



# 2024 Florida Legislative Report

## *2024 Legislative Victories: Good Bills Passed*

### SUPPORT

#### 1. Porn Age Verification and Minors' Social Media Protection Act (Rep. Tramont/Rep. Sirois/Sen. Grall) [HB 3/SB 1792](#)

**Description:** This legislation seeks to protect minors from blatant pornographic and sexually explicit content online, by requiring comprehensive age verification for access to adult sex and pornographic websites and apps, with significant penalties for the corporations pushing this dangerous content on minors. The bill also protects Florida's children from addictive and harmful social media platforms by prohibiting those under the age of 14 from setting up their own personal accounts on select social media and requiring social media platforms to employ age verification methods. Additionally, 14- and 15-year-olds must have parental consent to set up social media accounts.

**Status:** After the original bill was passed as **HB 1** and subsequently vetoed by **Governor DeSantis** for concerns on parental rights and user privacy issues, the bill was revived as **HB 3** after **amendments and improvements were made by the Governor and House Speaker**, improvements FFPC fully supported. On Monday, both the Senate and the House passed **HB 3**, by votes of 30-5, and 109-4, respectively. The bill now heads back to the Governor for his final approval and signature!

#### 3. Surrendered Infants Protection Act (Rep. Canady/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 775/SB 790](#)

**Description:** This expands the window that allows for new mothers to give up their newborn babies and to surrender parental rights to enable the child to be adopted, as well as the list of individuals and locations that the babies can be left with.

**Status:** Both the House and Senate chambers passed the bill unanimously and the bill is on the Governor's desk!

**4. Pregnancy and Parenting Online Resources Act (Rep. Jacques/Sen. Grall) [HB 415/SB 436](#)**

**Description:** This bill mandates several state agencies create an online portal listing links to numerous public and private pregnancy and parenting resources for new parents, including mothers with unplanned pregnancy. Resources linked will include adoption services, maternal health services, social support and other pregnancy-related resources to help provide support for new parents including mothers in unplanned pregnancies.

**Status:** The bill passed the full House floor 83-33, while on Tuesday, the bill also passed the Senate, 27-12 and now heads to the Governor's desk!

**4. School Chaplain Act (Rep. McClain/Sen. Grall) [HB 931/SB 1044](#)**

**Description:** This provision authorizes school districts & charter schools to adopt policies to allow volunteer school chaplains and requires district school boards & charter school governing boards to assign specified duties and roles within the school district to those volunteer school chaplains.

**Status:** The House passed the bill previously 89-25, while on Thursday, the Senate also passed the bill, 28-12, on a party line vote. It now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature!

**4. Offenses Involving Children Act (Rep. Baker/Sen. Collins) [HB 305/SB 312](#)**

**Description:** This proposal closes a loophole in state law to ensure proper protections for minors from dangerous criminals, and that those criminals are properly charged and designated as sexual predators.

**Status:** The House version passed its final committee stop unanimously and is now scheduled for a final House floor vote next week! The Senate version also passed its first of three committees unanimously this week.

**5. Lewd or Lascivious Grooming Act (Rep. Yarkosky/Sen. Martin) [HB 1135/SB 1238](#)**

**Description:** This proposal states that a person who engages in the process of preparing or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity through overtly sexually themed communication with the child or in conduct with or observed by the child without permission from the child's parent or legal guardian commits lewd or lascivious grooming and will subject to criminal charges. This would

include the sexualization of minors in public schools through sexually explicit teaching and discussions in the schools by school personnel.

**Status:** The bill language was amended into **HB 1545**, the **Child Exploitation Offenses Act**, which, on Tuesday, passed the Senate unanimously, while on Thursday, it passed the House, 110-11, and is heading to the governor's desk!

#### **6. Anti-Human Trafficking Minimum Age for Adult Entertainment Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 1379/SB 1690](#)**

**Description:** This provision seeks to curb the sexual exploitation of young women by restricting adult entertainment strip clubs, entities that are often used to groom young women into sex trafficking, from hiring any employees under 21, cementing solid protections for potential victims of trafficking in Florida.

**Status:** On Tuesday, the bill language was amended into **HB 7063**, by Sens. Bryan Avila and Clay Yarborough, and passed 35-3. In the interim, there was a major push by GOP Rep. Michelle Salzman to remove the good amendment language on the House side, but thankfully many of our allies, including House sponsor Rep. Toby Overdorf were able to have the challenge withdrawn, and the bill was able to pass fully intact on the House side on Friday, 104-3.

#### **7. Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence Act (Rep. Plakon/Sen. Stewart) [HB 607/SB 764](#)**

**Description:** This bill establishes, that in cases where a victim is unwilling or scared to press charges, that minimum timeframes must be set for keeping that specified sexual offense evidence to be used in future cases when victims are willing to call out criminals. It also requires specified protocols for storing that sexual offense evidence for security and consistency.

**Status:** The legislation passed both the Senate unanimously, while it passed the House 112-1, and now heads to the Governor's desk!

