

## WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



We are all familiar with the saying, "better late than never", right? On June 16, 2025, the Florida Legislature adjourned their 2025 legislative session, which was originally intended to adjourn after a 60-day session on May 2, 2025. The late adjournment included the agreement and passing of a balanced state budget, which is the only constitutional requirement of the Florida Legislature, to annually pass a balanced budget. Here are some key details of the passed budget:

- Total approved budget: \$115.1 billion
- Total 2024 - 2025 YoY reduction: \$3.5 billion
- Debt reduction: \$830 million

The biggest news coming in at the end of session is the total elimination of the \$3 billion Business Rent Tax! For the past five years the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce has been advocating to get rid of this "Florida-only" tax. In 2025, we were the only state taxing commercial leases. This final push to eliminate the remaining 2% of the tax means an extra \$900 million in annual savings for Florida's job creators.

The Back-To-School Tax Holiday has been made permanent and recurring, plus there will be a new "Hunting & Fishing" Tax Holiday from September 8, 2025 to December 31, 2025. There will also be a permanent sales tax exemption on certain hurricane and emergency preparedness items.

Other details include the repeal of the Aviation Fuel Tax, extending the data center tax exemption through 2037, and a study being directed to study Florida's Property Tax to ensure Property Tax will be on Florida's 2026 ballot.

HB 1205 & SB 7016: Initiative Petitions Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution passed both chambers and was signed into law last month. This legislation aims to protect Florida's Constitution from out-of-state and special interest groups by providing "additional transparency and accountability measures in the citizens' initiative petition process", and reduces the likelihood of fraudulent signatures being accepted in the petition process.

HB 6017 & SB 734: Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions had previously passed through the Florida House and Senate has been vetoed by Governor DeSantis. Governor DeSantis said "[HB 6017] would increase costs to provide healthcare services to Floridians, especially in our rural and aging communities, expose Florida's physicians and healthcare providers to unpredictable liability, drive physicians to leave the state, and incentivize lawyers to bring unmeritorious claims. None of this improves quality, access, or outcomes for Florida families."

Thank you for reading this year's legislative updates!

- Justin Taylor

Sources:  
[www.flchamber.com](http://www.flchamber.com)  
[www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)  
[www.flhouse.gov](http://www.flhouse.gov)