

National Utility Contractors Association of Florida



NUCA OF FLORIDA
LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2017
March 20-21 ★ Tallahassee, FL

LEGISLATIVE DAYS BROCHURE

WORKERS COMPENSATION

SB 1582 by Bradley

PCB IBS 17-01 by H. Insurance & Banking

A top priority for NUCA of Florida, we support efforts to restore balance to the workers compensation system, provide benefits to injured workers so they may return to work swiftly and reverse the substantial rate increases resulting from the Castellanos decision. To this end, an attorneys' fee schedule should be reinstated, with employer liability for employee's attorney's fees capped. Attorney's fees in excess of the fee schedule should be borne by the employee, similar to other state workers' compensation systems, an employee's freedom to contract in the wake of the Miles decision, and common practice under which parties are generally responsible for their own attorney's fees.



NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS legislation that reduces workers compensation rates, reduces litigation and provides adequate benefits to injured workers so they may return to work swiftly.

UNDERGROUND FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION

SB 446 by *Passidomo*

HB 379 by *Leek*

Support amending Florida's "Underground Facility Damage Prevention & Safety Act" in order to meet new federal requirements by clarifying that an excavator who makes contact with an underground facility or pipe must immediately report the contact or damage by calling 911 if any natural and other gas or hazardous liquid regulated by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has escaped.



NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 446 and HB 379.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SB 1312 *by Perry*

HB 1021 *by Avila*/HB 2717 *by McClain*

NUCA of Florida members are facing workforce shortages in both the short-term and long-term. In response to the Construction Industry Workforce Taskforce established last Session, this year's goal is to fund the continuation of the taskforce and to implement the recommendations that provide education and training for a sustainable construction workforce. To this end, NUCA of Florida in conjunction with the FHBA and ABC has taken the lead to include workforce provisions in a building code bill by Sen. Perry and Rep. Avila. Additionally, a budget request for continuation of the taskforce of \$150K was submitted on our behalf by Rep. McClain.



***NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 1312, HB 1021
and HB 2717.***

OPEN COMPETITION

SB 534 by *Perry*

HB 599 by *Williamson*

A priority for NUCA of Florida, this legislation prohibits local governments from imposing restrictive provisions as part of public works contracts. The bills specify the state or any political subdivision that contracts for public works projects may not require that a contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier or carrier engaged in such project:

1. Pay employees a predetermined amount of wages or prescribe any wage rate;
2. Provide employees a specified type, amount, or rate of employee benefits;
3. Control, limit, or expand staffing; or
4. Recruit, train, or hire employees from a designated, restricted, or single source.



NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 534 and HB 599.

STATUTE OF REPOSE START TIME

SB 204 *by Passidomo*

HB 377 *by Leek*

SB 2014 and HB 377 clearly define what the trigger is for the statute of repose for construction projects. The bills specify completion of the contract for purposes of the statutes of limitations and repose is the latter of the date of completion of services contracted for or the date final payment for services becomes due. The change applies to causes of action that accrue on or after July 1, 2017.



NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 204 and HB 377.

CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS

SB 1164 by *Passidomo*

HB 1271 by *Trumbull*

Support legislation to tweak Chapter 558, F.S., relating to Notice and Right to Repair for construction defects. Specifically, the intent of the legislation is for all parties (homeowner, building owner, contractor, subcontractor, supplier and insurance carrier) to be fully aware of his or her remedies under the law by:

1. Requiring mandatory notice to and acknowledgment from the homeowner of the risk and benefits of accepting or rejecting repair offers and for the owner to sign the notice to contractor and rejection of offer to repair;
2. Require the claimant or his or her agent to attend the inspection to identify the location of the alleged construction defects;
3. Require the contractor to notify the subcontractors that a notice from the owner has been served; and,
4. Add mandatory, non-binding pre-suit mediation to the Chapter 558, F.S. process.



***NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 1164 and
HB 1271.***

POLLUTION SPILL LEGISLATION

SB 532 by Galvano

HB 1065 by Peters

NUCA of Florida supports legislation that requires swift notification of reportable spills and believe the focus for the regulated community should remain on clean-up of the incident and not shift to “process” when a spill occurs, as businesses do not have the necessary expertise and costly infrastructure to locate and alert local public officials, local governments, property owners, the general public and the local media within a 24-hour timeframe as initially required by the Dept. of Environmental Protection rule. We believe notification is the responsibility of the agency charged with “environmental protection.”

NUCA of Florida is Monitoring SB 532 and HB 1065.

ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT & DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

SB 874 by Young

HB 551 by Stone

NUCA of Florida supports efforts to create a for grant program from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to offset property owner costs to retrofit certain onsite sewage treatment & disposal systems, connect certain properties to central sewer systems, & for certain dredging & stormwater improvements.



NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 874 and HB 551.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WATER & WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

SB 678 *by Montford*

HB 629 *by Payne*

Support amending the State Revolving Fund Program for water pollution control, small community sewer construction, and drinking water to authorize DEP to disburse financial assistance under those statutory programs based solely upon invoiced costs, without a requirement that the recipients request advance payment pursuant to s. 216.181(16), F.S. The recipient must submit proof of payment of invoiced costs before or concurrent with the recipient's next disbursement request



NUCA of Florida SUPPORTS SB 678 and HB 629.



STATE BUDGET--INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The budget is just being developed by the House and Senate but as always, NUCA of Florida encourages the Legislature to continue to adequately fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs for water pollution control, small community sewer construction, and safe drinking water initiatives.

MEET THE NATIONAL UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA TEAM

Chapter Executive Directors

NUCA of North Florida Executive Director, Kathy Blackman

NUCA of Northwest Florida Executive Director, Trysha Scott

NUCA of Central Florida Executive Director, Karen DeWitt

Suncoast Utility Contractors Association Executive Director, Theresa Mannix

UCA of South Florida Executive Director, Johnna Venuti-Piggee

NUCA of Southwest Florida Executive Director, Rhonda Cason

State Officers

Tom Woodward, President

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Jordan Lee, Treasurer

Lauren Atwell, Immediate-Past President

George Spofford, General Counsel

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Clay Sorey, At-Large

Paul Knight, At-Large

Bill Lee, At-Large

Staff Contact Information

Kari Hebrank, NUCA of Florida Executive Vice President,

Partner, Wilson & Associates

Rob Wilson, President, Wilson & Associates

Jen Hatfield, V.P. of Regulatory Affairs, Wilson & Associates

Debbie Bergstrom, Executive Assistant, Wilson & Associates

