



2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OUTLINE

Florida Senate Democrats Lead Our Future, Our Fight

A STRONG ECONOMY Building a fair economy that ensures everyone has an equal chance to succeed and earn a living wage. Protecting Florida's thriving small businesses from government overreach and demands, giving Floridians the freedom to live their own version of the American Dream.

- **Sen. Ausley / Representative Diamond - [SB 710](#) / [HB 1299](#):** Early Learning Scholarship Program - establishes early learning scholarship program; specifies criteria for scholarship qualifications.
- **Sen. Powell / Representative Silvers - [SB 414](#) / [HB 209](#)** Family Caregiver Certified Nursing Assistance Program - creates a program to train and certify family caregivers as certified nursing assistants for a specified purpose.
- **Sen. Torres / Representative Woodson - [SB 466](#) / [HB 131](#)** Military Medics and Corpsman of Florida - creates a pathway to authorize medically trained veterans to perform certain medical activities under specified supervision.
- **Sen. Jones - [SB 1570](#)** Economic Assistance to New Businesses – creates the “Florida Right to Start Act” to encourage state agencies to allocate a certain percentage of specified funds to purchase commodities and contractual services from certain businesses.
- **Sen. Taddeo / Representative Smith - [SB 712](#) / [HB 439](#):** Small Business Saturday Sales Tax Holiday – allows small businesses to not collect the sales and use tax on the retail sale of certain items of tangible personal property during a specified timeframe.

A HEALTHY FLORIDA Giving Floridians the freedom to access affordable physical and mental health care while defending reproductive justice. Investing in high-quality public education from kindergarten through college or trade school.

- **Leader Book / Representative Grieco & Representative Skidmore - [SB 248](#) / [HB 175](#):** Student Health Services – establishes the “Learning with Dignity Act” to require school districts to provide free menstrual hygiene products.
- **Sen. Cruz - [SB 678](#)** Prescription Insulin Drugs – requires individual and group health insurance policies to cap insulin copays for a specific amount under an insured's monthly cost-sharing obligation.

N/A

- **Sen. Polsky - [SB 292](#)** Newborn Screenings – requires hospitals to screen for congenital cytomegalovirus in newborns under certain circumstances.
- **Sen. Jones - [SB 1450](#)** Healthy Food Financing Initiative Program –provides program eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations and revises eligibility requirements for community development financial institutions.
- **Sen. Cruz / Representative Nixon - [SB 676](#) / [HB 1245](#):** Drinking Water in Public Schools – requires district boards to identify certain schools eligible for drinking water fountain filters.
- **Sen. Pizzo - [SB 1234](#)** Vaccinations During Public Health Emergencies – authorizes the State Health Officer to order the vaccination of individuals upon declaration of a public health emergency.

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Protecting precious natural resources which bolster Florida's ecosystems and economies, while confronting climate change with action.

- **Sen. Farmer - [SB 208](#)** Well Stimulation – creates the “Stop Fracking Act” which prohibits extreme well stimulation.
- N/A
- **Sen. Stewart / Representative Goff-Marcil - [SB 832](#) / [HB 561](#):** Blue Green Algae Task Force – requires owners of certain onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems to have the systems periodically inspected.
 - **Sen. Stewart / Representative Morales - [SB 1156](#) / [HB 935](#):** Study to Establish a Statewide Long-term Recycling Goal – requires the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study on the establishment of a new long-term, statewide recycling goal.
 - **Sen. Cruz / Representative Goff-Marcil - [SB 686](#) / [HB 767](#):** Energy Security and Disaster Resilience Pilot Program – creates a pilot program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide grants to offset costs relating to onsite solar energy storage systems.

SAFE COMMUNITIES Fostering safe communities through policies which protect children and families and ensure fairness in the criminal justice system. Protecting every Floridian's right to live freely as themselves while embracing our state's diversity as a strength.

- **Sen. Berman / Representative Davis - [SB 388](#) / [HB 221](#):** Creation of an office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – creates office to recognize the strength of diversity and promote equity, racial justice and civil rights.
- **Leader Book / Representative Smith - [SB 374](#) / [HB 205](#):** Gay and Transgender Panic Legal Defenses – creates the "Gay and Transgender Panic Legal Defenses Prohibition Act" prohibits individuals from using a nonviolent sexual advance or specified perceptions or beliefs about another individual as a defense to a criminal offense.
- **Sen. Bracy - [SB 1188](#)** Community Violence Intervention and Prevention – awards grants, subject to legislative appropriation, requires department to prioritize certain applicants and prohibits department from requiring grant recipients to participate in certain activities as a condition of the grant.

- **Sen. Farmer / Representative Smith - [SB 214](#) / [HB 199](#):** Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines – prohibits the possession and sale or transfer of an assault weapon or a large-capacity magazine.
- **Sen. Jones / Representative Hunschofsky - [SB 1196](#) / [HB 1093](#):** Community Violence Task Force – creates a task force within the FDLE to review system failures and the cause of high crime rates in the Urban Core.
- **Sen. Polsky / Representative Rayner - [SB 1166](#) / [HB 347](#):** Safe Storage of Firearms – provides a criminal penalty for an adult who does not securely store a loaded firearm when failure to secure the firearm gives the minor easy access to the firearm and leads to the death or injury of a minor.
- **Sen. Powell / Representative Driskell - [SB 1510](#) / [HB 1459](#):** Mental Health of Minors – requires transport plans include options that don't involve marked police vehicles or uniformed law enforcement officers.
- **Sen. Rouson / Representative Hart - [SB 282](#) / [HB 795](#):** Peer to Peer Specialist – requires the Department of Children and Families to develop a training program for peer specialists and to give preference to trainers who are certified peer specialists.
- **Sen. Stewart / Representative Bartleman - [SB 898](#) / [HB 577](#):** Miya's Law Tenant Safety – provides additional safety measure for residents through background checks for apartment complex employees.