



DAILY BRIEF

From March 27, 2014

IT Governance

HB 4017 – relating to Cable and Video Services

On Thursday, March 27th, HB 4017, relating to Cable and Video Services, by Representative Ray Wesley Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers) unanimously passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.



The bill repeals a study by the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability on the status of video competition in Florida. This is a study that duplicates an annual national study done by the Federal Communications Commission and is an unnecessary expense for government and for companies to compile and submit proprietary information.

[AIF supports eliminating duplicative laws that put an unnecessary compliance burden on Florida's businesses and government.](#)

Economic Development

HB 281 – relating to Keystone XL Pipeline

On Thursday, March 27th, HB 281, relating to Keystone XL Pipeline, by Representative Mike Hill (R-Pensacola Beach) passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee by a 12-5 vote. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill is a memorial that urges the President to issue final approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline Project (Project). The proposed Project involves the construction of an 875-mile pipeline between Morgan, Montana, and Steele City, Nebraska. The Project would also cross the U.S.-Canadian border at Morgan, Montana. The construction of the Project is the fourth and final phase of the larger Keystone Pipeline (Pipeline), a pipeline infrastructure that would have the capacity to deliver roughly 830,000 barrels per day of crude oil from oil sands in Canada to the Gulf Coast of Texas. Memorials have no force of law, as they are mechanisms for formally petitioning the U.S. Congress to act on a particular subject.

[AIF supports developing memorials to Congress and the President supporting the expansion of hydraulic fracturing and the building of the Keystone XL pipeline.](#)

SB 372 – relating to Developments of Regional Impact

On Thursday, March 27th, SB 372, by Senator Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations by an 11-5 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Rules, its last stop before the Senate floor.

The bill reduces the minimum population and density requirements for counties to qualify as a dense urban land area (DULA). Land development projects are exempt from development of regional impact (DRI) review if they are located in a DULA. This bill would designate an additional 7 counties and 20 municipalities as DULAs. The bill eliminates the adoption of an urban service area as criteria for designation for a DULA. The DRI review process was created in 1972 in order to ensure that developers and local governments take the necessary steps to ensure that

large developments will not have negative impacts on the environment or public safety. Currently, 8 counties and 242 cities qualify as a Dense Urban Land Area (DULA), exempting them from DRI review because of the sophistication of their local planning personnel and policies.

AIF supports this bill because it will reduce bureaucracy and red tape for Florida's businesses.

Education & Workforce

SB 790 – relating to Education

On Thursday, March 27th, SB 790, relating to Education, by Senator John Legg (R-Lutz) passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations by a 17-1 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

This bill creates the Florida digital classrooms plan and allocation to establish a targeted and purposeful approach to technology enhancements in Florida's classrooms to improve student performance outcomes. The bill ties technology-enhanced classroom teaching and learning to measurable student performance outcomes and requires an independent evaluation of the school districts' outcomes and technology inventory and infrastructure needs, which the districts must report to the department. Consequently, the school districts must document how technology enhancements effect performance of students. In addition, the bill authorizes public schools to promote digital literacy and competency in Florida's schools, which will help equip Florida's students with skills to succeed in a competitive economy.

AIF supports removing all barriers for accessing all forms of innovative technology-driven education. Improving our workforce through education reforms will be a key ingredient to job creation and also ensuring businesses continue to establish in Florida.

SB 850 – relating to Education

On Thursday, March 27th, SB 850, relating to Education, by Senator John Legg (R-Lutz) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

The bill expands options to elementary students, expands options and strengthens requirements for middle school and high school students, creates a new middle grades early warning system to identify at-risk students, expands and strengthens anti-hazing provisions, and requires the Florida College System (FCS) institutions to establish a collegiate high school program for students in every school district in the colleges' designated service area.

AIF supports this bill because improving our workforce through education reforms will be a key ingredient to job creation and also ensuring businesses continue to locate to Florida.

SB 1642 – relating to Education Accountability

On Thursday, March 27th, SB 1642, relating to Education Accountability, by the Senate Committee on Education unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

The bill creates a clarified A through F and 100-point school grading system where point values, not safety nets or triggers, are the indicator of the grade earned. Under the bill, district and school grades, which would be released every year in the summer at the same time, will be simplified and transparent. No changes would be made to the current school grading system in 2013-14; however, the new 2014-15 school grades will function as an informational baseline for schools to work toward improved future performance.

AIF supports a comprehensive effort to expand economic opportunity through education. Increased transparency in school grading is a large component to making education a better value for Florida's families and taxpayers alike.

Health Care

HB 323 – relating to Pharmacy Technicians

On Thursday, March 27, HB 323, relating to Pharmacy Technicians, by Representative Mike La Rosa (R-Saint Cloud) and Representative Daphne Campbell (D-Miami Shores) passed the House Health & Human Services Committee with only four votes in opposition. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill would increase the number to six of registered pharmacy technicians a licensed pharmacist may supervise. Current law provides that the pharmacist may not supervise more than one technician. Up to three additional registered pharmacy technicians may be supervised if permitted by guidelines adopted by the Board of Pharmacy. Rep. LaRosa amended the bill with language to ensure that guidelines adopted by the Board would include automatic board approval for pharmacists working with an automated pharmacy system or for a pharmacy performing centralized prescription filling services to supervise more than one technician.

An amendment was offered, but later withdrawn by Representative Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) which would have capped the number of technicians the Board of Pharmacy could allow a pharmacist to supervise at six. However, Rep. Patronis and a number of other members continued to express concerns about not having a hard cap on the number of technicians a pharmacist could supervise.

AIF supports access for Floridians to high-paying jobs, such as pharmacy technician.

Taxation & Budget

HB 175 – relating to Emergency Communication System

On Thursday, March 27th, HB 175, relating to Emergency Communication System, by Representative Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) unanimously passed on the House floor. The bill will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

The bill would reduce the current charge for 911 services on all phone lines, including mobile, from the current \$0.50 to \$0.46. 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.

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.