



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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# 2024



**FLORIDA  
RESTAURANT &  
LODGING  
ASSOCIATION**

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# FRLA 2024 Legislative Report

## Vacation Rentals

### **PASSED**

**SB 280 by Senator DiCeglie (R - St. Petersburg)**

**HB 1537 by Representative Griffitts (R - Panama City)**

Regulation of vacation rentals has been a prominent issue for the lodging industry for over 10 years. FRLA has advocated for reasonable and actionable regulations that create balance and fairness within the industry. After much back and forth between the House and Senate, the Legislature passed a comprehensive bill on vacation rentals. Some of the key provisions of this legislation are:

- It requires advertising platforms to submit quarterly reporting to the state on all units advertised for rent in Florida;
- It requires advertising platforms to list the vacation rental license number on the advertisement of the unit;
- It requires advertising platforms to collect and remit bed taxes;
- It creates within DBPR the Vacation Rental Information System to facilitate the collection and use of data on vacation rental licensees; and
- It allows local governments to adopt a robust local registration system.

While this legislation did not contain all of the provisions for which we advocated, this bill creates a solid framework for reasonable regulation of vacation rentals. It will serve as a foundation for future efforts to revise and refine Florida's regulatory efforts in this area.

**FRLA supported this legislation.**

## Food Delivery Platforms

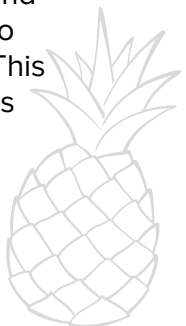
### **PASSED**

**SB 676 by Senator Bradley (R - Fleming Island)**

**HB 1099 by Representative Melo (R - Naples)**

FRLA worked with the leading food delivery platforms to propose legislation that would establish a consistent standard for consent and transparency in agreements between restaurants and food delivery platforms. This legislation specifies that a restaurant cannot be advertised on a food delivery platform without the restaurant's consent. The legislation increases transparency for consumers and enhances communication between consumers and restaurants at every stage of the transaction to ensure quality of product, customer satisfaction, and timely response to complaints or concerns. This legislation was necessary to fend off local ordinances that would cause a patchwork of regulations that create confusion and difficulty for consumers, restaurants, and food delivery platforms.

**FRLA supported this legislation.**



# FRLA 2024 Legislative Report

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

### **PASSED**

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

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

This legislation reduces the regulations related to employing 16- and 17-year-olds. It contains the following provisions regarding 16- and 17-year-old workers:

- They can work longer than eight hours on Sundays and holidays;
- They can work over 30 hours a week under a properly executed parental or superintendent waiver;
- They can work seven days a week;
- If their shift is under eight hours, a 30-minute break is not required every four hours; and
- The existing restrictions would not apply to students who are home-schooled or enrolled in virtual school.

These reduced regulations provide more flexibility for workers and employers and will serve to increase employment opportunities for workers who desire them.

**FRLA supported this legislation.**

## Employment Regulations

### **PASSED**

**SB 1492 by Senator Trumbull (R - Panama City)**

**HB 433 by Representative Esposito (R - Fort Myers)**

This legislation preempts to the state regulation of workplace heat exposure requirements. It further preempts to the state regulations regarding employee scheduling.

**FRLA supported this legislation.**

## VISIT FLORIDA

### **FUNDED**

#### **General Appropriations Bill**

The Senate and House agreed to fund VISIT FLORIDA in the amount of \$80 Million.

**FRLA supported the funding of VISIT FLORIDA from general revenue.**



# FRLA 2024 Legislative Report

## Tourist Development Tax

### **TAX PACKAGE PASSED WITHOUT CHANGES TO TDT**

**SB 7074 by Senate Finance and Tax Committee**

**HB 7073 by House Ways & Means Committee**

The House tax package included a provision to sunset all current Tourist Development Taxes as of July 1, 2029, unless the TDTs are re-adopted by referendum. Subsequently, all TDT levies approved by referendum would expire after six years but may be renewed for subsequent six-year periods if each six-year period is approved by referendum. The Senate tax package included a requirement for a supermajority vote to approve spending more than 25% of TDT revenues on a specific project or a special use related to a publicly owned and operated convention center. The sunset provision and the 25 percent limitation were ultimately removed from the bill.

**FRLA opposed expansion of the uses of TDT revenues and vigorously advocated in opposition to the sunset proposal.**

## Human Trafficking Prevention

### **PASSED**

**SB 796 by Senator Avila (R - Hialeah Gardens)**

**HB 7063 by House Judiciary Committee**

This legislation establishes a change to the Human Trafficking Prevention signs Florida hoteliers are required to hang in their businesses. These signs must now specify that calls to report suspected human trafficking should be directed to the Florida Hotline instead of the National Hotline.

**FRLA did not take a position on this legislation.**

## Cultivated Meat

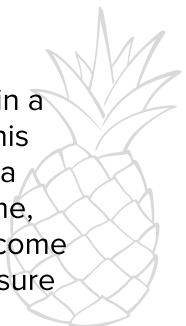
### **PASSED**

**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. These bills contain 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. While use of these products is not common or commercially viable at this time, we are concerned about the possibility of unintentional violations if this product were to ever become more widely available. FRLA successfully advocated for a change to the penalty provisions to ensure unintentional violations are not unfairly penalized.

**FRLA supported changes to the penalty provisions of the ban on cultivated meat to ensure unintentional violations do not incur criminal penalties.**



# FRLA 2024 Legislative Agenda

## Auxiliary Containers

### **DIED**

**SB 1126 by Senator Martin (R - Fort Myers)**

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

This legislation would update the preemption on local plastic bag regulations. The legislation defines “auxiliary container,” which serves to expand the materials and items that are covered by the preemption.

While this legislation did not pass, the preemption on local plastic bag regulations continues to be in effect.

**FRLA supported this legislation.**

## Acceptance of Cash Payments by Businesses

### **DIED**

**SB 106 by Senator Jones (D - Miami Gardens)**

**HB 35 by Representative Rudman (R - Navarre)**

This legislation would require all business to accept cash for goods or services. While we were supportive of efforts to narrow the scope of the bill and provide reasonable accommodations to various business models, ultimately the bill would have presented challenges and limitations to businesses who have chosen a cashless model.

**FRLA opposed this legislation.**