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## Preface

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## PREFACE

The sixty days each spring that bring Florida's senators and representatives to Tallahassee are a time of great hope and frustration for those legislators, staffers, pressmen, lobbyists, and ordinary citizens who gather in the Capitol to advance their causes. Unfortunately, after the dust settles each June, memories fade, leaving only the cold facts of legislation to control our lives. This inaugural edition of the *Review of Florida Legislation* presents Florida's citizens a resource which lends a sense of understanding to the chaos. The publication is an attempt to share some of the legislative triumphs and failings that help make Florida one of the most progressive states in the Union and to capture some of the sources of legislative history and intent that are often so elusive after sine die. Therefore, it is appropriate that we dedicate this first *Review of Florida Legislation* to the citizens of Florida.

In choosing articles for this edition, we wanted to focus not only upon the major legislation of the 1985 Regular Session but also on some of the less publicized bills and issues that may have succeeded or failed this year yet are likely to have significant consequences in the years ahead. The articles and comments contained in this issue are thus comprehensive, but not an exhaustive treatment of all the legislation considered during the 1985 session.

Each author has made a vigorous attempt to identify both the sources and location of those relevant but nontraditional materials explored in each article. These sources include earlier drafts of bills and staff analyses, copies of committee amendments, research notes, and reports relied upon by a bill's drafter, executive branch documents, notes of conversations, and transcripts of legislative debates. Unfortunately, these sources are often missing from the official legislative files forwarded to the Florida State Archives. To help remedy this problem, we have made special arrangements with the archives to permanently file these sources. It is our hope that this edition and these source files will expedite future research in these areas. Access to these materials is available from State Archives. (For additional information about this program, contact Susan Potts, Manuscript Curator at the State Archives, Florida Department of State, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, Florida, 904-487-2073.)

In preparing this edition, we have attempted to follow *A Uniform System of Citation* (13th Ed.) for the format of our citations. Unfortunately, many of the sources relied upon are referred to more

popularly in this state by a particular name. Consequently, we have developed a Florida-specific style manual that generally follows the *Uniform System* but which incorporates much of the relevant Florida nomenclature. If you have any difficulties interpreting any of the citations or would like a copy of our style manual, please let us know.

In each article, the citations to the session laws are to the official Laws of Florida prepared by the legislature's Statutory Revision Division. While this compilation will not be available until later this fall, John Obarski, the Acting Director of the Division, made available the camera-ready copy so that our citations could be to the official volumes. In gathering this information, we owe a special debt to Arnie Cooperman, Index Editor, and Virginia Strickland, administrative assistant, who greatly facilitated our access to these materials.

As is the case with any new project of this magnitude, the extraordinary assistance of many people was vital. Some acknowledgements are in order. First we thank the leadership, members, and staff of the Florida Legislature. In particular, President Johnston in the Senate and Speaker Thompson in the House set a tone of cooperation that made the work of our authors and editors more expeditious. We also extend special thanks to Fred Breeze, Speaker's Office; Patsy Palmer, President's Office; Jack C. Overstreet, House Governmental Operations Committee; Bunny Van Brunt, Legislative Information Division; and Mike Bowland, Roger Hess, and Gary Crew, Legislative Data Center, who answered questions, provided copies of materials, and otherwise helped our authors and editors complete their assignments more efficiently and effectively. Lastly, we thank our membership and office staff who went above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish the myriad of tasks which brought this project to fruition.