. The two major items were the **Intangibles Tax** cut and cuts in income taxes for corporations that donate money for private school vouchers. This latter provision is discussed in depth later in this report. The Intangibles Tax is the tax paid on stocks, bonds, notes, government leaseholds and interest in limited partnerships registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Individual Retirement Accounts, cash, annuities and stock options were already exempt from taxation. Since Florida has no state income tax the Intangibles Tax was designed to provide income for the state from those moving into Florida who were holding hundreds of thousands of dollars in stocks and bonds making this a truly progressive rather than regressive tax. The legislative majority's spin machines worked around the clock to develop and disseminate a deceptive message that would resonate with Florida's citizens. They referred to the Intangibles Tax as an "onerous tax on our seniors and savers", one that must be eliminated in order to allow our senior citizens the money they needed for prescription drugs and health care. This could not be any further from the truth. The following provides a simplified break down of this tax cut.

- The tax rate was 1 mill assessed annually. That means that the real dollar value of the tax was \$1 dollar for every \$1,000 being held in stocks, bonds, etc. over the exemption amount.
- The exemption amount was \$20,000 for individuals and \$40,000 for couples. There was also a minimum tax rate of \$60.00 meaning if the amount of tax owed was \$59.00 or less there was no tax required at all. So, an individual who had less than \$80,000 dollars or couples who had less than \$100,000 dollars in stocks and bonds paid no tax at all. That means a very well off couple with \$1,000,000 in stocks and bonds (not including retirement accounts or tax shelters) only paid \$960 in taxes on those holdings under the Florida Intangibles Tax. It is important to note that most people with this much in assets have numerous legal ways to avoid taxation.
- Under the old tax structure only 4% of the entire population of the state paid this tax at all based on 1998 data.
- Only 13% of Florida's population over the age of 65 paid this tax.
- Over 75% of all those who paid the tax in 1998 had over \$500,000 in stocks and bonds for single filers and \$1,000,000 million dollars in stocks and bonds.
- These numbers illustrate that only the wealthy few paid this tax at all and for those who did it was a paltry sum compared to their total holdings.

The final version of the tax cut passed by the legislature made the following changes to the Intangibles Tax:

- The exemption for individuals is raised from \$20,000 to \$250,000.
- The exemption for couples is raised from \$40,000 to \$500,000.
- Corporations that had no exemption now have a \$250,000 exemption.

These changes in the Intangibles Tax will cost the state budget an estimated \$150,000,000 at a time when state government is already reeling from 3 years of tax cuts for the wealthiest and corporations. In order to fund this tax cut millions of dollars had to be cut from areas such as teacher recruitment and retention and programs that provide medical assistance for the needy. The Intangibles Tax was not "onerous" and was not unfairly assessed on our "seniors and savers." It was an efficient way to ensure that the wealthiest in our state pay their fair share to run the various programs that benefit all of us. It is also hard to believe that this tax cut will help our seniors pay for prescription medication. If the persons in question have over a million dollars in stocks and bonds it is hard to believe that they or their health insurance can not afford their prescriptions. While the Florida AFL-CIO and ULL were not able to work directly on this issue due to the plethora of other anti-worker, anti-family pieces we were fighting, we are philosophically opposed to this and any other measure that robs the working families of Florida to give money back to the most wealthy.

Equal Pay

HB 1499 – by Sobel

SB 154 – by Dawson

Failed

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 1499 – died in House Judicial Oversight Committee, first committee of reference

SB 154 – died in Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunities Committee, first committee of reference

Equal pay is not just a working woman's issue. It is a family issue. If pay discrimination against women ended, family incomes would rise. Working parents would have more to spend on household needs and more to save for their children's education or their own retirement security. Working parents might be able to spend less time at work and more time with their families – a change that many families would welcome.

Ending pay discrimination would help men, too. When an employer ends discrimination by raising wages for jobs traditionally done by women, such as nursing, men in those jobs get raises as well. If we had equal pay for work of equal value, it is estimated that women's pay would be 13 percent higher and men's pay would be up 1 percent. The law bars employers from lowering men's pay to correct discrimination against women.

It is time to close the gap in Florida. Working families deserve fair and equal treatment for comparable jobs. Passage of fair pay legislation will help toward this goal.

Health Care and Services

Nursing Home Reforms

Passed

Similar to the elections issue there were scores of bills filed this session, each taking a slightly different approach to solving Florida's growing problems in long-term care facilities for the elderly. Many pieces of legislation passed. The following report focuses on the major piece passed and highlights the changes we can expect to see in these critical health care facilities.

SB 1202 – by Senate Appropriations Committee, Judiciary, Health Aging and Long Term Care, Brown-Waite. Co-sponsors: Holzendorf.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Watch**

Enacted by Governor

The legislature spent a tremendous amount of time and energy "fixing" problems that many Floridians did not even know we had. One problem that Florida's citizens were demanding solutions to was the status of Florida's nursing homes. This was one of the most contentious issues debated this session and pitted corporate interests on one side and health care workers and providers on the other. The final version of this bill makes some improvements such as the increase of patient/staffing ratios, provisions we fully supported, while ignoring or improperly addressing others. The following represents the highlights of the most significant changes:

- The bill requires 2.3 hours of direct care per resident by certified nursing assistants by January 1, 2002 and increases this patient/staff ratio to 2.6 hours in 2003 and up to 2.9 hours in 2004. This created the highest staffing ratio requirement in the Nation.
- The bill requires 1 hour of direct care by a licensed nurse per day and there must be at least 1 licensed nurse for every 40 residents.
- The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to study the potential use of electronic monitoring devices, such as video cameras, in nursing homes. Their findings are to be reported to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2002.
- Civil suits may be brought by those alleging a violation of residents' rights or negligence causing the death of resident. In such cases the person or persons filing must claim either survival damages (pursuant to s. 46.021 F.S.) or wrongful death damages (pursuant to s. 768.21 F.S.). Residents who prevail in these cases are limited to recover costs and attorney's fees up to \$25,000.
- Punitive damages may only be recovered in cases where there is clear and convincing evidence that a defendant was personally guilty of intentional misconduct or gross negligence. Employers are shielded from punitive damages unless the employer knowingly participated in the conduct, condoned or consented to the conduct, or the employer's negligence contributed to the resident's injury.
- Punitive damages are limited to 3 times the compensatory (actual) damages or \$1 million, whichever is greater. In cases where the conduct was motivated by unreasonable financial gain or was committed by individuals responsible for policy decisions at the facility punitive damages are limited to 4 times the compensatory

damages or \$4 million whichever is greater. If there is clear and convincing evidence that there was specific intent to harm a resident there is no cap on punitive damages.

