



## 2024 Legislative Agenda

### Lawsuits

#### **Defending Historic Tort Reform of 2023 Session (Support)**

There are no bills filed currently that threaten the landmark lawsuit abuse reform of 2023. The act is of such importance to the small business sector that NFIB identifies as our highest priority defending the 2023 lawsuit abuse reform act from any bills or amendments that may emerge attempting to undermine the act.

#### **Premises Liability Reform (Support)**

A bill has been filed that would allow juries to assign fault to “all parties” that may be at fault for a premises liability case. Under current law, these juries would be limited to assigning blame only to the “owner, lessor, operator, or manager of commercial or real property.”

#### **Litigation Financing Reform (Support)**

We are seeing a new trend in Florida and across the country whereby plaintiffs are being directly funded by Wall Street bankers and other lenders who give cash advances on possible future settlements in exchange for a percentage of any award or settlement reached. In practice, these contingency fee contracts drive up the cost of litigation and drag out cases as plaintiffs – and their financiers – hold out for the largest possible settlement or jury award. There is no provision in Florida statute requiring plaintiffs to notify the judge or the defendant that a wealthy third party is the beneficiary of a lawsuit. **NFIB supports requiring plaintiffs in lawsuits to disclose third-party financing contracts to defendants in lawsuits and supports prohibiting lawsuit lenders from directing cases on behalf of plaintiffs.**

### Workers' Compensation

#### **Reducing Costs for Employers (Support)**

Workshops and discussions are happening in the Florida capitol about ways to reduce the costs for small businesses in a variety of ways ranging from capping attorneys' fees to making fundamental changes to the system. **NFIB supports efforts to reduce costs to small business owners in the workers compensation system.**

### Taxes

#### **Increasing Sales Tax Collection Allowance (Support)**

Governor DeSantis recently announced that he supports doubling the sales tax collection allowance for businesses that collect and remit sales tax to the state in the course of their business. Current law allows a business owner to collect \$30/month; this legislation would make that \$60/month. **NFIB supports Governor DeSantis's provision to double the sales tax collection allowance for small businesses.**

#### **Reducing Business Protections During Sales Tax Audits (Oppose)**

Each year, there seems to be an effort to erode small business owners' rights during a sales tax audit. We expect to oppose any efforts this year to make life more difficult and more expensive for small business owners going through sales tax audits. **NFIB opposes reducing protections for small business owners going through sales tax audits.**

### **Eliminating the Business Rent Tax (Support)**

All small business owners who lease their business space pay a tax on the rent. Florida is the only state that charges this sales tax. NFIB successfully lobbied to reduce the rate to 2%. **NFIB supports eliminating the Business Rent Tax.**

## General Commerce

### **Raising Retail Theft Penalties (Support)**

The Florida Legislature will consider several bills this year that would increase the criminal penalties for organized retail theft organized through social media. There are news accounts from around the country where criminals are banding together via social media to steal from retail businesses.

### **Fair Repair for Agriculture Equipment (Support)**

The Florida legislature will consider a bill provides that the manufacturer of agriculture equipment shall provide any necessary codes or manuals to any person in the state if they already make those codes and manuals available to “authorized repair shops.” They can charge the same fees for those materials as they charge authorized repair shops. **NFIB supports this effort to allow individuals and independent repair shops to repair agriculture equipment.**

### **Creation of the Florida Department of Labor (Oppose)**

The Florida legislature will consider a bill that would create a new state agency charged with penalizing employers for newly created regulations dealing with employer/employee relations. **NFIB opposes the creation of a new Department of Labor.**

### **Prohibiting Use of Plastic Containers in Restaurants (Oppose)**

The legislature is considering a bill that would prohibit restaurants in coastal communities from using single-use plastic containers for to-go orders. **NFIB opposes regulations burdensome and costly regulations on businesses.**

### **Removing Restrictions on Wine Bottle Sizes (Support)**

The legislature is considering a bill that would remove arbitrary laws limiting the size of wine bottles in Florida. **NFIB opposes arbitrary regulations on businesses that do not serve a health/safety purpose.**

### **Prohibiting Employers from Considering Salary History in Hiring (Oppose)**

A provision in several bills filed this year would prohibit employers from verbally or in writing requesting or inquiring into an applicant’s salary history during the hiring process. **NFIB opposes regulations that seek to shield an applicant’s prior work history from a prospective employer.**