

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE SESSION 2022

Education and Employment

- 1) HB 7 - Individual Freedom **We voted to uphold principles of Individual Freedom.** We are committed to the belief that every Floridian, regardless of their race, sex, religion, or any other quality, is entitled to their dignity as an individual. HB 7 upholds the American principle that all people are created equal by identifying principles of individual freedom to guide instruction and curriculum.
 - a) No individual is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex.
 - b) No race is inherently superior to another race.
 - c) No individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or sex.

The bill requires that educational materials in Florida's schools be consistent with these shared values and prohibits employers from requiring workplace trainings that compel workers to believe concepts contradictory to the principles of individual freedom.

HB 7 includes a new "Stories of Inspiration" curriculum to give students the opportunity to learn about and be inspired by influential Americans whose grit, resilience, and perseverance enabled them to rise above difficult circumstances to make invaluable contributions to our country. These stories will be unifying, objective, and real stories that uphold principles of individual liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Not only does the bill encourage discussion and teaching of African American history already required under Florida law, it includes the most substantial expansion of African American history in our public schools in 20 years by expressly including their contributions to America.

House [74-41](#); Senate [24-15](#).

- 2) HB 1557 – Parental Rights in Education **We voted for Parents' rights.** Parents have a fundamental right to make decisions regarding the upbringing of their children. HB 1557 makes it clear that classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity is not appropriate in kindergarten through grade 3 and specifies that instruction in other grades must be age and developmentally appropriate and consistent with school standards. It empowers parents by requiring School Boards to notify parents if there is a change in their child's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health and wellbeing or the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment.

The bill strengthens the parent/child relationship by requiring school district employees to encourage a student to discuss issues with his or her parent and requiring school districts to

notify parents of all health care services offered at their student's school and provide the parent the opportunity to individually consent to or decline each service.

Under this bill, a school guidance counselor or a trusted school employee is not required to tell a parent that his or her child is gay or straight, unless there is a change in the student's mental, emotional or physical well-being and related services. The sexual orientation of the student would not require a change in services to the student.

HB 1557 also ensures parents have access to their child's education and health records. The bill provides a process for parents to seek resolution of concerns at their child's school through the school principal, the school district, the Department of Education, or the courts. [House 69-47;](#) [Senate 22-17.](#)

- 3) **HB 7051 – Postsecondary Education – We voted for Higher Education Accountability.** College and universities should set students on a track for success, so they need to be transparent, accountable, and affordable. HB 7051 promotes transparency by requiring state colleges and universities to keep searchable, downloadable lists of required and recommended textbooks and instructional materials posted for five years and post course syllabi information for general education core courses. It increases accountability in accreditation by not allowing them to be accredited by the same accrediting agency or association for consecutive cycles.

The bill requires state colleges and universities to clearly communicate tuition and fees, any proposed changes and the necessity for such change, and how revenue is expended. It also enhances faculty performance by allowing the Board of Governors to require tenured state university faculty members to undergo a comprehensive post-tenure review every five years.

[House 77-40; Senate 22-15.](#)

- 4) **HB 1467 – K-12 Education We voted for School Board Accountability.** As elected officials, school board members need to be kept accountable to their communities, and public input is vital to do so. HB 1467 ensures that any school board meeting held to rank, eliminate, or select instructional materials is advertised and open to the public. The bill requires training for individuals involved in selecting library material and protects students by putting textbooks used for required instruction topics through a rigorous vetting process to ensure that they are age-appropriate, support state academic standards, and allow parental contribution. It also increases accountability by creating 12-year term limits for school board members. [House 79-41; Senate 24-15.](#)

Health & Human Services

- 5) **HB 5 – Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality We voted to Protect Life.** The Florida Legislature remains steadfast in our commitment to Florida's children, both born and unborn, and our commitment continues after birth.

