



Florida AFL-CIO
UNITED LABOR LOBBY



2002 *Final Legislative Report*

A Publication of the Florida AFL-CIO
Cynthia Hall, President & Chief Lobbyist



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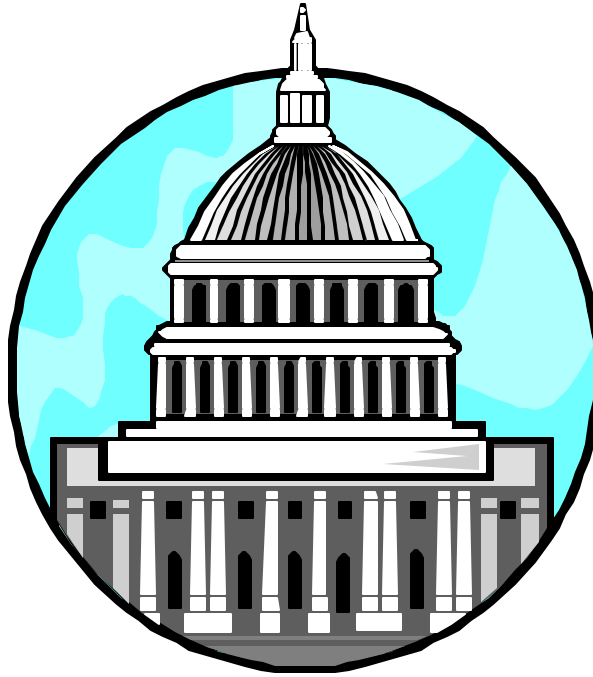
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FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICTS AND SENATORS

| District Number - Office | Senator | Counties |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| S – 1 Crestview | Durell 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, Wakulla |
| S – 4 Jasper | Richard Mitchell (D) | Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Madison, Marion, Nassau, Suwannee, Taylor, Union |
| S – 5 Gainesville | Rod Smith (D) | Alachua, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Suwannee, Union |
| S – 6 Orange Park | Steve Wise (R) | Clay, Duval, St. Johns |
| S – 7 Destin | Charlie Clary (R) | Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton |
| S – 8 Jacksonville | James E. 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 F. Laurent (R) | Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk |
| S – 18 Indian Harbour | Howard Futch (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 J. 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 Cape Coral | Burt L. 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 | Debby P. Sanderson (R) | Broward, Palm Beach |
| S – 32 Pembroke Pines | Debbie Wasserman | Broward, Miami-Dade |
| S – 33 Tamarac | Walter "Skip" Campbell | 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 | Greg Evers (R) | Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa |
| H – 2 Pensacola | Jerry L. Maygarden (R) | Escambia |
| H – 3 Pensacola | Holly Benson (R) | Escambia |
| H – 4 Ft. Walton | Jerry Melvin (R) | Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa |
| H – 5 Defuniak | Donald Brown (R) | Holmes, Okaloosa, Sanat Rosa |
| H – 6 Panama City | Allan Bense (R) | Bay |
| H – 7 Marianna | Bev 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 | 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 | Suzanne M. Kosmas (D) | Volusia |
| H – 29 Titusville | Randy Ball (R) | Brevard |
| H – 30 Melbourne | Mike Haridopolos | Brevard |
| H – 31 Melbourne | Mitch Needelman | Brevard |
| H – 32 Merritt Island | Bob Allen (R) | Brevard, Indian River, Orange |
| H – 33 Oviedo | Tom Feeney (R) | Orange, Seminole, Volusia |
| H – 34 Lake Mary | David J. Mealor (R) | Orange, Seminole |
| H – 35 Winter Park | Jim Kallinger (R) | Orange, Seminole |
| H – 36 Winter Park | Allen Trovillion (R) | Orange |
| H – 37 Altamonte | David Simmons (R) | Orange, Seminole |
| H – 38 Apopka | Frederick C. Brummer (R) | Lake, Orange |
| H – 39 Orlando | Gary A. Siplin (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 Fasano (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 L. Joyner (D) | Hillsborough |
| H – 60 Tampa | Sara Romeo (D) | Hillsborough |

FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICTS AND REPRESENTATIVES

| House District – Office | Representative | Counties |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| H – 61 Zephyrhills | 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 | JD Alexander (R) | Hillsborough, Polk |
| H – 67 Sarasota | Micheal 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) | Charlottee, Lee, Sarasota |
| H – 75 Ft. Myers | Carole Green (R) | Collier, Lee |
| H – 76 Naples | J. 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 | Jeff Atwater (R) | Palm Beach |
| H – 84 West Palm Beach | James “ Hank” Harper, Jr. (D) | Palm Beach |
| H – 85 West Palm Beach | Lois J. 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 Lauderhill | Matthew J. Meadows (D) | Broward |
| H – 95 Coconut Creek | Ron Greenstein (D) | Broward |
| H – 96 Coral Springs | Stacy J. 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 | 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 J. Brutus (D) | Miami-Dade |
| H – 109 Miami | Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall | 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 |

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 entire 2002 Legislative Session. Many others, too numerous to list, provided assistance to the full-time lobbyists as their schedules and work load permitted.

| | |
|--|--|
| Florida AFL-CIO | Cynthia Hall, President & Chief Lobbyist Dwayne Sealy, Secretary-Treasurer L. W. Fowler, VIP Director Phyllis Garrett, Public Employee 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 | 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 |
| Service Employees International Union | Dale Ewart John Ratliff Tasha Cole |



3rd Time's the Charm...we hope

The 2002 Legislative season has proven to be one of the most contentious in recent memory. With the Republicans holding huge majorities in the House and Senate as well as the Governor's Mansion you would think that everything would have been smooth sailing, but nothing could have been further from the truth. With massive budget shortfalls, redistricting, proposed tax reforms and an election right around the corner, the Legislature had to convene three times in order to complete their most basic responsibilities. Over the course of this "session that would not end" the Florida AFL-CIO and United Labor Lobby have closely followed the issues of the day and worked diligently to push for legislation that puts Florida's working families first. The following report analyzes legislative activity during the 2002 Regular Session, 2002 Special Session D and the recently completed 2002 Special Session E. We have included key role call votes so that each of you can track the way your legislators voted. If you are interested in legislation that is not included in this report you can access the Florida Legislature's web-site at www.leg.state.fl.us or contact our communications department at (850) 224-6926.

