

---

The latest from the government and leadership office of the Chamber

## INSIDE

VACC Resilient Business Initiative

Legislative Update



### **VACC Business Resiliency Initiative**

The Venice Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the launch of the Resilient Business Initiative, a new program designed to strengthen preparedness, continuity, and long-term stability across our business community. As local employers, we all understand that hurricanes, cyber intrusions, power disruptions, and unexpected operational challenges can impact our ability to serve customers and protect our workforce.

This initiative provides a structured, practical approach to readiness—delivered through briefings, tools, and resources that help businesses build resilience one step at a time. Over the next several weeks, the Chamber will share concise guidance, offering actionable tasks and insights to support your preparedness efforts.

Together, we can ensure that our business community remains strong, adaptable, and ready for whatever comes our way.

#### Identify your business risk profile -

We begin the Resilient Business Initiative by helping every organization identify its primary risk profile—the specific threats most likely to disrupt operations. While hurricanes remain the most visible hazard in our region, many businesses face equal or greater exposure to cyber intrusions, utility outages, supply chain delays, or workforce disruptions.

Understanding your top risks is the foundation of any effective preparedness plan. It allows you to prioritize resources, strengthen continuity planning, and respond more effectively when disruptions occur.

### This Week's 10-Minute Task

#### Identify the top two threats most likely to impact your business.

Maybe you already have some basic plans in place for a concerning event but not for others. If you have a good basic plan in place, start there and identify how it can be flexed to serve a different scenario. With an idea of our risks, we can build a response scenario from nothing or we can freshen up what we have.

Consider the following categories:

- Hurricane or severe weather
- Cyber intrusion or data breach
- Power or utility interruption
- Workplace safety or security incident
- Supply chain disruption
- Loss of key personnel
- Other industry-specific risks

Document your selections and share them with your leadership team. This simple step creates clarity and sets the stage for the weeks ahead.

### Why This Matters

A business that understands its risk profile can:

- Prioritize preparedness actions
- Allocate resources more effectively
- Reduce operational downtime
- Improve employee safety
- Strengthen long-term resilience

This is the cornerstone of a responsible continuity strategy.

### Looking Ahead

Next week, we will focus on building a simple but essential tool: your Emergency Contact & Communication Framework. This framework ensures that when something happens, your team knows who to contact, how to communicate, and what steps to take.

## Legislative Update

□ No state budget was passed during the 2026 Regular Session, which ended last week. Representatives will come back together in April to specifically work on this. They have until July 1 to pass a State budget.

□ Local funding and statewide program implementation remain on hold until the budget is enacted.

## Why This Matters for Venice-Area Businesses

### 1. Local Project Funding Is in Limbo

Without a finalized budget, local appropriations, infrastructure dollars, and community project funding for Sarasota County and Venice remain uncertain.

### 2. Agencies Cannot Finalize Spending Plans

State agencies, including those overseeing transportation, workforce development, tourism, and environmental programs—cannot issue final guidance until the budget is approved.

Actions by our local delegates during the 2026 session:

- HB 145 – Sovereign Immunity (McFarland)
- HB 919 – Commercial Service Airports (Buchanan co-sponsor)
- HB 4091 – UTC Improvement District (Conerly)
- HB 589 – Septic Permitting (Nix)
- HB 967, HB 1019, HB 1031 (McFarland co-sponsor)

### Business Impacts

- Updates to liability limits in cases vs. government entities.
- Faster permitting and payment processing
- Regional economic development shifts
- Environmental compliance tightening (PFAS) “Forever Chemicals”
- Customer-service operational requirements

To dig deeper into any bill and to get the most up-to-date information, follow this link:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Reports/2026>

A good short cut for specific information on a bill that cuts through the mountain is to prompt your AI tool with: “provide the legislative intent and rationale for Florida House bill HB--- or SB---.

A secondary prompt for this group might be: “What are the implications of this bill for Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Members?”