#### **8. Educator Preparation Programs Act (Rep. Snyder/Sen. Ingoglia) [HB 1291/SB 1372](#)**

**Description:** This proposal establishes guidelines for educator and leader preparation programs in Florida, focusing on historical accuracy, critical thinking, and competency in program content. Among many provisions, it prohibits teacher and school leader preparation, institutes, and professional learning certification programs from distorting significant historical events or including curriculum that teaches identity politics, or is based on theories of systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege as inherent in U.S. institutions. This legislation focuses on the attempts by the left to target teacher training programs.

Status: Previously, the House version passed the full House floor, 81-31, while on Wednesday, the Senate passed the bill 28-12 vote and sent the bill to the Governor's desk to await his approval!

## *2024 Legislative Victories: Bad Bills Killed*

### OPPOSE

#### 1. End of Life Act (Rep. Campbell/Sen. Torres) [HB 561/SB 1642](#)

Description: This pair of bills seeks to legalize physician assisted suicide in the state of Florida.

Status: Neither bill moved this session.

#### 2. Pregnancy Care Center Targeting Act (Rep. Skidmore/Sen. Book) [HB 343/SB 256](#)

Description: This pair of bills seeks to target Florida's pregnancy care centers with additional regulations. This type of legislation has been used in other states to force prolife pregnancy resource centers out of operation, placing speech restrictions and other onerous examination regulations and restriction on them, based on false and slanderous allegations against prolife pregnancy centers.

Status: Neither bill moved this session.

#### 3. Pregnancy Care Center Targeting Act (Rep. Driskell/Sen. Berman) [HB 1457/SB 1450](#)

Description: This pair of bills seeks to legalize abortion up until the second trimester. In addition, it allows women seeking an abortion to sue for financial damages anyone that they perceive to be inhibiting their access to abortion.

Status: Neither bill moved this session.

#### 4. Gay and Transgender Panic Legal Defenses Act (Rep. Harris/Sen. Book) [HB 137/SB 156](#)

Description: This act would seek to add sexual orientation and gender identity as recognized categories in criminal defense law. The categories of sexual orientation and gender identity are subjective, undefinable, and legally fluid and have been

repeatedly rejected by the Florida legislature in other areas of law. This bill could also be precedent for future attempts to criminalize any opposition to the LGBT movement in the future.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

**5. Marriages Between Persons of the Same Sex Act (Rep. Basabe/Sen. Polsky) [HB 169/SB 160](#)**

**Description:** This provision aims to repeal the language in state statute recognizing marriage as between one man and one woman.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

## *2024 Legislative Priorities: Good Bills That Fell Short*

### SUPPORT

**1. The Unborn Child Parent's Survivor Act (Rep. Persons-Mulicka/Sen. Grall) [HB 651/SB 476](#)**

**Description:** This legislation adds an unborn's child's parents to the definition of survivor in wrongful death civil lawsuits, further humanizing the unborn baby in state statute.

**Status:** The Senate bill passed the first two committees but stalled after being tabled after Senate President Kathleen Passidomo came out in opposition to the bill. The House bill passed all committees but never received a final vote on the House floor due to the opposition of the Senate.

**2. Adoptive Parent Registry Act (Rep. Abbott/Sen. Harrell) [HB 327/SB 306](#)**

**Description:** This bill seeks to create a potential adoption registry of prospective parents who have been vetted properly and are awaiting adoption opportunities for newborn babies surrendered for adoption. The goal of the legislation is to create a streamlined process for the adoption process, in addition to reducing the cost of the adoption process.

**Status:** The House bill was never heard, while the Senate bill stalled after passing the first of two committees.

**3. Financial Support for Pregnant Survivors of Rape or Assault Act (Rep. J. Lopez/Sen. Stewart) [HB 717/SB 1268](#)**

**Description:** This proposal provides women who are pregnant as a result of rape or incest – who choose life for their babies – will be exempt from select college

tuition and education fees and will qualify for state grants to cover childcare while pursuing their education.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

#### 4. Workplace Biological Sex Freedom Act (Rep. Chamberlin/Sen. Martin) [HB 599/SB 1382](#)

**Description:** This bill protects employees & contractors from being penalized or punished for not participating in preferred pronoun designation on the basis of deeply held religious or biology-based beliefs. Additionally, nonprofit and corporations receiving government funding are prohibited from mandating LGBT diversity training to their employees, as a condition of employment.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session due to opposition from **Senate President Kathleen Passidomo**, effectively killing the bills.

#### 5. Single Sex Student Club Protection Act (Rep. Pittman/Sen. Brodeur) [HB 1027/SB 1728](#)

**Description:** This legislation protects college school clubs that are exclusively male or female from being punished or discriminated against by school administrations and ensures that their rights are respected and that they are treated equally as all other school clubs at their respective colleges and universities.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

#### 6. Defending Biological Sex in Healthcare Act (Rep. Bankson) [HB 1639](#)

**Description:** The bill requires that any healthcare insurance providers that cover gender-reassignment chemical and surgical procedures must also cover procedures to detransition back to one's biological sex. It also mandates that insurance providers must offer insurance plans that do not cover transgender chemical and surgical procedures and are forbidden from denying counseling and mental healthcare services meant to help individuals struggling with gender identity reaffirm and embrace their biological sex.