Employment and Taxation

Economic Stimulus - Unemployment Insurance

Failed

SB 1220 by Wasserman Shultz

HB 1167 by Frankel

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

SB 1220 - Passed Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

*Portions passed the Senate when amended to Senate Budget Implementing legislation. The Senate implementing bill died in the House during the regular session and the provisions were removed during Special Session "E" before final passage of the budget.

HB 1167 - Never considered.

*Provisions considered on House floor in the form of amendments during Regular Session and Special Session "E", these died in the House.

This was one of the most significant proactive initiatives put forward by the Florida AFL-CIO in years. The terrorist attacks of September 11th and the resultant drop in tourism was the final straw that broke the back of Florida's already sagging economy. Florida's budget was already collapsing and the Sept. 11th attacks gave the Governor the perfect excuse to call a special session to fix the budget. It also gave corporate Florida's well-paid cronies in the legislature a chance to push for more massive tax breaks and state subsidies - all in the name of "economic stimulus." These various provisions did nothing for the tens of thousands of newly displaced workers and nothing for Florida's economy. The Florida AFL-CIO responded by putting together a comprehensive policy package that would expand eligibility for unemployment insurance, increase unemployment benefits, improve the distribution of unemployment benefits and increase access to health care coverage. Most economists agree that it is these types of program changes that can help an economy out of a recession rather than the "trickle down" policies of tax breaks and Soviet style subsidies for the wealthy and corporations. Most of you are aware of the specifics of our economic stimulus plan and have followed our efforts during the course of 2001 Special Session B, 2001 Special Ses-

sion C, 2002 Regular Session and 2002 Special Session E to ensure passage of the plan so we will spare you a detailed play by play. The two elements of our plan regarding the state's unemployment system that received the most attention were the implementation of the "alternate base" language for eligibility and the increase of weekly benefits. While we had support for the alternate base provisions in the Senate we did not have the support for increasing benefit amounts. While the majority of our Democratic friends in the House supported both of these changes to the system, the Republican majority blocked them at every turn. This lack of support on these measures was especially troubling in light of the fact that a report issued on March 12th by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Economic Policy Institute, National Employment Law Project and Center for Policy Alternatives ranked Florida's UI system near the bottom of the 50 states. The report suggested that Florida could greatly improve its UI system so that it could stimulate the economy in times of recession if an alternate base was used to determine eligibility and if benefit amounts were increased. It is especially troubling since the Federal government gave Florida \$447 million for these purposes. The House was unyielding in their opposition to helping working families, so even though the alternate base language had been written in the budget by the Senate, it was removed during the budget conference between the two chambers during 2002 Special Session "E". Although our 18 months of work on these issues yielded no changes to Florida law, we still accomplished a great deal. Our efforts provided an invaluable education to members of the Legislature on the shortcomings of the unemployment insurance system and we have found many allies to push for reforms of the system in the years to come. Below are the House floor amendment votes from the 2002 Regular Session on the alternate base and increase in unemployment benefits. The alternate base language amendment passed the Senate during the 2002 Regular Session with a unanimous vote and the increased benefit amounts were withdrawn before a vote was taken. These issues were raised in the House during 2002 Special Session "E" but were defeated with a voice vote. They were not considered in the Senate during 2002 Special Session "E."

Benefit Amount Increase Our Vote– Y

House Floor Amendment

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

Alternate Base Our Vote– Y

House Floor Amendment

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

Economic Stimulus - Health Care Access Failed

SB 1238 by Jones
HB 1169 by Frankel

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

SB 1238 - Passed Senate Committee on Health Aging and Long Term Care, died when related federal legislation was defeated in Congress.

HB 1169 - Died in first committee of reference when related federal legislation was defeated in Congress.

Loss of employment often means a loss of health care. The unemployment crisis that has accompanied the current recession in Florida has left thousands with no access to health care. There can be no economic recovery if the workforce is suffering from injury or illness or if all of our working families' incomes are tied up in health care costs. This legislation was designed to work in tandem with federal economic stimulus measures proposed by Democrats in Washington. These bills would have provided for a state subsidy for federal COBRA premiums and would have expanded Medicaid coverage for workers who had lost their jobs following Sept. 11 and did not qualify for the COBRA program. These measures became moot when the Congress approved the Bush economic stimulus plan that did not provide adequate health care assistance for displaced workers. Without federal support, our proposals became impossible to enact and the effort died. The vote for this legislation in the Senate Committee on Health Aging and Long Term Care was unanimous.

Economic Stimulus - Corporate Tax Breaks

Passed

SB 2028 by Pruitt

HB 1933 by Wallace

SB 18 - E by Clary

HB 9 - E by Wallace

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

SB 2028 - Passed Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, House of Representatives, enacted without the Governor's signature.

HB 1933 - Passed House Fiscal Responsibility Council, died on House Calendar, replaced by SB 2028.