- Training approved by the Department of Elderly Affairs in the care of residents with Alzheimer’s disease is required.
- Increased charting requirements detailing the nature and type of care provided are required.
- Nursing homes must institute a grievance procedure for residents and their families.
- The Agency for Health Care Administration is given more authority to enforce state quality requirements including the imposition of fines and other remedies.
- Any party requesting licensure for a nursing home must disclose all financial or ownership interests over the last five years, bankruptcy filings, prior licensing history including revocations and any prior adverse actions taken against the party by a regulatory agency.
- Permits the issuance of an “inactive license” for facilities currently unable to provide services but which is reasonably expected to resume services.
- License fees are raised from \$30 per bed to \$50 dollars per bed.
- The minimum deposit for the Resident Protection Trust Fund is raised from \$500,000 to \$1 million.

Negative Drug Formulary Passed

HB 69 - by Argenziano, Fasano. Co-sponsors: Rubio, Farkas, Paul, Gannon, Harper, Carassas, Lerner, Clarke, Fields, Russell, Atwater, Slosberg, Kottkamp, Mahon, Diaz de la Portilla, Sorensen, Romeo, Wiles, Kosmas, Siplin, Fiorentino. SB by Clary. Co-sponsors: Latvala, Klein, Silver, Lee, Dyer, Brown-Waite, Geller, Campbell, Rossin, Smith, Diaz de la Portilla, Crist.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 69 – Passed House, substituted SB 342, passed Senate.



A “NO” VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE’S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. .

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Bronson(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Laurent(R)	Y	Rossin(D)	Y
Brown-Waite(R)	Y	Dyer(D)	Y	Lawson(D)	N	Sanderson(R)	N
Burt(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Lee(R)	Y	Saunders(R)	N
Campbell(D)	Y	Geller(D)	Y	McKav(R)	NV	Sebesta(R)	Y
Carlton(R)	N	Holzendorf(D)	N	Meek(D)	Y	Silver(D)	Y
Clary(R)	Y	Horne(R)	N	Miller(D)	Y	Smith(D)	Y
Constantine(R)	Y	Jones(D)	Y	Mitchell(d)	Y	Sullivan(R)	Y
Cowin(R)	N	King(R)	Y	Peaden(R)	Y	Villalobos(R)	N
Crist(R)	Y	Klein(D)	Y	Posev(R)	Y	Wasserman Schultz	Y
Dawson(D)	Y	Latvala(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	N	Webster(R)	N

Representative	Vot	Representative	Vot	Representativ	Vot	Representativ	Vot	Representativ	Vot
Alexander(R)	Y	Bucher(D)	Y	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	Y	Rich(D)	Y
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	N	Richardson(D)	Y
Andrews(R)	Y	Bvrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	NV	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	Y
Argenziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	Y	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	Y	Romeo(D)	Y
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	Y	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	Y	Ross(R)	N
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	Y	Haridonolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubio(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	Y	Harner(D)	Y	Lynn(R)	Y	Russell(R)	Y
Auslev(D)	Y	Cusack(D)	Y	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	Y	Ryan(D)	Y
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	Y	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	Y	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla	Y	Henriquez(D)	Y	Mavfield(R)	Y	Siplin(D)	Y
Baxlev(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	N	Hevman(D)	Y	Mavnarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	Y
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	Y	McGriff(D)	Y	Smith(D)	Y
Bendross-Mindingall	Y	Farkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	Y	Meadows(D)	Y	Sobel(D)	Y
Bennett(R)	N	Fasano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	Y	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	Y
Bense(R)	Y	Feenev(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	Y	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	Y
Benson(R)	Y	Fields(D)	Y	Jordan(R)	Y	Miller(R)	Y	Stansel(D)	Y
Berfield(R)	Y	Fiorentino(R)	Y	Lowner(D)	N	Murman(R)	Y	Trovillion(R)	Y
Betancourt(D)	N	Flanagan(R)	Y	Justice(D)	N	Needelman(R)	Y	Wallace(R)	Y
Billrakis(R)	Y	Frankel(D)	Y	Kallinger(R)	Y	Negron(R)	N	Waters(R)	Y
Bowen(R)	Y	Gannon(D)	Y	Kendrick(D)	Y	Paul(R)	Y	Weissman(D)	Y
Brown(R)	N	Garcia(R)	Y	Kilmer(R)	Y	Peterman(D)	Y	Wiles(D)	Y
Brummer(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Kosmas(D)	Y	Pickens(R)	Y	Wilson(D)	Y
Brutus(D)	Y	Gelber(D)	Y	Kottkamp(R)	Y	Prieguez(R)	Y	Wishner(D)	Y

Needlestick Protection for Public Health Care Workers Failed

HB 193 by Kosmas. Co-sponsors: Green, Bucher, Rich, Sobel, Farkas, Fiorentino.

SB 828 by Heath, Aging and Long-Term Care, Dyer.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 193 – Passed by House Health Regulation Committee, passed by House State Administration Committee, passed by House Health and Human Services Appropriation Committee, died on House Calendar.

SB 828 – Passed by Senate Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, passed by Senate, sent to House Calendar, died on House Calendar.

Healthcare workers face the deadly risk of being stuck by needles and medical sharps that have been infected by blood borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis C each and every day in the course of doing their job. A health care worker who is stuck by an infected needle or other medical instrument must face the agonizing process of waiting to see if they have been infected by these or other deadly diseases. Government funded research has demonstrated that newly designed needles and other instruments can dramatically reduce the instances of these injuries and infections yet it is estimated that 600,000 to one million workers are still injured by needlesticks annually. Federal guidelines have been adopted that require the use of these safe new technologies in the private sector but our public healthcare workers currently have no such protections. This legislation would have mandated that new standards and technologies are adopted in our public healthcare facilities. These new standards have been proven to reduce the number of blood borne diseases our healthcare system must deal with thus protecting our healthcare workers, their patients and reducing the overall cost of healthcare thus saving tax payers money. While the House was busy passing paycheck protection measures against our teachers and tax breaks for the wealthy they had no time to take up this issue. We came very close to passing this desperately needed legislation and will work to ensure its passage next session.

