



DAILY BRIEF

**From December 8, 2005
Special Session "B"**

The legislature adjourned SINE DIE at 4:50 PM this afternoon marking the end of this special session. A historic precedent was set today with the passage of one of the nation's most sweeping ethics measure. SB 6B by Senator Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg) had its origins last session and was one of Senate President Tom Lee's (R-Brandon) top priorities. A similar bill died last session when the Senate and House were unable to come to a consensus. This time around, House Speaker Allan Bense (R-Panama City) was the catalyst for passage of this reform bill when he and members of his leadership decided to seriously pursue the issue.

The bill prevents lobbyist from making any kind of expenditure on behalf of legislators. Meaning lobbyists will no longer be able to pick up the tab for such things as dinner or drinks. In addition, lobbying firms will be required to disclose all compensation received from their clients. The ban on gifts extends to all elected officials and virtually anyone employed in state government.

All in all it was a very successful campaign for members of the legislature. Both issues (Medicaid Reform and Slots) in the original call were successfully negotiated and passed in a matter of days. The greatest amount of debate this week centered on the delicate subject of Medicaid reform. Members of the Broward and Duval delegations were unsuccessful in deterring the passage of this bill. These two counties are the most affected by this legislation, since they will house pilot programs designed to enact the many new provisions in this bill.

What Passed

Below is a list of the bills that passed during this special session. A complete in-depth analysis of these bills will be provided in tomorrow's AIF Weekly Report.

- HB 1B Relating to Slot Machine Gaming by the House Business Regulation Committee
- HB 3B Relating to Medicaid by Representative Holly Benson (R-Pensacola)
- SB 6B Relating to Lobbying by Senator Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg)
- SB 8B Relating to Elections/In-kind Contributions by Senator Jim King (R-Jacksonville)
- SB 12B Relating to Wilton Dedge Compensation by Senator Dan Webster (R-Winter Garden)
- HB 15B Relating to Ad Valorem Taxes/Major Disaster Area by Representative Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach)
- SB 18B Relating to Florida Minimum Wage Act by Senator JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales)
- HB 31B Relating to NASCAR License Plate by Representative Pat Patterson (R-Deland)
- SB 40B Relating to Public Records/Lobbyists by Senator Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg)
- HB 41B Relating to Judges by Representative Dudley Goodlette (R-Naples)