

Major Bills Passed by FL Legislature in Regular Session 2022

Here are brief descriptions of the major bills that the Republican-controlled FL House and Senate passed during the 2022 regular legislative session (Mid-January through mid-March). Also included is whatever action Governor Ron DeSantis has taken on each legislative item. The bill names in parentheses behind the formal bill names were coined by those opposed to the bills.

Sadly, the laws are punitive and hateful and designed to pit one segment of society against another. The heavy hand of State government is the rule in the State of Florida these days.

HB 5, Fetal and Infant Mortality Reduction Bill (Ban on Abortion Bill)

- Prevents physicians from providing abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.
- Provides no exceptions for rape, incest, or human trafficking
- Allows very limited exceptions when a pregnant woman's life is in danger or when her fetus has fatal abnormalities.
- Two physicians must sign off on all medical exceptions, except in an emergency when the signature of only one physician is necessary.

Governor DeSantis signed the legislation into law on April 14. It becomes law on July 1.

HB 1557, The Parental Rights in Education Act (Don't Say Gay Bill)

- Bans teachers in grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade from talking with their students about any LGBTQ+ related issues.
- Allows teachers in higher grades to discuss these issues, but they can only do so in ways that are "age appropriate or developmentally appropriate". The bill doesn't define what age appropriate or developmentally appropriate means.
- Stifles the free flow of information between students and educators and forces LGBTQ+ kids back into the closet.

Governor DeSantis signed the bill on March 28. It becomes law on July 1.

HB 7, the Individual Freedom Act (Stop WOKE Awareness Act)

- Censors conversations about racism, discrimination, and injustice in schools and in corporate settings.
- Allows parents to sue a school board and/or school district for discrimination if their child feels "guilt" or "discomfort" because of a school lesson which deals with race issues, gender identity issues, or white privilege.
- Prevents schoolchildren from learning the truth about some of the most heinous acts of racism and discrimination in U.S. history.

Governor DeSantis signed the legislation on April 22. It becomes law on July 1.

HB 1467, K-12 Education Act (Ban Books Act)

- Requires school districts to list all library and instructional materials in an online database, which must go through a multi-step review process before adoption, including a mandatory public hearing and a “reasonable” opportunity for public comment.
- Leads to the banning of non-fiction and fiction books which the groups that yell loudest want banned, even though many have won national accolades.
- Leads to verbally and physically violent clashes, particularly between school boards and parents, and silences students, teachers, and administrators.

Governor DeSantis signed the bill on March 25. It becomes law on July 1.

SB 1808, Immigration Enforcement Act (Family Separation/Anti-Immigrant Act)

- Requires local governments to cooperate not only with federal immigration authorities but also with state authorities regarding the status of undocumented immigrants in their communities.
- Requires local jails to enter into written agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to turn over undocumented immigrants.
- Withholds state contracts and economic incentives from companies providing transportation services under the Biden administration’s resettlement plan to unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the United States.

Governor DeSantis has not yet taken action on SB 1808.

HB 741, Net Metering Act (Anti-Solar Freedom Act)

- Would crush the rooftop solar industry by lowering the utility savings for Floridians who have already installed solar panels, thereby reducing the incentive for others to purchase solar rooftops.
- Would destroy thousands of good-paying solar jobs and decimate the very businesses that are needed to provide current owners with technical assistance and maintenance of their investment.
- Introduced by Republican Senator Jennifer Bradley and written for her by Florida Power and Light which in return gave her a \$10,000 campaign contribution.

Governor DeSantis vetoed the bill because “it would contribute to the financial crunch our citizens are experiencing,” due to inflation and steep increases in the price of gas and groceries. The Governor did not rule out support for the legislation in the future.

SB 524, Elections Act (Anti-Voter Freedom Act)

- Adds new, unnecessary, and deliberate barriers to voting that are duplicative and a waste of taxpayers’ money, according to [All Voting is Local](#)
- Creates a first in the nation 15 person Office of Election Crimes & Security within the Department of State to investigate election law violations. The office lacks any safeguards to avoid politicization of election security.
- Requires supervisors of elections to conduct voter list maintenance every year instead of every two years

- Makes the penalty for possessing more than two ballots other than those of a family member a third-degree felony instead of a misdemeanor.
- Requires DMV to report non-citizens to the Department of State when they apply or renew their driver licenses.
- Bans any community from implementing rank-choice voting for local elections but does nothing to tackle dark money or sham candidates, the only source of known voting fraud in FL
- Raises the annual aggregate fine limit for violations by third-party voter registration organizations from \$1,000.00/year to \$50,000.00/year, which is certain to chill efforts, especially among smaller organizations, to register voters in our state.
- Adds additional identification requirements to return a vote-by-mail ballot. One misstep is grounds for ballot rejection.

Governor DeSantis signed this bill on April 25. It becomes law on July 1.

However, voting rights groups have filed a lawsuit, in federal court challenging the law just as they did with SB 90, another restrictive election law passed by the legislature and signed by Governor DeSantis in 2021, which is making its way through the courts.

SB 620, Local Government Act (The Mother of all Preemption Bills)

- Empowers business owners, whose companies are at least three years old, to sue cities and counties whenever they pass ordinances that cause the companies to lose 15% or more of their profits. Under this bill, large corporations will be able to use their high powered lawyers to intimidate or bankrupt local governments.

To date, Governor DeSantis has not taken any action on this legislation.

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