

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA  
**LEGISLATIVE  
WEEKLY UPDATE**



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FROM THE WEEK OF MAY 1 – MAY 7, 2006

## 2006 LEGISLATURE COMES TO AN END

The legislature adjourned Sine Die at 12:11 AM Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> after hours of back and forth negotiations on the much discussed property insurance bill and the passage of the budget. Both chambers spent long periods of time in recess during the final day of session, while members of the House and Senate leadership teams negotiated the terms of this piece of legislation. In the end both sides were able to come to a compromise and SB 1980 by Senator Rudy Garcia (R-Miami) was passed in the final minutes of the 2006 session.

Both chambers filed a total of 2,480 bills during the 2006 session. Only 386 were passed by the House and Senate and are now on the way to the Governor for his consideration.

Below you will find a recap of the AIF bills that were passed during the last day of session. In the days to come we will be providing our members with a complete re-cap of the 2006 session and AIF's priorities. This re-cap will consist of a list of all the bills that passed and those that did not.

As always, we will also provide you with our widely anticipated *Voting Records*, our post-session *Employer Advocate Publication*, and the announcement of the *2006 AIF Champions for Business*. Each of these publications will also be available on our website <http://www.aif.com> so be sure to check us out on the web.

### BILL ACTIONS ON FRIDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>:

#### **SB 2728 Relating to Innovation Incentive Program by Senator Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey).**

- This bill creates within OTTED the Innovation Incentive Program for qualified innovation businesses. The purpose of which is to improve the state's ability to bring science-based research projects of a large scale and innovation business projects to the state. The bill appropriates \$250 million from nonrecurring general revenue to OTTED for running the program.
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- Bill was passed by the House 99-14 and had already passed the Senate earlier in the week. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

**HB 1039 Relating to Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area by Representative Rene Garcia (R-Hialeah)**

- The bill increases the current mitigation fee used for protecting the environment surrounding the Lake Belt Area. The bill increases the mitigation fee that is imposed for each ton of lime rock and sand that is sold from the area from its current seven cents per ton to 12 cents per ton beginning January 1, 2007, 18 cents per ton beginning January 1, 2008, and 24 cents per ton beginning January 1, 2009. Many of the affected industries are in support of this fee increase.
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- Bill was passed by the House 117-0 and had already passed the Senate earlier in the week. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

**HB 7105 Relating to Taxation/Alcoholic Beverages by the House Finance and Tax Committee**

- This bill eliminates the surcharge on alcoholic beverages sold on a vendor's premises. Back in 1990, Florida enacted a law that taxed the retail sale of alcoholic beverages.
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- Bill was passed by the House 117-2 and had already passed the Senate earlier in the week. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

**HB 1237 Relating to Postsecondary Education Programs by Representative David Mealor (R-Lake Mary)**

- This bill is the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement Act announced by Governor Jeb Bush in January and is one of the cornerstones of Florida's Innovation Economy. The Act provides for the creation of the Florida Technology, Research, and Scholarship Board to guide the establishment of Centers of Excellence at state universities and the attraction of world class scholars through the 21st Century World Class Scholars Program. The bill provides \$50M to each of the programs
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- Bill was passed by the House 113-0 and then by the Senate 39-0. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

**HB 683 Relating to Growth Management by Representative Trey Traviesa (R-Tampa)**

- The bill makes several changes to existing law governing developments of regional impact (DRI). It streamlines the DRI process thereby reducing responsibilities for governments and private businesses.
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- Bill was passed 111-6 by the House and will now be sent to the Governor for his signature.

### **HB 7117 Relating to Sexual Predators & Offenders by the House Criminal Justice Committee**

- This was the House version of the Jessica Lunsford Act “glitch” bill designed to correct some of the unintended consequences of the 2005 law. The bill revises provisions regarding background screenings for contractors and other persons coming into contact with school children.
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- Bill was passed by the House 117-1 and was sent to the Senate where it died in messages.

### **SB 2518 Relating to Contractual Services/State Agencies by Senator Nancy Argenziano (R-Crystal River)**

- The bill makes a major change in the way the state procures contractual services that results in outsourcing and provides detailed procedures to contract with a vendor to provide a service or activity. It further creates the Council on Efficient Government within the Department of Management Services (DMS) to review, evaluate, and issue advisory reports on business cases submitted to the council.
- AIF Position: SUPPORT
- The bill was passed by the House 116-0 and had already passed the Senate earlier in the week. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.

### **SB 888 Relating to Energy by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)**

- Creates the Florida Energy Commission, creates a rebate program for energy efficient appliances, provides sales tax holiday for energy efficient products. Establishes statewide policies for developing alternative sources of energy in hopes of reducing dependency on foreign oil.
  - AIF Position: SUPPORT
  - Bill was passed by the Senate 39-0 and had already passed the House earlier in the week. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature.
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- 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.