

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING LIST
2010 Session

- **UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION - support legislation early in the upcoming session that will postpone the deadline for employers to pay Unemployment Compensation Tax, thus stabilizing costs and help businesses to plan for the financial demands the jobless claims.**

Unemployment Compensation **HB 7033/S 1666**

Amends portions of unemployment compensation (UC) statutes and suspends changes made in the 2009 Legislative session to the calculation of an employer's unemployment compensation tax.

H 7033 reduces the taxable wage base from \$8,500 to \$7,000 for two years. In 2012, the wage base returns to \$8,500, and then sunsets back to \$7,000 in 2015 unless there are outstanding loan balances owed to the federal government.

Suspends the positive adjustment tax rate factor for the next two years. Regardless of the balance in the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, no associated rate increase will be triggered since the positive adjustment factor will not be applied. The adjustment factor is effective again beginning January 1, 2012, with a three year recoupment period and then returns to a four year recoupment period under current law provisions, January 1, 2015.

Allows employers to *make their 2010 and 2011 UC tax payments in quarterly installments without interest or penalties.*

Provides for payment of interest on federal advances through an employer assessment.

Provides for an extension of the "State Extended Benefits" (EB) program, effective January 2 through February 27 i.e. 100 percent federally funded under recent changes made by Congress specifically for this EB extension. EB will cover up to 8 additional weeks for claimants. Approximately 15,000 Floridians would be eligible to receive additional weeks through EB.

En route to the House & Senate Floors....

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ TAX ABATEMENT - amend title XIV, Chapter 196.1995 (7) of the Florida Statutes to delete the phrase "another 10-year period" and add the phrase "additional 10-year periods".**

Economic Development - **S1752**

Increases the amount of tax refund payments available to pay the state's share of refunds under the qualified defense contractor & space flight business tax refund program & the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses.

Commercial Launch Zone Tax Incentives **S1188/H 0133**

authorizes certain commercial spaceflight businesses to take a credit against the corporate income tax for certain commercial spaceflight projects. Specifies eligible tax credits. Specifies criteria, requirements, & limitations for individual tax credits. Requires the OTTED to determine the eligibility of taxpayers, etc.

- **Referred to Commerce; Finance & Tax**

- **SALES TAX COLLECTIONS - support efforts to collect sales tax on internet and catalogue sales legally owed to the state. (Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement).**

Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement **HB 165/S 204**

This would allow Florida to collect sales tax on remote sales, meaning those occurring on the Internet, through catalogues and from television solicitations, when Congress authorizes the states to collect these taxes that are already owed on the sales transaction.

- **Now in Finance & Tax Council.....**

- **PARENTAL AUTHORITY - support legislation allowing a parent to sign a waiver of liability on behalf of a minor child to the same extent an adult can do so on their own behalf.**

Parental Authority - **CS/HB 285/S 1578**

Provides that motorsport liability release signed by minor is valid if release is also signed by minor's parent or guardian; authorizes natural guardians to waive & release, in advance, any claim or cause of action that would accrue to any of their minor children to same extent that any adult may do so on his or her own behalf; provides that such waiver & release shall not relieve party of liability for any acts of intentional misconduct committed against minor child; provides that such waiver & release shall not relieve party of liability for gross negligence against minor child; specifies circumstances under which employer, principal, corporation, or other legal entity may be liable for injuries sustained by minor child by conduct of employee or agent

- **Now in Criminal & Civil Justice Policy Council**

- **ELIMINATE HIGHEST & BEST USE standard whereby property appraisers assess a parcel based not on its current use but on possible future (with higher assessed rate) use.**

Working Waterfront Property **HB 73/S 2076**

constitutional amendment to protect working waterfronts expanded the amendment's scope and protect it from likely legal challenges from local cash-strapped local governments. It approved SB 7026 which implements Amendment 6 approved by voters in 2008 and provides property tax protections for marinas, public launches, marine manufacturers and commercial fishing operations.

