

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA  
**LEGISLATIVE  
DAILY BRIEF**



P.O. Box 784 • Tallahassee, FL 32302 • Phone: (850) 224-7173 • Fax: (850) 224-6532 • Internet: <http://aif.com> • [fbnnet.com](http://fbnnet.com)

**FROM JANUARY 7, 2003  
INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

As will be well reported in the mainstream press, today's agenda was dominated by the inauguration of Governor Jeb Bush, Lt. Governor Frank Brogan and the subsequent inaugural celebration which swallowed up several city blocks in a carnival atmosphere. We wish the Governor and Lt. Governor, Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher, Attorney General Charlie Crist and Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson well in the months and years ahead.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Senate Commerce, Economic Opportunities and Consumer Service Committee welcomed President & CEO of Enterprise Florida, Inc., J. Darrell Kelley, today. Mr. Kelley was asked to brief the Committee on Enterprise Florida's current status, its goals and prospects for the immediate future in recruiting and growing business in Florida. Mr. Kelley, who only recently assumed the leadership of Enterprise Florida, conducted himself well in explaining the virtually limitless opportunities that lay ahead for Florida if there can be a long term, strategic approach to business development.

Associated Industries of Florida will be working as closely as possible with Enterprise Florida during the Regular Session. The statutes governing Enterprise Florida are under review and AIF believes that there needs to be substantial changes. Principally, we believe that the statutes micromanage Enterprise Florida, providing for goals and benchmarks that, while promoting short-term results seriously inhibit the organization's ability to recruit multinational corporations and manufacturing operations. Simply put, in order to meet statutory and budget review expectations held by the Legislature to win further funding in the next fiscal year, Enterprise Florida finds itself too often landing a "call center" for the Tampa area instead of devoting its time and resources to a lengthier, but much more beneficial process of bringing in a Daimler-Chrysler. Short term, arbitrary performance measures, dictated by statute and the budget process are, in effect, damaging Enterprise Florida's ability to recruit the kinds of companies that Florida needs for a healthy, competitive economy. This needs to change.

**HEALTH CARE REFORM**

The full Legislature, the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives, will be holding a "Health Care Summit" on Thursday and Friday in the House Chamber. The agenda is exhaustive in detail and will feature experts from Florida and Washington, D. C. Among other things, the Summit's intent is to educate a largely inexperienced Legislature on the enormous costs brought to bear on the state government and Florida citizens in the acquisition of health care services. The Summit presenters will be speaking in great detail on the issues of Medicaid funding, prescription drugs, insurance, Medicare, long term care and on and on. AIF is pleased to see the Florida Legislature go through this very important exercise. It is entirely possible that former Legislators have gone through their entire careers never quite getting a grasp on why health care costs the state of Florida so much, why the budget is skewed the way it is as a result, and what the burdens are to the Florida business community in bearing the brunt of these costs for Florida's citizens.

We'll provide a report on the Summit Thursday and Friday of this week.

---

**This report was prepared by Curt Leonard, Vice President – Governmental Affairs at Associated Industries of Florida (AIF). Please send your comments or suggestions to us at [aif@aif.com](mailto:aif@aif.com) or call the Governmental Affairs department at (850)224-7173.**

- For more information on all of the important legislative information concerning the business community, go to our "members only" Florida Business Network web site at <http://fbnnet.com>
- Send us your E-mail address and we will begin to send this report to you automatically via E-mail.