Dear Employer:

It is my pleasure to provide you with this tabulation of the voting conduct of each member of the Florida Legislature during the 2018 Regular Session. The Voting Records reports on the votes made by every legislator on bills that were advocated, promoted or opposed by Associated Industries of Florida (AIF). By reporting on the 3,338 votes cast by legislators on 45 bills, this publication embodies the most exhaustive and complete record of the Legislature's approach to the concerns of Florida's employers.

We go to great lengths to ensure that legislators are aware of AIF's positions on issues of great importance to the business community. Every year before the session begins, we produce AIF's Session Priorities, which explains why we support or oppose key issues. In addition, during the session we provide each legislator with a Daily Brief on the activities of that day, highlighting bills of interest to business and our positions on those issues. Our greatest asset, however, is our experienced and accomplished legislative team which has compiled a record of success second to none.

For 43 years AIF has published Voting Records, yet these records only tell part of the story. AIF also helps its member companies detect what bills and amendments are filed and by whom, and who is taking part in behind-the-scene efforts and debates on behalf of the business community. These intangible forms of support through non-voting actions are also of vital importance and merit recognition. AIF instituted the “Champions for Business” awards in 2003 to acknowledge lawmakers who provide leadership on key legislation. A “Champion for Business” is a legislator who takes risks for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state’s competitive climate and faces down the opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida’s citizens. The five legislators (see page 24) honored this year are the epitome of a “Champion for Business.”

Tom C. Feeney
President & Chief Executive Officer
It is safe to say that the 2018 Legislative Session was interesting, to say the least. In early January it was obvious that a large part of this year’s session would be dominated by hurricane clean-up and relief efforts and dealing with Florida’s escalating opioid epidemic. While those two issues were addressed, distractions caused by internal sexual harassment allegations during the first weeks of session ended with two senators resigning from office. The latter half of session was focused on the devastating school shooting in Parkland which led to some of the most robust debate in our state’s history on school safety, mental illness and gun control. Adding another twist was the fact that it was the last session before a state election where we will see a new Governor and members of the Florida Cabinet elected. Plus, the sheer number of sitting elected officials who were running for higher office was hard to overlook. A huge election cycle like this always bleeds down into session.

The result from all this activity slowed the legislative process, which meant fewer bills made it through to the end. Not since 2001 have we had such a low number of bills passed. Of the 3,192 bills filed by both chambers, only 200 bills passed. Of those, 193 have been approved, two have been vetoed by the Governor, and five have been filed with the Secretary of State. While this is a very low number, maybe that’s a good thing. Many Florida business owners and executives find that the best way for their companies to thrive is for the government to simply stay out of their way. For those, perhaps this was the best outcome.

One thing is certain — next session will be unlike any we have seen in the last eight years because there will be someone new, Republican or Democrat, sitting in the Governor’s mansion. That person will undoubtedly have a robust, first-year policy agenda to accomplish. Florida will also have two new presiding officers in the Florida Legislature, Senate President-Designate Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) and House Speaker-Designate Jose Oliva (R-Hialeah), who will also have their own legislative agendas. We are in for a very exciting session next year.

Associated Industries of Florida is committed to working with all elected officials. Our strong, pro-business agenda puts Florida’s job creators and their employees first in an effort to make Florida the best place to do business.

Brewster Bevis is Senior VP of State and Federal Affairs for Associated Industries of Florida and may be reached at bbevis@aif.com.
Knowing how individual legislators cast their votes is extremely important when evaluating their stance on the issues facing our members. However, it is also important to look at the other areas of the data to find clues on how different segments of the Florida Legislature are casting their votes. For instance, which party in which chamber tends to support business issues more than the other? How do the current voting records compare to those from past years? This section will break down different segments of the votes and provide some interesting snapshots of the Florida Legislature’s mood on business issues.
2018 Florida Legislature

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues

The Voting Records is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.

Visit AIF.com for more information on Voting Records and the 2018 Session.

### FLORIDA SENATE

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Notes: Includes votes after roll call as of March 27, 2018.

Total Senate Votes with AIF/Business = 78%
### By Rank

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**Total House Votes with AIF/Business = 91%**
2018 Florida Legislature

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues

The Voting Records is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.

Visit AIF.com for more information on Voting Records and the 2018 Session.

Notes: Includes votes after roll call as of March 27, 2018.

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Total Senate Votes with AIF/Business = 78%
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Total House Votes with AIF/Business = 91%
Historical Florida Legislature

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues

The AIF Historical Voting Records provides a cumulative tally of all the votes cast by legislators on AIF issues over their careers in the Florida Legislature.

Visit AIF.com for more information on Voting Records and the 2018 Session.

