



WEEKLY BRIEF

From the Week of January 9 - 13

Looking back at the week in review, AIF and its members experienced a successful kickoff to the 2012 Legislative Session – inside the Capitol and out. Perhaps most importantly, many legislative victories were realized by the business community as some of AIF’s top priorities were fully vetted and passed in their respective committees. Here’s a look at the week in review:

- AIF’s Legislative Reception was well attended by the state’s top business and civic leaders, Governor Scott and members of his Cabinet, over 100 members of the Florida Legislature, locally elected officials and many more!
- AIF’s Lobby Team was afforded an opportunity to speak before members of the House Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee concerning Destination Resorts legislation. This proposal, which is a top priority for AIF, has received great interest from key lawmakers as an innovative approach to meaningful job creation in Florida. Coverage of AIF’s testimony will be provided in this week’s Episode of AIFTV, which is coming soon!
- Significant reform to some of the state’s biggest regulations were given careful consideration this week, including HB 119 Relating to Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Protection Insurance by Representative Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) and HB 503 Relating to Environmental Regulation by Representative Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City). Each of these proposals will save employers time and money by enacting substantial reforms to Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage and environmental permitting, respectively.
- **Tom Feeny, AIF’s President & CEO**, released a special **“President’s Message”** this week. Outlining AIF’s initiatives under his new leadership, this opinion editorial was featured in the *Tallahassee Democrat* on Friday, January 13th

Miss coverage on legislation important to you or your company? Remember, AIF always keeps an updated archive of previously released “Daily Briefing” reports that our members can reference by visiting aif.com.

Please note that the State Legislature will postpone activity next Monday, January 16th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Legislature’s business, including coverage by AIF’s Daily Brief, will resume on Tuesday, January 17th.

Destination Resorts

On Monday, January 11th Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale) presented SB 710, otherwise known as the “Destination Resort Act,” before the Senate Regulated Industries Committee.

SB 710 passed its first major legislative hurdle when the measure (which was amended with a strike-all) was passed out of the Senate Regulated Industries by a vote of 7-3. The legislation would allow for the creation of three destination resorts in Florida. The strike-all amendment differs from the original bill in that the legislation now would allow existing pari-mutuels to expand their gambling operations to

include banked card games and slots, provided local voters pass separate county referendums allowing slots and expanded gaming. In order to add banked card games the pari-mutuels would have to invest \$100 million in their facilities.

In addition, the new version of the bill would regulate, rather than ban Internet cafes. Under an amendment by Senator Charlie Dean (R-Inverness), pari-mutuels would pay a 10 percent tax on slot machines, if voters pass a referendum allowing slots.

SB 710 is slated next to be heard in the Senate Budget Committee. The House measure – HB 487 by Representative Erik Fresen (R-Miami) – was discussed on Wednesday during a workshop held by the House Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

AIF SUPPORTS any proposal that will allow for free market bidding, ensuring that premier development companies come to Florida to build world-class destinations and bring all of these direct and indirect economic benefits including thousands of jobs to Florida.

Information Technology

On Monday, January 9th Senator Chris Smith (D-West Palm Beach) presented SB 678 Relating to State Contracts.

Senator Smith explained that the bill simply adds a requirement that all state contracts over \$35,000 include a provision requiring any call-center to be staffed by persons located within the US.

He added that with unemployment as high as it is, we should expect contractors receiving state funds to provide employment to persons in the country.

A number of Senators asked questions regarding the implementation and enforcement of this new provision. Senator Rene Garcia (R-Hialeah) expresses concern about government imposing requirements on private companies and what impact it may have on free enterprise and the state's cost of doing business.

During public testimony, **AIF lobbyist Frank Meiners** waived his time in opposition of the bill. Mike Fields with Bank of America testified that the committee should be thoughtful in going forward with this bill and cited the requirement by the state that many call-centers be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



The Chair called for a vote and the bill passed by a vote of 11-0.

SB 678 is now in the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee. The House proposal – HB 649 by Representative Betty Reed (D-Tampa)– is currently in the House Government Operations Subcommittee.

