

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA  
**LEGISLATIVE  
DAILY BRIEF**



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#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REFORM

SB 1700 by Senator Anna Cowin (R-Leesburg) was taken up today in the House and was substituted by the House companion HB 1743 by Representative Randy Johnson (R-Winter Garden). This bill is the implementing bill for the 2002 Constitutional Amendment requiring citizens' initiatives to include a fiscal impact statement on the ballot. The bill requires the Secretary of State to submit certain proposed constitutional amendments to a Financial Impact Estimating Conference. It requires the Attorney General to immediately petition the Supreme Court for a review of certain financial impact statements and also requires this same Estimating Conference to produce a financial information statement and summary. HB 1743 prescribes the placement of the financial impact statement on the election ballot as well.

The bill was voted on passed and with 79 Yeas and 39 Nays. HB 1743 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

**AIF supports politically viable initiative reforms aimed at facilitating a more responsible process and at protecting the sanctity and supremacy of the state's Constitution.**

#### TAXATION

HB 237 relating to Sales Tax Holiday on School Supplies by Representative Bev Kilmer (R-Marianna) was taken up today by the House. This bill specifies a period (July 24th – August 1st) during which the sale of clothing and school supplies are exempt from Florida sales tax. No sales tax will be collected on the following supplies having a selling price of \$100 or less: clothing, wallets, handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags. There will also be no sales tax on the sale of school supplies having a selling price of \$10 or less. The bill has also been amended to provide for a reduction in the state motor fuel tax for the month of August.

HB 237 passed with 107 Yeas and 8 Nays and is now headed to the Senate for final passage.

**AIF strongly supports increasing business activity by allowing Floridians to purchase certain clothing, accessories, and school supplies without having to pay sales tax.**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

SB 1174 by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) was unanimously passed today in the Senate. This bill began as an attempt to amend the burdensome DRI (Development of Regional Impact) process. In order to bring the business community, government, and the environmental community together, Senator Bennett filed SB 1174 and had all sides work on a product that would become good public policy. Since all sides could not agree on a program for the DRI process, the sponsor has amended his bill to create a study commission which will consist of appointees by the Governor, Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The appointees must include representatives from the business community (including development and real estate), agriculture, local governments, environmental and citizen organizations. The Commission is required to provide a report to the Governor, House Speaker and Senate President by January 1, 2006 on growth management and the DRI process.

An amendment dealing with annexation issues was adopted today, but for the most part the bill remained intact especially with regard to its impact on the business community. SB 1174 is now headed to the House for final passage.

**AIF supports legislation that cuts red tape, streamlines the permitting process, and keeps the cost reasonable for developments that bring responsible growth, infrastructure, and the goods and services that come with it.**

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.