Notes: Includes votes after roll call as of March 27, 2018.
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For more, please visit [AIF.com](https://www.AIF.com)
Voting Records was compiled using committee, amendment, and floor votes cast. Unless otherwise noted, AIF took the position on the bills listed at the end of each write-up.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

HB 469 & SB 664 – Relating to Salvage of Pleasure Vessels by Rep. Shawn Harrison (R-Tampa) and Sen. Dana Young (R-Tampa)

This legislation would have created the “Florida Salvage of Pleasure Vessels Act” to provide certain consumer protections for salvage work performed on pleasure vessels. To ensure protections, such as price transparency, the salvor would be required to provide a verbal and written notice that the service is not covered by their towing contract, that federal law will apply and that the cost of the salvage could cost up to the value of the vessel.

HB 469 died in Senate messages.
SB 664 died on the Senate calendar.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that ensures price transparency and consumer protections.

HB 857 & SB 920 – Relating to Deferred Presentment Transactions by Rep. James Grant (R-Tampa) and Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)

The legislation authorizes deferred presentment installment transactions under Florida law. When a deferred presentment installment transaction, also known as a “pay day loan,” is utilized it must be paid off in full before another loan is taken out. The term of a deferred presentment installment transaction may not be less than 60 days or more than 90 days, and the time between installment payments must be at least 13 days, but not greater than one calendar month.

The maximum face amount of a check taken for a deferred presentment installment transaction may not exceed $1,000, exclusive of fees. The maximum fees that may be charged biweekly on a deferred presentment installment transaction are 8% of the outstanding transaction balance. The bill retains current law in s. 560.404(19), F.S., prohibiting a provider from entering into a deferred presentment transaction with any person who has an outstanding deferred presentment transaction or whose previous transaction has been terminated for less than 24 hours.

HB 857 was laid on the table and substituted by SB 920.
SB 920 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2018-026.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that creates a new framework that conforms with the federal guidelines while also retaining the choices Florida consumers need and deserve.

CONSUMER SERVICES

HB 971 – Relating to Interruption of Services by Rep. Randy Fine (R-Palm Bay)

This bill aimed to prohibit certain service providers, specifically trash pickup service providers and the telecommunication industry, from charging customers for services that have been interrupted or not timely provided. The bill would have required these service providers to pro-rate customers’ bills to reflect the dates the customer did not receive said services. On its last committee stop, the sponsor amended the bill to remove the telecommunication industry; therefore, AIF became neutral on the bill.

HB 971 died on the House calendar.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 697 & SB 324 – Relating to Impact Fees by Rep. Mike Miller (R-Orlando) and Sen. Dana Young (R-Tampa)

This legislation required that the collection of an impact fee be no earlier than the issuance of the building permit for the property that is subject to the fee and provides that the statutory provisions related to impact fees do not apply to water and sewer connection fees. An impact fee is a fee imposed by a local government on a new or proposed development project to pay for all or a portion of the costs of providing public services to that development. The local government must specifically earmark funds collected by the impact fees for use in acquiring, constructing, or improving capital facilities to benefit the new users. The bill prohibited the use of impact fee revenues to pay existing debt, unless certain conditions are met.

Over the course of session, AIF supported amendments to both the Senate and House bills relating to the sector planning process. This language was stripped out of the Senate version during its last committee stop. The same effort was made to the House version of the bill but failed. Additionally, the House version of the bill was amended to include a compromise between stakeholders that kept the 30-day time frame for local government to determine what might be deficient in the development plan and another 60 days to approve the development plan once the application for approval was received and adopted. AIF supported this amendment.

HB 697 died after passing the House floor and being referred to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

SB 324 died on the Senate calendar on second reading.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that ensures the same protections to sector plans against demanding payment or construction of facilities beyond those needed to service the development.

HB 961 & SB 1224 – Relating to Beverage Law by Rep. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota) and Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)

Currently, vendors must purchase beer or malt beverage branded glassware from distributors for use in their establishments. This legislation allows for retailers to accept malt or beer beverage branded glassware from a wholesaler at no cost. The bill stipulates that the amount of branded glassware a distributor may give to establishments is no more than 10 cases per calendar year.

SB 1224 was laid on the table and substituted by HB 961.

HB 961 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2018-135.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will reduce costs on Florida’s businesses by allowing distributors to provide vendors with glassware, at no cost, for use in their establishments.

SB 170 – Relating to Rural Economic Development Initiative by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Lake Placid)

Currently, Florida’s rural communities are experiencing additional challenges compared to their urban counterparts in many quality of life indicators. The state has an opportunity to improve the economic competitiveness of Florida’s rural communities by reforming the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI).

This legislation accomplished this by:

- Reducing the number of specified agencies and organizations that are required to designate REDI representatives.
- Clarifying which individuals from specified agencies...
and organizations must be designated as REDI representatives.

- Providing for the appointment of five additional members from the private sector – three appointed by the executive director of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), one appointed by the President of the Senate, and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Authorizing the creation of ad hoc committees and providing guidance for the organization of those committees.
- Modifying the definition and designation criteria for a rural area of opportunity (RAO).
- Updating the annual reporting requirements.
- Conforming changes to address cross-references in numerous sections of the Florida Statutes.