**Status:** The House bill passed the full House floor, 77-35, but **Senate President Kathleen Passidomo** refused to hear the bill on the Senate floor, effectively killing the bill.

#### 7. Prostitution and Human Trafficking Enforcement Act (Rep. Silvers/Sen. Grall) [HB 1385/SB 1590](#)

**Description:** This proposal strengthens anti-human trafficking laws by prohibiting adults from offering to commit, committing, or engaging in

prostitution and related acts; prohibiting the owning, establishing, maintaining, operating, using, letting, or renting of any building, or structure of any kind, with knowledge or reckless disregard that it will be used for the purpose of commercial sex; and prohibiting the receiving, or offering or agreeing to receive or allow a person to remain into a location for the purpose of commercial sexual activity. The house and senate versions do differ; we strongly support and prefer the Senate language.

**Status:** The House version did not move, while the Senate bill passed only one of three committees.

#### **8. Smartphone Protection for Minors Act (Rep. Salzman/Sen. Ingoglia) [HB 1129/SB 1196](#)**

**Description:** This act requires manufacturers of tablets or smartphones to manufacture such devices so that pornographic and sexually explicit content filters are installed on all devices, with encrypted passwords provided only to adult users. Penalties will be served against manufacturers who violate this provision and for any individual, other than the child's parent, who deactivates and removes the filter from the minor's phone.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

#### **9. Social Media Protection for Minors Act (Rep. Rayner/Sen. Book) [HB 207/SB 1430](#)**

**Description:** This legislation mandates that social media platforms post extensive disclaimers outlining the dangers of social media. In addition, it forbids Florida school districts from requiring students to have and use social media to participate in school educational activities.

**Status:** The Senate bill did not move this session, while the House bill passed all committees, but did not receive a final vote on the floor as **HB 1/HB 3** received the most focus on the social media debate in this year's session.

#### **10. Child Maintenance Restitution Act (Rep. Amesty/Sen. Burgess) [HB 79/SB 116](#)**

**Description:** This act authorizes courts to order defendants to pay child maintenance restitution to the surviving parent or guardian of minor under certain conditions where the defendant caused the death of a parent of the child. In addition to serving any other criminal penalties, this proposal provides justice and financial restitution to support children who have experienced the horrible loss of one or more parents because of the wrongful actions of others.

**Status:** The House version did not move, while the Senate bill stalled in the final of three committees.

**11. Child Protection Investigation Reform Act (Rep. Fabricio/Sen. Grall) [HB 1663/SB 1722](#)**

**Description:** This legislation prohibits the initiation of a child protective investigation or removal of a child from his or her residence solely based on a parent's religious beliefs or ideology. It also adds transparency and accountability for such investigations, so the accused parents know clearly what charges are being leveled against them.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

**12. Public Health Emergency Actions Act (Rep. Rudman/Sen. Yarborough) [HB 459/SB 402](#)**

**Description:** These ordinances seek to restrict the power of the executive branch to declare public health emergencies and add checks and balances by requiring the legislature to approve extended public health emergency declarations. The proposals aim to avoid the massive shutdowns on churches, businesses, and other establishments, and to protect individuals from being forced to violate their moral, religious, or health convictions regarding government treatment plans in a public health emergency.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

**13. Protection of Medical Freedom Act (Rep. Plakon/Sen. Gruters) [HB 1535/SB 680](#)**

**Description:** These bills prohibit (1) the Department of Health from requiring enrollment in the state's immunization registry or otherwise requiring persons to submit to immunization tracking; (2) business entities from requiring individuals to provide proof of vaccination to do business with them; (3) employers from demanding an employee's vaccination status as a condition of employment; and (4) the Department of Health from requiring, as a school-entry requirement, that children receive immunizations approved only for emergency use.

**Status:** Neither bill moved this session.

**14. Protection of Minors from Marijuana, Vaping, and Alcoholic Beverage Establishments Act (Rep. Amesty) [HB 1053](#)**

**Description:** This act mandates that new medical marijuana centers, retail vape shops, and alcoholic beverage bars must be located at certain minimum distances from religious or educational institutions.



**Status:** The bill has previously passed its first of three committees but died shortly after.

**15. Gaming Control Act (Rep. Salzman/Sen. Martin) [HB 189/SB 1046](#)**

**Description:** This proposal enhances penalties for violations related to illegal gaming and slot machine shops across the state by further defining terms related to slot machines, intensifying punishments for certain violations, and outlining notice requirements for violations. It also criminalizes trafficking in slot machines or related parts.

**Status:** On Wednesday, the Senate version passed the full Senate floor, 33-7, but unfortunately stalled in the House due to time running out.