



## Florida 2023 End of Special Legislative Session Report

The CAI Florida Legislative Alliance (CAI-FLA) actively advocated on behalf of the [approximately 9,674,000 Floridians living in 3,855,000 homes in more than 49,420 community associations across the Sunshine State](#) during the 2023 state legislative session and special session. CAI-FLA, which advocates on behalf of Florida community associations was instrumental in shaping these new laws, and in some cases, defeating unwanted legislation throughout the year. The Florida State Legislature held a Special Legislative Session from November 6, 2023 through November 9, 2023. As a reminder, the 2024 Regular Legislative Session begins on January 9, 2024. Below is a brief overview from the 2023 Florida State Legislature Special Session:

**HB 1C Disaster Relief-** The CAI Florida Legislative Alliance **supported** this bill and asked for increased funding. CAI-FLA also led the conversation to add condominium units and associations to the program, resulting in a committee from legislators to make this addition to statute during the 2024 regular legislative session. CAI-FLA drafted amending language and is working to have it incorporated in 2024.

This bill is a large package designed to appropriate funds for various disaster relief programs in Florida. The bill appropriates funds for the [My Safe Florida Home Program](#) and sets in statute a formula for the disbursement of program funds based on application deadlines. The bill also appropriates funds for the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program, to be administered by counties and municipal governments impacted by Hurricane Idalia. Hurricane Housing Recovery Program activities include:

- Site preparation, demolition, repair, and replacement of housing.
- Repair, replacement, and relocation assistance for manufactured homes.
- Acquisition of building materials for home repair and construction.
- Assistance to homeowners to pay insurance deductibles.
- Down payment assistance.
- Housing reentry assistance, such as security deposits, utility deposits, and temporary storage of household furnishings.

The bill also impacts homeowners who live on land designated for agricultural use by the State of Florida. It makes the purchase of fencing materials exempt from sales tax, beginning



retroactively on August 30, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The materials must be used to replace or repair fences located in Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hernando, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee, or Taylor Counties that were damaged as a direct result of Hurricane Idalia. It also appropriates funds for the repair of certain agricultural buildings via a new loan program. Loans must be secured by lien, subordinate only to the mortgage.

**Status: Successfully PASSED, signed by Governor DeSantis November 13, 2023. Effective immediately.**

**SB 2C Disaster Relief-** Much like its House counterpart, the CAI Florida Legislative Alliance **supported** this bill and asked for increased funding.

This was the Senate's disaster relief package which was eventually substituted by the Senate for HB 1C. The major difference in this bill was that, upon introduction, it did not contain language which stated the lien for the loan funding for agricultural building repair was subordinate to the mortgage. That language was later added in via an amendment before the Senate chose to substitute the bill for HB 1C.

**Status: Substituted for HB 1C.**

For more information on community association legislation in Florida, visit [www.caionline.org/Advocacy/LegalArena/Laws/Pages/FL.aspx](http://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/LegalArena/Laws/Pages/FL.aspx).

### Your Assistance is Needed

CAI relies on outside resources such as professional lobbying as a vital and integral part of the legislative process. The volunteers who advocate – including homeowner leaders, community managers, and business partners – greatly rely on contributions from management companies and business partners in addition to individuals to continue their important efforts in the legislature. CAI needs your financial support to bolster their advocacy activities in 2023 and beyond. We encourage donations from Florida community associations, business partners, and individuals. Please visit [www.caionline.org/lacdonate/](http://www.caionline.org/lacdonate/) and donate to CAI's Florida Legislative Action Committee to support our continued efforts.

We need YOUR voice! **Sign up today** to become a CAI Advocacy Ambassador and help shape legislation in your state!



## CAI Florida Contact Information

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