



# DAILY BRIEF

From March 26, 2014

## Environment

### **SB 1174 – relating to Power Plant Carbon Dioxide Emissions**

On Wednesday, March 26th, SB 1174, relating to Power Plant Carbon Dioxide Emissions, by Senator Audrey Gibson (D-Jacksonville) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities, its last stop before the Senate floor.

This bill is a memorial that urges the United State Congress to allow states to develop their own performance standards, compliance schedules, and guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions. Specifically, the memorial urges Congress to respect the primacy of states and to rely on state regulators who take into account unique policies, energy needs, resource mix, economic priorities, and environmental priorities.

AIF supports clean coal technology as a source of reliable and reasonably priced energy and believes the state is best suited to determine its own performance standards, compliance schedules, and guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions.

### **SB 1464 – relating to Environmental Regulation**

On Wednesday, March 26th, SB 1464, relating to Environmental Regulation, by Senator Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) passed the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation by a 4-1 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs.

The bill does quite a few things with regard to environmental regulation and permitting. Most notably, the bill provides voting requirements for the adoption or transmittal of a comprehensive plan or plan amendment, prohibits local governments from rescinding prior land use approvals for certain agricultural lands; exempts multi-family dock owners from a permit fee; prohibits local governments from requiring authorizations or permits for certain water structure and infrastructure projects; authorizes consumptive use permits for 50 years for certain landowners and 30 years for a development of regional impact, among other changes.

An amendment from Senator Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) removed section one from the bill that would have prohibited local governments from modifying, readopting, or amending local wetland, springs, or stormwater ordinances, regulations, or rules, even if the ordinance was adopted before July 1, 2003.

AIF supports this bill because it will lessen regulation on Florida's agri-businesses and its businesses in general. AIF supports legislation that requires all mandatory and optional elements of a comprehensive plan by a board of county commissioners be adopted by a simple majority vote.

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## Legal & Judicial

### **SB 242 – relating to Security of a Protected Consumer’s Information**

On Wednesday, March 26th, SB 242, relating to Security of a Protected Consumer’s Information, by Senator Nancy Detert (R-Venice) unanimously passed on the Senate floor. The bill will now be sent to the House for consideration.

The bill creates the “Keeping I.D. Safe (KIDS) Act” to authorize a representative of a minor consumer younger than sixteen years of age, or a guardian, to place a security freeze on that consumer’s credit report. The reason being, while parents typically apply for a Social Security number for their child shortly after birth, a credit reporting agency does not create a credit report or history until an application for credit is received. An identity thief will typically apply for credit with a child’s Social Security number, but with a different name and date of birth. As a result, the identity theft may go undetected for years. A recent study conducted by ID Analytics estimated that more than 140,000 instances of identity fraud are perpetrated on minors in the United States each year.

AIF supports protecting consumer information to guard minors from potential identity theft. Any legislation resulting in reduced instances of credit fraud is a common-sense action for the Legislature.

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## Taxation & Budget

### **FTSC5 – relating to Economic Development**

On Wednesday, March 26th, **FTSC5**, relating to Economic Development, by House Finance & Tax Subcommittee passed the House Finance & Tax Subcommittee by a 16-2 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill provides a broad range of tax cuts and spending aimed at either directly or indirectly encouraging economic development. The bill incorporates provisions from a handful of other bills AIF has been advocating this session. Specifically, the bill includes tax holidays for consumers, an increase in the corporate tax exemption, a sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment, modernization of communication services taxes, and the Commissioner of Agriculture’s priority of reducing the sales tax on electrical usage for businesses while increasing revenues for the Public Education Capital Outlay fund. AIF has been advocating for all of these provisions individually throughout the 2014 legislative session.

AIF supports reducing the tax burden on Florida’s businesses and any measure that will make state more attractive for conducting business.

### **SB 803 – relating to Communication Services Tax**

On Wednesday, March 26th, SB 803, relating to Communication Services Tax, by Representative Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) unanimously passed the House Finance & Tax Subcommittee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee.

The bill amends s. 202.11(13)(b), F.S., to add “the use of communications services to furnish a good or service that is not subject to [the communications services tax]” to the list of exemptions from the term “sales price” for the purpose of determining communications services tax liability. The exclusion applies to the use of a communications service to furnish a product or service that is not subject to tax, whether charged as part of the sales price of the nontaxable good or service or charged separately. Any charge for that nontaxable good or service is also excluded from the definition, regardless of the nomenclature used to describe the charge on an invoice.

AIF supports reducing communication services taxes on Florida’s businesses. Subsequently, businesses could utilize this tax savings to reinvest in their business.

## **Economic Development**

### **SB 654 – relating to Business Organizations**

On Wednesday, March 26th, SB 654, relating to Business Organizations, by Senator Jeff Clemens (D-Lake Worth) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Rules. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

The bill amends the Florida Business Corporation Act to allow for the creation of two new forms of corporate enterprise: the social purpose corporation and the benefit corporation. These new entities will allow businesses to engage in societal benefit programs that may not involve or satisfy the traditional corporate norm of profit maximization.

AIF supports this legislation that will attract new businesses and entrepreneurs to the state of Florida.