



Issue Spotlight: Economic Development

Updated as of April 14, 2017

The Florida House is committed to improving the state's economic development efforts and ending the state's current practice of picking winners and losers in business. To do so, the House seeks to eliminate poor performing economic development programs and offices that reward a select few at the expense of many and implement policies that help all businesses. This means lowering taxes, cutting burdensome regulations, and dramatically increasing transparency and accountability in remaining economic development programs.

Below are brief descriptions of bills that offer opportunities to advance this mission. Please refer to bill texts and analyses for more specific information on what each bill does and does not do.

Deregulation of Professions and Occupations – HB 7047, Rep. Beshears

- The PCB proposes comprehensive deregulation of certain professions. The PCB removes certain professions and entities from DBPR regulation, reduces the hours of training required to obtain certain licenses, and eliminates the requirement that certain licensees obtain a certificate of authorization for their business entities, among other changes.
- Professions affected by the bill include the following:
 - interior designers;
 - hair braiders;
 - hair wrappers;
 - body wrappers;
 - boxing announcers;
 - boxing timekeepers;
 - labor organizations and business agents;
 - talent agencies;
 - auctioneers;
 - barbers;
 - restricted barbers;
 - nail specialists;
 - facial specialists;
 - full specialists;
 - asbestos abatement consultants and contractors;
 - architects;
 - landscape architects;
 - geologists; and
 - yacht and ship brokers.
- Deregulation promotes the creation of new businesses and allows existing businesses to grow more easily to ultimately provide more job opportunities for Floridians.



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Local Regulation – CS/HB 17, Careers & Competition Subcommittee and Rep. Fine

- The bill will prohibit local governments from imposing regulations on businesses, professions, and occupations that are outside of what is set in statute.
- The bill does not prohibit local governments from continuing certain practices such as levying local business taxes and special assessments, or passing zoning and land ordinances.
- The bill will result in creating a far less burdensome and more uniform regulatory environment. This will allow businesses to grow and thrive throughout the entire state and give more Floridians an opportunity to get a job.

Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation – HB 9, Rep. Renner

- The bill fundamentally transforms VISIT Florida, the state's official tourism marketing corporation, to require transparency and accountability.
- Some of the accountability and transparency reforms the bill brings to VISIT Florida include the following:
 - requiring VISIT Florida contracts to contain performance standards;
 - prohibiting VISIT Florida employees or board members from improperly receiving food, beverages, lodging, entertainment or gifts paid for by VISIT Florida funds or funds from a local tourist or economic development agency;
 - requiring VISIT Florida to post all contracts on the CFO Transparency website;
 - requiring VISIT Florida to submit a detailed operating budget to the Legislature each year;
 - limiting the type of contributions that may be included when calculating the one-to-one match to direct cash contributions from private sources and fees for services;
 - and requiring Senate confirmation of the VISIT Florida President/CEO.
- The Florida House is making it clear that if VISIT Florida wants taxpayer dollars, these are the transparency and accountability measures it expects to see.

Economic Programs – CS/CS/HB 7005, Appropriations Committee and Careers & Competition Subcommittee and Rep. Renner

- The bill eliminates over 20 poor performing economic development programs and offices that divert attention and resources away from other efforts that lead to job creation and a better business climate for *all*: broad based tax relief, reducing burdensome regulations, and smart investments in education, infrastructure, or public safety.
- The bill eliminates Enterprise Florida, Inc., a public-private partnership that lacks accountability and has used poor judgement in spending public funds.
- The bill does not eliminate programs that either have broad based application or that are tailored to the most vulnerable or unique parts of our state, like minority, rural, and space-related programs.
- It is the Legislature's duty to review government programs, revise them where needed and repeal them when warranted to ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent appropriately.