SB 170 died in the Senate Committee on Rules.

AIF SUPPORTED efforts to increase economic development in Florida’s rural areas by increasing job growth.

SB 990 – Relating to Rural Communities by Sen. Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee)

SB 990 created the Florida Rural Community Jobs and Business Resiliency Act, which required the state to allot $100 million worth of tax credits to approve rural growth funds. Rural growth funds are financial entities approved by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) that must invest in rural areas in Florida in an amount equal to the value of the tax credits received. The bill requires the DEO to accept applications for rural growth funds, defines relevant terms, and delineates the application requirements for qualification. This bill also allowed for the reinvestment of rural growth investments, outlines the necessary steps for a rural growth fund to withdraw from the program, and describes the parameters that would warrant revoking a rural growth fund’s tax credit certificate.

SB 990 died in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation which expands the economic development tools for Florida business, especially within rural communities and rural areas of opportunity, and creates a mechanism for private capital to be invested in small businesses.

EDUCATION

HB 323 & SB 88 – High School Graduation Requirements by Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen (R-Ft. Myers) and Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)

SB 88 was amended on the House floor to reflect the House version of the bill which makes the financial literacy course optional to students rather than a requirement to graduate. The Senate sponsor stated that the bill came back “unrecognizable” after amended by the House. AIF supported the Senate version of the bill throughout its committee hearings and the provision making financial literacy a mandatory requirement for students to graduate.

HB 323 was laid on the table and substituted by SB 88.

SB 88 was amended by the House to reflect the provisions above. The Senate refused to concur with SB 88; therefore, the bill died in returning messages to the House.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that provides students the tools to learn about relevant, real-life subjects that will prepare them for the workforce in the future.

ENERGY

SB 462 – Relating to Advanced Well Stimulation Treatment by Sen. Dana Young (R-Tampa)

This bill prohibited the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments on oil or gas wells in the state. The bill defined the term “advanced well stimulation...
treatment” to include all stages of well intervention performed by injecting fluids into a rock formation. SB 462 died the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

AIF OPPOSED the prohibition of advanced well stimulation treatments as removing the use of this process could cause a deficit when it comes to meeting the energy needs of the state and infringe on private property rights.

ENVIRONMENT

HB 7043 & SB 1402 – State Assumption of Federal Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permitting Authority by the House Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee, Rep. Holly Raschein (R-Key Largo) and Sen. David Simmons (R-Longwood)

This legislation gives authorization to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to assume implementation of the federal dredge and fill permits. SB 1402 was laid on the table and substituted by HB 7043. HB 7043 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2018-88.

AIF SUPPORTS the state assumption of the 404 Program which will help create a more efficient and predictable process for businesses to navigate the wetland permitting process in a timely manner.

HEALTH CARE

HB 1369 – Relating to Long-Term Care Facility Responsibility by Rep. Amber Mariano (R-North Port Richey)

This legislation addressed several provisions related to claims and lawsuits against nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These provisions include:

• Decreasing the amount of resources that are used to support the Quality of Long-Term Care Facility Improvement Fund (fund) by changing the amount awarded from punitive damages, (typically split equally between the fund and the claimant), to 10% of the amount awarded paid to the fund.
• Requiring nursing centers to carry a minimum of $2 million in liability insurance policies and a yearly aggregate limit of $4 million. If this requirement is not met, the state can revoke a nursing center’s license.

HB 1369 died in the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

AIF OPPOSED this legislation that promotes costly lawsuits and diminishes resources for nursing centers and assisted living facilities.

HB 21 & SB 8 – Relating to Controlled Substances by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) and Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto (R-Ft. Myers)

This legislation addresses opioid abuse by expanding the use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), increasing the regulation of prescribers and dispensers, and aligning state criminal statutes with federal law. The bill limits the prescription for a Schedule II opioid to alleviate acute pain to a three- or seven-day supply, if deemed medically necessary by the prescriber.

The bill also requires the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt rules that establish guidelines for prescribing controlled substances for acute pain, similar to those for chronic pain. Additionally, the bill requires a health care practitioner, authorized to prescribe controlled substances, to complete a board-approved two-hour continuing education course on safely and effectively prescribing controlled substances, and to review a patient’s PDMP history prior to prescribing or dispensing a controlled substance.
SB 8 was laid on the table and substituted by HB 21.
HB 21 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2018-013.

AIF SUPPORTS legislative efforts that aim to curb opioid abuse and addiction that is currently running rampant through the state, affecting Florida’s families and businesses.

HB 217 & SB 162 – Relating to Payment of Healthcare Claims by Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) and Sen. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota)
This bill prohibits health insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMO) from retroactively denying a claim if the eligibility of an insured or subscriber was verified at the time of treatment and provided an authorization number by the insurer or HMO, regardless of the fact that the insured had not paid their premiums prior to that claim, which would render them ineligible for coverage. The House version of the bill stipulated that the claim cannot be retroactively denied during the relevant grace period of the insured.

