



Senator Wilton Simpson

January Update

Senate District 18

January 31, 2014

Good afternoon,

As the first month of the New Year comes to an end, committee weeks are in full swing in Tallahassee leading up to the 2014 Legislative Session. Last year we saw great successes in the passing of the Everglades Restoration Act, the Military Protection Act, and the Natural Gas Vehicle act to name a few, and I'm hard at work to make this upcoming session a winner for consumers, businesses, and the environment.

Among the many bills that I have filed so far this year are Senate Bill 776, which will reduce the filing fees for businesses, and Senate Bill 312, which will provide tax relief to Florida's farmers. To see the full list of bills that I have filed so far this year, please [visit my senate webpage](#) and click on "Bills Introduced" as seen below:



In addition to seeing more details about the bills that I have filed on my website, you can track them to see how they progress through committees, and sign up to get my media alerts in real time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your questions or concerns at: simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov.

Regards,
Wilton



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Simpson and Diaz File Business Filing Fee Reduction Legislation

Tallahassee, Fla. — Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) and Representative Jose Felix Diaz (R-Miami) have filed Business Filing Fee Reduction bills that standardize filing fees paid by over 1.6 million small business owners from year to year. Senate Bill 776 and House Bill 767 reduce the annual cost small business owners pay to the state each year.

“This legislation will reduce the cost of running a business in Florida,” said Senator Wilton Simpson. “It is time to put more money back into the pockets of the small business owners across the state. I look forward to working with the Governor and the Department of State on the \$33.3 million dollar tax cut to business filing fees this Legislative session.”



“This legislation will continue to promote Florida as the number one place to do business,” said Representative Jose Felix Diaz. “By cutting the corporate filing fees businesses can focus on hiring more workers, providing more jobs for Florida’s families. This is an issue that was originally brought to my attention by my own constituents and I am very glad that the Governor has made a priority of cutting \$33.3 million to corporate filing fees this Legislative session.”

Senate Bill 776 and House Bill 767 support the Governor’s \$33.3 million dollar tax cut to corporate filing fees as part of the “It’s Your Money Tax Cut Budget.” This legislation reduces over 50 different corporate filing fees paid annually by active businesses to the Florida Department of State’s Division of Corporations. The bills also lower the annual report fee paid by corporations for profit, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships. This change standardizes the annual report fee for certain business entity types. Additionally, the legislation addresses the penalties associated with late filings taking into account the number of months the annual report filing is delivered late.

Governor Rick Scott said, “My ‘It’s Your Money Tax Cut Budget’ takes another important step forward in cutting taxes and fees. Our budget reduces the business filing fee, which will let businesses keep more than \$33 million so they can hire more employees and expand their businesses. This initiative will make Florida more competitive as we work to create more jobs for families. I want to thank Senator Wilton Simpson and Representative Jose Felix Diaz for spearheading this initiative in the Legislature.”

"We would like to thank Senator Simpson and Rep. Diaz for filing this good pro-business legislation. This fee is one of the most regressive taxes on business, hitting small businesses the hardest. We look forward to working with them to get this to the Governor's desk," said Tim Nungesser, Legislative Director for NFIB of Florida.

Simpson Files Agriculture Tax Exemption Legislation

Tallahassee, Fla. — Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) has filed the Agricultural Tax Exemption bill (Senate Bill 312).

This legislation creates new tax exemptions for irrigation equipment, replacement parts for farm equipment and repairs to farm equipment. The cumbersome process that requires Florida's farmers to provide tax exemption paperwork for each of the many individual purchases they make each year is repealed. The bill creates a legal definition for "qualified agricultural producer" and these individuals will receive a single document that they can use to show their status when buying tax exempt items. Additionally, the legislation provides that participation in a water farming program will be considered non-income-producing if specified criteria are met. This will allow individuals who are helping water management districts with water storage to maintain their greenbelt exemptions.

"This legislation will give much-deserved tax relief to Florida's family farmers," said Senator Simpson. "Florida farmers make our state one of the nation's most important food producers, and reducing their tax burden will invigorate this crucial sector of the economy." "We are very thankful to Senator Simpson for sponsoring this bill. Cutting taxes will help agriculture remain a strong pillar of Florida's economy," said Adam Basford, Director of State Legislative Affairs for Florida's Farm Bureau Federation.

Senator Simpson Named Philanthropist of the Year

Tallahassee, Fla. — The Nature Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) has honored Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) as the 2013 Philanthropist of the Year.

"While my involvement in philanthropic work is not done to seek personal recognition, I am deeply grateful to the people in my district who nominated me," said Senator Simpson. "As a newly elected legislator, I work every day to find ways that laws and regulation can be streamlined so that we have a government that is effective at fixing problems. That process has reaffirmed to me that, while there is a role for government, it is no substitute for a community of neighbors who take the time to care for each other."

In their announcement, the AFP published the following:

"In 2011, Wilton Simpson and his wife Kathryn made an unprecedented \$250,000 gift to the Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Foundation that resulted in the naming of the Breast Health Center at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. The Simpson Breast Health Center opened in October 2012 and is providing the community with outstanding screening, diagnostics, treatment and education for maintaining and restoring breast health. This extraordinary gift shows the Simpson's level of commitment to the continuation of providing exceptional healthcare to East Pasco County and inspires others to embrace philanthropy in their own lives as a tangible way to make improvements in their communities."

2014 Committee Week Schedule

February 2014 - Week of the 3rd
February 2014 - Week of the 10th
February 2014 - Week of the 17th
Regular Session Convenes: March 4th



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