



DAILY BRIEF

From April 12, 2010

The big news Monday was the approval of sweeping Medicaid reform legislation by the House Select Policy Committee on Strategic & Economic Planning. The House proposal encourages the use of a “managed care” model for treating Florida’s 2.7 million Medicaid recipients over the span of five years. It is expected that PCB SPCSESP 10-03 and the companion PCB SPCSESP 10-04 will head straight to the House floor next week for passage. The Senate on the other hand, will be considering their proposals for Medicaid reform later this week. The Senate has discussed expanding the Medicaid reform proposal that currently operates in five Florida counties to another 19 counties. It seems that the differences between the two plans will have to be negotiated during the upcoming conference process.

Also, don’t miss out on this week’s edition of AIFTV. In this week’s edition we feature:

- A “Call to Action” on SB 6, the teacher performance and pay bill;
- The latest information on the Seminole Gaming Compact;
- An update on all the environmental issues currently being considered;
- Information on all the AIF priority bills seeing action last week; and
- A look at what is ahead for this week.

Reapportionment

The Senate Reapportionment Committee concluded its exhaustive review of the Fair Districts Florida constitutional amendments today. These amendments will appear on the 2010 ballot as a result on an initiative effort funded by the Trial Bar, Organized Labor, and other traditional Democratic donors. The amendments fundamentally restructure the manner in which the Legislature reapportions congressional and legislative districts in 2012.

The committee concluded that compliance with the required elements of the amendments is impossible since compliance with one standard constitutes a violation of another. Minority members were especially concerned about the impact of the amendments on minority access districts and perceive the amendments as weakening minority representation in both Congress and the Legislature. The committee tasked its staff with developing potential legislatively-sponsored constitutional amendments that complement the Fair Districts amendments in a manner that carries out their intent, but that clarifies the criteria in a manner that is achievable. Staff has also been asked to provide the minority members of the committee with information concerning a potential legal challenge to the amendments. The final meeting of the committee is scheduled for next week.

AIF is opposed to the Fair Districts Amendments. Florida’s current redistricting process, although far from perfect, is a proven system for drawing legislative districts. Passage of the Fair Districts amendments will only lead to more litigation and the potential for disenfranchised minority voters.