Health Insurance, HMOs and Physicians Passed

HB 809 – by Council for Competitive Commerce, Insurance, Murman. Co-sponsors: Waters, Benson, Harrell, Ritter, Sobel, Slosberg, Farkas, Simmons, Negron, Romeo, Prieguez, Melvin, Kallinger, Ross, Clarke, Bucher, Cusack, Littlefield, Joyner, Diaz de la Portilla, Brown.

SB 836 – by Banking and Insurance, Crist. Co-sponsors: Peaden, Wasserman Shultz, Dawson, Campbell, Saunders, Geller.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 809 – Passed House Insurance Committee, House Health Promotion Committee, House Council for Competitive Commerce, substituted by SB 836, laid on table in House.

SB 836 – Passed Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, Senate Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, passed Senate, substituted HB 809, **passed House**.

Enacted by Governor

The Health plans, insurance companies and Third Party Administrators dominate the health care market place to such a degree that fair negotiations between doctors and health plans are unobtainable. The health plans have such a stranglehold on the health care industry that they are able to dictate the terms of the contracts they offer doctors. The insurance companies and Third Party Administrators are also in the position to enforce a “my way or the highway” policy. Any physician that signs a contract with one of these plans can be forced to join all of the company's plans under the threat of losing their contract. This legislation prohibits insurance companies and Third Party Administrators from using unfair tactics to pressure doctors into accepting their products and services. The implementation of these protections serves both the doctors and their patients by placing more control of healthcare in the hands of physicians rather than bureaucrats. **HB 803** by Rep. Negron would have increased the ability for physicians to collectively bargain in the healthcare service market but that bill died in its first committee of reference.

State Funds for Union Busting in Nursing Homes

Failed

HB 957 – by Bendross-Mindingall

SB 1042 – by Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Dawson

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 957 – Passed by House Elder and Long-Term Care Committee, died in House State Administration Committee.

SB 1042 – Passed by Senate Health, Aging and Long-Term Care, passed Senate Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee, died in Senate Judiciary Committee.

Members of the Labor Movement are no strangers to the oppressive tactics employed by management while attempting to thwart employees legal right to unionize. We all know about the ways in which they hire outside “consultants,” conduct closed-door meetings and other strong-arm tactics to frighten employees about the prospects of unionizing. What many of you may not realize is that these same tactics are being employed by Florida’s nursing homes and that state money is being used to fund them. The National Labor Relations Act declares that it is the policy of the United States to, “encourage the practice and procedure of collective bargaining and [to] protect the exercise by workers of full freedom of association, self-organization and designation of representatives of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of their employment or other mutual aid or protection.” Under the true spirit of this law, the activities being funded by Nursing Homes with state funds designed to discourage unionizing efforts are illegal. This legislation was designed to make that fact clear in Florida Law. Additionally, while Nursing Home employers are conducting these anti-union meetings and presentations our loved are going unsupervised. These attacks on Florida’s healthcare workers are unfair to them, the residents they

Education

Paycheck Deception for Florida’s Teachers

Failed

HB 1943 – by House State Administration Committee, Brummer. Co-sponsors: Ross, Byrd, Farkas, Kyle, Murman, Melvin, Brown, Haridopolos, Negron, Wallace, Arza, Mack, Rubio, Flanagan, Maygarden, Bowen, Kallinger, Baxley.

No Companion Filed in the Senate.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 1943 – Passed the House State Administration Committee, passed the House Council for Lifelong Learning, passed the House, referred to Senate Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee, died in Senate Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee.

The so-called “paycheck protection” measures that originated with radical right wing think tank guru Grover Norquist, have been popping up all over the nation and have even been debated on the floor of Congress. These measures essentially make it illegal for union dues collected through voluntary paycheck deductions to be used for any form of political activity including campaign contributions, legislative research and advocacy. They are designed for one purpose, to remove the approximately 13.7 million union members from the political process, leaving powerful corporate interests to control our nation. HB 1943 would have brought this abomination of public policy to Florida, specifically our unionized teaching professionals. Arguments for the bill made in both committee meetings and on the House floor were laughable at best, with no logical support whatsoever. There were three votes taken on the House floor relating to this bill. The first vote for passage failed but Rep. Randy Ball made a motion to reconsider that was approved, allowing for another vote on the bill. The second vote for passage was successful after a massive coordinated campaign of threats and arm-twisting by the Republican leadership. Fifteen representatives, all Republicans, changed their votes and the bill passed. Previous Florida AFL-CIO, ULL legislative updates have brought this story to you in detail. This is one of the most significant actions this session and should be viewed as an indicator of the battles ahead for Florida’s labor movement. As can be seen in the above listing of House Co-sponsors, there is a good deal of support for legislation of this type from the radical right in Florida and many Representatives including Rep. Brummer and Rep. Brown have stated publicly that they wish to extend these

PAYCHECK DECEPTION FOR FLORIDA'S TEACHERS CONTINUED

A "NO" VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE'S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. .



NO

VOTE #1

Representative	Vot	Representative	Vot	Representativ	Vot	Representativ	Vot	Representativ	Vot
Alexander(R)	NV	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	N	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	N	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	Y	Bvrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	N
Arnozziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	N	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	N	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	N	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	Y
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	N	Haridonolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubin(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	N	Harner(D)	N	Lynn(R)	NV	Russell(R)	Y
Auslev(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	N	Rvan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	N	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	N	Detert(R)	Y	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	N	Simmons(R)	N
Barreiro(R)	N	Diaz de la Portilla	Y	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	N	Sinlin(D)	N
Baxlev(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	NV	Heyman(D)	N	Mavnarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	NV	McGriff(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall	N	Earkas(R)	NV	Holloway(D)	N	Meadows(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Easano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	N	Mealor(R)	NV	Sorensen(R)	N
Bense(R)	Y	Feenev(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	Y	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	NV
Benson(R)	Y	Fields(D)	N	Jordan(R)	N	Miller(R)	N	Stansel(D)	N
Berfield(R)	Y	Fiorentino(R)	Y	Jovner(D)	N	Murman(R)	Y	Trovillion(R)	Y
Betancourt(D)	N	Flanagan(R)	Y	Justice(D)	N	Needelman(R)	Y	Wallace(R)	Y
Bilirakis(R)	N	Frankel(D)	N	Kallinger(R)	Y	Negron(R)	Y	Waters(R)	Y
Bowen(R)	NV	Gannon(D)	NV	Kendrick(D)	N	Paul(R)	Y	Weissman(D)	N
Brown(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	NV	Kilmer(R)	Y	Peterman(D)	N	Wiles(D)	N
Brummer(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Kosmas(D)	N	Pickens(R)	N	Wilson(D)	N
Brutus(D)	N	Gelber(D)	N	Kottkamp(R)	Y	Prieguez(R)	Y	Wishner(D)	N

