



DAILY BRIEF

From April 10, 2014

Transportation

SB 1618 – relating to Chauffeured Limousines

On Thursday, April 10th, SB 1618, relating to Chauffeured Limousines, by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) passed the Senate Committee on Transportation by 7-3 vote. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, spoke 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 Community Affairs.



AIF released the following press release today regarding SB 1618.

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) today released the following statement attributed to its Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs Brewster Bevis in regards to the advancement of Senate Bill 1618 by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg). SB 1618, relating to chauffeured limousines, passed the Florida Senate Committee on Transportation earlier today.

“AIF is pleased that the Senate Committee on Transportation advanced SB 1618 by Senator Brandes this morning.

“This chauffeured limousines legislation opens the Florida transportation market, creating jobs and price competition, as well as promoting consumer choice.

“We look forward to seeing this legislation continue to advance through the Florida Senate.”

SB 1618 has also been referred to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs.

###

The bill creates a new category of public transit within Hillsborough County that provides service between specific origins and destinations selected by the individual user with such service being provided at a time that is agreed upon by the user and provider of the service. The bill will provide a uniform statewide level of regulation of emerging transportation technology, specifically chauffeured limousines, to provide stability and predictability to businesses seeking to implement such technology, to provide convenience and safety to the traveling public, and to enhance personal mobility.

AIF supports statewide digital transportation service policies that will work to create price competition, promote consumer choice and create jobs.

Economic Development

SB 1216 – relating to Professional Sports Facilities

On Thursday, April 10th, SB 1216, relating to Professional Sports Facilities, by Senator Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) passed the Senate Committee on Appropriations by a 17-2 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 Senate floor.



The bill creates the Sports Development Program, which allows for distributions of state sales and use tax revenue to fund professional sports franchise facilities, including spring training facilities, up to an annual cap of \$13 million for all certified applicants. Applicants would be evaluated and recommended by the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and distributions must be approved by the Legislature. Distributed funds would go towards the construction or improvement of a professional sports facility with the maximum annual distribution for a single facility at \$3 million. Distributions can be made for up to 30 years for a potential maximum amount of \$90 million per certified applicant.

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.

Environment

HB 487 – relating to Agricultural Industry Certifications

On Thursday, April 10th, HB 487, relating to Agricultural Industry Certifications, by Representative Jake Raburn (R-Valrico) unanimously passed the House Appropriations Committee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill would develop a pathway for students to show their expertise in the agricultural industry. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS), in cooperation with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science at the University of Florida and the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, to annually provide to the state board and the Department of Education information and industry certifications for farm occupations to be considered for placement on the Industry Certification Funding List and the Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List.

AIF supports adding agriculture to industry certifications because it recognizes the critical need for agricultural careers in the state of Florida.

Health Care

HB 7113 – relating to Health Care

On Thursday, April 10th, HB 7113, relating to Health Care, by the House Health Innovation Subcommittee, Representative Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) and Representative Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) passed the House Appropriations Committee by a 15-2 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

Originally, HB 7113 addressed the regulation of Florida's trauma centers; however, today's proposed committee substitute expanded the scope of the bill significantly. AIF expressed support, particularly, for the following two sections of the bill:

Telehealth –the bill would:

- Authorize all Florida licensed health care professionals to utilize telemedicine, from any location, to deliver health care services within their respective scopes of practice.
- Allow out-of-state health care professionals to utilize telemedicine to provide health care services to Floridians and require the professionals to register with the Department of Health or the applicable board.
- Require the Department of Health to publish on its website a list of all registered out-of-state health care professionals, including specific background information for each telemedicine provider.
- Permit the use of telemedicine in the diagnosis and treatment of the human eye if certain criteria are met.

Scope of Practice Expansion – the bill would:

- Allow certified nurse practitioners (CNPs) who meet certain criteria to register with the Board of Nursing to practice advanced nursing without physician supervision or a protocol as “independent nurse practitioners” (INPs).
- Authorize an INP to: (1) administer, dispense, order, and prescribe controlled medicinal drugs, including controlled substances; (2) provide a signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit, or other endorsement that is otherwise required to be signed by a physician; (3) act as a patient’s primary care provider; (4) certify a cause of death and sign death certificates; (5) certify a person to be involuntarily examined under the Baker Act; and (6) examine a person admitted into a receiving facility under the Baker Act and approve his or her release, if the INP is nationally certified as a psychiatric-mental health advanced practice nurse.
- Set standards for controlled substance prescribing by INPs.

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

Insurance

HB 1271 – relating to Insurer Solvency

On Thursday, April 10th, HB 1271, relating to Insurer Insolvency, by Representative Clay Ingram (R-Pensacola) unanimously passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill adopts several updates from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Specially, the bill adds additional protections for holding company systems, updates requirements for life insurance reserves, and improves actuarial information provided to OIR from insurers.

AIF supports legislation that modernizes insurance regulation and takes steps to achieve uniformity with other states, creating consistent regulations and a more efficient allocation of capital, which improves Florida's insurance marketplace for business and personal lines policyholders.

HB 391 – relating to Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center

On Thursday, April 10th, HB 391, relating to Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center, by Representative Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) unanimously passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill provides that the State Board of Administration shall annually transfer a portion of the investment income from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to the Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center located at The Florida State University. The amount of funding to be transferred shall be the lesser amount of \$1 million, or 35 percent of the fund's investment income minus \$10 million, as determined by using the most recent fiscal year-end audited financial statements of the Fund. The bill specifies that any funds transferred must solely be used for and consistent with the center's statutory purpose of supporting the state's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from catastrophic storms.

AIF supports a more effective Storm Risk Management Program to ensure that the state is adequately prepared for a natural disaster.

Taxation & Budget

HB 803 – relating to Communications Services Tax

On Thursday, April 10th, SB 803, relating to Communication Services Tax, by Representative Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) unanimously passed the House Appropriations Committee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill seeks to clarify that the state's Communications Service Tax (CST) is not applicable to communications between hotels and their franchises. Recently, the state's Department of Revenue (DoR) began auditing various hotels, large and small, and assessing the CST despite having no statutory direction to do so. HB 803 is a consensus product between the state's DoR and the hotel lodging industry that seeks to clarify that these charges are not applicable. The bill was scored to be revenue neutral for the state.

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