



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ben Albritton

2012 Post Session Update

Florida's Consumers

Reforming Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

Representative Albritton sponsored important legislation this session to reform Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, the state property insurer of last resort.

Albritton's House Bill 1127 reduces the amount of money that Citizens can collect from regular assessments and shifts it to emergency assessments. According to the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation and Tax Watch, this bill:

- ★ Removes a major hurdle to new insurance companies entering the Florida market
- ★ Helps ensure that private companies remain solvent after a storm and are able to pay all their claims in a timely manner
- ★ REDUCES the total possible assessment that consumers face in the year after a storm

Representative Albritton, please keep me up to date on the important issues facing our area.

I would like to receive updates and other important information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please sign me up to join:

- Email List Mailing List Both

From Day One on the job **Hard at Work for Us**

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, Vice Chair

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee

Energy & Utilities Subcommittee

Finance & Tax Committee

Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight (2012)

K-20 Innovation Subcommittee

Questions? Comments?

Contact **Rep. Ben Albritton** **Today**

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BEN ALBRITTON

2012 Post Session Update

Important News **for Florida's** **Citrus Industry**

Representative Ben Albritton sponsored several pro-consumer pieces of legislation during the 2012 Legislative Session, including House Bill 1237 relating to reforming the Department of Citrus and the Citrus Commission. It is estimated that the citrus industry directly and indirectly generates close to 76,000 full and part time jobs in Florida and contributes billions of dollars to our state's economy.

HB 1237 establishes nine districts to be represented by one Citrus Commission member in each, serving staggered terms. The law also ensures that the Department is operated 40 hours a week, 5 days a week, and authorizes the Department to aid in the research of citrus diseases, including citrus greening, that pose a serious threat to Florida's citrus industry.

This legislation is an important step to improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Citrus, improving its ability to serve citrus growers, processors, consumers and the industry as a whole.

What's Inside

Important Legislation Regarding

- Economy
- Taxes
- Natural Resources
- Budget

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

BEN ALBRITTON

2012 Legislative Session Highlights

Florida's Budget

Putting the Needs of Floridians First

The 2012 Legislative Session focused first and foremost on facing the challenges posed by yet another budget shortfall and an uncertain economic outlook. The Florida Constitution requires a balanced budget and, unlike the U.S. Congress, the Florida Legislature cannot spend money that we do not have. I believe this year the Legislature met our constitutional responsibility by passing a responsibly balanced budget.

The Legislature crafted and passed a budget that will provide our children the opportunities for a world-class education by including a \$1.1 billion increase in education funding.

In an effort to keep taxes low, the Legislature voted to streamline programs and make many cuts to reduce spending. It is my belief that Florida must maintain sufficient reserves to weather altered fiscal forecasts and preserve our bond ratings.

We passed a budget that was balanced and did not raise taxes; therefore, I believe our responsible decisions today should save Floridians billions of dollars over the next few years and place Florida in the best position possible for economic growth once the economy recovers.



Florida's Economy

Removing the Barriers to Economic Growth

I believe the Legislature took a responsible, long-term view toward restoring Florida's economy this year. The Legislature's budget decisions and bills were viewed through the lens of our goal to get Florida's economy back on track and helping create jobs for Floridians.

House lawmakers led the charge to help create jobs and increase economic development by approving over \$223 million in economic incentive programs. Furthermore, the corporate income tax exemption was increased to ease the burden on Florida's job creators. Additionally, HB 7027, Unemployment Compensation was passed, providing Florida businesses with \$800 million in tax relief over the next 3 years while still providing the same benefits to the unemployed.

This year there were also several pieces of legislation that focused on reducing regulatory requirements on certain businesses regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.



Florida's Natural Resources

Protecting and Preserving Our Unique Landscape

The natural resources of the State are not only ecologically significant, but also support a substantial portion of the State's economy through tourism and agriculture.

The House passed legislation that reflects the State's commitment to preserving these resources, while reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulations that inhibit economic growth. This legislation provides streamlined environmental permitting and efficient environmental regulation, while promoting enhanced water supply planning and water quality improvements.

Agriculture is a billion dollar industry in the State of Florida, and this session the House continued its efforts to promote agriculture and reduce burdensome and duplicative regulations. The House passed legislation to allow owners of agricultural lands to partner with the state to accomplish water storage and water quality improvements, which benefits both the owner of the agricultural land and the citizens of Florida.

For the first time since 2008, the legislature took up energy policy as a major issue that needed to be addressed. House Energy Bill, HB 7117, is a comprehensive bipartisan effort that supports responsible renewable energy technologies, promotes and protects power generation and availability for future generations, and provides a pathway for job creation in Florida.

Florida's Taxpayers

Securing Needed Tax Relief for Floridians

I believe keeping Florida a low-tax, low-cost state is vital to our state's prosperity. I believe we can speed up our economic recovery by keeping taxes and burdensome government regulations low, reducing state spending while maximizing the value of every tax dollar the state collects.

Through a combination of tax-relief measures and appropriations the Legislature shaped an Economic Development Package that provides \$223 million in economic development incentives. We also approved a 3-day, sales tax holiday on clothing, shoes, and school supplies.

Florida lawmakers passed legislation to provide tax relief to Florida's businesses. There were also several pieces of legislation passed that proposed a constitutional amendment to offer additional homestead exemptions for veterans and low-income seniors.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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