VOTE #2

Representative	Vot	Representative	Vot	Representativ	Vot	Representative	Vot	Representative	Vot
Alexander(R)	Y	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	N	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	Y	Bvrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	N
Arnozziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	Y	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	N	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	N	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	Y
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	Y	Haridonolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubin(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	NV	Harner(D)	N	Lynn(R)	Y	Russell(R)	Y
Auslev(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	N	Rvan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	N	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	Y	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	N	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	N	Diaz de la Portilla	Y	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Sinlin(D)	N
Baxlev(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	NV	Heyman(D)	N	Mavnarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	NV	McGriff(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall	N	Earkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	N	Meadows(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Easano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	N	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	N
Bense(R)	Y	Feenev(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	Y	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	Y
Benson(R)	Y	Fields(D)	N	Jordan(R)	N	Miller(R)	Y	Stansel(D)	N
Berfield(R)	Y	Fiorentino(R)	Y	Jovner(D)	N	Murman(R)	Y	Trovillion(R)	Y
Betancourt(D)	N	Flanagan(R)	Y	Justice(D)	N	Needelman(R)	Y	Wallace(R)	Y
Bilirakis(R)	NV	Frankel(D)	N	Kallinger(R)	Y	Negron(R)	Y	Waters(R)	Y
Bowen(R)	Y	Gannon(D)	NV	Kendrick(D)	N	Paul(R)	Y	Weissman(D)	N
Brown(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Kilmer(R)	Y	Peterman(D)	N	Wiles(D)	N
Brummer(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Kosmas(D)	N	Pickens(R)	NV	Wilson(D)	N
Brutus(D)	N	Gelber(D)	N	Kottkamp(R)	Y	Prieguez(R)	Y	Wishner(D)	N

Private School Vouchers for Crowded Public Schools Failed

HB 303 – by House Council for Lifelong Learning, Education, Lacasa, Diaz de la Portilla. Co-sponsors: Melvin, Diaz-Balart, Murman, Mealor, Baxley, Rubio, Andrews, Brown, Byrd, Kottkamp, Arza, Waters, Farkas, Bowen, Bennett, Littlefield.

SB 504 – by Diaz de la Portilla.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 303 – Passed House Education Innovation Committee, House Fiscal Policy and Resources Committee, House Council for Lifelong Learning, passed House. Referred to Senate. Died in Senate Education Committee.

SB 504 – Died in Senate Education Committee, first committee of reference.

There were several attempts to expand the Governor’s voucher scheme in Florida this session that had nothing to do with improving Florida’s public education system. The most transparent of these were bills that created the School Crowding Relief Intervention for Parents and Teachers (S.C.R.I.P.T.S) program. While not as catchy sounding a name as the Governor’s A+ plan, this program made many of the same empty promises. The program was designed to provide tax funded private school vouchers for students who were enrolled in schools that were operating at 120% capacity. This did not necessarily mean that these schools had crowded classroom or lab space, the bill also specified that vouchers could be awarded if the cafeterias were crowded or if portable classrooms had been incorporated in the schools’ original design. These vouchers would be in the amount of \$3,000 per student and would be awarded regardless of the student’s family income. Data indicates that the most crowded schools are in the most affluent districts in the state. In other words, wealthy families would be given a tax rebate check for sending their students to private schools, undermining the entire spirit and purpose of the public education system. Also, the private schools that would have been eligible for these vouchers would not have had to meet any real accountability standards and students who received the vouchers were not required to take the FCAT. While there

A “NO” VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE’S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. .



Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Alexander(R)	NV	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	N	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	Y	Byrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	N
Argenziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	Y	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	N	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	N	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	Y
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	N	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubio(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	N	Harper(D)	N	Lynn(R)	N	Russell(R)	N
Ausley(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	N	Machek(D)	N	Ryan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	Y	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	N	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	Y	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Y	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	Y	Siplin(D)	N
Baxley(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	Y	Heyman(D)	N	Maygarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	Y	McGriff(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall (D)	N	Farkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	N	Meadows(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	N	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	NV

Corporate Income Tax Credit for Vouchers Passed

HB 271 – by House Council for Lifelong Learning, Negron. Co-sponsors: Melvin, Diaz de la Portilla, Alexander, Harrington, Farkas, Brummer, Attkisson, Byrd, Davis, Baxley, Arza, Waters, Bowen, Bennett, Kallinger, Hogan.

SB 1048 – by Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, Pruitt. Co-sponsors: Sullivan.

Bowen(R)	Y	Gannon(D)	N	Kendrick(D)	N	Paul(R)	Y	Weissman(D)	N
Brown(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Kilmer(R)	Y	Peterman(D)	N	Wiles(D)	N
Brummer(R)	Y	Gardiner(R)	Y	Kosmas(D)	N	Pickens(R)	N	Wilson(D)	NV

CORPORATE INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR VOUCHERS CONTINUED

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL

position: **Oppose**

HB 271 – Passed House Education Innovation Committee, Fiscal Policy and Resources Committee, Education Appropriations Committee, Council for Lifelong Learning, passed House, referred to Senate, passed Senate, referred back to House, died in House returning messages.

SB 1048 – Passed Senate Education Committee, Finance and Taxation, Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Appropriations, substituted by HB 271, laid on table in Senate.

The provisions of these bills were added to HB 21, a taxation bill passed by the House and Senate.

HB 21 Enacted by the Governor.