AIF OPPOSES legislation that will create another layer of government regulation that interferes with a businesses' freedom to control costs and provide state services at the lowest possible price.

Environmental

SB 820 by Senator Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) was unanimously approved by the Senate Environmental Preservation & Conservation Committee on Monday, January 9th. This proposed legislation repeals the statewide onsite sewage treatment and disposal system inspection program that was created in 2010. The bill was amended and now local governments will decide whether they want to have an inspection program for septic tanks. If a county has a first magnitude spring, they will have to pass an ordinance to “opt-out” of the program and all other local governments will have to “opt-in” the program. In addition, local governments will decide who will conduct the inspections. There is a grandfather clause for those local governments with inspection programs already in place.

SB 820 will now advance to the Senate Health Regulation Committee. Its House companion, HB 999 by Representative Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow), awaits consideration in the House Economic Affairs Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS onsite sewage treatment and disposal legislation that is both workable and mindful of environmental sustainability. AIF has been working closely with the Florida Home Builders Association and the Florida Association of Realtors on this proposal.

Also on Monday, the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee unanimously approved SB 540 Relating to Secondary Metals Recyclers by Senator Chris Smith (D- Oakland Park). This legislation, as amended, is designed to decrease copper and metal theft that is plaguing our state. AIF and the Floridians for Copper & Metal Crime Prevention Coalition (read the Coalition’s handout here) have been working closely on this bill with Senator Smith. The new legislation clarifies permissible types of personal identification necessary for the legal sale of regulated metal, prohibits cash transactions on restricted regulated metal property and for those which require proof of ownership, prohibits checks for metal purchases to be sent to a P.O. Box and implements a statewide standard to keep metal thieves from “shopping” stolen property to cities or counties with less onerous penalties.

Keyna Cory, Senior Lobbyist for AIF spoke in support of the proposed legislation. She explained to members of the committee that copper and metal crime has happened in every Senator’s district during the last year and asked for their support of SB 540.



SB 540 will now proceed to the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

AIF and the Floridians for Copper & Metal Crime Prevention Coalition SUPPORT legislation that will enact precautionary methods to help deter the removal of metal from private property and government structures, causing economic loss for both the private and public sectors.

On Wednesday, January 11th the House Rulemaking & Regulations Subcommittee passed HB 503 Relating to Environmental Regulation by Representative Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City).

This proposed legislation makes significant changes to the environmental permitting process in Florida. HB 503 improves the overall process of permitting to make it more efficient. Specifically, it addresses real practical problems and shortens time lines without reducing standards. The proposed legislation also eliminates duplication and streamlines the permitting process so that in many cases you have only one agency regulating a subject instead of the current process where multiple agencies are regulating the same matter.

Keyna Cory, Senior Lobbyist for AIF spoke in favor of the bill. Holding a copy of AIF's 2012 Session Priorities, she directed the committee members to page 6 to show them that HB 503 was listed as a priority bill. "This law is critical for Florida's employers because it will help accelerate the approval or denial process and bring certainty to businesses dealing with state agencies," said Cory.



HB 503 will now advance to the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee for further consideration. The Senate companion – SB 716 by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) – was unanimously passed in committee this week and will advance to the Senate Environmental Preservation & Conservation Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to streamline permitting across all state agencies. AIF would like to thank Representative Patronis for his commitment to work with all stakeholders on a bill that will streamline the permitting process. Time is money and Florida businesses are spending too much time on a permitting process that includes duplications and burdensome regulations.

Taxation

On Monday, January 9th the Senate Commerce & Tourism Committee took up and considered SB 170 Relating to the Transfer of Tax Liability by Senator Thad Altman (R-Melbourne). Tres Holton, presenting the bill on Senator Altman's behalf, explained that the bill changes the process for purchasing a business that may have an unpaid tax. Presently, the transferee assumes the tax liabilities unless an exception applies. Today there are three different statutes that apply to tax liability; one for sales tax liability, one for communications services tax and another for state taxes in general. The bill repeals the two specific statutes and amends the statute relating to all taxes owed to the state.

