



We Urge You to Support SB 214 and HB 6019!

In addition to the Florida Archaeological Preservation Association (FAPA), the Florida Attractions Association (FAA) and the City of St. Augustine, there are numerous others interested in protecting and preserving Florida's historical resources, artifacts and archaeological sites. We are asking you to **VOTE YES on SB 214 and HB 6019** when it is heard in committee or on the floor. These bills repeal the Division of Historical Resources' authority to implement the "isolated finds" program active for over 10 years and abolished in 2005 by recommendation of the Florida Historical Commission. This bill also repeals other obsolete provisions relating to the abrogation of offensive and derogatory geographic place names.

BACKGROUND

The Florida Historical Resources Act (Chapter 267.14, F.S.) has long held that archaeological sites and artifacts located on state lands belong to the people of Florida and protects them from unauthorized disturbance or collection, limiting excavation solely to that which will add to our knowledge of Florida's past. Accordingly, state permits require rigorous archaeological methodology. Artifact excavation and collecting on private lands, with owner permission, is neither prohibited nor regulated by state law.

We believe that our archaeological resources belong to all of the people of Florida and that excavation of archaeological sites on state lands and sovereign submerged lands should be solely for the purpose of increasing our knowledge about Florida's past.

Additionally, Florida's historical and cultural resources and sites bring millions of tourists to Florida each year. Of the 106 million visitors to Florida in 2015, 35 million of them (nearly one-third) visited a cultural, historical or archaeological site. Those visitors spent an average of 5.4 nights and an average of \$152 per day for a total of \$820 over their entire visit. This population of tourists contributed to Florida's economy with nearly a **\$29 BILLION** economic impact.

We urge you to SUPPORT two good bills that have been filed for the 2017 Legislative Session, HB 6019 sponsored by Rep. Cyndi Stevenson and SB 214 sponsored by Senator Greg Steube.