



# FLORIDA RESTAURANT & LODGING ASSOCIATION

## 2024 Legislative Agenda



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## Vacation Rentals

**SB 280 by Senator DiCeglie (R- St. Petersburg)**  
**HB 1537 by Representative Griffitts (R- Panama City)**

While vacation rentals have long been available in Florida, the option to list them online through advertising platforms has caused this lodging sector to expand dramatically. Florida law needs to be updated to recognize this growth, creating balanced and rational regulations that protect visitors, local citizens, and communities.

FRLA supports the following:

- Requiring quarterly reporting to the State by advertising platforms listing vacation rentals on their platforms, including the physical address, so that tax collection and legal compliance can be confirmed;
- Requiring advertising platforms to confirm the licensing of vacation rentals prior to listing;
- Mandatory tax collection and remittance by advertising platforms;
- Clarifying the State's authority to regulate advertising platforms;
- Applying the same regulatory and safety standards across the entire lodging industry, with no special standards for vacation rentals; and
- A local option for vacation rental registration.

## Food Delivery Platforms

**SB 676 by Senator Bradley (R- Fleming Island)**  
**HB 1099 by Representative Melo (R- Naples)**

Food delivery capability is a necessity for restaurant success, and many restaurants rely on food delivery platforms to provide this capability. Florida's consumers, restaurants, and food delivery platforms need a consistent standard for transparency and consent that reflects and concretely establishes the best practices that have developed organically in the marketplace.

FRLA supports legislation that ensures restaurants are able to communicate with and respond meaningfully to their customers at every stage of the transaction. This legislation must also ensure that consumer information is protected and that consumers are able to maintain control of their information. Food delivery platforms must also maintain the ability to develop, improve, and compete; this benefits businesses and consumers alike.





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## Eliminating Employment Restrictions for 16- and 17-Year-Olds

**SB 1596 by Senator Burgess (R- Zephyrhills)**

**HB 49 by Representative Chaney (R- St. Petersburg)**

Florida's hospitality industry has career training and employment opportunities readily available, and additional labor is much needed. Reasonable revisions to the current minor labor laws that reduce burdensome regulations and take into consideration the rise in non-traditional education models would benefit both employers and young working Floridians.

However, it is also necessary to protect and promote the educational pursuits of 16- and 17-year-old minors. The industry is eager to provide opportunities to hardworking 16- and 17-year-old Floridians that can open the door to future hospitality careers.

## Cultivated Meat

**SB 1084 by Senator Collins (R- Tampa)**

**HB 1071 by Representative Alvarez (R- Riverview)**

Cultivated meat is meat or a food product produced from cultured animal cells. This would include any type of protein – chicken, fish, beef, etc. This legislation contains a provision that would ban the manufacture, sale, and distribution of cultivated meat. Violation of this provision could incur criminal penalties, administrative disciplinary action, and the suspension of a restaurant's license.

There are many aspects of this issue to consider:

- The impact on our local cattle ranchers and farmers;
- The commercial viability of this product;
- The impact to innovation and the free market; and
- Penalties for unintentional violations

FRLA will be working with all stakeholders moving forward as this policy area develops.



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## Auxiliary Containers

**SB 1126 by Senator Martin (R- Ft. Myers)**

**HB 1641 by Representative Yeager (R- New Port Richey)**

Currently, regulation of plastic bags is preempted to the State. This legislation more clearly defines what materials and containers are covered by this preemption. Practically, this means that local governments will not be permitted to regulate or ban the bags, cups, or bottles you use to package the food, drinks, and items you sell. We support this bill because it allows you to choose the packaging that works best for your business and your customers.

## VISIT FLORIDA

VISIT FLORIDA plays a vital role in attracting visitors from all over the world to our beautiful state, and the good work of VISIT FLORIDA continues to be a necessary part of Florida's success. FRLA supports continued funding for VISIT FLORIDA.

## Tourist Development Tax

**SB 1748 by Senator Brodeur (R- Lake Mary)**

**HB 1599 by Representative Truenow (R- Tavares)**

**SB 1072 by Senator Avila (R- Hialeah Gardens)**

**HB 1081 by Representative Porras (R- Miami)**

FRLA opposes adding any new and expanded uses for state Tourist Development Tax and Convention Development Tax revenues.

Adding new uses only dilutes the effectiveness of these limited revenues, which are explicitly intended to promote and market tourism.



# FRLA 2024 Legislative Agenda

## Water Quality

Florida's beaches, rivers, and lakes attract millions to our beautiful state annually. Poor water quality would negatively affect Florida's tourism-based economy, as well as its residents and communities.

FRLA supports sound and sustainable water quality policies that balance the needs of various groups and industries while also seeking to protect the beauty of our state and the health of our water supply long into the future.