The bill allows the transferee to take the business without assuming the transferor's liability under either of these circumstances:

- The transferee obtains a certificate of compliance for the Department of revenue that the business owes no back taxes, or
- The transferee requests an audit by the Department of Revenue within 90 days to find out that the transferor is not liable for any outstanding taxes.

Mr. Holton went on to say that the exact same bill passed the House last session without any "no" votes but died on the Special Order Calendar in the Senate on the last day of session.

Senator Paula Dockery (R-Lakeland) asked if it meant any transfer or if was limited to family. Mr. Holton answered that the transfer was uniform. With no further questions the Florida Bar, Florida Banker's Association and AIF all waived their time in support.

The bill passed with unanimous consent

SB 170 will proceed to the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax before proceeding to the Floor. The House measure – HB 103 by Representative John Wood (R-Haines City) – has passed its respective committees of reference and awaits consideration on the House Floor.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will make Florida more attractive for potential buyers of businesses by providing certainty on not having to assume any outstanding tax liabilities or clarifying the maximum tax liability if the buyer agrees to assume them.

On Thursday, January 12th the House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee took up and considered HB 133 Relating to the Assessment of Residential and Non homestead Real Property by Representative James Frishe (R-Belleair Bluffs).

During the General Election in November 2008, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment that would grant authority to the Legislature to prohibit property assessors from considering two factors contributing to increased property values; changes or improvements made to improve a property's resistance to wind damage *or the* installation of a renewable energy device. HB 133 implements that authority.

HB 133 will now proceed to the House Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee for further consideration. The Senate companion – SB 156 by Senator Jack Latvala (R-St. Petersburg) – is currently in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax awaiting hearing.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will encourage mitigation-based upgrades on real property and reduce property insurance costs for Floridians.

Space

On Tuesday, January 10th the full Senate took up and unanimously passed SB 634 Related to Spaceport Facilities by Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (R-Wellington).

The bill amends current law by defining the term “launch support facilities” and deleting the term “spaceport launch facilities.” Proponents of this legislation, including AIF and Space Florida, maintain that the bill will provide for:

- The ability to better fund infrastructure upgrades and improvements to space-related facilities by using SIS monies more appropriately for space infrastructure projects not airport related; *and*
- The alignment of federal and state definitions so that any future federal grants may qualify for the same projects.

SB 634 will now proceed to the Senate Floor. The House proposal, HB 97 sponsored by Representative Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne), has been placed in the House Calendar and is expected to be passed in the coming week(s).

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation as a means of providing Florida's aerospace industry with the proper incentives to create jobs in a variety of high-value-added sectors. Furthermore, we commend members of the Senate for their continued support of Florida's vital space industry.

On Thursday, January 12 the House Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee passed HB 59 Relating to Spaceport Facilities presented by Representative Lake Ray (R – Jacksonville).

HB 59 designates certain real property within the boundaries of Cecil Airport and the Cecil Commerce Center as spaceport territory. In addition to Cecil Field, the bill also provides that the board of directors for Space Florida may designate real property within the state as spaceport territory. In addition, HB 59 provides a tax exemption for machinery and equipment purchased for a new or expanding business in a spaceport territory. This bill will allow new and expanding businesses located at Cecil Airport and Cecil Commerce Center, or on property licensed as a FAA spaceport, to be eligible for this exemption. In order to qualify, a business must be engaged in spaceport activities.

HB 59 has one remaining stop in the House Economic Affairs Committee. The Senate companion – SB 110 by Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville) – is now in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.

AIF supports the expansion of spaceport facilities and applauds Representative Ray’s continued leadership on this bill.

Insurance

On Wednesday, January 11th the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee approved HB 119 Relating Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Protection Insurance by Representative Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) which replaces Florida’s current flawed Personal Injury Protection (PIP) mandatory no-fault automobile insurance coverage with Emergency Care Coverage (ECC).