***SB 18-E** - Passed Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation, Senate, House of Representatives.

***HB 9-E** - Passed House Committee on Fiscal Policy and Resources.

Corporate tax cuts have been the centerpiece of the current administration's fiscal policy. In fact, Jeb Bush and the leadership in the Florida Legislature have handed out over \$1.5 billion in tax breaks to the state's biggest corporations and wealthiest individuals. Many of these tax breaks are in recurring revenue and will cost the state approximately \$5 billion over 4 years. These tax cuts have left the state especially vulnerable to periods of economic slowdown. Due to the relative weakness of Florida's budget, last year's economic crash following the attacks of September 11th and the resulting drop in tourism forced the Legislature to cut \$1.3 billion from the state's budget last year. Approximately \$600 million was cut from education, \$550 million from health and safety programs for our children and seniors and \$138 million from public safety. The recession following the terrorist attacks allowed President George Bush to wrap himself in the American flag push and through major corporate tax cuts under the guise of "economic stimulus." One of these tax cuts targeted corporate "Bonus Depreciation" and provided an increase in tax savings for certain equipment and materials purchases.

SB 2028, which passed during the 2002 Regular Session, was designed to conform Florida's tax code to the most recent IRS code for the stated purpose of preventing corporations from having to keep "two sets of books." The bill's sponsor and staff analysis indicated that there would be no fiscal impact for the changes to the tax code. However, upon final passage it became apparent that the changes actually included the corporate tax cut in the federal legislation with a substantial price tag. These tax cuts that were enacted into law without the Governor's signature will cost Florida **\$262 million this year** and over **\$511 million over the term of the tax cut (2.5 years)**. This is not stimulative. Corporations will only increase these types of purchases if the market dictates they do so; tax cuts alone do nothing to stimulate buying in these areas.

The manner in which these tax cuts were passed during the regular session caused some confusion amongst the business community as the legality of the deductions. Also, many in the House and Senate claimed that the tax cuts were not specified in the legislation they voted for. In order to dispel any confusion and firm up the legal position of the tax cuts, the language was reintroduced during Special Session "E." The Florida AFL-CIO was opposed to these cuts for the simple reason that Florida could not afford them. Our state is clinging to the cliff by its fingernails and the Republicans in the House and Senate are advocating a policy of waving our arms around. There must be a concerted effort to roll back some of these irresponsible tax cuts and put Florida back on the road to economic security.

State Prohibition of Living Wage Laws

Failed

SB 1902 by Peaden

HB 859 by Bense

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

SB 1902 - Passed Senate Committee on Comprehensive Planning Local and Military Affairs, passed Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, died on Senate floor.

HB 859 - Passed House State Administration Committee, Fiscal Policy and Resources, Council for Ready Infrastructure and the House of Representatives.

This legislation was one of the most serious direct attacks on Florida's labor movement we saw this session. Communities across the state and the nation have organized for living wage ordinances in their city and county governments. These ordinances have been very successful in raising the standard of living for all citizens and have, in most cases, allowed local governments the ability to improve education, social services and community infrastructure. These improvements have in turn attracted new business to the area, contributing to greater economic growth. Currently there are over a dozen living wage campaigns either underway or in the advanced planning stages across the state. Several of Florida's biggest business interests, including the Florida Restaurant Association, Florida Retail Federation, Publix Supermarkets, Winn Dixie Supermarkets and the Florida Chamber of Commerce pushed their friends in the Legislature to pre-empt these campaigns by making local living wage ordinances a violation of state law. This schizophrenic attack on local control by the Republican leadership was strongest in the House, where even many of our friends were swayed by the power wielded by the above listed groups. In true David and Goliath fashion, members of the ULL Lobby Team worked the halls of the Legislature tirelessly to ensure that the measure died in the Senate. Below are some of the votes on this measure. If experience has taught us anything it is that these powerful corporate interests are not so easily dissuaded and that they may be back with a vengeance next year. It is critical that you let your Senators and Representatives know that you expect them to respect local control and vote against measures such as this in the future.

**Prohibition on Living Wage
Our Vote- NO**

| Comprehensive Planning, Local & Military Affairs | |
|---|-------------|
| Senators | Vote |
| Carlton | YES |
| Clary | YES |
| Constantine | YES |
| Geller | YES |
| Lee | YES |
| Rossin | YES |
| Wasserman | YES |

| Commerce & Economic Opportunities | |
|--|-------------|
| Senators | Vote |
| Cowin | YES |
| Crist | YES |
| Diaz de la Portilla | YES |
| Futch | YES |
| Holzendorf | NO |
| Klein | YES |
| Meek | NO |
| Miller | YES |
| Sanderson | YES |
| Saunders | YES |

| State Administration | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Brown | YES |
| Brummer | YES |
| Kendrick | YES |
| McGriff | YES |
| Melvin | YES |

| Fiscal Policy & Resources | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Atwater | YES |
| Baker | YES |
| Betancourt | YES |
| Brummer | YES |
| Diaz de la Portilla, R. | ABSENT |
| Fields | YES |
| Gardiner | YES |
| Hardiopolos | YES |
| Mack | YES |
| Paul | YES |
| Ryan | YES |
| Siplin | ABSENT |
| Wallace | YES |
| Weissman | YES |

Prohibition on Living Wage

Our Vote- NO

| Council for Ready Infrastructure | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Bean | YES |
| Bense | YES |
| Brutus | ABSENT |
| Dockery | ABSENT |
| Goodlette | YES |
| Harrington | YES |
| Hart | YES |
| Henriquez | YES |
| Heyman | YES |
| Holloway | YES |
| Kallinger | YES |
| Kosmas | YES |
| Littlefield | YES |
| Lynn | YES |
| Mahon | YES |
| Russell | YES |
| C. Smith | YES |
| Stansel | YES |

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

Department of Labor and Employment Security

Passed

SB 2340 by Clary

HB 1643 by Council for Smarter Government; Clarke

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

SB 2340 - Passed all committees of reference, laid on floor in Senate, replaced by HB 1643, passed Senate.

HB 1643 - Passed House of Representatives, passed the Senate, enacted by the Governor on April 25.

