



# DAILY BRIEF

From March 12, 2013

Following a relatively quiet Monday, both Chambers saw an increase in action today. While health care and ethics and elections reform remain a constant, a variety of legislation including taxation, business regulation and agricultural issues were also on today's agenda. Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) was present to support legislation imperative to Florida's business community.

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## Taxation

Today, during the House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, **AIF's Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of HB 807, *Relating to Emergency Communication System*, by Representative Greg Steube (R-Sarasota). The bill would reduce the current charge for 911 services on all phone lines, including mobile, from the current \$0.050 to \$0.046. In addition, the legislation implements the findings of the E911 Board, allowing for the collection of the 911 fee at the retail point of sale for prepaid wireless phone plans. Implementing a point of sale collection method for prepaid plans and enabling the fee to be collected from everyone with access to 911 may make it possible to reduce the fee for all consumers. The bill would also put priority on allowing counties to use funds to upgrade and replace 911 systems for next generation. The legislation passed committee unanimously and will next be heard in House Finance and Tax Subcommittee, next scheduled to meet this Thursday, March 14th.



**AIF supports lessening the 911 surcharge on Florida's phone users as well as supports a robust and modern emergency communications system vital to the welfare of Florida's business community.**

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## Business Regulation

Today, during the House Business and Professional Regulation Subcommittee, **AIF's Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in respectful opposition to HB 163, relating to ticket sales, by Representative Jimmie Smith (R- Lecanto). The legislation is being supported by an out-of-state ticket broker and would not allow Florida businesses who are venues and teams to impose any contractual term on a ticket. This would create great loss of control for those businesses. In addition, if enacted this legislation would have a detrimental impact on numerous downstream businesses such as restaurants, vendors, hotels, etc. Due to the loss of revenue these ancillary business would see artists simply decline to come to the state to perform. The legislation passed by a vote of 7-6 and will next be heard in House Regulatory Affairs Committee.

**AIF has a long standing tradition of standing with Florida's "brick and mortar" employers and believes passage of this legislation could have a detrimental impact on those businesses.**

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## Health Care

Today, in the House Health Quality Subcommittee, AIF stood in support of HB 625 by Representative Ronald Renuart (R-Ponte Vedra Beach) which clarifies the services physician assistants (PAs) are authorized to execute. Specifically the bill clarifies that PAs can order medications for a supervisory physician's patient in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or mobile surgical facility. Associated Industries stood in support of the bill.

The bill will now head to the House Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee, next scheduled to meet Monday, March 18th. The Senate Companion, SB 398 by Senator Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville) is in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, scheduled to meet this Thursday, March 14th.

**AIF supports any legislation allowing trained, professional health care providers to deliver basic care they may currently be prohibited from providing due to regulatory licensing barriers.**

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## Environment & Agriculture

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee met this afternoon and heard testimony on HB 927, *Relating to Agritourism*, by Representative Holly Merrill Raschein (R-Key Largo). The bill addresses "Agritourism," an emerging industry in Florida. Several local governments have tried to restrict the ability of local farmers to invite people onto their farms to pick fruit, conduct tours of the farm, or other recreational activities, in an effort to increase revenue.

AIF waived in support of the bill and it passed unanimously. The bill now goes to the House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

**AIF supports any legislation that allows Florida farmers to safely expand their incomes through the use of Agritourism.**

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## Aerospace

The House Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee met today to consider the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) legislative package for the 2013 Session. **PCB THSS 13-02** presented by Representative Frank Artiles (R-Miami) is similar to SB 1132 by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg), as it is an omnibus package serving as the primary legislation for FDOT priorities for 2013 that includes a variety of issues related to space funding, local government noise mitigation, strategic investment initiatives and other clarifying statutory language revisions. Specifically, the bill will allow FDOT to allocate up to \$15 million in funding for space related projects after collaboration with local input and other related industries including Space Florida. Lastly, **PCB THSS 13-02** would prohibit DOT from entering into any new lease purchase agreements with various transportation authorities. The bill was reported favorably out of committee today and will now be referenced to additional committees as committee bill.

**As the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), AIF is committed to providing a member venue to discuss and advance the interests of Florida's manufacturing community and related industries including Space Florida.**

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## **Ethics & Elections**

On Monday, March 11th, the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee unanimously passed SB 1382, *Relating to Campaign Finance*, by Senator Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater). This bill is a major restructuring of the state's regulation of campaign finance regulation. Key provisions of the bill:

- Revise limits on contributions to statewide candidates from \$500 to \$3,000 per election while leaving the \$500 limit in place for legislative and local candidates.
- Significantly increase the number and frequency of pre-election reports filed by candidates.
- Abolishes committees of continuous existence (CCEs). Existing CCEs would be allowed to convert to "political committees" having essentially the same roles as CCEs.

The Senate bill is now substantially similar to its House counterpart, HB 569 by Representative Rob Schenck (R-Spring Hill), except in the area of contribution limits. At least for now, the House bill increases limits to \$10,000 per election but House Leadership has already announced its intentions to lower this level at the bill's next committee stop. SB 1382 now heads to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs and HB 569 heads to the House State Affairs Committee, meeting this Thursday, March 14th.