

APRIL 25, 2005

Today was a relatively quiet day at the Capitol. None of the House of Representatives' standing committees met today. The Senate did hold some committee meetings today as did the Joint Conference Committees which met in the late afternoon to continue budget negotiations.

Tomorrow promises to be an important day for legal reform as two bills will be considered during the House session. One of the two bills on the agenda tomorrow is HB 1513 by Representative Don Brown (R-DeFuniak Springs). This is one of AIF's top legislative priorities this session since it contains language that would abolish joint and several liability. The bill also addresses fairness in the area of product seller liability. The other bill is HB 551 by Representative Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) which relates to vicarious liability for rental car companies.

Please take a moment if you have not done so already to contact your legislator and urge them to support both of these good legal reform bills.

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST:

SB 2110

The Senate Banking and Insurance Committee unanimously passed SB 2110 Relating to Human Rights and Discrimination by Senator Nan Rich (D-Sunrise). The bill amends Chapter 760, the Florida Civil Rights Act, and replaces the term "handicap" with "disabilities," and defines the new term, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additionally, SB 2110 clarifies that discrimination based on the term "sex" includes pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions to conform to federal law.

The bill changes notification, response, and investigation deadlines, and related administrative procedures, for complaints filed with the Florida Commission on Human Relations. SB 2110 also provides that a civil action must be commenced either no later than 1 year after the date of determination or no later than 4 years from the date the discriminatory action took place, whichever occurs first, to conform to a recent decision Florida Supreme Court.

The bill further provides that the Florida Commission on Human Relations is authorized to impose penalties against facilities or communities that fail to register with the commission as a "55 and older" community.

Please send your comments or suggestions to us at 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.