Enacted by the Governor

The Florida AFL-CIO and ULL fought the decimation of this vital state agency for several years. Session after session various elements were privatized, transferred or eliminated to the point that the agency was merely a shell organization serving very little real purpose. Currently there is no Division of Safety and various services such as unemployment insurance; workers' compensation and job training have been scattered across state government. Once it became apparent that the political will did not exist to protect the remaining divisions or restore those that had been transferred, the focus of our lobby efforts centered on the remaining workers at the agency. Specifically, the Florida AFL-CIO and ULL wanted to ensure that the workers at the Department of Labor and Employment were afforded a "Type II" transfer, meaning that they kept their jobs at their current level of pay and benefits. This legislation also transferred the Division of Workers' Compensation to the Department of Insurance and the Public Employee Relation Commission was moved to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. There were several different pieces that dealt with the final elimination of DLES and we worked through each one to ensure that they included Type II transfers. HB 1643 passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor with the transfer provisions.

Limitation on State Appropriations

Failed

SJR 1042 by Posey

HJR 87 by Wallace

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

SJR 1042 - Never considered

HJR 87 - Passed State Administration, Fiscal Policy and Resources, House of Representatives, died in the Senate.

In 1984, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment placing limits on the state's ability to raise revenue. Revenue collection is limited to the prior fiscal year's amount plus an adjustment for growth. That growth adjustment is based on the aggregate personal income of Floridians. This bill sought to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would substitute an appropriations limit for the current revenue limitation. This limitation would mean that state appropriations in any given year could not be more than they were during the prior fiscal year plus an adjustment for growth. This growth adjustment would be based on Florida median household income.

In essence this bill had one purpose...the elimination of state government. According to an analysis conducted by the House's very own Committee on State Administration, had this provision already been in effect, the 2000-2001 budget would have had \$6.8 billion less than it had, meaning the Legislature would have to cut \$6.8 billion rather than \$1.3 billion! Of course the majority of those cuts would be in education and the social services that working families need. The bill moved swiftly and quietly through the committee process during the first few days of session and then languished on the House calendar for quite some time. Once the issue came to a vote, a bipartisan group successfully blocked the measure. However with some clever parliamentary maneuvering and arm twisting by the Republican leadership the measure was brought back for a vote later that day and passed. Below are the records for both votes so that you can see who was pressured to change their vote. As the radical right-wing "Freedom Caucus" gains more power in the House you can expect to see this issue return in the future. Make sure that your Senators and Representatives know that you do not want them to limit Florida's growth and potential with such shortsighted measures in the future.

Limitation on State Appropriations

Our Vote- N

| |
|--------------------------------|
| Y-YES N-NO NV-NOT VOTING |
|--------------------------------|

First vote on 3rd reading:

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

Second vote on 3rd reading:

| |
|--------------|
| CHANGED VOTE |
|--------------|

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

Unemployment Compensation for Birth and Adoption

Failed

SB 202 by Wasserman Schultz

Florida AFL-CIO, ULL position: Support

SB 202 - Never considered

Millions of Americans do not have the option of taking time off work in order to raise their newly born or adopted children because their employers do not offer paid Family or Medical Leave. Current law guarantees only unpaid leave so these families are forced to choose between the vital roles of caring and raising their children and putting food on the table. That is a horrible choice to have to make. This legislation would have allowed new parents to receive unemployment compensation benefits while taking time off to be with their new born or newly adopted children if paid leave benefits was not available at their workplace. While the political will to consider this issue was absent this year, there are some indications that this issue will be considered during the next session. The Florida AFL-CIO supports this and any other legislation designed to help our citizens balance work and family responsibilities.

Workers' Compensation

Passed

SB 108 by Senate Appropriations and Senate Banking and Insurance Committees

Florida AFL-CIO Position: **Watch**

SB 108 - Passed Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance, Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, Senate, House of Representatives.

Enacted by the Governor

At the start of this year's session there were over 20 different bills that proposed changes to Florida's workers' compensation system. Some were sweeping while others were minor. The same players were involved as in the past, the Florida AFL-CIO, Associated Industries of Florida, the Academy of Trial Lawyers and a whole host of other interested organizations and associations. Associated Industries of Florida worked diligently to change the system in a manner that benefited their big business and insurance clients at the expense of Florida's workers. When the flurry of activity subsided and the dust began to settle, there was only one major bill that passed. SB 108 made many changes to the system. Here is a brief description of some of those:

- The establishment of several new presumptions for firefighters and law enforcement officers.
- The inclusion of new presumptions for problems associated with hypertension and respiratory problems and a better-defined system for establishing those.
- The legislation calls for a study to be conducted examining the impact of medical fees on the system and the availability of coverage for small employers.
- A tightening of the dispute mediation process.
- Clarifications of managed care requirements.
- Exemptions will no longer be allowed except for some current construction industry exemptions. Exemptions are permitted in the case of commercial construction projects valued at \$250,000 or less. Exemptions are also permitted on residential projects that are single or multi-family dwellings of no greater than four units.
- The legislation requires that the Department of Insurance is required to conduct a study of the availability of insurance coverage and whether or not the needs of the construction industry may be met under the current system.

While these changes only fix small portions of the overall problem, this legislation is still a step forward. All of the members of the ULL Lobby Team who worked on the legislation agree that this legislation could have gone in the wrong direction. In the words of a member of the ULL team, "this was the first time in recent memory that the system had been changed in a way that did not cost the worker." The ULL will work to close all remaining exemptions in the future.

