



2022 Legislative Priorities

We believe **Tourism Development Taxes** (Bed Taxes) must be preserved for their original statutory purpose – to promote tourism and develop tourist-attracting facilities in the county where they are collected. These visitors also pay nearly a quarter of all sales tax collected in the state. Expansion of uses will dilute a destination’s ability to attract visitors to their county. We **OPPOSE** SB 1542 by Sen. Gainer/ HB 673 by Rep. Shoaf and **OPPOSE** SB 1898 by Sen. Farmer, Jr./ HB 6075 by Rep. Eskamani.

We support continued full funding for **VISIT FLORIDA**. VISIT FLORIDA continues to provide a strong ROI for Florida taxpayers as its 12,000 tourism industry partners create jobs and remains the foundation for Florida’s robust economy. Extending or eliminating the sunset provision currently in statute will permit for more strategic marketing planning and attract more top talent to work for VISIT FLORIDA. We **SUPPORT** SB 434 by Sen. Hooper/ HB 489 by Rep. Chaney.

We oppose any requirements in the proposed "**Florida Privacy Protection Act**" that would impose undue or costly burdens on, or allow for increased litigation, for Florida attractions.

We support the current **COVID-19 legal liability protections** for attractions and businesses in the tourism industry for COVID-19 related claims.

We support voter control of **gambling** and oppose any expansion of gambling, including sports betting.

We oppose any over-reaching regulations related to the **regulation of rides** within attractions and amusement parks and support the current ride safety regulations in Florida Statute.

FAA members include a variety of zoos, aquariums and marine mammal facilities that are dedicated to the welfare of the animals in their attractions and to the research, conservation, and protection of wildlife. These facilities inspire millions of visitors each year through their education programs to help protect the natural wonders of our planet. We support our members in this commitment and oppose any legislation that would restrict the responsible stewardship of **animals in human care**.

Florida is recognized around the world as a destination with **abundant water resources**. The state must act to protect and restore this precious resource to ensure the availability of potable water in our aquifers for drinking and in lakes, rivers, springs, swamps and beaches for recreational use. Blue-green algae bloom and red tide both create disruption of our tourism economy.

We support fully funding all of the grant programs for historic, natural and cultural resources including attraction and museum related appropriations. We also support the continued preservation of Florida’s **historic, natural and cultural artifacts and sites** to protect our heritage throughout the state.

Representing Florida’s Finest Family Attractions

(pre-COVID-19 #s) ✨ 123 million annual visitors ✨ \$14.6 billion total revenue
✨ \$3.6 billion total employee compensation ✨ 136,787 total jobs ✨ \$1.9 billion total taxes paid