HB 5 ends the practice of abortions after 15 weeks with limited exceptions, to save the mother's life, to avert a serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment to the mother, and for fatal fetal abnormalities. The bill invests in evidence-based initiatives working to reduce fetal and infant mortality rates, including expanding local fetal and infant mortality review committees statewide and a new counter-marketing advertising campaign on the health hazards of tobacco targeted to pregnant women and women who may become pregnant. It also expands on the success of local health care community efforts to reduce infant mortality by requiring hospitals to participate in Florida Regional Quality Collaborative initiatives. [House 78-39. Senate 23-15.](#)

- 6) [HB 539 – Nursing Home Financial Reporting](#) **We voted for Nursing Home Transparency.** Better information helps policymakers make better decisions. HB 539 helps us manage the state's resources, by requiring Nursing Homes to report audited financial information just like hospitals. House 114-0. Senate 37-0.
- 7) [HB 7065 – Child Welfare](#) **We voted to address the Father Crisis and improve Child Welfare.** We can do more to encourage responsible fatherhood, alleviate the crisis of at-risk boys, and support foster children – especially those who age out of care. HB 7065 recognizes the foundational importance of fatherhood and encourages father involvement by establishing grants for fatherhood programs to address comprehensive needs of fathers and to provide evidence-based parenting education specifically for fathers. The bill alleviates the crisis of at-risk boys by strengthening and developing nonprofits that serve them.

The bill also supports foster children by improving the college support and services program for foster youth who age out of care and eliminating bureaucratic obstacles that make it harder for them to successfully complete their education. House 117-0. Senate 38-0.

Judiciary

- 8) [HB 3- Law Enforcement Officer, Benefits, Recruitment, and Training](#) **We voted to support Law Enforcement.** We express our gratitude to our law enforcement in word and in action. HB 3 assists law enforcement agencies in retaining officers, and incentivizes individuals to enter the profession in our state. It creates new health and wellness training, Family Empowerment Scholarships for their children, and college credit for training and experience acquired while serving. It also assists recruitment by authorizing bonus payments to new officers and relocation assistance for out-of-state applicants. Additionally, the bill allows a sheriff to transfer funds between categories after his or her budget has been approved by the board of County Commissioners or budget commission. House 114-3. Senate 34-0.

Public Integrity and Elections

- 9) [SB 524 – Election Administration](#) . The bill takes proactive measures to strengthen election security, improve election administration, and ensure vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot integrity.

It creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Department of State staffed with non-sworn investigators. The bill provides for sworn-FDLE officers to investigate election crimes and increases criminal penalties for crimes such as illegal ballot harvesting and petition circulating.

It requires the Supervisors of Elections to take stronger action to validate voter rolls and allowing the Department of State (DOS) to use more information to confirm voter eligibility. To ensure VBM ballot integrity, DOS is directed to create a plan – and report the plan and any proposed legislative changes to the Legislature – to further secure VBM ballots by verifying them with a government-issued identification number such as a driver license or social security number. [House 76-41. Senate 24-14.](#)

- 10) HB 7001 & 7003 – Implementing Constitutional Lobbying Restrictions **We voted to implement Constitutional Lobbying Restrictions.** In 2018, 78% of Florida voters passed this amendment to expand ethics in state and local government. This amendment going into effect in 2023, restricts paid lobbying and abuse of office by current and former public officials. HB 7001 and HB 7003 implement Amendment 12 by implementing prohibitions on paid lobbying for current public officials outside their official duties and former public officials for a 6-year period after leaving office. These apply to state legislators, statewide elected officers, school board members and superintendents, and Supreme Court Justices and judges. The bills authorize enforcement by the Commission on Ethics and provide penalties for violations. House 117-0 and 118-0. Senate 39-0 and 38-0.

State Affairs

- 11) HB 7053 – Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Florida has 1350 miles of coastline and low elevations. So, we are particularly vulnerable to impacts from flooding and sea level rise. HB 7053 creates the Statewide Office of Resilience within the Executive Office of the Governor. It authorizes DEP to provide grants to small cities and counties to fund preconstruction activities for projects they submit for the annual Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan (Plan), which we directed DEP to develop when we passed SB 1954 last year. This bill builds on SB 1954 by requiring DEP to rank and include in the Plan all eligible projects that are submitted and expanding the types of entities that can submit projects for the Plan.

