

WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



With the 2023 Florida Legislative Session well underway, here is your week two update of what is happening in Tallahassee:

HB 837 Civil Remedies passed the Florida House on March 17, 2023 by an 80 to 31 vote. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Gregory and Fabricio, has been described as a historic measure that seeks to reform lawsuit abuse in Florida. Mark Wilson, President and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce said "Billboard and personal injury trial lawyers who advertise on TV for too long have taken advantage of Florida's bottom-five legal climate to line their own pockets, and today was a significant step in ending this abuse costing Florida families, consumers, and local businesses."

SB 236 Civil Remedies has passed through three committees and is headed to the floor of the Florida Senate to be heard. To read the full bill and analysis, [click here](#). There is over \$50 billion spent in litigation each year in the State of Florida, equivalent to 3.63% of Florida's GDP, according to a recent national study, which is higher than any other state in the nation.

SB 240 Education unanimously passed through the Senate Education Pre-K - 12 committee on March 14, 2023, and is headed to its next committee assignment. The focus of this bill is to "promote career and technical education with a focus on work-based learning, to address the growing workforce demands of our state" according to the Florida Chamber. Specifically, the bill will require the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to work with other specified entities to provide certain information relating to workforce development boards; revising the entities that may be a local apprenticeship sponsor; revising the credit requirements for a high school diploma; and revising the cost factor for secondary career education programs. The full list of bill features and analysis can be found [here](#).

HB 1445 and **SB 256** both known as **Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees** have each passed through their first committee hearing, with SB 256 passing 5 to 3 through the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee, and HB 1445 passing favorable through the Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee. These bills aim to remove the role of government in collecting union dues, also known as paycheck protection. "The legislation protects the rights of union members to determine how their earnings are spent and creates transparency and accountability in the collection of dues" according to the Florida Chamber. More information about these bills can be found [here](#).

HB 1515 Local Ordinances sponsored by Representative Brackett, also coined the Ultimate Preemption Bill, passed through its first committee in the House, the Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee. The intention of this legislation is to "require local governments to create a business impact statement when considering local ordinances, and pauses the enforcement of regulations while they are being challenged in court. It would also allow for attorney fees if the ordinance is successfully challenged." The Senate companion bill, **SB 170 Local Ordinances** passed on the floor of the Florida Senate with a 29 to 11 vote last week. To read more about this bill, [click here](#).

Justin Taylor

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