



DAILY BRIEF

From April 1, 2014

Education & Workforce

SB 1400 – relating to Postsecondary Student Tuition

On Tuesday, April 1st, SB 1400, relating to Postsecondary Student Tuition, by Senator Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) passed the Senate Committee on Judiciary by a 7-2 vote. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, was slated to stand in support of the bill. The bill now heads to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.



The bill provides that students, regardless of immigration status, who attend a Florida high school for 3 consecutive years and enroll in an institution of higher education within 24 months after graduation are not required to pay out-of-state fees, provided they submit their high school transcript as documentary evidence of attendance and graduation. While these students are not classified as residents for tuition purposes, they may be reported for purposes of state funding.

AIF supports legislation that would allow all Florida high school graduates to qualify for in-state tuition at our public colleges, universities and independent universities regardless of their immigration status, subject to meeting all admission standards.

Legal & Judicial

SB 1138– relating to Civil Liability of Farmers

On Tuesday, April 1st, SB 1138, relating to Civil Liability of Farmers, by Senator Greg Evers (R-Crestview) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Judiciary. AIF stood in support of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

The bill exempts a farmer from civil liability if he gratuitously allows a person to come onto his/her land to remove farm produce or crops at any time. Presently the exemption applies only when that activity takes place after harvesting.

AIF supports legislation that will reduce the number of frivolous lawsuits brought against Florida's business owners.

Economic Development

HB 7095 – relating to Professional Sports Facilities

On Tuesday, April 1st, HB 7095, relating to Professional Sports Facilities Incentive Application Process, by House Economic Affairs Committee and Representative Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) passed the House Appropriations Committee by a 25-2 vote. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill creates the Professional Sports Facility Incentive Program process to provide state funding for the public purpose of constructing, reconstructing, renovating, or improving a professional sports facility. The bill creates a new application, review, and approval process for funding sports facilities, but does not require any expenditure of funds. It also caps the total potential annual distributions at \$12 million in General Revenue funds. Once an applicant has been approved by the Legislature and certified by the Department of Economic Opportunity, the DEO shall determine the annual distribution based on the estimate of new incremental states sales taxes provided in the Expected Sales Tax Analysis. A certified applicant may receive up to 75 percent of the estimate or \$2 million, whichever is less.

AIF supports this bill because of the positive impact that professional sports have on Florida's economy and the thousands of jobs they provide to Floridians.

SB 586 – relating to Brownfields

On Tuesday, April 1st, SB 586, relating to Brownfields, by Senator Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) passed the Senate Committee on Judiciary by an 8-1 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

The bill clarifies, in statute, the process for designation of a Brownfields area and offers liability protection for anyone responsible for rehabilitation of a Brownfields site. Subsequently, the bill encourages redevelopment in our state's Brownfields areas.

AIF supports any legislation promoting Florida's Brownfield Program as it provides a variety of financial and regulatory incentives encouraging parties to voluntarily clean up and redevelop Brownfield sites. By restoring Brownfield sites, the properties return to the tax rolls quicker and become useful to their community.

Environment

HB 703 – relating to Environmental Regulation

On Monday, March 31st, HB 703, relating to Environmental Regulation, by Representative Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) passed the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee by an 8-4 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 its last stop before the House floor in the House State Affairs Committee.



Under the bill, voting requirements adopted by a local government for proposed plans or plan amendments that are more stringent than a simple majority, such as a super majority vote, would be prohibited. Rep. Patronis pledged to work with all stakeholders moving forward.

AIF supports this bill because it will lessen regulation on Florida businesses. 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.

SB 1576 – relating to Springs

On Monday, March 31st, SB 1576, relating to Springs, by Senator Charles Dean, Sr. (R-Inverness) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Agriculture. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The bill provides for the protection of springs in Florida. Specifically, the bill provides for funding from documentary stamp revenues to pay for changes to the makeup and mission of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and requires the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) in

Outstanding Florida Springs (OFSs). The bill also requires a study of nutrient reduction improvements for row crops and the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water.