HB 217 died in the House Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 162 died in House messages.

AIF OPPOSED legislation that removed an insurers ability to retroactively deny claims, even for those that have not paid their premiums. This legislation would have raised costs for employers who would be required to pay health care expenses of people who are no longer employees. Additionally, consumers would bear the burden of paying the high cost of fraud, waste, and abuse that would occur in the healthcare system.

This legislation created a standard process for the approval or denial of (1) prior authorizations and (2) step therapy or “fail-first” protocol exceptions. Currently, many health insurance carriers in Florida employ robust policy product offerings containing medically-proven prior authorization and step therapy programs designed to reflect the protocols and standards of care. These tools were advanced and adopted by a vast array of specialty physicians and based on the latest evidence and research. These procedures and protocols allow for the use of the safest, most appropriate and cost-effective drug and permit progressing to other, more costly drugs with more sophisticated interactions and side-effects, in accordance with FDA approvals.

SB 98 died in House messages.

AIF PROPOSED this legislation as it would force insurers and consumers to purchase the most expensive drugs and treatments even when equally effective therapies are available at much lower costs.

SB 280 – Relating to Telehealth by Sen. Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville)
This legislation provided specific authorization for the provision of health care services through telehealth. Telehealth is the provision of health care services using telecommunication technologies which allows licensed practitioners in one location to diagnose and treat patients at a different location. The bill would have removed regulatory ambiguity regarding the provision of health care services using this technology because it is not currently addressed in Florida Statutes.

SB 280 died in House messages.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that permits an unfettered role for telehealth services that will allow our citizens access to better quality care at lower costs.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY


This bill would have implemented a “cloud-first” policy for the state, requiring each state agency to first consider cloud computing solutions when sourcing their technology. The bill also moved part of the financial management responsibility of the Agency for State Technology to the Department of Management Services and designates the Department of Environmental Protection as the state coordinating agency for Geographic Information Systems. Further, the bill increased the minimum qualification requirements for the State Chief Information Officer position which would be effective in 2019.

HB 5201 died after passing the House floor and being referred to the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability and the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that provided for the adoption and implementation of a formal cloud-first strategy, resulting in more efficient and effective IT solutions for Florida.

INSURANCE

HB 97 & SB 1454 – Relating to Florida Catastrophe Fund by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona) and Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg)

HB 97 would have revised the reimbursements the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe (CAT) Fund must make to insurers and decreases the cash build-up factor.

SB 1454 would have eliminated the cash build-up factor all together for the CAT Fund, depleting necessary reserves that protect Florida from devastating hurricanes.

HB 97 died in the House Commerce Committee.

SB 1454 died in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

AIF OPPOSED this legislation as it risks depleting the cash build-up of the fund, making it more likely that Floridians and business owners could see another “hurricane tax” in the future.

SB 1168 – Relating to Insurance by Sen. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota)

This bill provided that certain attorney fees and costs paid by property insurers may not be included in the property insurer’s rate base and may not be used to justify a rate increase or rate change. The bill also provided that personal lines of residential and commercial
residential property insurance policies may not restrict the assignment of post-loss benefits, and further provides that an agreement to assign post-loss benefits of a residential homeowner’s property insurance is not valid unless specified conditions are met, etc.

SB 1168 died in the Senate Committee on Rules.

AIF OPPOSED legislation that does not adequately protect consumers against the abuses of one-way attorney fees, which is the only way to truly fix the assignment of benefits problem.

SB 150 – Relating to Motor Vehicle Insurance by Sen. Tom Lee (R-Brandon)

This legislation moved to repeal the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law which requires every owner and registrant of a motor vehicle in this state to maintain $10,000 Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage. The bill would have enacted financial responsibility requirements for liability of damages that result from accidents arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle as follows:

- Beginning January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020, $20,000 for bodily injury or death of one person in any one crash, subject to that limit for one person, or $40,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more people in any one crash.
- Beginning January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, $25,000 for bodily injury or death of one person in any one crash, subject to that limit for one person, or $50,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more people in any one crash.
- Beginning January 1, 2023, and thereafter, $30,000 for bodily injury or death of one person in any one crash, subject to that limit for one person, or $60,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more people in any one crash.

The bill retained the $10,000 financial responsibility requirement for property damage and replaces the PIP coverage mandate with a medical payment coverage mandate of $5,000.

SB 150 died in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

AIF SUPPORTED all efforts to curtail assignment of benefit abuse in an effort to reduce unnecessary costs on policyholders.

