



DAILY BRIEF

From March 11, 2014

Energy

SB 1070 – relating to Fuel Terminals

On Tuesday, March 11th, SB 1070, relating to Fuel Terminals, by Senator Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Community Affairs. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Transportation, its last stop before the Senate floor.

The bill would declare fuel terminals located in or next to Florida's ports as critical state infrastructure. The bill would also limit local governments' regulation of the existing terminals and prohibit them from declaring the terminals illegal or non-conforming. It goes further to allow for expansion of existing fuel terminals within the terminals property boundaries, while limiting local governments' regulation of permitting although nothing in the bill will prevent local government from enforcing state and federal safety standards.

AIF supports terminals being designed as critical infrastructure preempting local governments from changing the land use designation. Terminals are essential components to petroleum logistics, and Florida's energy portfolio, enabling the bulk transfer of the 27 million gallons of gasoline and diesel into Florida each day for further distribution.

SB 1076 – relating to Electrical Power or Energy

On Tuesday, March 11th, SB 1076, relating to Electrical Power or Energy, by Senator Anitere Flores (R-Miami) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities. **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 Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax, its second of three committee stops.



The bill provides tax relief to Florida's businesses by decreasing the sales tax rate on electricity to zero over a three-year period. Under this legislation, revenue will shift to the Public Education Capital Outlay fund which will result in an increased investment in schools, technology and other education infrastructure. The bill also goes one step further in benefitting Florida consumers by providing for a sales tax holiday weekend for energy-efficient appliance purchases.

AIF supports the reduction of the state sales tax on commercial electricity consumption. The state sales tax rate on electricity is 7% while the rate on general sales is 6%. The use of energy is a major expense for Florida businesses and paying a rate higher than the general sales tax rate makes Florida less attractive to companies looking to relocate or start a business in the state.

Environment

HB 771 – relating to Secondary Metal Recyclers

On Tuesday, March 11th, HB 771, relating to Secondary Metal Recyclers, by Representative Neil Combee (R-Auburndale) passed the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to its second of three stops in the House Appropriations Committee.

The bill makes major changes to governing secondary metals recyclers which subsequently strengthens the law on the books. The key part of the bill shifts authority of the secondary metal recyclers program from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which has law enforcement capabilities.

AIF supports a well regulated secondary metal recyclers program that will reduce the likelihood of metal theft in the state.

Health Care

SB 278 – relating to Pharmacy Technicians

On Tuesday, March 11th, SB 278, relating to Pharmacy Technicians, by Senator Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Health Policy. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries.

This bill allows a pharmacist to supervise up to six pharmacy technicians, unless otherwise permitted by the Board of Pharmacy. Currently, the law authorizes a pharmacist to supervise one pharmacy technician, but the board may authorize supervision of two more for a total of three. The bill also removes the cap on the number of pharmacy technicians the Board can authorize a pharmacist to supervise which takes into account the changes in technology and the new role of the pharmacist.

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

SB 488 – relating to Out-of-network Physician Charges

On Tuesday, March 11th, SB 488, relating to Out-of-network Physician Charges, by Senator Jeremy Ring (D-Margate) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Health Policy. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

The bill requires health care facilities to provide a patient with a document notifying the patient that he or she may be charged for out-of-network physician services. The bill also amends the Florida Patient's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to make patients responsible for reviewing a document presented upon admission informing the patient that he or she may be charged for out-of-network physician services.

AIF supports measures that help Floridians become better health care consumers by increasing transparency in pricing and the provision of health care services.

Insurance

SB 1308 – relating to Insurer Solvency

On Tuesday, March 11th, SB 1308, relating to Insurer Solvency, by Senator David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

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.

IT Governance

SB 1010 – relating to Cable and Video Services

On Tuesday, March 11th, SB 1010, relating to Cable and Video Services, by Senator Garrett Richter (R-Naples) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities. **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 Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism, its last stop before the Senate 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.

Taxation & Budget

SB 792 – relating to Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions

On Monday, March 10th, SB 792, relating to Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions, by Senator Anitere Flores (R-Miami) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism. **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 second of three committees in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.



The bill outlines an August back-to school tax holiday. It provides for a state and local sales tax exemption for a 3-day period from August 1 through August 3, 2014, for the purchases of clothing costing \$75 or less, school supplies costing \$15 or less, and personal computers and related accessories costing \$750 or less.

AIF supports sales tax holidays for school and hurricane supplies. Tax holidays are a win-win for Florida families and the state as sales tend to increase more than without the tax holiday.