



# DAILY BRIEF

From March 24, 2014

## Transportation

### **HB 1389 – relating to Chauffeured Limousines**

On Monday, March 24th, HB 1389, relating to Chauffeured Limousines, by Representative James W. Grant (R-Tampa) passed the House Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee by an 8-6 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 Economic Affairs Committee, its last stop before the House floor.



The bill creates a new category of public transit 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. There are a number of mobile platforms driving this new category, such as Uber and Lift. 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.*

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## Legal & Judicial

### **SB 1524 – relating to Security of Confidential Personal Information**

On Monday, March 24th, SB 1524, relating to Security of Confidential Personal Information, by Senator John Thrasher (R-St. Augustine) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism. **Tammy Perdue, AIF General Counsel**, testified in the committee and expressed appreciation for the amendment and the issues it rectified. She also pointed out the need for additional revision prior to the bill's final passage. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Rules, its last stop before the Senate floor.



This bill creates new Florida requirements for various notifications a company must make in the event of a data breach. This measure was originated by Attorney General Pam Bondi. AIF and our members across all industries and areas of the state have worked with General Bondi and Senator Thrasher over the past several weeks to find a way to provide the consumer safeguards needed while avoiding unintended consequences that create costly regulatory burdens on businesses. At today's committee an amendment was adopted which revised much of the bill and addresses some of the business community's concerns. If your business would like to participate in the ongoing discussions relating to this bill, please email Mrs. Perdue at [tperdue@aif.com](mailto:tperdue@aif.com) to include your concerns related to this important bill.

### **HB 1135 – relating to Civil Liability for Farmers**

On Monday, March 24th, HB 1135, relating to Civil Liability of Farmers, by Representative Kevin Rader

(D-Boca Raton) unanimously passed the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House Judiciary Committee, its last stop before the House floor.

These bills exempt 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.

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## **Education & Workforce**

### **HB 7083 – relating to School Choice**

On Monday, March 24th, HB 7083, relating to Charter Schools, by the House Choice & Innovation Subcommittee passed the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee by an 8-5 vote. 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.

This bill creates new opportunities for high-performing charter school operators to establish quality charter schools in Florida, including charter schools in hard-to serve areas. The bill authorizes an out-of-state entity that successfully operates a system of charter schools to apply and qualify for high-performing charter school system status. The state board must adopt rules specifying a process and criteria for evaluating out-of-state entities for “high-performing” status. Eligibility criteria must be aligned with the priorities specified in the federal Charter Schools Program Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools, which emphasizes student achievement. Additionally, the bill shifts the focus of the state’s program for replicating quality charter schools towards meeting school district needs for innovative school choice options and serving areas served by struggling traditional public schools.

AIF supports educational choice. In addition, AIF supports capital outlay funding for public charter schools, removing artificial enrollment caps that prevent public charter schools from meeting the demand of students on waiting lists, restricting authority of school districts from imposing additional regulatory burdens on public charter schools and changes to funding formulas to require that funding follows the individual student.

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## **Health Care**

### **HB 751 – relating to Telehealth**

On Monday, March 24th, HB 751, relating to Telemedicine Services, by Representative Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park) and Representative Mia Jones (D-Jacksonville) passed the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a 10-3 vote. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House Health & Human Services Committee, its last stop before the House floor.

The bill would encourage the use of telehealth in Florida. It would establish definitions for “telehealth” and would ensure that a telehealth provider documents the services provided to a Florida patient. Further, the bill would allow a health care provider not licensed in Florida to provide health care services to a Florida patient as long as the provider registers with the applicable practice board or with the Department of Health. Health care providers would be exempt from registering with the State of Florida

if the service being provided is during an emergency situation, in consultation with a Florida licensed health care provider and a provider does not provide this kind of service more than ten times per year.

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

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## Insurance

### **HB 879 – relating to Flood Insurance**

On Monday, March 24th, HB 879, relating to Flood Insurance, by Representative Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater) unanimously passed the House Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill now heads to the House Regulatory Affairs Committee, its last stop before the House floor.

This legislation is the House's flood insurance plan, designed to attract personal residential insurers to write flood insurance, which is currently covered almost entirely by the National Flood Insurance Program.

AIF supports the Legislature's efforts to attract more private writers for flood insurance to give consumers an alternative to the federally run government program, the National Flood Insurance Program.

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## IT Governance

### **SB 1010 – relating to Cable and Video Services**

On Monday, March 24th, SB 1010, relating to Cable and Video Services, by Senator Garrett Richter (R-Naples) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor for consideration.

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.

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## Taxation & Budget

### **HB 898 – relating to Communications Services Tax**

On Monday, March 24th, HB 898, relating to Communications Services Tax, by Senator Joseph Abruzzo (D-Wellington), unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.

This bill, brought to the attention of the legislature by the hotel and lodging industry, intends to relieve hoteliers, both large and small, from erroneous application of the Communications Services Tax (CST) by the Florida Department of Revenue on hotels, their franchises and properties. Specifically, the bill

provides clarification that certain communications over the internet do not make a hotel a provider of communications services and thus those communications are not subject to the CST.

AIF supports this bill because the impact of the state's tourism industry, along with the lodging industry, affects every corner of the state and further and erroneous taxation of the hotel and lodging industry can only harm local economies.