

The Delray Democrat

DeSantis Legislates His Vision of Florida: White, Native, and Christian¹

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Unsafe Public Safety

SB 214. Sales of Firearms and Ammunition. Forget Responsible Capitalism

Republicans hypocritically rail against any interference with businesses...except when it irks the NRA. As of July 1, 2023, Florida banks and other financial institutions can no longer refuse to do business with customers who are legal gun owners, manufacturers, or dealers. But remember how the GOP squawked over President Obama's 2013 "Operation Chokepoint" which asked financial institutions not to do business with gun and ammunition suppliers? Many companies have established their own codes of ethics, such as protecting the environment or promoting gun safety. For example, after the 2018 Parkland school shooting, [Bank of America](#) and [Citibank](#) announced they wouldn't do business with anyone who makes or sells "assault weapons" or "high-capacity" magazines. Sorry, guys.

HB 543. Concealed Carry Weapons. Just Lock and Load, Folks

No permit, no training, no background check? No problem! If you're over 21, just take your favorite concealed-carry weapon with you. The National Rifle Association was very [happy](#) with this Bill. A [public opinion poll](#) said 67% of Floridians were not. But hey....

A major study by the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#) found a "Significant Increase in Firearm Assaults in States that Relaxed Conceal Carry Permit Restrictions." It noted that states with permitless concealed carry rights *that failed to maintain the very safety precautions that DeSantis eliminated* such as background checks, or the states' discretion to deny a permit to people with histories of violence or mental instability, "had an average increase of 10.26 gun assaults per 100,000 population annually (a 21.6 percent increase) and an additional 1.44 per 100,000 of gun homicides (34.9 percent increase) per year compared to their forecasted trends. For states that did not require live-firearm training, the average rate of gun assaults increased to 8.28 per 100,000 people (18.3 percent increase)."

Immigration

SB 1718. Expelling Undocumented Workers. And the \$20 Tomato.

Although Florida needs undocumented workers for its construction, agriculture and other industries, many of them may be exiting the State, fearful of this very confusing law. Businesses with 25 or more employees who fail to use the E-Verify federal database to confirm legal residence

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), June 2023, page 1.

may be fined \$1,000 a day and have their licenses suspended, even though the E-Verify system hasn't been successful. Workers who use a false ID for employment will face felony charges.

The law is expansive. Landlords are subject to increased fines if they rent to the undocumented. Local sheriffs are required to take DNA samples after arrests and report to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Immigrants need IDs for almost everything, yet now their out-of-state drivers' licenses are invalid in Florida and local governments can't issue them ID cards. And the law designates another \$12 million for DeSantis to continue abusing asylum seekers by dumping them out of state, as he did in Martha's Vineyard and Sacramento.

[The Farm Worker Association of Florida, Inc.](#) warned: "Who will continue providing roofing work, cleaning services, food service in restaurants, landscaping, home and commercial construction, nursing care in our hospitals and nursing homes...who will harvest the crops we eat every day and that we depend upon for our sustenance?" [According to the Migration Policy Institute](#), there are roughly 772,000 "unauthorized" immigrants living in Florida who work in construction, food services and agriculture, most of whom work at jobs citizens don't want to do. Their labor is essential to Florida's economy. It is not yet known how many are leaving the state because of DeSantis' crackdown. If there are insufficient replacements, Florida consumers will be forced to buy more imported, higher-priced produce. How about a \$20 tomato?

**No More Corporate Activism...
But More Anti-Woke!**

HB 3/SB302. Banking Restrictions. Polluters, Yes. The Environment, not so much.

And of course, more anti-Woke! State and local retirement funds can no longer be invested in banks that, in turn, invest in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) policies. (While the seas rise dangerously around Florida's coasts.) In addition, banks can't refuse to do business with companies because of their political beliefs [guess which ones] or because of their *involvement in the firearms* or fossil fuel industries. "This bill could cost as much as \$361 million in higher interest rates for municipal bonds. It could severely affect millions of people invested in the state's \$180 million retirement fund for state [employees.](#)" **say the Florida Keys Democrats.**

And SB 214.

Last year, President Biden proposed adopting a new global merchants' code for gun and ammunition sellers. The idea was to help credit card companies flag suspicious transactions to prevent gun violence. However, Florida won't allow it. And DeSantis said this Bill protects Floridians from "*woke corporate monitoring.*" *Huh?*