LEGAL & JUDICIAL

HB 33 & SB 90 – Relating to Texting while Driving by Rep. Jackie Toledo (R-Tampa), Rep. Emily Slosberg (D-Delray Beach) and Sen. Keith Perry (R-Gainesville)

Currently, Florida law prohibits a person from texting, emailing, and instant messaging while driving; however, enforcement of this is a secondary offense, which means a law enforcement officer must detain a driver for another...
grounds that are similar to those in the bill, the Act requires nonrecognition if the foreign country’s court system is systematically unfair and fails to provide impartial tribunals and compatible due process of law. This bill adds two permissive grounds as to when a Florida court may decline to recognize a foreign judgment on more individualized due process grounds:

- There is substantial doubt about the integrity of the particular foreign court that rendered the judgment.
- The particular foreign court that rendered the judgment failed to afford due process in the proceedings.

SB 760 was laid on the table and substituted by HB 623. HB 623 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2018-037.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to clarify existing law and protect Florida businesses from foreign judgments that are not compatible with the requirements of due process of law.

HB 775 & SB 822 – Relating to Beverage Law by Rep. Mike LaRosa (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast)

Florida’s “Tied House Evil Law,” s. 561.42, F.S., prohibits a manufacturer or distributor of alcoholic beverages from having a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in the establishment or business of a licensed vendor, and prohibits a manufacturer or distributor from giving gifts, loans, property, or rebates to retail vendors.

The legislation would have allowed a written agreement between a manufacturer or importer of malt beverages and an alcoholic beverage vendor for brand naming rights, including the right to advertise cooperatively from the “tied house evil” prohibitions. The agreement must then be negotiated at arm’s length for no more than fair market value.

HB 775 died on the House calendar. SB 822 died on the Senate calendar.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that would have removed burdensome regulations on Florida’s businesses.


This bill would have increased the initial term for judges of compensation claims to six years, two more than under
current law and provided they “shall receive a salary equal to that of a county court judge.”

SB 1412 died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that increases the salary for judges of compensation claims to attract the talent that is needed to handle the growing number of claims files due to the court rulings on workers’ compensation.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

HB 691 – Relating to Self-Storage Facilities by Rep. George Moraitis (R-Fort Lauderdale)

The “Self-Storage Facility Act” (Act) regulates self-service storage facilities. HB 691 would have revised the regulations of this Act and allowed an advertisement for sale to be published continuously for 14 days on a public website that customarily conducts personal property auctions as an alternative to publishing an advertisement once a week for consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the self-service storage facility is located. When there is no newspaper of general circulation, the bill also removed the requirement for the owner to post the advertisement at least 10 days before the sale in at least three conspicuous places in the neighborhood where the self-service storage facility is located.

HB 691 died in the House Careers and Competition Subcommittee.

AIF OPPOSED this legislation as it removes the requirement that public notices be printed in local newspapers as defined by Chapter 50 of Florida Statutes.

REGULATION

HB 1033 & SB 1304 – Relating to Bicycle Sharing by Rep. Jackie Toledo (R-Tampa) and Sen. Dana Young (R-Tampa)

Bicycle sharing is a relatively new venture making its way across the country. Currently, the regulation of bicycle sharing companies is left up to local jurisdictions. This legislation would have created a regulatory framework to govern the operation of dock-less and docked bicycle sharing companies in the state. Additionally, it would have prohibited local governments from taking any action or adopting any law designed to limit or prevent any company engaged in the rental of bicycles from operating in its jurisdiction, as long as the company complies with the regulations that govern similarly situated businesses.

HB 1033 died after passing the House floor and being referred to the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance, Senate Committee on Community Affairs, and the Senate Committee on Rules for consideration.

SB 1304 died in the Senate Committee on Community Affairs.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that implements statewide policies that create price competition, promote consumer choice, enhance customer experience, create jobs, and remove anti-competitive local regulations.

SB 574 – Relating to Tree and Timber Trimming, Removal and Harvesting by Sen. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota)

As issues arose in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, this legislation offered the following provisions as it relates to trimming, removal, and harvesting of trees:

- If a utility company communicates in writing to a local government on the need to prune or remove vegetation and the local government does not allow necessary pruning or removal, then the local government is liable for any cost associated with infrastructure damage.
- A local government may not prohibit a water management district, 298 district or other districts responsible for the management of rights-of-way...
for purposes of flood protection with regard to removing, pruning or harvesting trees.
• Tree pruning, and removal ordinances do not apply at single-family residences during a declared emergency.

SB 574 died in the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation.

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that allowed Florida’s businesses to take the proper precautions to prevent further damage in the event of a disaster.

TAXATION

HJR 7001 & SJR 1742 – Relating to Supermajority Vote for State Taxes and Fees by Rep. Tom Leek (R-Daytona Beach) and Sen. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland)
HJR 7001 proposes an amendment to the State Constitution requiring any law that imposes a new tax, increases the rate or amount of a tax, or expands a tax base, that results in a net increase in state revenues, to be approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

The amendment proposed in the joint resolution will take effect on January 8, 2019, if approved by 60% of the voters during the 2018 General Election or earlier special election.