Public Employees

Public Employee Impasse

Failed

SB 1910 by Garcia

HB 641 by Brummer

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

SB 1910 - Died in Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity

HB 641 - Passed the House Council for Smarter Government, House of Representatives, died in Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity

The ability for AFSCME to collectively bargain in good faith with the State of Florida and the Governor's office was dealt a serious blow last year with the passage of the "Service First" legislation which eliminated the role of the neutral Special Master in the impasse process. This legislation sought to eliminate the workers' ability to negotiate once an impasse had been reached. Currently, once an impasse has been declared a joint committee of the Legislature is convened to hold hearings on the issues. This legislation would have eliminated these hearings, further restricted labor's input in the overall process and removed current time restrictions and deadlines. Essentially, this legislation would have left impasse decisions solely up to the Governor and Legislature and eliminated the ability for our state workers to really negotiate.

Impasse Procedure

Our Vote- NO

| Council For Smarter Government | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|----------------|--------|----------|------|--------|------|----------|--------|
| Rep. | Vote | Rep. | Vote | Rep. | Vote | Rep. | Vote | Rep. | Vote |
| Barreiro | N | Crow | ABSENT | Gottlieb | N | Machek | N | Ritter | N |
| Brummer | Y | Diaz-Balart,M. | ABSENT | Harper | N | Melvin | Y | Sorenson | ABSENT |
| Cantens | Y | Evers | Y | Kyle | Y | Negron | Y | | |

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

Restoring Career Service Protections

Failed

SB 1846 by Lawson

HB 1453 by Betancourt

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

SB 1846 - Never considered

HB 1453 - Never considered

This legislation would have returned some elements of the Career Service system that were eliminated under the Governor's "Service First" legislation. Bumping rights for senior workers would have been restored, protections from political layoffs provided for law enforcement officers, firefighters and professional nurses would have been extended to all state workers and would have specified an appeals process for layoffs.

Restoring Tuition Waivers for State Workers

Failed

SB 1356 by Lawson

HB 1241 by Ausley

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

SB 1356 - Passed Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Education, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

HB 1241 - Passed House Committee on Colleges and Universities, House Council for Lifelong Learning.

The free-tuition program allows state workers to take classes for free (with the exception of some fees) at the state's universities. The thinking behind the program was simple; if we give our employees educational opportunities, they will take them and become better employees. That thinking was correct and the program was a success. Last year the Legislature reduced the funding for the program from \$9.5 million to a meager \$.5 million. In order to make the sparse funding last, DMS instituted new guidelines for approving the tuition that were far more restrictive and opened the door to patronage. Before the changes and budget cuts, 6,255 waivers had been granted around the state. During the first academic term following the new guidelines only 161 waivers were approved. This legislation would have fully restored the program and removed the new restrictive guidelines. Both bills passed their first committees of reference with unanimous votes but they both lost steam as the session continued. Apparently, critically important issues such "Boot Day" and "Hat Day" were more pressing than restoring educational opportunities for our state workforce. We will continue the push for the reinstatement of this program in the next session.

Equal Pay for Equal Work Study Commission

Failed

SB 310 by Dawson

HB 895 by Sobel

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

SB 310 - Passed Senate Commerce and Economic Opportunity Committee, Governmental Oversight and Productivity, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

HB 895 - Never considered.

Equal pay has been the law since 1963. But today, more than 35 years later, women are still paid less than men and women of color are paid less than their white counterparts – even when they do similar work and have similar education, skills and experience. Wage discrimination costs Florida's working families and Florida's economy an estimated \$11.2 billion dollars per year. This is money that could be pumped back into the economy and could increase the independence of low-income families. Over 28 states across the nation are working to implement equal pay study commissions. These commissions are charged with conducting detailed studies to establish areas where wage discrimination exists and formulate public policies to eliminate these practices. This legislation would have established such a commission here in Florida and would have required public disclosure and accounting procedures to ensure that wage discrimination does not happen. The Florida AFL-CIO will continue to work with our supporters in the House and Senate to ensure that this critical legislation is passed in the near future.

FRS/Tiered Retirement Accrual Rate

Failed

SB 144 by Pruitt

HB 237 by Fiorentino

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

SB 144 - Passed Senate Committee on Education, Governmental Oversight and Productivity, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

HB 237 - Never considered.

The Florida retirement system is in good fiscal shape and is currently operating with a healthy surplus. It is time for employees to benefit from the strength of this system through meaningful benefit improvements. This legislation would have raised the current accrual rate on a graduated basis for years of service from 1.6% to 2.1%. Such changes are vital if we are to keep our talented teachers in the state and attract new teachers to Florida.

FRS/Average Final Compensation

Failed

SB 2 by Burt

HB 235 by Flanagan

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

SB 2 - Passed Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

HB 235 - Never considered

Average final compensation under the current system is the average of an employee's highest 5 fiscal years of service. The legislation would have amended that computation to the highest 3 years. This would have allowed a more equitable average final compensation amount and is a better representation of an employee's service.

Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC)

Failed

SB 1396 by Lawson

HB 1129 by Betancourt

Florida AFL-CIO position: **Oppose**

SB 1396 - Never considered

HB 1129- Passed House Committee on State Administration, House of Representatives, died in Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

This piece of legislation did not appear on the scene until session was well under way and would have made many negative changes to the application and reporting processes for the Public Employee Relations Commission (PERC). Here are some of the proposed reporting changes.

- The legislation would have required employee organizations to report all of their state affiliations.
- Employee organizations would have had to include annual salaries of all principal officers of all state affiliates.
- Annual dollar amounts of all health insurance, life insurance, retirement plans and automobile allowances of all of the employee organizations state affiliates would have had to be reported.
- A listing of all dues paying members of each employee bargaining unit.
- A listing of all per-member annual dues paid by the employee organization to each state, national and international affiliate.
- Registration and other processing fees would have increased.

This legislation was a direct attack on unions and would have required public employee unions and their affiliates to violate many of the privacy commitments they have made to their members. The ULL vigorously opposed this legislation in the House and while we were not successful in preventing passage in that chamber, we were successful in blocking the measure in the Senate.

