

APRIL 2014**Volume XXIV, No. 4**

CORPORATIONS AND LLC'S: TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO FILE YOUR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

If your business is a Florida corporation (INC) or limited liability company (LLC), this is a reminder that the deadline to file your company's Annual Report is rapidly approaching. **All Florida business entities must file their Annual Report by May 1st with the State of Florida's Department of State at www.sunbiz.org.** The only exception is that corporations and LLC's that were initially formed in 2014 do not have to file an Annual Report until next year.

If you have already filed your Annual Report for 2014, you can disregard this reminder. Not sure and would like to double-check that you have filed it? Go to the Division of Corporations' website at www.sunbiz.org and click on "Search Our Records" and then "Inquire by Name." Enter your company's name, and a list will pop up. Find your company's name in the list and click on it. This will bring up all the information about your company that the state of Florida has on file. If you scroll down towards the bottom of the screen, you will see a section called "Annual Reports" which lists all the Annual Reports your company has filed with the State of Florida. If you see an Annual Report filed for 2014, you are all set. If you don't, you need to file your Annual Report by May 1st.

All business entities must file their Annual Report with the state by May 1st to maintain an "active status" with the State of Florida. The Annual Report requirement does not apply to sole proprietors or general partnerships.

If you do not file your Annual Report by May 1st, the state will charge you a \$400 late fee. The state cannot waive this late fee, so please make sure to file by May 1st.

Please do not confuse this Annual Report requirement with "Annual Minutes." Some private companies are sending mail to Florida businesses offering to prepare "Annual Minutes" for their corporation for \$125. Some businesses have been confused into thinking that they were satisfying their Annual Report requirement when instead they were sending \$125 to a private company for corporate minutes. These companies offering "Annual Minutes" do not file your Annual Report for you, so if you have paid money for minutes, please check to make sure your 2014 Annual Report has been filed with the state.

If you have any questions about your Annual Report, please call the FUBA offices at **800-262-4483** and ask for Karen, Lance or Erin.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2014 Session of the Florida Legislature began on March 4th and will run for 60 days. The Legislature is debating a number of bills that could impact Florida's business community if they become law. A few of these proposals are summarized below. We will provide a complete wrap-up of the Session in the May and June newsletters.

Employment Issues:

Senate Bill 456 and **House Bill 385** would increase the Florida minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour effective January 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 234 and **House Bill 505** would prevent employers from considering a job applicant's criminal record.

Unemployment Compensation:

Senate Bill 1056 and **House Bill 251** would allow an employee to leave their job and still qualify for unemployment benefits, if the reason they are leaving the job is because of a personal domestic violence situation.

Taxes:

Senate Bill 792 and **House Bill 1015** would set a back-to-school tax holiday August 1st through August 3rd. During this time, clothing and bags under \$75, school supplies under \$15, and personal computers under \$750 would be sold tax-free.

Restaurants:

Senate Bill 1080 and **House Bill 1303** would allow restaurant inspectors to assign grades based on the results of an inspection, and restaurants that do not receive a passing grade would have to post a notice showing their score.

Corporate Filing Fees:

Senate Bill 776 and **House Bill 767** would create a sliding scale for the \$400 late fee imposed by the state on corporations and LLC's that file their Annual Report after the due date of May 1st. The late fee would start at \$125 for Annual Reports filed in May and then increase each month. The full \$400 penalty would be charged on Annual Reports filed after July 31st.

CONTRACTORS: FREE FALL PREVENTION WEBINAR

The University of South Florida's SafetyFlorida Consultation Program is presenting a free webinar on fall prevention for contractors on Wednesday, April 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The webinar is intended to educate contractors on preventing falls, creating safety awareness through training, and increasing on-the-job safety for construction workers working off the ground.

The webinar will focus on the following topics:

- Update on the OSHA regulations on fall protection in the construction industry
- Fall protection hazards on construction sites
- Solutions and training to prevent accidents and fatalities
- Implementing injury prevention plans and safety management systems for fall protections

To register for the free webinar, go to <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/937809479>, or call the USF SafetyFlorida office at **800-273-1105**.

The USF SafetyFlorida Consultation Program is a free and confidential service, separate from OSHA enforcement, and does not issue penalties or citations. They can assist small businesses with establishing a safety program and other safety-related resources. For more information on the services they can provide to businesses, please visit their website at www.usfsafetyflorida.com.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

This newsletter, ISSUES, is published monthly by the Florida United Businesses Association (FUBA), to educate our members on topics that may affect their business. If you would like to receive it electronically by email each month, in addition to the hard copy you receive in the mail, please send us an email at FUBA@fuba.org with "newsletter" in the subject line and include your FUBA membership number (if you know it), your business name, and the contact person's name and email address. You can provide up to 3 email addresses to receive the newsletter. Also, if you have a suggestion for a topic that you would like to see covered in the newsletter, please let us know.