

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**FLORIDA
RESTAURANT &
LODGING
ASSOCIATION**

INDUSTRY VICTORIES



TORT REFORM

Efforts to roll back tort reforms instituted in 2023 (*SB 1558/HB 1553*) failed. Numerous bills that would establish new private rights of action and fuel increased litigation also failed.



IMMIGRATION AND E-VERIFY

Attempts to eliminate the E-verify exception for employers with less than 25 employees (*SB 1278/HB 197*) and significantly increase penalties for employers employing unauthorized persons (*SB 1380/HB 1307*) failed.



PENNIES

Legislation was adopted that enacts a uniform process for rounding in cash transactions as pennies rapidly disappear from commerce (*SB 1074/HB 951*). The legislation protects Florida businesses from lawsuits filed under the Florida Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act.



VISIT FLORIDA

Funding for Florida's marketing entity is in both the Senate and House proposed budgets in the amount of \$80 million.*



TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX

Efforts to divert TDT revenues to other uses or use TDT revenues to offset other revenue deductions were unsuccessful (as of March 13).



IN-STATE TOURISM MARKETING

Funding to market fantastic Florida events that increase in-state tourism is in the House proposed budget. We will be working toward inclusion in the Senate budget.*



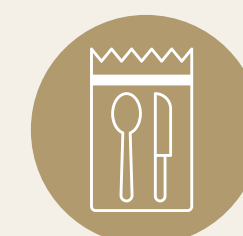
GIFT CERTIFICATES

Legislation that would significantly alter and potentially jeopardize loyalty programs and reward programs (*SB 826/HB 707*) died.



SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

While the effort to add marijuana smoke to the Florida Indoor Clean Air Act was unsuccessful (*SB 986/HB 389*), statutorily compliant patios and smoking areas are still protected.



AUXILIARY CONTAINERS

Legislation that would have resulted in a host of varying local regulations on bags, food wrappers, and food containers (*SB 240/HB 575*) died.



PERMITTING AND DEVELOPMENT

Legislation passed to reduce permitting fees when private providers are used. It also requires the adoption of a uniform commercial building permit application (*SB 1234/HB 803*).

*Budget to be finalized at a later date

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**FLORIDA
RESTAURANT &
LODGING
ASSOCIATION**

INDUSTRY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



HEMP BEVERAGES

Clear regulations regarding hemp and THC-infused beverages were not adopted this session (*SB 1678/HB 801; SB 1368/HB 1409*).



SPECIAL FOOD SERVICE LIQUOR LICENSE (SFS)

There will be no further reductions in the square footage and seating requirements of the SFS license this year (*SB 392/HB 87*).



COLLECTION AND REMITTANCE OF VACATION RENTAL TAXES

Pending passage of the tax package, vacation rentals and vacation rental platforms may be explicitly required to collect and remit state taxes.



ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU)

Legislation that would give single-family homeowners the right to build ADUs (e.g., a carriage house or granny flat) on their properties was unsuccessful. The House and Senate could not agree on a provision that would allow local governments to require that ADUs be rented for at least one month. This provision makes it more likely that these units would serve as long term rentals and help alleviate Florida's workforce housing challenges (*SB 1548/HB 1389*).



PROPERTY TAXES

The House proposed a ballot measure that would completely eliminate all non-school property taxes for homesteaded properties. The Senate and Governor's office have not released their own proposals. The Governor has signaled he intends to call a special session on this issue.

***Budget to be finalized at a later date**