**PERC
Our Vote-N**

| State Administration | |
|----------------------|------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Brown | Y |
| Brummer | Y |
| Fasano | Y |
| McGriff | Y |
| Melvin | Y |

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

Education

Privatization of School Personnel

Failed

SB 194 by Villalobos

HB 217 by Mack

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

SB 194 - Never considered

HB 217 - Passed House Committee of Education Innovation, House Fiscal Responsibility Council, failed in House Council for Lifelong Learning.

This legislation would have created the "School Service Accountability Act of 2002 and required an analysis of the expenditure of school services such as transportation, facilities and maintenance operations and food services. Early versions of the bill had language requiring the privatization of these services if shown to be more cost effective which of course they would be due to the "low bid" process often seen. While this language was amended to give school districts more flexibility, the bill is still bad for our school systems because it opens the door to even more privatization than we already have. Do you want the responsibility for your child's safe transportation to and from school to be left up to the lowest bidder? Additionally, this bill would be a waste of time and money because many districts have already completed such studies and have contracted out some of these services. Below are the various committee votes in the House. Pay attention to these votes, these are the legislators who follow the "privatize at all costs" mantra.

**Privatization of School Personnel
Our Vote- NO**

| Education Innovation | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Arza | YES |
| Attkisson | YES |
| Ball | YES |
| Bowen | YES |
| Bullard | NO |
| Diaz de la Portilla, R. | YES |
| Garcia, Rene | YES |
| Gardiner | YES |
| Harper | ABSENT |
| Jordan | YES |
| Lerner | NO |
| Mack | YES |
| Negron | YES |
| Weissman | YES |

| Fiscal Responsibility Council | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Alexander | YES |
| Attkisson | YES |
| Ball | YES |
| Bense | YES |
| Bowen | YES |
| Byrd | YES |
| Cantens | YES |
| Crow | ABSENT |
| Dockery | ABSENT |
| Fasano | ABSENT |
| Gottlieb | NO |
| Greenstein | NO |
| Haridopolos | YES |
| Harrington | YES |
| Jennings | NO |
| Johnson | YES |
| Kendrick | ABSENT |
| Kosmas | NO |
| Lacasa | YES |
| Lynn | NO |
| Maygarden | YES |
| Murman | YES |
| Ryan | NO |
| Siplin | YES |
| Wallace | YES |
| Wiles | NO |
| Wilson | NO |

| Council For Lifelong Learning | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Alexander | YES |
| Andrews | NO |
| Arza | YES |
| Attkisson | YES |
| Baxley | YES |
| Bendross-Mindingall | NO |
| Brummer | YES |
| Bucher | NO |
| Diaz de la Portilla, R. | YES |
| Farkas | NO |
| Fiorentino | NO |
| Gottlieb | NO |
| Harrington | ABSENT |
| Henriquez | NO |
| Kilmer | YES |
| Melvin | YES |
| Wiles | NO |
| Wilson | NO |

FRS/Excellent Teaching Program

Passed

SB 922 by Burt

HB 807 by Mealor

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

SB 922 - Passed Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Finance and Taxation, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

HB 807 - Passed House Committee on State Administration, Fiscal Policy and Resources, Fiscal Responsibility Council, House, Senate.

This bill made several changes to the Florida Retirement System, including several that were of interest to our teachers. One of the main provisions that benefits teachers is a change in the definition of "compensation" for the purposes of computing retirement benefits for rewards under the Excellent Teaching Program and the Florida Mentor Teacher Pilot Program. In the past, compensation under these programs had been considered a "bonus" that was not factored into salary for the purposes of calculating retirement.

Enacted by the Governor

FRS/DROP Extension**Failed****SB 546** by Pruitt**HB 259** by BrummerFlorida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Support**

SB 546 - Passed Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Education, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

HB 259 - Passed House Fiscal Responsibility Council, House of Representatives, died in Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

This legislation would have extended the maximum participation period for the DROP program from 5 to 8 years for instructional personnel in the school system. While improved pay, benefits and improved instructional tools is still the best way to keep our teachers in the classroom, this could be another means by which the impending teacher shortage may be abated.

Vouchers/"No Strings Attached Act"**Failed****HB 1587** by KallingerFlorida AFL-CIO, ULL position: **Oppose**

HB 1587 - Passed the House Council for Lifelong Learning, died on the House Calendar.

This measure, introduced after the start of session and moved very quickly to the House floor, was one of the biggest abominations of public policy seen this session. In essence this legislation provided local school boards with a laundry list of new areas of budget flexibility *if* they instituted a system of vouchers on demand for all students in all schools. This could very well destroy what is left of our state's public education system with disastrous results for Florida's working families. The bill was only referred to one House council and was then sent to the floor where it languished for weeks, apparently a potential bargaining chip for the radical right-wing "Freedom Caucus" in the House. ULL and FEA lobbyists worked to ensure that the votes were not there, so the issue died on the calendar.

| Council For Lifelong Learning | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Representatives | Vote | Representatives | Vote | Representatives | Vote |
| Alexander | Absent | Brummer | Yes | Harrington | Yes |
| Andrews | Yes | Bucher | No | Henriquez | No |
| Arza | Yes | Diaz de la Portilla, R. | Yes | Kilmer | Yes |
| Attkisson | Yes | Farkas | Yes | Melvin | Yes |
| Baxley | Yes | Fiorentino | No | Wiles | No |
| Bendross-Mindingall | No | Gottlieb | No | Wilson | No |

Dignity for all Students Act**Failed****SB 294** by Campbell**HB 157** by GottliebFlorida AFL-CIO position: **Support**

SB 294 - Never considered

HB 157 - Never considered

This legislation was designed to ensure that all students in Florida's schools get an education in an environment free of harassment, discrimination, verbal aggression or violence. These bills would have placed in law that students

must be protected regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, marital status, sex, gender, handicap or sexual orientation. The bills would have created programs designed to provide instruction and leadership in building an educational climate that is tolerant of all students and established reporting mechanisms through which schools must report incidences of student harassment or violence. As we have all seen in recent years, student intolerance can often lead to tragic consequences for all involved and this legislation would have been a major proactive step in improving the climate for all of our students in Florida's school system. Our students deserved these important protections. Hopefully the same legislature that had the time to debate bills that would have placed "constitutional wallpaper" in classrooms this year will have time to debate student safety next year.