AIF supports funding science-based programs and projects to improve the water quality and water quantity of Florida's major first-magnitude springs. AIF also supports state funding for alternative water supply projects.

SB 1174 – relating to Power Plant Carbon Dioxide Emissions

On Tuesday, April 1st, SB 1174, relating to Power Plant Carbon Dioxide Emissions, by Senator Audrey Gibson (D-Jacksonville) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to 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.

Health Care

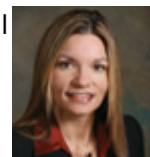
SB 1646 – relating to Telehealth

On Tuesday, April 1st, SB 1646, relating to Telemedicine Services, by the Senate Committee on Health Policy passed the Senate Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities by a 6-2 vote. The bill now heads to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

The bill seeks to increase the use of telemedicine for providing health care services to Floridians. An amendment was added to the bill which added PAs, ARNPs, and pharmacists to the list of health care providers that would be allowed to provide services to Floridians through the use of telemedicine. Another amendment approved by the committee would allow out of state physicians to provide telemedicine services from another state to if they maintain professional liability coverage for telemedicine services and if they:

- Have privileges at an out-of-state hospital affiliated with a Florida licensed hospital;
- Are affiliated with an out-of-state health insurer authorized to conduct business in Florida; or
- Practice in a state that authorizes Florida-licensed physicians to provide telemedicine services to patients located in that state without having to be licensed to practice medicine in that state.

Further, the out of state physician would be subject to disciplinary action by the professional medical board or regulatory entity that has jurisdiction over the hospital or insurer affiliated with the physician. **Tammy Perdue, General Counsel of AIF**, told committee members that concerns remain whether the proposal in its current form would increase access and lower the cost of providing care. However, AIF appreciated Senator Aaron Bean's (R-Jacksonville) efforts to find a common ground and will continue to work with him on the proposal.



AIF supports legislation that permits an unfettered role for telemedicine services that will allow our citizens access to better quality care at lower costs.

SB 1230 – relating to Physician Assistants

On Tuesday, April 1st, SB 1230, relating to Physician Assistants, by Senator Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) passed the Senate Committee on Health Policy by an 8-1 vote. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The bill, as amended through a strike-all by Senator Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring), capped at five the amount of physician’s assistants a physician may supervise. Further, the amendment provided that a physician may only supervise four ARNPs or PAs if those professionals work in an office other than the physician’s primary practice location and the services provided are mainly aesthetic skin care services.

AIF supports access for Floridians to high-paying jobs, such as physician’s assistant.

Taxation & Budget

HB 1237/SB 1632 – relating to Special Districts

On Tuesday, April 1st, HB 1237, relating to Special Districts, by Representative Larry Metz (R-Groveland) unanimously passed the House Finance & Tax Subcommittee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to its last stop before the House floor in the House State Affairs Committee.

Also on Tuesday, April 1st, SB 1632, by Senator Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Community Affairs. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to its last stop before the Senate floor in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The bills seek to reorganize chapter 189, F.S., relating to special districts, into eight parts; revises duties of Legislative Auditing Committee; specifies applicability of procedures regarding suspension & removal of member of governing body of special district; revises when special district may be declared inactive; prohibits special districts declared inactive from collecting taxes, fees, or assessments; and provides for costs of litigation & reasonable attorney fees under certain conditions. These bills also require each special district to update and maintain an internet website on which the district must publish extensive information. In addition, the legislation clarifies a special district declared inactive on the unanimous vote of its governing body may be dissolved without a referendum and repeals a part of the Community Improvement Authority Act due to its irrelevance throughout the Act’s duration in statute.

AIF supports common-sense and transparent policy in regards to the creation and enforcement of special districts. In addition, AIF supports legislation that reduces uncertainty and red tape for Florida’s business community.