## **Legislative Issues**

**Three-Tier System.** There were no legislative threats to the three-tier system during the 2024 Legislative Session. While we have not heard of any pending issues heading to the 2025 Legislative Session, we will continue to monitor this and keep in close contact with House and Senate leadership.

**In-store Servicing of Spirits.** Legislation was introduced by Rep. Alex Rizo (R-Hialeah) and Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) to allow for the in-store servicing of low proof spirits. During negotiations with other stakeholders, <u>HB 709</u> and <u>SB 574</u> were amended to allow for servicing of all spirits. The bills passed and were signed by the Governor. As of July 1, 2024, the in-store servicing of all spirits, regardless of ABV, is allowed, however, you are still limited to where high proof spirits can be sold.

**Large Format Wine Container Sizes.** Rep. Chip LaMarca (R-Lighthouse Point) has filed <u>HB 583</u> to deregulate large format bottles and boxes. Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) filed <u>SB 1134</u>, the companion measure. The bill passed this session and became law in July.

Florida Brewer's Guild Issues. The FBG had Rep. Brad Yeager (R-New Port Richey) file HB 1107 which would have made several exceptions to the beverage law for craft brewers, including limited self-distribution. SB 1348 was the identical version filed by Sen. Nick DeCeglie (R-St. Petersburg). Neither bill was heard in committee after Rep. Yeager was informed that the FBG had falsely told him the bill was noncontroversial. We do expect the FBG to attempt to introduce the same language in 2025.

**Intoxicating Hemp.** Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Lakeland) and Rep. Tommy Gregory (R-Lakewood Ranch) introduced <u>SB 1698</u> and <u>HB 1613</u> to regulate intoxicating hemp products. The bill would have effectively banned Delta 8 and Delta 10 products and further restricted Delta 9 products. The Governor vetoed the bill, claiming it would be detrimental to small businesses, though he did ask the Legislature to revisit the issue with some specific regulatory items to consider when doing so. This will be a major issue in 2025 and we expect to be heavily involved in this issue.

## **Regulatory Issues**

**Blue Cloud of Florida.** This summer, Pepsi Blue Cloud and the Department of Business and Professional Regulation settled their administrative case, with Blue Cloud surrendering their licenses and paying a fee. This entire administrative issue was a direct result of the FBWA's complaint against Blue Cloud and was a major victory for the three-tier system.