Class Size Constitutional Amendment

Failed

SJR 304 by Meek

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

SJR 304 - Never Considered

This joint resolution would have placed a proposed constitutional amendment to limit class sizes in Florida on the November 2002 ballot. While the measure failed during the Regular Session, the Supreme Court has cleared the ballot referendum language and the supporters are close to obtaining the number of signatures required to place the measure on the November ballot.

Constitutional Amendments/Fiscal Impact Statement

Passed

SB 68-E by Pruitt

HB 65-E by Goodlette, Pickens

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

SB 68-E - Passed Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections, Senate, died in the House.

SB 65-E - Passed House of Representatives, Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections, Senate, House of Representatives.

It is well known among the Tallahassee political circles and has been reported in the press that Governor Jeb Bush is opposed to the class size constitutional amendment. Should the amendment pass, he and the Legislature would be forced to slow down on the high end tax cuts and really commit to putting some money into education. However, it is difficult for him to openly oppose the measure while simultaneously proclaiming himself the "Education Governor." In an effort to handicap the amendment while maintaining his public persona as the "education governor", Jeb had his cronies in the House and Senate introduce Legislation that requires a fiscal impact statement on all ballot questions dealing with constitutional amendments. These bills were introduced within 48 hours of the court's ruling that the ballot initiative could go forward. The fiscal impact statement would be drafted by the Revenue Estimating Conference, a body hand picked by the Governor and Legislative leadership. The problem is not that voters will know an estimate of the amendment's cost but that the estimate is not the product of a neutral third party and therefore not an objective analysis.

Enacted by the Governor

Health Care

Prohibition Against Use of State Funds for Union Busting

Passed

SB 1378 by Meek

HB 767 by Bendross-Mindingall

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

SB 1378 - Passed Senate Committee on Health Aging and Long Term Care, Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Senate, House of Representatives.

HB 767 - Passed House Committee on Elder and Long Term Care, died in the House Council on Healthy Communities.

Enacted by the Governor

Union busting, "employee relations" campaigns have become commonplace in Florida, especially in the health care industry. It is not unusual for health care employers to hire outside consultants to run anti-union campaigns, force workers to attend closed-door anti-union lectures and even fire employees who have shown an interest in organizing. These actions are often taken in Florida using taxpayer money. It is common in Florida's nursing homes for employers to use tax dollars to hire outside consultants to thwart organizing efforts and to compel workers to leave their resident care duties to watch anti-union propaganda while still on the taxpayer payroll. Also, while attending these meetings the residents in their care are going unsupervised. This legislation prohibits the use of state dollars for these union busting campaigns. It also makes it illegal for nursing homes to use the time workers are attending these anti-union meetings when calculating compliance with staffing requirements. This is a major win for Florida's nursing home workers and a major win for the residents of these facilities.

Special Risk Retirement for Forensic Health Care Workers **Failed**

SB 2296 by Lawson

HB 41 by Richardson

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

SB 2296 - Passed Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

HB 41 - Never considered

Forensic health care workers provide medical and humanitarian assistance to mentally ill persons whose disability has forced them into the criminal justice system. These patients are some of the most dangerous and difficult to work with. The front-line personnel who care for these patients are often attacked, spat at, bitten, urinated on, etc. and yet they have never been afforded special risk status when it comes to the calculation of retirement benefits and terms of service. These workers do their best to ensure that these mental patients are well cared for. Their dedication and service protects both their patients and the public. Two years ago, supervisors and managers of forensic facilities were granted this status but the employees who have the most contact with these dangerous individuals were not. These bills would have corrected this inequity but there did not appear to be the political will necessary to move these issues in the House or Senate.

"Wage Pass-Through" for Health Care Workers **Failed**

SB 1908 by Wasserman Schultz

HB 1569 by Argenziano

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

SB 1908 - Passed the Senate Committee on Health Aging and Long Term Care, died in Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

HB 1569 - Passed the House Committee for Elder and Long Term Care, died in Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee.

Under the current system, Medicaid and other funds are distributed to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities in "lump sum." This means that, with some exceptions, nursing homes are able to use those monies as they see fit, even in some cases for union busting campaigns (see above). This legislation would have required the Agency for Health Care Administration to earmark a certain portion of state funds for the caregivers in nursing homes to provide for wage and benefit increases. One of the main reasons that so many of these facilities are understaffed is that their management is still paying 80's wages in the year 2002. This legislation would have ensured that our tax dollars are used to pay the hard working staff who care for our loved ones a decent wage and provide them with fair benefits rather than lining corporate coffers.

Health Care Wage Pass

Our Vote- YES

| Health, Aging, & Long-Term Care | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Senators | Vote |
| Brown-Waite | NO |
| Campbell | YES |
| Clary | NO |
| Cowin | NO |
| Dawson | YES |
| Klein | YES |
| Peaden | NO |
| Pruitt | YES |
| Saunders | ABSENT |
| Silver | YES |
| Wasserman | YES |

| Elder & Long-Term Care | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Atwater | YES |
| Brutus | NO |
| Gibson | ABSENT |
| Green | YES |
| Kosmas | YES |
| Machek | NO |
| Negron | YES |
| Paul | NO |
| Russell | YES |
| Waters | YES |
| Weissman | YES |

Needlestick Protection

Failed

SB 146 by Dyer

HB 1797 by Frankel

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

SB 146 - Passed Senate Committee on Health, Aging and Long Term Care, Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, Senate, Died in House Messages.