After passing the House floor, the Senate referred HJR 7001 to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax and the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Senate withdrew SJR 1742 from consideration and passed the House version, HJR 7001.

HJR 7001 has been filed with the Secretary of State to be added to the 2018 ballot.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation requiring two-thirds vote from each house of the Legislature to pass tax increases in the state. This action would make it more difficult to raise taxes and leave more money in the pockets of Florida’s families and businesses.

HB 7087 & SB 620 – Relating to Taxation by the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast) and Sen. Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples)

The bill provides for a wide range of tax reductions designed to directly impact both families and businesses. The total impact for the fiscal years of 2018 and 2019 is $168 million in reductions.

The bill contains several provisions related to sales tax that are important to AIF and its members. Specifically, it includes:
• A tax rate reduction on commercial rentals (business rent tax) from 5.8% to 5.7%.
• New, extended, or expanded sales tax exemptions for certain generators for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, as well as, certain purchases of agriculture-related fencing and building materials for the repair of storm damage from Hurricane Irma.
• A seven-day sales tax holiday for specified items related to disaster preparedness.

SB 620 was laid on the table and substituted by HB 7087.

HB 7087 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2018-118.

AIF SUPPORTS tax cuts for Florida’s families and businesses.
businesses that aid in relief after the events of a disastrous hurricane season. AIF SUPPORTS incremental reductions of the business rent tax to make Florida more attractive to business.

**SB 136 – Relating to Property Tax Exemption and Assessment/Manufacturing Equipment by Sen. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota)**

SB 136 would have authorized the Legislature to exempt certain manufacturing equipment from the tangible personal property tax or allow the equipment to be assessed at less than its just value. If the Legislature allows the manufacturing equipment to be assessed at less than its just value, its assessed value must be determined by an accelerated depreciation method specified by law. The tax benefits may apply only to equipment that is used by a business primarily engaged in manufacturing.

*SB 136 died in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.*

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that would have led to growing the manufacturing sector in the state.

**TRANSPORTATION**


This legislation would have authorized the use of vehicles in autonomous mode in the state. The autonomous technology would be considered the human operator of the motor vehicle and provided that various provisions of law regarding motor vehicles, such as rendering aid in the event of a crash, do not apply to vehicles in autonomous mode where a human operator is not physically present as long as the vehicle owner promptly contacts law enforcement. The legislation also addressed the applicability of laws regarding unattended motor vehicles and passenger restraint requirements as they relate to vehicles operating in autonomous mode where a human operator is not physically present in the vehicle.

*HB 353 died in the House Government Accountability Committee.*

*SB 712 died in the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance.*

AIF SUPPORTED legislation that modernizes state law to accommodate for self-driving technologies and opens the door for safe, reliable modes of autonomous vehicles in a competitive marketplace.
The **Champion for Business** award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

Throughout the 2018 Session, these were the leaders we turned to when the business community needed someone we could depend upon.

Votes provide tangible evidence of whether a legislator supports the ability of Florida companies to prosper and operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation. It is a valuable tool used by AIF and the business community to determine which legislators deserve our support. Yet voting records only tell part of the story.

A **Champion for Business** is a legislator who takes a stand for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state’s competitive climate and who faces down opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida’s citizens.

The **Champion for Business** is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has supported business and who hasn’t, we leave no stone unturned.

In our collective wisdom, these five legislators are the epitome of what a **Champion for Business** should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.
behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.

Senator Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)
Senator Rob Bradley is receiving his first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Bradley for his diligent work to pass glassware legislation during the 2018 Session. Allowing Florida businesses to accept beer branded glassware from a wholesaler at no cost will reduce the operating costs for businesses within our state.

Senator Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples)
Senator Kathleen Passidomo is receiving her first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Passidomo for her steadfast effort to introduce bad faith reform language to every iteration of automobile liability legislation during the 2018 Session. Senator Passidomo proved to be a fierce advocate for common sense in our tort system.

Senator Dana Young (R-Tampa)
Senator Dana Young is receiving her second AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Senator Young for her committed work in advocating for sector plan language during the 2018 Session. Her unwavering pursuit to ensure the rights of Florida landowners was exemplary.

Representative Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota)
Representative Joe Gruters is receiving his first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Gruters for his achievement in passing glassware legislation during the 2018 Session. Allowing Florida businesses to accept beer branded glassware from a wholesaler at no cost will reduce the operating costs for businesses within our state.

Representative Mike Miller (R-Orlando)
Representative Mike Miller is receiving his first AIF Champion for Business Award. Associated Industries of Florida applauds Representative Miller for his committed work in advocating for sector plan language during the 2018 Session. His dedication to ensure the rights of Florida landowners was exemplary.
Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) and our members are proud to recognize the members of the Florida Legislature who have achieved a 100% AIF voting record for the 2018 Session. This represents a commitment to sound policy that supports Florida’s employers and job creators. Not only does this score encompass votes to pass legislation beneficial to businesses, it includes votes to defeat policies that would have a detrimental impact on businesses and their employees.