In order to expand the voucher scheme in public education Republican members of the House and Senate authored these bills to provide an income tax credit for corporations that donate money to nonprofit scholarship organizations that provide vouchers for students to attend private schools. Attempts to amend the bill to allow similar credits for corporations that make donations to public school foundations were rejected. This tax credit represents a \$50 million dollar tax break for corporations. Students qualify for the vouchers if they are eligible for the federal free or reduced price lunch program. The program will provide students with a \$3500 voucher to attend private schools. These schools need only meet basic safety requirements and no instructional standards are imposed. Students qualifying for these vouchers and attending private schools are not required to take the FCAT. This is another clear attempt to rob our public schools of the funding they need in that the bill removes up to \$50 million dollars a year from the state’s budget. In recent weeks the Governor has cited the state’s shrinking budget as his rationale for cutting many worthwhile social programs from the appropriation bills and this bill contributes to that overall budget reduction. On its face this seems like a legislative attempt to reward corporations for being

A “NO” VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE’S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED. .



NO

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Bronson(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Laurent(R)	Y	Rossin(D)	N
Brown-Waite(R)	Y	Dyer(D)	N	Lawson(D)	N	Sanderson(R)	Y
Burt(R)	Y	Garcia(R)	Y	Lee(R)	Y	Saunders(R)	Y
Campbell(D)	Y	Geller(D)	N	McKay(R)	Y	Sebesta(R)	Y
Carlton(R)	Y	Holzendorf(D)	N	Meek(D)	N	Silver(D)	N
Clary(R)	Y	Horne(R)	NV	Miller(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Constantine(R)	Y	Jones(D)	N	Mitchell(d)	N	Sullivan(R)	Y

Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote	Representative	Vote
Alexander(R)	Y	Bucher(D)	N	Gibson(R)	Y	Kravitz(R)	Y	Rich(D)	N
Allen(R)	Y	Bullard(D)	N	Goodlette(R)	Y	Kyle(R)	Y	Richardson(D)	N
Andrews(R)	Y	Byrd(R)	Y	Gottlieb(D)	N	Lacasa(R)	Y	Ritter(D)	N
Argenziano(R)	Y	Cantens(R)	Y	Green(R)	Y	Lee(D)	N	Romeo(D)	N
Arza(R)	Y	Carassas(R)	Y	Greenstein(D)	N	Lerner(D)	N	Ross(R)	NV
Attkisson(R)	Y	Clark(R)	N	Haridopolos(R)	Y	Littlefield(R)	Y	Rubio(R)	Y
Atwater(R)	Y	Crow(R)	N	Harper(D)	N	Lynn(R)	Y	Russell(R)	Y
Ausley(D)	N	Cusack(D)	N	Harrell(R)	Y	Machek(D)	N	Ryan(D)	N
Baker(R)	Y	Davis(R)	Y	Harrington(R)	Y	Mack(R)	Y	Seiler(D)	N
Ball(R)	Y	Detert(R)	N	Hart(R)	Y	Mahon(R)	Y	Simmons(R)	Y
Barreiro(R)	Y	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	Y	Henriquez(D)	N	Mayfield(R)	NV	Siplin(D)	N
Baxley(R)	Y	Diaz-Balart(R)	Y	Heyman(D)	N	Maygarden(R)	Y	Slosberg(D)	N
Bean(R)	Y	Dockery(R)	Y	Hogan(R)	Y	McGriff(D)	N	Smith(D)	N
Bendross-Mindingall (D)	N	Farkas(R)	Y	Holloway(D)	N	Meadows(D)	N	Sobel(D)	N
Bennett(R)	Y	Fasano(R)	Y	Jennings(D)	N	Mealor(R)	Y	Sorensen(R)	Y
Bense(R)	Y	Feeney(R)	Y	Johnson(R)	Y	Melvin(R)	Y	Spratt(R)	Y
Benson(R)	Y	Fields(D)	N	Jordan(R)	Y	Miller(D)	Y	Stancel(D)	N

John M. McKay Vouchers for Students With Disabilities Passed

HB 1661 – by House Council for Lifelong Learning, Education Innovation Committee, Mealor. Co-sponsor: Murman.

SB 1180 – by Senate Appropriations Committee, Education, Pruitt.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Watch**

HB 1661 – Passed House Education Innovation Committee, Education Appropriations Committee, Council for Lifelong Learning, substituted by SB 1180 on House Calendar, laid on table.

SB 1180 – Passed Senate Education Committee, Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, passed Senate.

Enacted by Governor

The provisions of this legislation permit parents of students with disability to receive vouchers for their children to attend private schools if they are dissatisfied with their progress at the public school. This provides for even more of the state's money to be funneled to private schools, meaning less money available to improve our public schools.

Reducing Class Size Failed

HB 429 - by Bendross-Mindingall. Co-sponsors: Fields, Siplin.

SB 646 – by Meek

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 429 – voted on in House Judicial Oversight Committee, died.

SB 646 – died in Senate Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs Committee.

These bills proposed a constitutional amendment requiring smaller class sizes and directing the state government to pay for the costs involved. However, rather than take the steps necessary to improve our state's public education by reducing class size the legislature saw fit to provide more funding to private schools through the voucher scheme. The Florida AFL-CIO, ULL and our various coalition partners will continue to demand that this and other critical educational reforms be implemented in future sessions.

Building Trades

Open Contracting Act Failed

HB 61 by Trovillion. Co-sponsors: Allen, Andrews, Flanagan, Ball, Kallinger, Needelman, Melvin, Garcia, Negron, Baxley, Spratt.

SB 1022 by Cowin. Co-sponsors: Sebesta, Posey, Brown-Waite, Sanderson, Peaden, Garcia.

Florida AFL-CIO, CIO position: **Oppose**

HB 61 – Passed House State Administration Committee, placed on House special order calendar, **died on calendar**.

SB 1022 – Passed Senate Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee, Comprehensive Planning Local and Military Affairs, on Senate special order calendar, amended on the floor during final passage, **died on calendar**.

