

WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



On May 5, the 2023 Florida Legislative Session officially adjourned with both legislative chambers approving a \$116 billion annual state budget. The 2023 Florida Legislative Session featured 1,828 total bills that were filed, with 350 bills passing both the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. Here are some of the major takeaways from the 2023 Florida Legislative Session:

HB 837, Civil Remedies, seen as a major legislative win for Florida businesses and consumers for lawsuit abuse reform. This reform legislation was possible thanks to the cooperation and coordination between House Speaker Renner, Senate President Passidomo, and Governor Ron DeSantis. Prior to this legislation, Florida ranked as a bottom five legal climate in the United States. The Florida Chamber will continue to lobby with the goal of improving Florida's legal climate to top 12 in the United States by 2030.

The **\$2.7 billion tax relief package** passed provides several sales tax holidays and exemptions on goods and services such as disaster preparedness, school supplies, gas stoves, baby products and diapers. The tax package also includes tax relief for local businesses such as the reduction in the Florida-only business rent tax from 5.5 percent to 4.5 percent beginning this December.

The **"live local" act** aims to increase funding for state and local affordable housing programs by incentivizing the private market to increase the availability and affordability of housing while decreasing the number of regulations that work against creating more affordable housing.

Other important bills that have passed this year that have been previously mentioned in my weekly updates are the **paycheck protection** and **workforce development bills**.

For more information regarding the legislative efforts of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, please visit the Florida Chamber of Commerce [website here](#).

Thank you for reading the 2023 Tallahassee updates!

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