



DAILY BRIEF

From February 23, 2016

AGRICULTURE

HB 59-Relating to Agritourism

On Tuesday, February 23rd, **HB 59**, relating to Agritourism, **Rep. Neil Combee (R-Auburndale)** was read a third time and passed through the Senate floor unanimously with a vote of 35 yeas and 0 nays.

This bill prohibits local governments from enforcing any local ordinance, regulation, rule, or policy that prohibits, restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an agritourism activity on land classified as agricultural land under Florida's greenbelt law. An "agritourism activity" is any agricultural related activity consistent with a bona fide farm or ranch or in a working forest that allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, to view or enjoy activities, including farming, ranching, historical, cultural, or harvest-your-own activities and attractions.

Agritourism is one of the many methods farmers use to diversify and increase their income.

Previous action taken, on February 18th, on the Senate floor provided for HB 59 to be substituted for its Senate companion **SB 304**. Therefore, HB 59, will now go to Governor Scott's desk to be signed into law.

AIF supports any legislation that allows Florida farmers to safely expand their businesses through the use of Agritourism.