



LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2024



The 2024 Florida Legislative Session introduced a myriad of dangerous ideas posing far-reaching and devastating consequences for Florida's environment, citizens, and economy. Fortunately, thanks to the support of thousands of Sierra Club volunteers, members of the public, and our environmental partners around the state, we were able to stop some of the most egregious of these ideas from becoming law.



Unfortunately, there were others that still made it to Governor Ron DeSantis' desk. This includes **HB 1645, "Energy Resources,"** a bill that would prevent local governments from making decisions about where methane gas storage facilities are allowed in their communities. It would also cut the few programs the state has to address climate change, and increase costs to taxpayers and energy customers by encouraging local utilities and governments to prioritize fossil fuels over renewable energy. As the effects of climate change become ever more palpable, now is the time to be reducing – not expanding – our reliance on gas, but HB 1645 does the exact opposite.

The Legislature also passed **HB 433, "Employment Regulations,"** which would block cities and counties from enacting local heat safety standards for workers. Of the many threats climate change poses to Florida, extreme heat is one of the biggest, accounting for 120,000 workplace injuries and \$100 billion in lost productivity every year just in the U.S. alone. From 2019 to 2022, Florida saw a staggering 88% increase in heat-related deaths. The facts are clear: Preventing local efforts on climate change will cost Floridians their paychecks and their lives.

The 2024 Session also brought the passage of **HB 87, "Taking of Bears,"** a bill that would make it easier for people to kill Florida's black bears. Built upon the bold-faced lie that Florida faces an epidemic of 'crack bears' who are ingesting illicit drugs and destroying people's homes, HB 87 proposes a dangerous solution to an imaginary problem, and ignores simple, common sense steps endorsed by experts to reduce human-bear interactions. While the Legislature ignores real issues, Floridians' quality of life continues to worsen as the state becomes increasingly unaffordable and their personal and local freedoms are under attack.

If signed into law, the extreme legislation passed in 2024 will have detrimental repercussions on our democracy, environment, and economy for years to come. For that reason, we give the 2024 Florida Legislative Session a D+.



HEROES

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SENATE MINORITY LEADER LAUREN BOOK

This marks Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book's last legislative session and we're sad to see her leave. Senator Book has led her caucus to prioritize environmental issues and to serve Florida's families and economy by doing so. For her environmental performance this year and her skilled and steady leadership, we're proud to give Senator Book an A+.



SENATOR JASON PIZZO

Senator Pizzo has approached his work with a common sense that is rare in Tallahassee these days. On our priority bills this year, he voted with us 100% of the time, and has consistently shown up when Florida's environment needed him most. We look forward to Senator Pizzo's leadership over his caucus, and are pleased to give him an A+ this session.



REPRESENTATIVE ANNA ESKAMANI

Environmentalists across the state know that Rep. Eskamani is a strong and consistent champion for the environment. Floridians want more state action as climate change threatens their homes, finances, and well-being, and they need look no further than her ambitious plan to set renewable energy goals for Florida. It should be no surprise that for the 2024 Session, Rep. Eskamani gets an A+.



REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY CROSS

Representative Cross has been a strong environmental advocate for years. In 2024, she helped lead the charge to protect local freedom from government overreach on fertilizer ordinances and more. If the Legislature had more representatives like Rep. Cross, we'd have a better and brighter future for Florida's environment and economy. For that reason, we give her a well-deserved A+.





ZEROES

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

**PAUL
RENNER**

Grade:

F

Our state is in desperate need of new leadership and new ideas, but this year, the Florida State House was the source of a number of dangerous proposals threatening Florida's freedom, economy, and environment. The House's extreme policies, backed by Governor Ron DeSantis, have left Florida even more exposed to skyrocketing insurance rates, big government overreach into our communities and homes, and inaction on our environment. For his failures and those of his caucus, Speaker Renner gets a resounding F.

REPRESENTATIVE

**BOBBY
PAYNE**

Grade:

F

HB 1645 – the extreme bill that would slash the few programs that Florida has to address climate change and would force dirty, toxic gasses into our homes and communities – comes from none other than Rep. Bobby Payne. A classic example of the corrupt leadership that Florida has come to expect from Tallahassee, Rep. Payne is in the pocket of large, out of state oil and gas companies and utilities trying to raise your monthly rates. For his attacks on the finances and freedom of Floridians, Rep. Payne gets a clear F.