We applaud these 33 legislators who have helped make Florida the best place to do business.
## 2018 Elections... What’s at Stake?

- Florida will have a new Governor, CFO, Ag Commissioner and Attorney General for the first time in 8 years!
- 20 seats in the Florida Senate are up for re-election as well as all 120 Florida House seats.
- Significant battles are playing out for a Florida U.S. Senate seat and all Florida U.S. House seats.

### Is Your Company Ready?

#### AIFPC Candidate Interviews

Current AIF Political Council members are receiving exclusive data and analyses on demographics, candidates, campaign finance and more. Members are preparing to attend four candidate interview sessions across the state to meet the candidates face-to-face and hear their views on the issues.

- **May 16–17** Miami (Marriott Miami Biscayne Bay)
- **June 6 –7** Orlando (Rosen Shingle Creek)
- **June 13–14** Tampa (AC Hotel Tampa Airport)
- **June 28–29** Tallahassee (AIF Headquarters)

It’s not too late for you to join the Political Council and be better informed and prepared for this one-of-a-kind election season.

If you have any questions about AIFPC membership and the interviews, please contact Ryan Tyson, AIF VP of Political Operations, at rtyson@aif.com or by phone at 850.224.7173.

### Online Voting Records — a one-of-a-kind tool

This unique software created by AIF provides you with a multitude of options when viewing voting records online. You can choose to see votes by year, legislator’s name, subject and party affiliation.

Have one particular legislator in mind? You can view their voting record by year or by subject matter, and then go even further and see the exact votes that led to the percentage they received. Full transparency … from a legislator’s vote percentage to the very bills and votes that were used that session.

How robust is this program? It includes over 200,000 votes, more than 2,000 bills, and over 800 legislators over the span of 40 plus years — a one-of-a-kind tool available at [AIF.com/VotingRecords](http://AIF.com/VotingRecords).
Past AIF Champions for Business Winners

2017 Champions for Business
Governor Rick Scott – Economic Incentive Programs
Sen. Kelli Stargel – Tax Cuts
Rep. Danny Burgess – Workers’ Compensation

Sen. Alan Hays – Workers Compensation
Sen. Chris Smith – Environmental Regulation
Sen. Bill Galvano – Manufacturing Development
Rep. Jim Boyd – Manufacturing Development
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – Insurance Tax Credit
Rep. Matt Gaetz – Legal Reform
Rep. Matt Hudson – Workers Compensation
Rep. Larry Metz – Expert Testimony
Rep. Jake Raburn – Environmental Regulation
Sen. Dorothy Hukill – AIF Manufacturing, Aerospace and Defense Council Champion for Business Award
Sen. Wilton Simpson – AIF Environmental & Agricultural Sustainability Council Champion for Business Award
Rep. Matt Caldwell – AIF Environmental & Agricultural Sustainability Council Champion for Business Award
Rep. Kevin Rader – AIF Financial Services Council Champion for Business Award
Rep. Bill Hager – AIF Financial Services Council Champion for Business Award

2016 Champions for Business
Sen. Jack Latvala – Economic Development
Sen. Dorothy Hukill – Tax Cuts
Sen. Charlie Dean – Water Policy
Sen. Aaron Bean – Tort
Sen. Garrett Richter – Oil & Gas Regulation
Rep. Matt Gaetz – Tax Cuts
Rep. Matt Caldwell – Water Policy
Rep. Frank Artiles – Information Technology
Rep. Ray Rodrigues – Oil & Gas Regulation

2015 Champions for Business
Gov. Rick Scott – Tax Cuts
Senate President Andy Gardiner – Health Care
Sen. Garrett Richter – Oil & Gas Regulation
Sen. Dorothy Hukill – Tax Cuts
Sen. Aaron Bean – Health Care
Speaker Steve Crisafulli – Water Policy
Rep. Ray Rodrigues – Oil & Gas Regulation
Rep. Matt Caldwell – Water Policy
Rep. Matt Gaetz – Tax Cuts

2014 Champions for Business
Gov. Rick Scott – Motor Vehicle Rollback
Speaker Will Weatherford – In-State Tuition
Sen. Joe Negron – Motor Vehicle Rollback
Sen. Jack Latvala – In-State Tuition
Sen. Jeremy Ring – IT Governance
Sen. Bill Montford – GMO “Protecting Florida Agriculture”
Rep. Seth McKeel – IT Governance
Rep. Jeanette Nunez – In-State Tuition
Rep. Richard Corcoran – STEP
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – STEP

