

SPECIAL SESSION B

November 15-19, 2021

This packet contains links to bill language and analyses, vote counts, committee meeting and floor summaries that took place during Special Session B. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your lobbyist at The Southern Group.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--------|---|
| Page 1 | Overview and Resources |
| Page 2 | SB 2B/ HB 1B: COVID-19 Mandates |
| Page 4 | SB 4B/ HB 3B: Public Records/Employer COVID-19 Vaccination Policies |
| Page 5 | SB 6B/ HB 5B: Florida Occupational Safety and Health State Plan |
| Page 6 | SB 8B/ HB 7B: Vaccinations During Public Health Emergencies |
| Page 7 | Timeline |

RESOURCES

- Oct. 21- [Press Conference Video](#)
- Oct. 21- [Press Conference Summary](#)
- Oct. 21- [Governor's Press Release](#)
- Oct. 21- [Outline of Governor's Legislative Proposal](#)
- Oct. 21- [Joint Statement from Speaker Sprowls and President Simpson](#)
- Oct. 22- [Governor's Press Release: What They Are Saying](#)
- Oct. 29- [Governor's Press Release: Special Session Date Announcement](#)
- Nov. 8- [President Simpson and Speaker Sprowls Legislative Agenda](#)
- Nov. 17- [Joint Press Release from Speaker Sprowls and President Simpson: Florida Legislature Stands Up for Floridians, Rejects Unlawful Vaccine Mandates](#)
- Nov. 18- [Governor's Press Release: Governor Signs Legislation to Protect Florida Jobs](#)
- Nov. 18- [Governor DeSantis Signing of COVID-19 Mandates Legislation](#)

SB 2B/ HB 1B: COVID-19 MANDATES

Sponsored by Senator Danny Burgess and Representatives Erin Grall and Ralph Massullo, this piece of legislation provides a comprehensive approach to protecting individuals from mandated COVID-19 regulations. Private employers are prohibited from imposing COVID-19 vaccination mandates, unless specified exemptions are provided. \$5 million is appropriated to the Attorney General's Department of Legal Affairs to investigate any complaints filed by an employee alleging that an exemption has not been offered or has been improperly denied or applied, or by a terminated employee. The Department is required to notify an employer who has been found to be out of compliance and offer the employer an opportunity to cure the violation. If non-compliant, businesses can face fines of \$10,000 per violation for employers with fewer than 100 employees, or \$50,000 per violation for employers with 100 or more employees.

Within educational institutions, COVID-19 vaccine mandates on students or employees are also prohibited. Furthermore, public educational institutions are prohibited from mandating facial coverings or restricting activities for students. The bill also provides that employees of private, educational and governmental employers terminated in a manner inconsistent with the bill may be eligible for reemployment assistance.

The legislation passed the House and Senate's referred committees and respective floors as HB 1B by a large margin, with votes falling along party lines. HB 1B is now effective with Governor DeSantis signing it into law on November 18, 2021.

SB 2B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Judiciary

Vote Count: 7-4



Pre-Meeting Staff Analysis



Post-Meeting Staff Analysis



Committee Summary Report

HB 1B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Commerce

Vote Count: 18-6



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

continued on page 3

SB 2B/ HB 1B: COVID-19 MANDATES

11/16/21 Appropriations

Vote Count: 13-6



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/16/21 2nd Reading



Floor Summary Report

11/17/21 2nd & 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 24-14



Floor Summary Report

11/17/21 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 78-39



Floor Summary Report



HB 1B, Signed by Governor DeSantis

SB 4B/ HB 3B: PUBLIC RECORDS/EMPLOYER COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICIES

Summary: Sponsored by Senator Burgess and Representatives Grall and Massullo, these bills creates public records exemptions for an employee complaint against an employer until the investigation is completed or is no longer active, as well as for personal medical and religious information that may be contained in the files of closed investigations. Information contained in the files of a closed investigation that, if made public, could jeopardize the integrity of another active investigation is also protected by this public records exemption. The exemptions are now in place with Governor DeSantis signing HB 3B into law on November 18, 2021.