They added waterfront facilities that provide transportation of goods and people, specifically providing tax protections for businesses in towing, storage and salvage services. But the issue will raise the ire of cities/counties, which rely on property taxes for much of their revenue. It's estimated to reduce local tax collections by \$46.9 million in FY 2010-11

- Now in Finance & Tax Council

- **COMPETITIVE INSURANCE MARKETS - allow qualifying companies to sell residential property insurance, free from many of the existing price controls for homeowners insurance.**

Citizens Property Insurance Corporation H 1081/S2104

Requires corporation to achieve actuarially sound rates by specified date; requires corporation to take specified actions to achieve actuarially sound rates; provides requirements for determination of actuarially sound rates; requires corporation to file plan of withdrawal by specified date if corporation does not achieve actuarially sound rates by specified deadline; establishes criteria for actuarially sound rates; prohibits OIR from having authority with respect to corporation's rates; authorizes policyholder to challenge premium in accordance with specified provisions of state law; prohibits challenge to corporation's rates; prohibits OIR from denying corporation's plan of withdrawal.

- **LOCAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS/FUNDING - uphold the Constitutional Authority of school boards to supervise and operate public schools. Provide funding that is stable, equitable and sufficient to meet the needs of a high quality education.**

Class Size Requirements for Public Schools SJR 2/S738

Proposes amendments to the State Constitution to revise class size requirements for public schools

- **OFFSHORE DRILLING - allow offshore energy exploration, with temporary drilling rigs no closer to shore than 3 nautical miles and permanent structures no closer than 6 nautical miles. There would be no drilling rigs or permanent structures off the Atlantic coast since Florida waters only extend 3 nautical miles in the Atlantic.**
- **AMTRAK SERVICE ON THE FLORIDA EAST COAST (FEC) CORRIDOR - support creating a dedicated funding source or sources for the State Regional Transportation Authorities.**
- **BED TAX - oppose any bills filed which would provide for expansion of the usage of Bed Tax collections. Monitor legal actions related to the**

collections of tax from online sellers of travel outside of Florida. (i.e. Travelocity, Expedia, Orbitz, etc.)

- **KIDCARE - CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM** - support legislation to further streamline and simplify the KidCare child health insurance program to assure uninsured eligible children enroll in the program and to improve retention rates for eligible children who lose coverage. Continue the state funding based on the projected enrollment growth to maximize available federal funding for Florida.
- **SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH INSURANCE** - support legislation to provide affordable health insurance for small businesses with 2-5 employees.
- **ERAU & BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNV** - continued funding of the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) program. FRAG funds a portion of tuition for Florida residents at Florida's private, not-for-profit colleges and universities who are enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate program.
- **DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE** - provide adequate state funding for current enrollment plus the 18 percent enrollment growth realized by the College in this current academic year.
- **MEDICAID** - support legislation and appropriations that assure continued access to comprehensive quality care for Medicaid beneficiaries, successful alternative cost effective patient centered primary care, and postponement of statewide expansion of the current state Medicaid pilot program.
- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH** - retain legislatively sponsored projects that have produced documented evidence of positive client outcomes and cost effectiveness in serving the most vulnerable substance abusers and mentally ill in Volusia and Flagler Counties.

VOLUSIA DAY RESERVATIONS FORM

Enclosed is a check for \$ ____ for ____ to attend Volusia Day in Tallahassee on March 24.

Name(s) _____

Company _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

I want to go on the bus departing from –

____ Daytona International Speedway at 6 am

____ Deland – Lowes on US 92 at 5:30 am

A continental breakfast will be served that morning; hot dogs for lunch and a deli-sandwich on the return trip. *We ask that anyone with special dietary needs to bring your own foods.*

Please make your reservations no later March 22. Cancellations may be made with 48 hours notice. All reservations are considered guaranteed and all no shows will be billed. You may substitute another person from your company if you are unable to attend.

Release of Liability/Disclaimer

Volusia Day – March 24, 2010 – Tallahassee, Florida

Please read, sign and return to the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 2475, Daytona Beach FL 32115 prior to March 24, 2010.

Passenger hereby agrees to assume all risks of loss, injury, or liability, arising out of the excursion that passenger is undertaking under this agreement. Passenger, on behalf of its heirs, and assigns, hereby releases the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce, and their officers, directors, agents, employees, successors, and assigns (the "released parties"), from any and all liability for damage to property or injury or death of any person. Passenger acknowledges that travel carries certain risks and that passenger is voluntarily undertaking this optional recreational and educational activity and that the released parties shall have no liability to passenger for property damage or personal injury unless due to the willful misconduct of the released parties.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