It also direct DOT to develop a resilience action plan for the State Highway System and informs policymakers by requiring DEP to prepare and submit a report on flood resilience and mitigation efforts to the Legislature and Governor by December 15, 2022. House 114-1. Senate 37-0.

- 12) HB 7055 – Cybersecurity Improving cybersecurity is vital to ensuring the availability, confidentiality, and integrity of state and local government data, IT resources, and critical infrastructure. HB 7055 requires specialized training and the adoption of cybersecurity standards by local governments. It requires state agencies and local governments to report ransomware and higher-level severity cybersecurity incidents to certain entities. The bill

prohibits state agencies and local governments from complying with ransom demands during a ransomware attack, and creates a new crime for persons executing a ransomware attack against a government entity with enhanced penalties designed to deter ransomware attacks in the future. House 110-0. Senate 38-0.

Honorable Mention

- 1) [HB 1355 – Immigration Enforcement by Snyder.](#) The bill provides for enhanced cooperation between law enforcement agencies and ICE.
 - a) Amends “sanctuary policy” to prohibit any policy adopted or allowed by a state or local government that impedes or prohibits a law enforcement agency from providing information to a state entity on the immigration status of an inmate or detainee in the custody of a law enforcement agency.
 - b) Requires each law enforcement agency that operates a county detention facility to enter into a written agreement with ICE by January 1, 2023, to participate in the 287(g) program, in which ICE trains local law enforcement officers to perform specified immigration enforcement functions.
 - c) Prohibits a state or local governmental entity from entering into a contract with a common carrier if they are willfully providing any service in furtherance of transporting a person in Florida knowing that the person is an ‘unauthorized alien’.
 - d) Requires any contract renewed after October 1, 2022 to require the common carrier to attest that it will not willfully provide any such service to an ‘unauthorized alien’.
 - e) An ‘unauthorized alien’ is defined as a person who is unlawfully present in the USA according to the terms of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC ss 1101 et seq. [House 77-42. Senate 24-15.](#)
- 2) [HB 921 – Campaign Financing](#) Federal law currently restricts contributions from foreign entities for federal and state candidate elections, including contributions to political party committees as well as contributions for electioneering communications.

The bill amends Florida law to revise the limit on contributions to petition circulating committees to apply only to non-resident contributors and political committees without a registered Florida office. The bill emulates the federal prohibition on foreign contributions. The foreign contribution ban will apply to all elections, both candidate races and ballot questions. [House 80-40. Senate 22-16.](#)

- 3) [HB 865 – Charter Schools](#) The bill establishes the Charter School Review Commission (CSRC) within Florida’s DOE, subject to an appropriation, to assist in the review and approval of charter

school applications. Establishes membership and provides CSRC with the same powers and duties the charter school sponsors currently have in regard to approving applications. It requires a district school board which oversees the school district where a proposed charter school will be located to sponsor and supervise the charter school approved by the CSRC.

In addition,

- a) Prohibits a sponsor from imposing any additional reporting requirements unless the charter school is under a deteriorating financial condition, or from withholding any administrative fee for funds specifically allocated by the Legislature for teacher compensation.
- b) Authorizes any facility or land owned by the Florida College System to provide space to charter schools under the facility's existing zoning and land use designations
- c) Prohibits a charter school from being subject to land use regulations which would not be required of a public school
- d) Requires a proportionate share of the educational impact fees to be designated for the construction of charter school facilities.
- e) Revises the criteria for nonrenewal or termination of a charter by repealing "other good cause shown" as grounds, and requires a charter school to be under a deteriorating financial condition or financial emergency to not renew or terminate a charter for fiscal management.
- f) Creates the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation at Miami Dade College to improve charter school authorizing practices in Florida.
- g) Requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct an analysis of charter school capital outlay and specified federal funds and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature. [House 86-28. Senate 27-11.](#)