These bills would have prohibited state and local governments from requiring or entering into project labor agreements (PLA's) with building trades unions for services, manufacturing or construction on publicly funded projects. Project labor agreements have been proven to help workers, contractors, the governments that enter into them and the taxpayers funding the projects. They allow for the establishment of uniform job site conditions on projects with multiple contractors, they provide the public with a highly trained workforce and have traditionally helped large-scale projects to be completed on time and within budget. Currently there are over 300 projects underway using PLA's in all of the 50 states. This legislation was called "open contracting" but it was really designed to "close" an important avenue for local governments and municipalities to provide their citizens with the most for their tax dollars. The bill was poised to pass the Senate but during the debate for final passage an amendment was passed that would, in essence, exempt most of the state from the provisions outlined. Upon passage of this amendment the bill's Senate sponsor Sen. Anna Cowin lost interest and asked that the bill be "temporarily passed" until a future time essentially killing the bill. Once this action took place it became clear to House supporters that

OPEN CONTRACTING ACT AMENDMENT

A "YES" VOTE SUPPORTED OUR POSITION, HERE'S HOW YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED.



YES

Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote	Senator	Vote
Bronson(R)	N	Diaz de la Portilla(R)	Y	Laurent(R)	N	Rossin(D)	Y
Brown-Waite(R)	N	Dyer(D)	Y	Lawson(D)	Y	Sanderson(R)	N
Burt(R)	NV	Garcia(R)	N	Lee(R)	Y	Saunders(R)	Y
Campbell(D)	Y	Geller(D)	Y	McKav(R)	Y	Sehesta(R)	N
Carlton(R)	Y	Holzendorf(D)	Y	Meek(D)	Y	Silver(D)	Y
Clary(R)	Y	Horne(R)	Y	Miller(D)	Y	Smith(D)	Y
Constantine(R)	NV	Jones(D)	Y	Mitchell(d)	Y	Sullivan(R)	Y
Cowin(R)	N	King(R)	Y	Peadar(R)	Y	Villalobos(R)	N
Crist(R)	Y	Klein(D)	Y	Posey(R)	N	Wasserman Schultz	Y
Dawson(D)	Y	Latvala(R)	Y	Pruitt(R)	Y	Webster(R)	NV

Drug-Free Workplace

Failed

HB 359 – by House State Administration Committee, Andrews.

SB 718 – by Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, King. Co-sponsors – Crist

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 359 – Passed House State Administration Committee, Insurance, died in business regulation.

SB 718 – Passed Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, Governmental Oversight and Productivity, passed Senate, referred to House, died in House messages.

These bills would have required those construction contractors under contract with the State of Florida to establish Drug-Free Workplace standards in accordance with the Florida Workers' Compensation Law. This change to Florida law would make job sites at state funded projects safer and would reduce workers' compensation premiums by 5%. This would save lives and state money while providing a more competitive environment for union contractors who have taken the lead in requiring a drug-free workplace. The Senate was wise enough to pass their version of the bill and it is hoped that our efforts will persuade the House to do the same in future sessions.

Workers' Compensation - Closing Exemptions

Failed

HB 1927 by Council for Competitive Commerce, Insurance, Waters. Co-sponsors; Ross, Melvin, Fields, Clarke, Brown, Simmons, Negron, Kallinger, Sobel, Lee.

SB 1188 by Banking and Insurance

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support this provision of a larger bill, oppose the bill.**

HB 1927 – Passed House, passed Senate, returned to House, died in returning messages.

SB 1188 – Replaced by HB 1927, laid on the table in Senate.

These are the same bills discussed earlier in this report that could have enacted many anti-worker changes to Florida's workers' compensation laws. One provision that was hard fought for by the Florida AFL-CIO and ULL was one that would have closed the legal loophole that allows construction contractors to dodge their responsibility to provide workers' compensation coverage for their workers. The construction industry can be a dangerous one and it is unacceptable that thousands of our hard working building trades employees must work with no coverage. While this issue is critical, it was agreed by the members of the ULL that this trade off was not worth supporting the overall bill. We will continue to work to close this loophole in future sessions.

Transportation

High Speed Rail

Passed

HB 489 (High Speed Rail Study Commission) – by Johnson, Russell.

SB 1178 (High Speed Rail Authority) – by Senate Comprehensive Planning Committee, Local and Military Affairs, Transportation, Sebesta.

HB 507 (High Speed Rail Authority) – by Ross, Dockery, Ritter. Co-sponsors: Greenstein, Flanagan, Barreiro, Murman, Siplin, Andrews, Alexander, Argenziano, Attkisson, Byrd, Diaz de la Portilla, Smith, Joyner, Farkas, Bean, Harper, Sobel, Weissman, Henriquez, Paul, Cusack, Bowen, Clarke.

SB 1134 (High Speed Rail Authority) – by Laurent. Co-sponsors: Pruitt, Rossin, Sullivan, Dawson, Holzendorf, Miller.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL Position – **Support creation of Authority**

Oppose creation of study commission

HB 489 – Passed House Transportation Committee, passed Fiscal Policy and Resources, passed Council for Ready Infrastructure, passed House referred to Senate, passed Senate, concurred by House.

SB 1178 – Passed Senate Transportation Committee, passed Comprehensive Planning Local and Military Affairs, substituted by HB 489, laid on table.

HB 507 – Passed House State Administration Committee, Transportation, died in Fiscal Policy and Resources.

SB 1134 – Died in Senate Transportation Committee, first committee of reference.

While there remain many unanswered questions from last year's elections one question was answered definitively. The people of Florida made it clear that they wanted the state to develop and implement a High Speed Rail ground transportation system linking Florida's major cities. Additionally, the legislature passed resolutions last session in support of Amtrak and identified rail passenger services and their employees as integral parts of Florida's transportation. As our population continues to swell the landmass of our state does not. It is becoming increasingly difficult to build the roads our automotive-based transportation system needs. We must act now to find alternative modes of transportation that create jobs and serve our citizens. There were four pieces of legislation relating to the creation of a High Speed Rail ground transportation system proposed this session representing two different viewpoints. On the one side was **HB 489**, which proposed creating a High Speed Rail Study Commission. The members of the ULL felt that this was nothing more than a stall tactic to postpone doing what the people wanted. This study commission would have had very little funding and very little power to accomplish anything of substance. On the other were **SB 1178, HB 507, and SB 1134**. These bills took various approaches to creating an actual High Speed Rail Authority, which would have funding and the power to begin the actual planning and implementation of the system. In a bizarre but not uncharacteristic twist, the language creating the authority was amended into HB 489 and that is the bill that passed this session. HB 489 creates the Florida High Speed Rail Authority, a ten-member board directed to plan, administer, and manage the preliminary engineering and environmental assessment for an intrastate high speed rail system. The Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House will each appoint three members to the authority. The remaining non-voting, ex-officio member will be the Secretary of the Department of Transportation. The Authority is allocated \$4.5 million in state transportation funds and will be administered by the Department of Transportation.

