

2016 Legislative Priorities



ABC Florida

Public Private Partnership Reform (HB 95/97 - Rep. Steube/ SB 124/126 - Sen. Evers)

ABC of Florida passed its landmark “Public Private Partnership” legislation (now F.S. 287.05712) in 2013 with great support from the Legislature. The legislation called for the creation of a Statewide Task Force to review the law, compare it to other states, and to report back to the Legislature with any recommendations for change. HB 95/SB 124 would amend current PPP statute with the recommendations from the Task Force. HB 97/SB 126 addresses the need for a Public Records Exemption for the submission and receipt of unsolicited PPP proposals.

☛ **Legislative Result - Job Creation and Improved Regulatory Environment.**

Statute of Repose Reduction

The Statute of Repose is the vehicle under which claimants can bring action against contractors for latent defects on completed projects. And while it is clearly stated that this period is 10 years, it is unclear when the clock begins ticking, oftentimes leading to the ability to file a claim well past the 10 year mark.. It can become difficult for companies to secure the proper insurance coverage for periods beyond ten years. Identifying a specific moment in time when the clock starts ticking helps the consumer, the contractor, and the insurance provider.

☛ **Legislative Result—Improved Regulatory Environment.**

Apprenticeship/Workforce Development Reform

The commercial construction industry is currently facing its largest skilled worker shortage in recent history. As the largest single provider of apprenticeship training in the state, ABC of Florida is dedicated to identifying ways to attract more individuals into the industry and to keep them in Florida once they’ve developed their skill set. A more permanent and skilled workforce for construction helps to support one of the top three economic driving industries in Florida.

☛ **Legislative Result—Job Creation and Improved Regulatory Environment.**

Open Competition (HB 181 - Rep. Van Zant)

The process to bid public work projects in Florida is becoming increasingly difficult. In many cases, a contractor wishing to bid public work is faced not just with preferences but also mandates. Local public entities have become comfortable telling the private sector who to hire, where to hire, how to train, where to train and what they should pay, regardless of national, state or local trends. Whether referred to as responsible contractor ordinances, project labor agreements, or a community workforce agreement, these efforts all interfere with the ability of contractors to compete for work. If Florida is going to remain as competitive a marketplace for business as they currently are, we need to take steps to ensure an open, honest and competitive procurement process.

☛ **Legislative Result-Job Creation.**

Building Regulation Reform—Permits

The construction industry is one of the most highly regulated industries in existence. With a mix of Federal, State, Local and Municipal Regulations to deal with, jobs can very easily be weighed down by red tape. While we understand the need and purpose for many regulations, some are duplicative, outdated and confusing. Over the next five years, ABC will dedicate resources in Tallahassee through various legislative vehicles to amend and improve these regulations. This year, the focus will be on clarifying, improving and making more uniform, the instances when “Phase” permits can be issued by a Building Department.

☛ **Legislative Result—Improved Regulatory Environment.**

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