4) HB 689 – Workers Compensation Benefits for Post traumatic Stress Disorder

The bill changes the notice of a PTSD-related injury due to the employer from '90 days of a qualifying event or the manifestation of the disorder, whichever is later' to 'qualifying event or diagnosis of PTSD, whichever is later'. Similarly, the bill extends the claim filing deadline to either one year after qualifying event or diagnosis of the disorder. The bill also extends workers' compensation benefits to correctional officer with PTSD without requiring a link to a compensable physical injury. [House 115-0. Senate 39-0.](#)

- 5) HB 703 – Public Record/Post Secondary Education Executive Search State University System and Florida College System institutions often establish search committees for filling a vacant president position. The bill creates an exemption from public record and public meeting requirements for information associated with the applicant recruitment process and discussions associated with the applicant search for the position of president of a SUS or FCS institution.

The bill provides that the personal identifying information of applicants who comprise a final group of applicants for president is no longer confidential and exempt from public records requirements once the final group of applicants is established or at least 21 days before the date of a meeting to interview the applicants or final action is to be taken. [House 86-26. Senate 28-11.](#)

- 6) HB 965 – Environmental Management The bill authorizes the creation of water quality enhancement areas (WQEAs) which are defined as natural systems constructed, operated, managed, and maintained for the purpose of providing offsite regional treatment for which enhancement credits will be provided. The bill requires this process to be approved through the ERP permitting process, and requires a WQEA to address pollutant contributions within a specific area determined by DEP that does not meet state water quality criteria.

A WQEA may only provide enhancement credits in an enhancement service area determined by DEP, and these credits can only be sold to governmental entities. DEP or the WMDs must authorize the sale and use of enhancement credits to address adverse water quality impacts of permitted activities or to assist governmental entities seeking to meet certain required reductions assigned in a BMAP or Reasonable Assurance Plan.

There is also additional language to assist in implementing graywater technologies. House 107-0. Senate 39-0.

- 7) HB 741 – Net Metering. In 2008, the Legislature required all electric utilities to develop standardized interconnection agreements and a net metering program. Currently the credit the customer receives on their monthly bill equates the value of the excess energy to the utility's retail rate.

The bill establishes a revised net metering program that credits excess energy delivered to the GRID in accordance with a graduated schedule. In the bill, the value of credit the customer receives will be determined by the date a net metering application is approved, and credits will be netted on a monthly basis.

The bill provides that if the PSC finds that the penetration rate of customer renewable generation in the IOU's service territory exceeds a certain threshold, the PSC must initiate rulemaking to adopt a new program design.

The bill permits an IOU to petition the PSC for approval to recover, through its fuel and purchased power cost recovery charge, lost revenue resulting from the unanticipated, incremental addition of residential solar photovoltaic generation with the IOU's service territory between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2023.

[House 83 – 31. Senate 24-15.](#)

- 8) HB 963 – Funding for Sheriffs The DCF conducts child protective investigations in 60 counties while the local sheriffs perform investigations in seven counties. Funding to sheriffs who perform such investigations is governed through a contractual agreement with DCF.

The bill clarifies that a sheriff may transfer funds between fund and functional categories and object and subobject code levels after his or her budget has been approved by the board of county commissioners. It also permits a sheriff under DCF contract to carry forward unused state funding from one fiscal year to the next. The bill caps such carryforward amount to 8% of the total contract amount or grant award agreement. Any unused funding in excess of the 8% must be returned to DCF. Once the sheriff's office no longer performs such investigations, all unexpended funding must be returned to DCF. There are also limits on the use of carry forward funding. House 116-0. Senate 38-0.

- 9) HB 1041 – Tax Administration The bill provides for an alcoholic beverage dealer's ability to hold a resale certificate to be suspended if the dealer is found to have substantial noncompliance with statutory recordkeeping requirements under specified conditions.