Eliminating the State's Hazardous Materials Inspector

Failed

HB 1733 – by House Fiscal Responsibility Council, Johnson.

No companion bill filed in Senate.

Florida AFL-CIO, CIO position: **Oppose**

HB 1733 – Introduced by House Fiscal Responsibility Council and placed on second reading in House, passed House, referred to Senate, died in Senate Transportation Committee. **Language added to HB 1053, general Transportation Bill and passed both chambers.**

HB 1053 Vetoed by Governor

The current administration's drive to cut taxes has meant dramatic reductions in state services and the state's

workforce. Many of these reductions, such as the slashing of 25% of state jobs, are obvious and have drawn public attention. However, many of these reductions are smaller, have not attracted media attention but still have a significant impact on the people of Florida. One such reduction was the proposed elimination of the state's only hazardous materials safety inspector for Florida's rail system. We attempted to bring this issue to the forefront during the final weeks of session through numerous press releases and Florida AFL-CIO, ULL Legislative Updates. Florida has over 2,800 miles of track covering the entire state. Each year over 25 million tons of chemicals and other dangerous materials are shipped through the state over this rail system. There are two individuals responsible for inspecting the rail cars and transfer facilities for possible safety hazards regarding the transportation of these materials. One is a federal inspector who is responsible for all of Florida and significant portions of Georgia, the other is funded by the state Department of Transportation and is responsible for Florida. In an effort to provide the Governor with his required budget and workforce cuts the DOT requested that the Legislature eliminate the state-funded position leaving only the Federal inspector to protect our state from dangerous chemical spills and other disasters relating to these materials. This would have saved the state a mere \$28,425.00 or .000005% of the annual budget. The state inspector has helped prevent numerous accidents saving the citizens of Florida millions in clean up costs not to mention loss of life and environmental degradation. HB 1733 passed the House but died in the Senate however this cut was amended on to a larger transportation bill (HB 1053) which passed both chambers. The Governor vetoed HB 1053 due to unrelated issues. This budget cut was unnecessary and irresponsible and while it may not have attracted as much attention as an issue like Service First the Florida AFL-CIO and ULL felt that this threat to the safety of our citizens warranted action. We will continue to monitor all of the issues, both great and small, to help protect Florida's working families.

Seaport Security

Passed

HB 1663 – by Harrell. Co-sponsors: Murman.
SB 978 – Senate Transportation Committee, Burt.

Florida AFL-CIO position: **Watch**

HB 1663 – Passed House Economic Development and International Trade Committee, Crime Prevention and Safety, Council for Competitive Commerce, died on House calendar.
SB 978 – Passed Senate Transportation Committee, passed Senate, referred to House, passed House.

Enacted by Governor

This bill establishes statewide minimum-security standards at Florida's 14 deepwater ports in an effort to combat the smuggling of contraband into the state. A central component of these minimum standards relates to the hiring and retention of the workers at these facilities. The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL monitored this legislation to ensure that the standards being discussed were fair and did not overly infringe on the rights of the employees. The bill requires fingerprint based criminal background checks for all who will have access to certain types of restricted areas. The bill also prohibits the employment of persons who have been convicted of certain felony offenses such as gun and drug related crimes within 5 years prior to the job application. Members of the ULL have been assured that current employees in good standing will not be fired due to the results of background checks covered in this legislation.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications Network Access

Failed

HB 611 – by Haridopolos, Ritter. Co-sponsors: Siplin
SB 1136 – by Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunities Committee, Posey. Co-sponsors: Webster, Wasserman Shultz, Horne.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Watch**

HB 611 – Died in House Utilities and Telecommunications Committee.

SB 1136 – Died in Senate Committee on Regulated Industries.

This legislation would have reduced intrastate access charges for certain long distance service providers. Intrastate access charges also known as access line fees are paid by long distance companies to local exchange companies to allow access to their networks. At this time it is still unclear what overall impact the reduction of these charges may have on consumers' phone bills. The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL will continue to monitor proposed changes to the ways in which we are charged for phone service to ensure that any changes are in the best interests of the consumer.

Universal Service Obligations

Failed

HB 691 – by Allen. Co-sponsors: Mayfield
No companion filed in Senate.

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

HB 691 – Died in House Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, first committee of reference.

Universal Service Obligations mandate that local exchange companies provide services at just, reasonable and affordable rates to all consumers even those in rural or economically depressed areas. The failure of this legislation could mean the loss of phone service or higher rates for citizens in these areas. The universal service obligation expires in 2004. We will continue to monitor this issue in upcoming sessions and hope to see this beneficial policy continued.



“It’s a letter from the people upstairs...They’re sending us another load of workers’ rights violators.”

LEGISLATOR RANKING SYSTEM

The Florida AFL-CIO United Labor Lobby has adopted an alternative ranking method of rating the performance of state legislators by the Florida AFL-CIO. All too often, voting records of legislators fail to portray an accurate appraisal of individual legislator's willingness to work with us on our labor issues.

All United Labor Lobbyists were asked to complete ranking sheets in two separate phases. A point system was established for both the Senate and the House. In the Senate, total possible points range from a high of 40 to a low of 1. In the House, points range from 120 to 1. The responses from each phase were compiled and the rankings listed here show the final results.

The standards for ranking consist of the following items:

- Effectiveness at passing legislation beneficial to workers, retirees and their families;
- Consistency of supporting legislation beneficial to workers, retirees and families, whether or not the legislation passed;
- Effectiveness at influencing colleagues on behalf of legislation beneficial to workers, retirees and families, particularly through debate;
- Accessibility and openness to AFL-CIO lobbyists, COPE members and friends of labor;
- Fairness and willingness to help labor when we are outgunned (procedurally or in open discussion).