In effort to curb fraud, the proposed ECC system represents a significant departure from Florida’s no-fault law; however, it does share similarities with the current PIP system with respect to persons covered by the no-fault policy, the \$10,000 worth of mandated coverage, and the availability of lost wages and benefits. The greatest difference between the two policies comes down to the severity of injury. The ECC plan will provide a narrower range of coverage in less severe cases, where fraudulent cases are most rampant, and thus lower the premiums paid by Floridians for no-fault motor vehicle insurance.

HB 119 passed along party lines with Democrats voting in opposition. The bill will now advance to the House Civil Justice Subcommittee for further consideration.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to reduce Personal Injury Protection (PIP) claims costs. Furthermore, AIF applauds Representative Boyd for his leadership in crafting a proposal that will effectively reduce fraud and save Florida’s consumers millions in PIP premiums.

On Wednesday the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee also took up and passed HB 1053 Relating to Long-Term Care Insurance by Representative Larry Metz (R-Eustis) on a vote of 10 to 5. A recent decision by the 3rd District Court of Appeals in Florida significantly altered the method in which long-term care insurance policies are defined.

HB 1053 specifies that, as applied to long-term care insurance policies, the continuation or renewal of a guaranteed renewable policy by the timely payment of required premiums does not constitute the making of a new policy or contract for any purpose. Therefore, any statutory or regulatory changes enacted after the original issue date of the guaranteed renewable policy would not be incorporated into the policy. The bill also codifies in law a definition of “guaranteed renewable” as it applies to the Long-Term Care Insurance Act.

AIF is seeking clarification of the term “guaranteed renewable policy” in order to protect contracts between consumers who purchase long-term care policies to assist in paying medical bills later in life and insurers who provide these policies.

HB 1053 will now proceed to the House Health & Human Services Committee for further consideration. The Senate companion – SB 1306 by Senator Garrett Richter (R-Naples) – has been referred to the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to clarify the way long-term care insurance policies are defined in Florida.

Legal and Judicial

On Wednesday, January 11th the House Civil Justice Subcommittee favorably passed HB 243 Relating to Expert Testimony by Representative Larry Metz (R-Eustis).

Representative Metz explained that the standards in this legislation would require litigants to use accepted and proven scientific standards to qualify expert witnesses and eliminates the current possibility that mere opinion and junk science can be relied upon as evidence. The standard in Representative Metz's bill is the standard used in federal courts and in over 30 other states which is vital to providing uniformity in Florida's judicial system.

The bill was passed by committee members by a vote of 11-4. Representatives Joseph Abruzzo (D-Wellington), Marty Kiar (D-Davie), Richard Steinberg (D-Miami Beach) and Darren Soto (D-Orlando) were the four members who voted against the bill.

HB 243 is referenced to be heard next in the House Judiciary Committee. An identical measure in the Senate – SB 378 by Senator Garrett Richter (R-Naples) – was passed favorably on Thursday, January 12th by members of Senate Judiciary Committee on a vote of 5-2.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will utilize highly regarded legal standards to ensure a level playing field during litigation.

Business Regulation

On Wednesday, January 11th the House Community & Military Affairs Committee passed HB 609 Relating to Wage Protection for Employees by Representative Tom Goodson (R-Titusville).

The term “wage theft” is used to describe the failure of an employer to pay any portion of wages due to an employee. At the present, counties and municipalities have broad home rule powers that allow local governments to enact ordinances as long as the subject matter is not preempted to the state. Simply, HB 609 provides that the regulation of wage theft is expressly granted to the state and preempts local governments. This legislation will prevent burdens on businesses by eliminating a patchwork of wage theft regulations throughout Florida’s 67 counties and over 400 municipalities.

While most lawmakers oppose the practice of wage theft, some committee members expressed concern that the bill did not go far enough to create a statewide law to address the problem. Passing largely along party lines, AIF was present with other business groups to display support for the proposal.

