



# DAILY BRIEF

From March 13, 2014

## Economic Development

### HB 1383 – relating to Gaming

AIF's Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, **Brewster Bevis**, addressed the House Gaming Committee's workshop on HB 1383, Relating to Gaming, by Representative Rob Schenck (R-Springhill). Bevis thanked the committee for creating an independent gaming commission in Florida to "wrap our arms around Florida's expansive gaming industry ." Bevis also stated AIF would like to work with the committee to include a process for the licensing and creation of two integrated resorts in Southeast Florida.



AIF supports strong gaming regulation and the creation of an independent gaming commission. AIF also supports competitive bidding for a limited number of Integrated Resort Licenses in counties where Class III slot machines are currently authorized. These facilities will draw out-of-state and international tourists that will add millions of dollars to our state's economy and bolster existing businesses in the tourism and hospitality industry.

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## Education & Workforce

### HB 377 – relating to Educational Facilities Financing

On Thursday, March 13th, HB 377, relating to Educational Facilities Financing, by Representative George Moraitis, Jr. (R-Ft. Lauderdale) unanimously passed the House Finance & Tax Subcommittee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House Education Committee, its last stop before the House floor.

The bill expands the Higher Educational Facilities Financing Law (HEFFA) in two significant ways by adding non-profit, SACS accredited, K-12 schools to those institutions eligible to participate and expanding the definition of a project that can be financed with tax exempt bonds, which would include related projects such as wetland mitigation when financing a building project. HEFFA was created in Florida Statute in 2001 to give independent, non-profit, four year, SACS accredited institutions (all 31 Independent Institutions) access to the tax exempt bond market to borrow funds for capital outlay and cash flow purposes. These funds are not backed by the full faith and credit of the state, but rather by private capital and institution credit.

AIF supports this bill and has made this expansion a priority for the 2014 legislative session. This bill will allow ICUF institutions and non-profit SACS accredited K-12 institutions to expand their capacity and access for Florida's K-20 students and at no cost to the Florida taxpayers.

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## Legal & Judicial

### **SB 198 – relating to Social Media Privacy**

On Thursday, March 13th, SB 198, relating to Social Media Privacy, by Senator Jeff Clemens (D-Lake Worth) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in opposition of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.



The bill prohibits employers from requiring or requesting that an employee or a prospective employee provide a user name, password, or other means of accessing a social media account, unless it is an account used for business purposes. It goes on to say that an employer cannot fire an employee or refuse to hire a prospective employee based on a refusal to provide access to social media accounts. Under the bill, employers found guilty of violating these provisions would be required to pay the employee \$500 for each offense.

AIF opposes the bill because privacy protections for employee social media accounts must be balanced in specific contexts with other important considerations, such as employee compliance with laws, protecting the security of employer networks, and protecting against theft of trade secrets or sensitive personal information by employees. This piece of legislation does not strike that balance.

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## IT Governance

### **SB 928 – relating to State Technology**

On Thursday, March 13th, SB 928, relating to State Technology, by the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability 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 substantially revises how the state establishes information technology (IT) policy and procedures. The bill creates the Agency for State Technology (AST), administratively housed in the Department of Management Services. The defunct Agency for Enterprise Information Technology is abolished by the bill, and its duties are transferred to the AST. The AST is given extensive authority to set state technology policy and perform project oversight of large IT projects.

AIF supports a strong Chief Information Officer in the Executive branch to provide the leadership needed to allow the state to provide quality services to the citizens in the most cost efficient way possible. Information technology will offer the tools to re-engineer the state's business processes to accomplish this goal. In order to gain the benefits of IT, there must be significant changes in IT Governance in Florida and this bill does just that. Today Florida is ranked at the bottom of all states in Information Technology.

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## Taxation & Budget

### **SB 156 – relating to Motor Vehicle License Taxes**

On Thursday, March 13th, SB 156, relating to Motor Vehicle License Taxes, by Senator Joe Negron (R-Palm City) 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 reduces some of the fees required to register a motor vehicle, vessel or mobile home, and returns them to the amount required prior to September 1, 2009. The fee reductions result in a \$12 per year savings in the amount paid to register a motor vehicle, \$2.00 to register a vessel, and either \$4.50 or \$9.00 to register a mobile home.

AIF supports the roll back in fees and surcharges imposed on motorist when they buy, replace or transfer a license plate or register their vehicle with the state.