2013 Champions for Business
Gov. Rick Scott – Tax Reform
Sen. Joe Negron – Health Care
Sen. John Legg – Education

Rep. Frank Artiles – Development and Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Bill Hager – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Joe Negron – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2011 Champions for Business
Rep. Doug Holder – Unemployment Compensation
Rep. Dorothy Hukill – Insurance Reform
Rep. Marlene O’Toole – Tort Reform
Rep. Jimmy Patronis – Environmental Permitting
Rep. Will Weatherford – Tort Reform
Rep. Trudi Williams – Water Policy
Rep. Dana Young – Port Security
Sen. JD Alexander – Immigration Reform
Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff – Judgment of Interest
Sen. Anitere Flores – Immigration Reform
Sen. Jack Latvala – Port Security
Sen. Joe Negron – Medicaid Reform
Sen. Garrett Richter – Tort Reform
Sen. Jeremy Ring – Single Sales Factor
Sen. David Simmons – Class Size
Rep. Ken Roberson – Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Brad Drake – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Gary Aubuchon – Florida Development and Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Mike Bennett – Florida Development and Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2010 Champions for Business
Speaker Larry Cretul – Unemployment Compensation
Rep. Dean Cannon – Medicaid Reform
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – Economic Development/Aerospace
Rep. Brad Drake – Commercial Insurance
Rep. Adam Hasner – Unemployment Compensation
Rep. Alan Hays – Workers’ Compensation
Rep. Mike Horner – Parental Waivers
Rep. Ralph Poppell – Dynamic Scoring
Senate President Jeff Atwater – Tort Reform
Sen. Rudy Garcia – Unemployment Compensation
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – Economic Development
Sen. Garrett Richter – Property Insurance
Sen. John Thrasher – Education Reform
Sen. Thad Altman – Aerospace Industry Relief
Sen. Durell Peaden – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Bill Proctor – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Jeremy Ring – Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Lake Ray – Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Nancy Detert – Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Marlene O’Toole – Information Technology Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Dorothy Hukill – Florida Development & Infrastructure Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Lee Constantine – Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Trudi Williams – Environmental Sustainability Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2009 Champions for Business
Rep. Anitere Flores – Workers’ Compensation
Rep. Adam Hasner – Elections
Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera – Property Taxes
Rep. Jimmy Patronis – Medicaid Reform
Sen. Garrett Richter – Workers’ Compensation
Sen. Mike Fasano – Economic Development
Sen. Chris Smith – Public Notices
Sen. Don Gaetz – Low Income Pool (LIP) Transparency
Sen. Mike Bennett – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Pat Patterson – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Dave Aronberg – Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Seth McKeel – Florida Energy Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Erik Fresen – Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2008 Champions for Business
Rep. Thad Altman – Space Legislation
Rep. Anitere Flores – Education & Workforce Development
Rep. Peter Nehr – Property Tax Reform
Rep. Ray Sansom – Economic Development
Sen. Mike Bennett – Administrative Procedures Act
Sen. Mike Fasano – Transportation
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – Taxes
Sen. Bill Posey – Space Legislation
Sen. Jeremy Ring – Economic Development
Rep. Dennis Ross – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Al Lawson – Financial Services Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink – Financial Services Council Champion for Business
Rep. Kevin Ambler – Florida Maritime Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2007 Champions for Business
Rep. Trey Traviesa – Telecommunications
Rep. Charlie Dean – Tort Reform
Rep. Alan Hays – Property Insurance
Rep. Aaron Bean – Government Outsourcing Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Will Weatherford – Information Technology Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Sen. Al Lawson – Information Technology Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2006 Champions for Business
Governor Jeb Bush – Support of Business Agenda
Speaker Allan Bense – Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several
Senate President Tom Lee – Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several
Rep. Marty Bowen – Agriculture
Rep. Seth McKeel – Florida Energy Council “Legislator of the Year” Award
Rep. Erik Fresen – Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council “Legislator of the Year” Award

2005 Champions for Business
Governor Jeb Bush – Tort Reform
Speaker Allan Bense – Tort Reform
Rep. Frank Attkisson – Private Sector Protection
Rep. Holly Benson – Medicaid Reform Legislation
Rep. Don Brown – Tort Reform
Rep. Fred Brummer – Repeal of Intangible Tax
Rep. Rene Garcia – Medicaid Reform Legislation
Rep. Joe Pickens – Asbestos and Silica Reform Act
Rep. Dennis Ross – Property Insurance Reform
Rep. Dwight Stansel – Tort Reform
Rep. John Stargel – Tax Reform
Sen. Jeff Atwater – Tax Reform
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – Tax Reform

2004 Champions for Business
Rep. Allan Bense – Support of Business Agenda
Rep. Kim Berfield – Workers’ Compensation Reform
Rep. Mike Davis – Growth Management
Rep. Bruce Kyle – Court Funding
Rep. Joe Negron – Court Funding
Rep. John Stargel – Tax Reform
Sen. JD Alexander – Workers’ Compensation Reform
Sen. Mike Bennett – Growth Management
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – Tax Reform
Sen. Rod Smith – Court Funding

2003 Champions for Business
Rep. Allan Bense – Support of Business Agenda
Rep. Connie Mack – Tort Reform
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- Business Centric Publications
- Issue-Based Statewide Conferences