HB 1797 - Never Considered

Healthcare workers face a deadly risk from the use of dangerous needles each and every day — risks that are totally unnecessary. While needlestick injuries are a big problem, the solution is simple, and it's here today. Government-funded research has demonstrated that the elimination of unnecessary sharps and the use of safer needles can dramatically reduce needlestick injuries. It is estimated that 600,000 to one million workers continue to get stuck by these older conventional needles each year. These injuries often lead to infection by HIV, Hepatitis C and other deadly and debilitating blood borne illnesses. At the very least, needlestick injuries lead to long and fearful waiting periods as the injured healthcare worker waits for the return of test results. This legislation would have required the implementation of new needle and sharps technologies that have been proven to drastically reduce the incidences of needlestick injuries. SB 146 passed the Senate, the furthest this legislation has made it in the process over the past several sessions but it died in the House. This issue will be brought back to the table next session and the ULL will work to ensure its passage in the future.

Building Trades

Drug Free Workplace

Passed

SB 264 by King

HB 651 by Benson

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

SB 264 - Passed Senate Committee on Health, Aging and Long Term Care, Regulated Industries, Senate, House of Representatives.

HB 651 - Passed House Committee on Insurance, Business Regulation, Council for Smarter Government, substituted by SB 264, died on the House Calendar.

Enacted by the Governor

This legislation requires that construction contractors under contract with the State of Florida establish drug-free workplace programs in accordance with the standards in the Florida Workers' Compensation law. The bills will make construction sites safer and reduce Workers' Comp premiums by 5 percent, thereby saving the state money and protecting the taxpayers in Florida. This legislation has been a priority of the ULL and our friends in the building trades for quite some and its passage is a major victory.

Drug Free Workplace

Our Vote- YES

| Health, Aging, & Long-Term Care | |
|--|-------------|
| Senator | Vote |
| Brown-Waite | NV |
| Campbell | NV |
| Clary | Y |
| Cowin | Y |
| Dawson | NV |
| Klein | Y |
| Peaden | Y |
| Pruitt | Y |
| Saunders | Y |
| Silver | Y |
| Wasserman | Y |

| Regulated Industries | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Senator | Vote |
| Campbell | Y |
| Crist | Y |
| Dawson | ABSENT |
| Diaz de la Portilla | ABSENT |
| Futch | ABSENT |
| Geller | Y |
| Holzendorf | Y |
| King | Y |
| Klein | Y |
| Latvala | ABSENT |
| Lee | Y |
| Pruitt | YES |
| Wasserman | YES |

| Senator | Vote | Senator | Vote | Senator | Vote | Senator | Vote |
|------------------------|------|---------------|------|-------------|------|----------------------|------|
| 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) | Y | McKay(R) | NV | Sebesta(R) | Y |
| 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) | 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(D) | Y |
| Dawson(D) | Y | Latvala(R) | Y | Pruitt(R) | Y | Webster(R) | Y |
| Diaz de la Portilla(R) | Y | Laurent(R) | Y | Rossin(D) | Y | Wise(R) | Y |

Drug Free Workplace Our Vote- YES

| Insurance | |
|-----------------|------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Baker | NO |
| Berfield | YES |
| Brown | YES |
| Clarke | YES |
| Fields | YES |
| Kallinger | NO |
| Lee | YES |
| McGriff | YES |
| Melvin | YES |
| Negron | YES |
| Ross | YES |
| Simmons | YES |
| Sobel | YES |
| Waters | YES |
| Wiles | YES |

| Council For Smarter Government | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Representatives | Vote |
| Barreiro | YES |
| Brummer | YES |
| Cantens | YES |
| Crow | YES |
| Diaz-Balart,M. | YES |
| Evers | YES |
| Gottlieb | YES |
| Harper | YES |
| Kyle | YES |
| Machek | YES |
| Melvin | YES |
| Negron | YES |
| Sorenson | YES |
| Ritter | YES |
| Sorenson | YES |

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

Florida AFL-CIO Position: **Support**

HB 813 - Passed House Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, General Government Appropriations, Council for Ready Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Senate.

Enacted by the Governor

This bill provides for \$100 million in bonds so that the state's groundbreaking Everglades restoration project can begin immediately. In the past we have described this as a "win-win" piece of legislation. Thousands of new skilled jobs will be created, South Floridians will see their water supply protected and the state preserves one of the most important and unique ecosystems in the world. If the Everglades Restoration proceeds, it will create an estimated 10,400 new jobs in construction and related trades while providing over \$700 million dollars in public works projects for South Florida. Many of these projects will likely be covered by Project Labor Agreements. Members of the ULL have been followed this issue during the session and on March 22nd, the last day of session, it appeared that the bills passage was assured. However, in the last few hours of session, members of the Senate added an amendment to the bill that contained the same language from a very controversial bill that would not have passed. This bill severely restricts the right of Floridians to intervene in governmental actions involving the environment though a complex series of hearings and court actions. The addition of this controversial amendment led many groups across the state to call on the Governor for a veto. However, the Governor signed the legislation and we are assured that the Everglades Restoration projects will proceed. The controversial language will no doubt be considered by the courts, but the funding for these projects is secure.

THE 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 scores range from a high of 40 to a low of 1. In the House, scores range from 120 to 1.

The final rankings will be mailed to each CLC and available on our web site www.flafclcio.org as soon as all inputs are received and compiled.

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 cooperation in the preparation of this ranking system and for all their hard work throughout the session and beyond.