HB 609 has one remaining stop in the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate companion – SB 862 by Senator David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) – is currently in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will clarify the state’s authority to pre-empt local governments from regulating wage theft. A “patchwork” arrangement of local ordinances provides confusion and uncertainty to Florida’s employers.

The Senate Community Affairs Committee considered and unanimously approved SB 292 by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) on Thursday, January 12th.

As originally filed, SB 292 would allow local governments to place public notices on their websites instead of in newspapers. A “strike everything” amendment was adopted that made significant changes to the original bill. The new language allows the placement of public notices in both newspapers and on websites. AIF supports the amendment and no longer opposes the bill.

Local newspapers offer citizens a single, convenient location to find public notices in contrast to government entities publishing notices on their respective websites.

SB 292 will now advance to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration by its members.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that requires all public notices be printed in local newspapers and posted on the Internet. AIF would like to thank Senator Bennett for his leadership and support on this very important issue.

Economic Development

On Wednesday, January 11th the House Subcommittee on Community and Military Affairs Committee hosted a workshop to hear from several groups representing policies and initiatives related to local government economic development efforts across Florida.

Additionally, the state's Chief Economist, Lisa Baker, walked members of the Committee through various programs and rating groups that assess the state and local communities with regards to economic development.

Representatives from Tallahassee, Orlando, Broward and Martin Counties addressed the committee and expressed hope that the Legislature would continue to allow local governments the ability to offer local incentives. As presented, the trends in Florida suggest that cities offer more in tax credits to specific industries, companies, etc. while county governments tend to support more indirect methods of economic development by way of infrastructure, quality of life improvements, etc. As a whole, local governments offered in excess of \$60 million in incentives to businesses, many in partnership with state resources.

The state of Florida has recently been ranked 24th by Forbes, 12th by Beacon Hill and 18th by CNBC nationally as a destination for businesses to locate, incubate or expand. Among other factors, these rankings take into account how a state performs and manages its economic development resources with respect to economic variables, specific incentives and job creation/retention policies.

AIF has been a strong supporter of allowing local governments the flexibility to offer streamlined and strategic incentives for companies to compliment state and federal incentives. AIF believes that in order for communities to grow and prosper, each stakeholder, including local government, should have a seat at the table.

Health Care

On Wednesday, January 11th the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee heard several presentations outlining how the cost of the state's Medicaid program will be lowered in FY 2012-2013. Jan Johnson, representing the Office of Policy & Budget (OPB), discussed the program cuts by each health care agency. The majority of the reductions will be taken from the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) which has the largest portion of the Medicaid Program. The largest amount of savings within the AHCA budget is from the Governor's newly proposed "rate band" methodology.

Johnson reported that Governor Scott does not "have it out" for hospitals, but that he is very concerned about the varying taxing entities that provide advantages to some hospitals. Overall, the new methodology is expected to save \$1.8 billion. The goal of the methodology is normalize the rates received by all hospitals in caring for the state's neediest residents. Following Johnson's presentation, Karen Zeiler, Chief of Staff for the Agency for Health Care Administration, explained the rate band methodology in greater depth. Ms. Zeiler explained that the methodology groups hospitals together and calculates a weighted average for each band based on cost reports.

While Governor Scott proposed his budget before the start of the 2012 Legislative Session, it is the responsibility of the House and Senate to craft and approve a budget that will ultimately go to the Governor for his final action.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts by Governor Scott and members of the Florida Legislature to reduce costs associated with Florida burgeoning Medicaid program.

On Thursday, January 12th the House Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee took up and considered HB 711 Relating to Sale or Lease of a Public Hospital by Representative Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater).

Currently, the authority to sell or lease a county, district or municipal hospital is provided to its governing board. HB 711 amends current law to require that the governing board of a county, district or municipal hospital, prior to completing a proposed sale or lease of the public hospital, receive approval from a majority of registered voters in the county, district or municipality. Alternatively, the governing board may submit a petition for approval of sale or lease to the circuit court. This change would allow for more transparency in the governing board's decision-making process when deciding to agree to the sale or lease, and would further allow for more public input into the proposed sale or lease. During debate, some concerns were raised about the concept of "fair market value" which is included in the bill in order for public hospitals to be sold for appropriate amounts. The issue of who is allowed to make that determination was at the heart of the debate. Representative Hooper vowed to continue to work with all interested parties on tightening the bill.

