



Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 9, 2009

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Florida TaxWatch Applauds the Florida Senate for Unanimously Passing Bill Implementing Cost-Savings and Revenue Maximization Recommendations

TALLAHASSEE — Florida TaxWatch applauds the Florida Senate for unanimously passing Senate Bill 44A implementing some of the cost-savings and revenue-maximizing initiatives recommended by Florida TaxWatch. The bill, sponsored by Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means Chairman JD Alexander, will help the state address the current and future budget shortfall without negatively affecting services or raising taxes or fees, if it is passed by the House of Representatives.

Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, the nonpartisan, nonprofit research institute and government watchdog, explained the value of this bill to the people of Florida:

“The Florida TaxWatch recommendations implemented by this legislation will reduce the cost of government without adversely affecting the benefits provided to the governed. I thank Senator JD Alexander, Chairman of the Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means, Senate President Jeff Atwater, Senator Don Gaetz, Chairman of the Special Committee on Florida’s Economy, and Senator Mike Haridopolos, for their leadership in pursuing these recommendations, their hard work during the ongoing Special Session, and their dedicated service to the people of Florida. This legislation, which implements some of the 42 TaxWatch recommendations while directing a thorough examination of some others, will help the state eliminate waste and inefficiencies, cut administrative overhead, increase the collection of federal money, and improve the state’s cost-effectiveness for years to come. ”

The legislation relates to recommendations 1, 2, 5, 15, 19, and 21 of the ***Florida TaxWatch Budget Watch: Constructive Ideas to Help Florida Address the Budget Shortfall***, which was released yesterday during an event at the Capitol. These six recommendations are potentially worth more than \$1 billion in added value in the long-term if fully implemented. Other specific recommendations are reflected in the budget-balancing legislation.

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Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 30-year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens’ hard-earned tax dollars. Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida state and local government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.