The bill creates a rebuttable presumption that failure to provide adequate records when requested by the Department is evidence of willful neglect for purposes of applying or compromising penalties, and prohibits taxpayers from using such records in subsequent tax proceedings. The bill provides that failure of a taxpayer to provide documents requested by a subpoena allows the Department to estimate assessments, and creates a rebuttable presumption that the resulting assessment is correct and that the requested documents would be adverse to the taxpayer's position. It also updates conditions and methods by which the Department may serve subpoenas on businesses registered with the Department. House 105-10. Senate 33-3.

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The Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget totals \$112.1 Billion, including \$43.7 billion General Revenue, \$29.1 billion State Trust Funds, and \$39.2 billion Federal Trust Funds. The budget leaves a record budget reserve of \$8.9 billion, which includes

- 1) \$5.3 billion in unallocated GR funds.
- 2) \$3.1 billion in Budget Stabilization Funds.
- 3) \$500 million for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund.

By comparison, the Budget in 20-21 totalled \$101.5 Billion, with \$6 Billion put in reserves.

NEW INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA'S FUTURE

- 1) \$1 billion - Inflation Fund to offset impact of inflation on the state budget.
- 2) \$2.2 billion - Florida Medicaid program to serve over 5 million beneficiaries
- 3) \$2.3 billion - Protection of Florida's Water Resources, including Everglades Restoration.
- 4) \$11.1 billion - State Transportation Work Program.
- 5) \$125 million - Nursing Education Programs
- 6) \$664.2 million – increased salaries for state employees, including a 5.38 % inflation adjustment.
\$15/hour minimum wage adjustment, and increases to base salaries for sworn law enforcement, correctional officers, juvenile justice officers, and state firefighters.
- 7) \$170 million - Cybersecurity information technology.
- 8) \$74 million - to address Fatherhood Crisis.

STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND - \$3.5 BILLION

- 1) \$1.5 billion - Education capital outlay projects and deferred maintenance.
- 2) \$468.7 million for Florida Forever for acquisition of conservation funds.
- 3) \$50 million – for Beach Restoration Projects
- 4) \$2996.6 million – State Park Improvements.
- 5) \$400 million – Broadband Opportunity Program.
- 6) \$205 million – Local Support Grants including First Responder Recognition Payments.
- 7) \$200 million – a one month Motor Fuel Tax holiday in October 2022.

- 8) \$50 million – Job Growth Grant Fund.

OTHER POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) \$889.4 million – rate increases to ensure \$15/hr. for direct care staff serving Medicaid and APD iBudget clients.
- 2) \$260.6 million – additional community based care mental health and substance abuse services.
- 3) \$258.2 million – enhance the Child Welfare System.
- 4) \$59.6 million – serve additional 1,192 individuals on APD iBudget Waiver.

PREK-12 EDUCATION

- 1) \$24.3 billion for FEFP. This is an increase of \$1.4 billion (6.2%) over current year and and \$8,142.85 per student, an increase of \$384.55. This includes \$250 million increase to \$800 million for teacher and other instructional personnel salary increases.
- 2) \$44.8 million for the V -PreK Program.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- 1) \$100 million to create the PIPELINE Fund (Preparing Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education) Fund for performance-based incentive funding to award and incentivize continuous improvement of nursing program completion and licensure rates.

JUSTICE

- 1) \$850 million – construct one new 4,500 bed correctional institution and one new 250 bed prison hospital unit.
- 2) \$50 million - land acquisition, planning, and construction costs for the new Sixth District Court of Appeal Courthouse in Lakeland Florida.
- 3) \$15 million – increase salaries for sheriff's deputies and county correctional officers employed in fiscally constrained counties.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOURISM

- 1) \$362.7 million for Affordable Housing Programs. (\$209.8 million in 2021).
- 2) \$59.1 million for cultural and museum grants.
- 3) \$20 million for the Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program in HB 3.

STATE ADMINISTRATION & TECHNOLOGY

- 1) \$178.4 million for cloud modernization and migration of state agency applications.
- 2) \$58.7 million to repair and maintain state buildings, including the Capitol Complex.
- 3) \$30.8 million to create the Aircraft Management Program and purchase two new executive aircraft pool.
- 4) \$14.3 million to continue the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System.