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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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Joe Harding

Florida Representative, HD-022 (R)

freedomindex.us/3386/



2021-2022 FL Legislative Scorecard: 83%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Prohibiting COVID-19 Mandates: Prohibits governmental entities and educational institutions from imposing COVID-19 vaccination mandates for employees and requires private employers to exempt certain employees from vaccination. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1B · Passed 78–39 · 11/17/2021

2. Abortion Restrictions: Prohibits physicians from providing abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, except for when an abortion is preformed to save a pregnant woman's life or avert a serious risk of substantial and permanent "physical impairment of a major bodily function" of a pregnant woman. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB5 · Passed 78–39 · 02/17/2022

3. Parental Rights in Education: Reinforces the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and education of their children. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1557 · Passed 69–47 · 02/24/2022

4. Election Security: Creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Florida Department of State to conduct investigations of voting irregularities or violations of election law. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · S0524 · Passed 76–41 · 03/09/2022

5. Immigration Enforcement: Revises the definition of the term "sanctuary policy" to include activities that would prohibit a law enforcement agency from providing certain immigration information to a state entity. ✓

Constitutional: **Yes** · Cast: **Yes** · S1808 · Passed 77–42 · 03/09/2022

6. Budget: Provides the statutory authority necessary to implement and execute the \$112.1 billion budget passed by the Florida Legislature for FY 2022-23. 

Estimated Cost per household: **-\$14,130.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · H5003 · Passed 104–3 · 03/14/2022

Why do these votes matter?

1. Prohibiting COVID-19 Mandates

HB1B prohibits governmental entities and educational institutions from imposing COVID-19 vaccination mandates for employees and requires private employers to exempt certain employees from vaccination. It also prohibits mandating facial coverings or restricting certain activities for students.

Vaccine and facemask mandates should be opposed, as an individual's non-injurious activities, including personal health care decisions, are not the legitimate object of government, nor should be under federal, state, or local jurisdiction in the United States. To compel American citizens to receive medical treatment would be to violate their fundamental rights protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

2. Abortion Restrictions

HB5 prohibits physicians from providing abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, except for when an abortion is preformed to save a pregnant woman's life or avert a serious risk of substantial and permanent "physical impairment of a major bodily function" of a pregnant woman.

States should act to ban abortion and guarantee the right to life for all persons. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the 5th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

3. Parental Rights in Education

HB1557 reinforces the fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding the upbringing and education of their children. It also prohibits classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.

A student's upbringing, education, and health care--including their mental or emotional well-being--is the responsibility and fundamental right of parents, not the government. Parental rights, as with all other fundamental rights, are protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Election Security

SB524 creates the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Florida Department of State to conduct investigations of voting irregularities or violations of election law. It requires the Attorney General to be notified if initiative petition signatures are no longer valid, and that deceased registered voters to be identified. It also revises the frequency for which counties must conduct a voter registration list maintenance program.

States should exercise their authority, under Article 1, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, guaranteeing equal protection of the right of citizens of the United States to vote.

5. Immigration Enforcement

SB1808 revises the definition of the term "sanctuary policy" to include activities that would prohibit a law enforcement agency from providing certain immigration information to a state entity. It also requires each law enforcement agency operating a county detention facility to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement and would penalize government contractors that transport illegal immigrants into Florida.

State or local governments that pursue "sanctuary policy" undermine the U.S. Constitution's provision--in both Article 1, Section 8, and Article 2, Section 3--that the federal government shall have the power to establish uniform immigration law and ensure that such law be faithfully executed. The 10th Amendment reserves powers to the states that can be used to address the crisis of illegal immigration and provide for their own public safety.

6. Budget

HB5003 provides the statutory authority necessary to implement and execute the Florida's budget for FY 2022-23. The \$112.1 billion budget package passed by the Legislature (HB 5001: General Appropriations Act) is the largest in state history--a 10.4% increase from the previous year's \$101.5 billion budget.

The \$112.1 billion spending plan passed by the Legislature relies heavily on unconstitutional federal funds, with federal dollars comprising about 35% of the entire budget. It not only continues participation in the Florida Medicaid program, which has grown to more than 5 million recipients, but allocates \$3.4 billion of the state's remaining federal COVID-19 stimulus funds. States should oppose the use of federal taxpayer money for purposes not authorized under Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.