



## International Warehouse Logistics Association

2800 River Road, Suite 260 • Des Plaines, IL 60018-6003

Phone 847.813.4699 • Fax 847.813.0115

[www.iwla.com](http://www.iwla.com)

**For Immediate Release**

**For more information, contact:**

David Sparkman, Director of Media and Industry Relations, 703-370-1717, [dsparkman@iwla.com](mailto:dsparkman@iwla.com)

### **Florida Adopts IWLA Proposal to Bring The UCC Into the High Tech Era**

June 1, 2010 (DES PLAINES, IL) – The International Warehouse Logistics Association won a significant victory in its campaign to get states to adopt changes to the Uniform Commercial Code when Florida became the latest state to do so.

The Florida state legislature passed legislation adopting the changes, which was signed into law by Governor Charlie Crist on May 27.

The UCC was established in 1952 and is one of a number of uniform acts that have been created to harmonize the law of sales and other commercial transactions in all 50 states. Article 7 of the code pertains to warehouse receipts, bills of lading and other documents of title. In 2003, IWLA began an effort to get the states to adopt a revised Article 7 that allows for many of these documents to be in electronic form.

As of January, IWLA and its members have succeeded in persuading 36 states to adopt the revision. Florida brings that number to 37. The association currently is working on having other states adopt the revision, and at present is pressing its efforts in Massachusetts and Ohio.

“Article 7 is lifeblood of warehouse industry, and widespread adoption of the revision allows more efficient operation in commerce across state lines,” said Joel D. Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer of IWLA. “What happened in Florida is a perfect example of our commercial warehouse members, working with the assistance of the IWLA staff, can accomplish politically for the benefit of the entire industry,”

In Florida the effort was led by IWLA member Thomas L. Grimes, chairman of the Grimes Companies, based in Jacksonville, who worked directly with the staff of state legislators.

“This law is addressing important concerns,” Mr. Grimes said. “The most important thing to the industry is that it brings Florida into the electronic age. The old law didn’t recognize any electronic documents. It allows us to have the legal status that it should have had all along, and it brings the law into accordance with contemporary practices for both customers and warehousemen.”

The new Florida law also deletes obsolete references to tariffs, classifications and regulations that no longer track modern commercial practices. In addition, it deals with permissible contractual limitations of liability; negotiation and transfer; lien of the carrier or warehousemen on the goods and right to enforce lien in a commercially reasonable manner; altered, lost and stolen instruments; and the effects on holders resulting from insolvency of the warehouse customer.

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*Since 1891, the International Warehouse Logistics Association has been defining the standards of excellence in warehousing and logistics outsourcing. Based in Des Plaines, IL, IWLA promotes the growth and success of third-party logistics companies by providing its more than 500 member companies with resources, information, education and professional programs designed to advance their businesses and provide greater value to their customers. For more information, visit [www.iwla.com](http://www.iwla.com).*