SB 4B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Judiciary

Vote Count: 7-4



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/16/21 Appropriations

Vote Count: 13-6



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/17/21 2nd & 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 26-10



Floor Summary Report

HB 3B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/16/21 Commerce

Vote Count: 13-6



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/16/21 2nd Reading



Floor Summary Report

11/17/21 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 85-31



Floor Summary Report



HB 3B, Signed by Governor DeSantis

SB 6B/ HB 5B: FLORIDA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STATE PLAN

Summary: Senator Travis Hutson and Representative Ardian Zika sponsored legislation that directs the Executive Office of the Governor to proceed with the development of a proposal that asserts state jurisdiction over occupational safety and health issues for both government and private employees. The legislation therefore takes an initial step in withdrawing from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and replacing it with a state program. The bill appropriates a nonrecurring sum of \$1 million to the Executive Office of the Governor to implement the bill. HB 5B was signed into law by Governor DeSantis on November 18, 2021.

SB 6B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Judiciary

Vote Count: 7-4



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/15/21 Appropriations

Vote Count: 12-7



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/17/21 2nd & 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 23-13



Floor Summary Report

HB 5B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Pandemics & Public Emergencies

Vote Count: 13-5



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/16/21 2nd Reading



Floor Summary Report

11/17/21 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 76-38



Floor Summary Report



HB 5B, Signed by Governor DeSantis

SB 8B/ HB 7B: VACCINATIONS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Summary: Senator Aaron Bean and Representative Alex Andrade sponsored this legislation to repeal the provisions of existing law that grant the State Health Officer the power to mandate vaccinations in the case of a public health emergency “by any means necessary”. The existing provisions related to the ability of the State Health Officer to forcefully examine, test, treat, and quarantine Floridians during the public health emergency remain in place. The State Health Officer role is filled by Florida’s Surgeon General, who is also the agency head of the Florida Department of Health. This language became effective immediately after Governor DeSantis signed it into law on November 18, 2021.

SB 8B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Judiciary

Vote Count: 7-4



Pre-Meeting Staff Analysis



Post-Meeting Staff Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/16/21 Appropriations

Vote Count: 13-6



Pre-Meeting Analysis



Post-Meeting Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/17/21 2nd & 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 23-13



Floor Summary Report

HB 7B



Bill Language (Originally Filed)

11/15/21 Health & Human Services

Vote Count: 13-7



Pre-Meeting Staff Analysis



Post-Meeting Staff Analysis



Committee Summary Report

11/16/21 2nd Reading



Floor Summary Report

11/17/21 3rd Reading

Vote Count: 82-34



Floor Summary Report



HB 7B, Signed by Governor DeSantis

SPECIAL SESSION B

Timeline

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 21, 2021

- Governor DeSantis announces he is calling the Florida Legislature into a Special Session to consider legislation designed to create protections for Floridians whose employers require the COVID-19 vaccination.. No specific date was announced.
- A joint statement was issued by Speaker Chris Sprowls and President Wilton Simpson in response to Governor DeSantis' call for a Special Session.

Friday, October 29, 2021

- Governor DeSantis announced the Special Session will begin on November 15, 2021, and go no later than November 19, 2021.

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 8, 2021

- Speaker Chris Sprowls and President Wilton Simpson announce their 'Keep Florida Free' legislative agenda. Eight bills in total, four in each chamber, will aim to address:
 - COVID-19 vaccine mandates
 - Public records exemption for certain information regarding an employee's religious beliefs
 - Proposal to withdraw from OSHA
 - Repeal provisions in existing law that allow the State Health Officer to force vaccinations on Floridians.

Monday, November 15, 2021

- Special Session convened.
- The Senate Committee on Judiciary passed SB 2B, SB 4B, SB 6B, and SB 8B without amendments.
- The House Commerce Committee passed HB 1B and HB 3B without amendments.
- The House Pandemics and Public Emergencies Committee passed HB 5B without amendments.
- The House Health and Human Services Committee passed HB 7B without amendments.

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

- The Senate Committee on Appropriations passed SB 2B, SB 4B, SB 6B, and SB 8B without amendments.
- The House heard HB 1B, HB 3B, HB 5B and HB 7B on the Floor for 2nd Reading. Questions were taken and the bill was rolled over to 3rd Reading.

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

- The House passed HB 1B, HB 3B, HB 5B and HB 7B and sent the bills in Messages to the Senate.
- The Senate heard SB 2B, SB 4B, SB 6B and SB 8B on the Floor. The Senate took up the identical House bills and passed the House version of the bills.
- HB 1B, HB 3B, HB 5B, and HB 7B were received by the Governor. He has until November 24, 2021 to act.

Thursday, November 18, 2021

- Governor DeSantis signs HB 1B, HB 3B, HB 5B, and HB 7B into law in Brandon, Florida.