We would like to thank all ULL lobbyists and their affiliated unions for their

**FLORIDA STATE SENATE
2001 RANKINGS**

RANK	NAME	SCORE	RANK	NAME	SCORE
1	Lawson, Al	36.86	21	Burt, Locke	15.86
2	Wasserman Schultz, D.	35.71	22	Lee, Tom	15.57
3	Mitchell, Richard	35.43	23	Saunders, Burt	15.00
4	Rossin, Tom	35.43	24	McKay, John	14.71
5	Meek, Kendrick	33.57	25	Clary, Charlie	14.14
6	Geller, Steven	33.29	26	Sullivan, Donald	11.86
7	Dyer, Buddy	33.14	27	Horne, Jim	11.86
8	Holzendorf, Betty	32.86	28	Villalobos, Alex	11.14
9	Miller, Les	31.86	29	Laurent, John	11.00
10	Klein, Ron	31.86	30	Posey, Bill	10.86
11	King, Jim	31.00	31	Carlton, Lisa	10.71
12	Smith, Rod	30.29	32	Sebesta, Jim	10.71
13	Jones, Daryl	29.71	33	Sanderson, Debby	10.71
14	Dawson, Mandy	29.43	34	Brown-Waite, Ginny	10.57
15	Campbell, Skip	29.14	35	Peaden, Durell	10.00
16	Pruitt, Ken	25.17	36	Bronson, Charlie	7.86
17	Silver, Ron	25.00	37	Constantine, Lee	6.14
18	Latvala, Jack	24.43	38	Webster, Daniel	5.29
19	Crist, Victor	22.57	39	Garcia, Rudy	5.00
20	Diaz de la Portilla, Alex	22.57	40	Cowin, Anna	1.86

**FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2001 RANKINGS**

RANK	NAME	SCORE	RANK	NAME	SCORE
1	Frankel, Lois	118.63	31	Brutus, Philip	94.38
2	Bucher, Susan	116.25	32	Justice, Charlie	92.63
3	Ausley, Lorraine	114.63	33	Slosberg, Irv	92.63
4	Ryan, Tim	100.57	34	Machek, Richard	91.43
5	Gottlieb, Ken	112.25	35	Bullard, Ed	90.13
6	Wiles, Doug	110.13	36	Bendross-Mindingall, D.	89.38
7	McGriff, Perry	109.13	37	Peterman, Frank	88.75
8	Sobel, Eleanor	108.63	38	Argenziano, Nancy	86.63
9	Romeo, Sara	106.63	39	Barreiro, Gustavo	83.50
10	Smith, Chris	105.00	40	Diaz de la Portilla, R.	81.75
11	Kosmas, Suzanne	104.88	41	Holloway, Tee	76.63
12	Heyman, Sally	104.88	42	Stansel, Dwight	75.88
13	Wilson, Frederica	104.75	43	Siplin, Gary	75.50
14	Gannon, Anne	104.63	44	Sorensen, Ken	72.88
15	Henriquez, Bob	104.13	45	Kendrick, Will	72.00
16	Weissman, Mark	104.13	46	Wishner, Roger	70.71
17	Betancourt, Annie	103.50	47	Jennings, Ed	68.88
18	Richardson, Curtis	103.50	48	Needelman, Mitch	68.75
19	Greenstein, Ron	101.38	49	Cantens, Gaston	66.75
20	Seiler, Jack	101.13	50	Mahon, Mark	66.00
21	Meadows, Matt	101.00	51	Ross, Dennis	65.00
22	Rich, Nan	100.57	52	Hogan, Mike	64.29
23	Lerner, Cindy	100.13	53	Bowen, Marty	61.00
24	Cusack, Joyce	98.57	54	Bilirakis, Gus	61.00
25	Ritter, Stacy	98.13	55	Attkisson, Frank	60.57
26	Fields, Terry	97.63	56	Kravitz, Dick	60.14
27	Harper, Hank	97.13	57	Green, Carole	60.14
28	Joyner, Arthenia	96.75	58	Harrell, Gayle	60.00
29	Gelber, Dan	95.38	59	Jordan, Stan	59.29
30	Lee, Denise	94.63	60	Brown, Don	58.25

**FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2001 RANKINGS CONTINUED**

RANK	NAME	SCORE	RANK	NAME	SCORE
61	Paul, Jerry	58.14	91	Mealor, David	26.29
62	Allen, Bob	58.00	92	Littlefield, Ken	25.50
63	Andrews, Bill	57.86	93	Bean, Aaron	25.14
64	Dockery, Paula	57.75	94	Lacasa, Carlos	25.00
65	Benson, Holly	57.71	95	Spratt, Joe	24.88
66	Gibson, Hugh	57.57	96	Kallinger, Jim	24.57
67	Arza, Ralph	57.43	97	Rubio, Marco	24.13
68	Baxley, Dennis	57.29	98	Fiorentino, Heather	23.75
69	Clark, Donna	56.86	99	Gardiner, Andy	23.57
70	Pickens, Joe	56.14	100	Kilmer, Bev	22.75
71	Kottkamp, Jeff	55.86	101	Kyle, Bruce	22.29
72	Davis, Don	55.71	102	Mack, Connie	22.00
73	Atwater, Jeff	55.57	103	Bennett, Mike	19.29
74	Diaz-Balart, Mario	54.38	104	Melvin, Jerry	18.75
75	Detert, Nancy	53.00	105	Flanagan, Mark	18.57
76	Carassas, John	52.43	106	Bense, Allen	17.57
77	Crow, Larry	51.71	107	Berfield, Kim	17.29
78	Alexander, J.D.	51.57	108	Maygarden, Jerry	17.14
79	Baker, Carey	51.00	109	Haridopolos, Mike	17.13
80	Farkas, Frank	50.14	110	Lynn, Evelyn	16.75
81	Harrington, Lindsay	32.88	111	Waters, Leslie	16.00
82	Garcia, Rene	31.57	112	Ball, Randy	15.88
83	Mayfield, Stan	30.29	113	Goodlette, Dudley	15.88
84	Miller, Jeff	29.43	114	Murman, Sandy	13.00
85	Prieguez, Manuel	29.25	115	Byrd, Johnnie	12.50
86	Negron, Joe	29.25	116	Johnson, Randy	10.00
87	Simmons, David	28.43	117	Trovillion, Allen	9.88
88	Wallace, Rob	28.13	118	Brummer, Fred	6.63
89	Russell, David	27.71	119	Fasano, Mike	3.13
90	Hart, Chris	27.14	120	Feeney, Tom	2.38

