

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA  
**LEGISLATIVE  
DAILY BRIEF**



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What started looking like a busy Monday afternoon for the AIF lobbying team ended up being a rather quiet day. Several high priority bills were scheduled to be heard, but every one of them was temporarily postponed. These included SB 1204 Relating to Workers' Compensation Employee Deviation by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton). AIF is currently opposed to Senator Bennett's bill because it opens up Ch. 440 of the Florida Statutes by adding new language that would limit the compensability for employees who are injured while deviating from employment and by defining what acts constitute a deviation. Although well intentioned, this legislation would set a dangerous precedent by undoing many of the gains achieved by the business community through the workers' compensation reforms of 2003. Currently, workers' compensation rates have decreased by nearly 40% thanks to these reforms. In addition, the provisions in this bill would lead to increase litigation by allowing employees to challenge rulings based on this new deviation language.

The Senate Commerce Committee was set to consider SB 736 Relating to Trespass On Commercial Premises by Senator Steve Oelrich (R-Gainesville), but the bill was also temporarily postponed. Committee members took up almost half of the meeting time debating the merits and ethical considerations of stem cell research. SB 736 clarifies the rights of business and private property owners by prohibiting a person from remaining on any property or in any structure that is open to the public for commercial purposes if the owner or owner's agent has ordered the person to leave the premises due to activity deemed detrimental to the commercial purpose of the property. AIF and the business community are in strong support of this bill because business owners should have the right to regulate all non-commercial activity that takes place on their premises for the safety and benefit of their customers.

Finally, the Senate Commerce Committee also temporarily postponed SB 2692 Relating to Business Courts by Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres). This is one of AIF's top priorities for the 2007 session. The bill seeks to establish legislatively funded business court divisions in the Ninth, Eleventh and Thirteenth Judicial Circuits of Florida. These court divisions have already been established by administrative orders by the chief judge of each circuit. The business courts will be authorized to decide complex business cases on a judicially enforced docketing schedule.

You can be sure that AIF will be there when these bills come back up and we will continue to keep you posted on their latest developments. Tuesday promises to be another busy day for

AIF. Check back tomorrow for complete coverage of the top business issues being considered by the Legislature on Tuesday.

**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.