



WEEKLY BRIEF

From May 9, 2007

The Legislature adjourned, Sine Die, at 4:10 pm Friday, May 4th bringing the 2007 Legislative Session officially to a close. Between both chambers a total of 2,538 bills were filed during the 2007 Session. Only 345 were passed by the House and Senate and are now on their way to the Governor for his signature. Legislators will be back, however, in a month's time to tackle the issue of property tax reform in a Special Session called by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President. This Special Session is slated to begin on Tuesday, June 12th and last through June 22nd.

Last fall, AIF began crafting an ambitious legislative agenda based on the needs of its members. As The VOICE of Florida Business, AIF consulted with its members and developed a list of issues critical to Florida's business community. The list eventually became **AIF's 2007 Session Priorities**, a full-color publication delivered to all members of the Legislature and their staff. This publication outlined the top business issues for the 2007 Session.

AIF and the business community had a very successful legislative session this year. In this report, you will find a list of AIF's session priorities as well as short descriptions of the bills relating to each issue. Also included is a list of other bills, monitored by AIF, which passed this session. It is also important to note the **defeat** of two major proposals that would have had major implications for the business community:

1. **The so-called "Fabre Fix" - HB 733 by Representative Mitch Needelman (R-Melbourne) and SB 1558 by Senator Jeremy Ring (D-Margate).**
2. **The "Guns in the Workplace" bill - HB 1417 by Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) and SB 2356 by Senator Durell Peaden (R-Crestview).**

Through the combined efforts of AIF and its business community partners these anti-business bills were killed in committee. The "Fabre Fix" would have undermined last year's repeal of the doctrine of Joint & Several liability. We expect the trial bar to continue to file this legislation each year. Regarding the "Guns in the Workplace" bill, this bill would prohibit business owners from establishing, maintaining or enforcing a policy or rule that would not allow an employee or "invitee" to possess a firearm that is locked in or locked to a motor vehicle that is on parked in the employers' parking lot.

As always, AIF will be publishing its widely anticipated **Voting Records** following the conclusion of June's Special Session on Property Tax. In addition, AIF will be releasing its post-session **Employer Advocate Publication** and the **2007 AIF Champions for Business**. Each of these publications will also be available on our website www.aif.com.