HB 711 was unanimously approved and the bill will now advance to the House Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee for further consideration.

An identical measure in the Senate – SB 464 by Senator Rene Garcia (R-Hialeah) – was also slated to be heard on Thursday in the Senate Health Regulation Committee; however, it was temporarily postponed until further notice. Senator Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) has a similar piece of legislation (SB 1568). There is a possibility that both Senate bills will be combined into one bill.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will ensure that the taxpayer and the community are protected by ensuring that full and fair market value is received in exchange for the sale and/or lease of public hospitals.

Energy

In the House Subcommittee on Energy and Utilities on Thursday, January 12th, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam outlined his recommendations for an energy policy for the State of Florida. Commissioner Putnam stated that the package he proposed is designed to increase diversity in the State's energy portfolio, advance renewable energy production, encourage the development of home-grown technologies and promote energy efficiency. He further said that his recommendations for energy policy are "market driven, in the public interest and are designed to have the least possible impact on the customer."

Commissioner Putnam offered eleven proposals for the Legislature to consider. Among those are proposals for:

- Infrastructure investment
- Reporting requirements
- Power plant need determination
- Public interest determination for renewable energy projects
- Energy efficiency; and
- The removal of barriers to future investments.

Many of these proposals would place new requirements on the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the Public Service Commission to evaluate and make a determination of the various issues outlined above. A full copy of Commissioner Putnam's recommendations can be found [here](#).

AIF commends Commissioner Putnam for offering a comprehensive proposal that will address the future of Florida's energy policy. Furthermore, AIF looks forward to working with Commissioner Putnam and his department to adequately address our state's energy needs.

Growth Management

On Thursday, January 12th the Senate Community Affairs Committee took up and unanimously passed SB 704 Relating to Building Construction and Inspection by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton).

SB 704 bill provides in part that if a building code administrator or building official provide for electronic filing, then construction plans, drawings, specifications, reports, final documents, or documents prepared or issued by a licensee may be dated and electronically signed and sealed by the licensee and transmitted electronically to the building code administrator or building official for approval. In addition, the bill also expands the definition of "contractor" to include those persons or businesses that contract to demolish any residence or building. Currently, contractor licensure to demolish buildings and residences only applies when these particular structures are over three stories tall.

The bill passed unanimously and without controversy. SB 704 will now move forward to its final stop in the Senate Budget Committee. An identical measure in the House – HB 651 by Representative Daniel Davis (R-Jacksonville) – is scheduled to be heard in the House Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee on Tuesday, January 17th at 12:30 pm.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will generate cost savings resulting from efficiencies associated with electronic filing.

Education & Workforce

The House Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by Representative Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange), took up and passed HB 7023 Relating to Regional Workforce Boards on Thursday, January 12th. The legislation codifies tighter state fiscal and administrative control of the state's 24 regional workforce boards. The legislation is a priority of Governor Rick Scott, who spoke about the issue in his State-of-the-State address to a Joint Session of the Legislature on opening day.

The legislation, sponsored by Representative Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford), passed on a partisan vote of 10-6, with Democrats arguing that the bill unnecessarily expands the state's role into local decisions.

The bill would also have required regional workforce board chairs and the respective executive directors to serve at the approval and pleasure of the Governor; however, the bill was amended to omit the requirement to have the Governor "approve" those selections while retaining the provision for service at the pleasure of the Governor.

The bill was further amended to clarify the types of expenditures permitted and not permitted using federal and state funds. Transparency in contracting provisions was also added to the bill.

HB 7023 will now head to the House Floor for consideration by its members.

AIF supports legislation that will bring greater accountability and efficiency to the workforce system.