

S P E C I A L R E P O R T

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ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA  
**2014 Regular Session**  
Wrap-up



**Coming Soon!**  
**AIF's 2014**  
**Vote Records**

# The 2014 Session – Quick Reference



As the Voice of Florida's Business, AIF Successfully **ADVOCATED THE PASSAGE** of the Following Bills:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

<i>Professional Sports Facilities</i>	<b>HB 7095</b> by Rep. Jimmy Patronis	Creates a program for professional sports franchises and other entities managing sports facilities to receive state funding in order to construct or improve a professional sports facility	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Keystone XL Pipeline</i>	<b>HB 281</b> by Rep. Mike Hill	Urges the President to issue final approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline Project	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Brownfields</i>	<b>HB 325</b> by Rep. Charlie Stone	Clarifies, in statute, the process for designation of a Brownfields area and offers liability protection for anyone responsible for rehabilitation of a Brownfields site	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Business Organizations</i>	<b>HB 685</b> by Rep. Pat Rooney	Amends the Florida Business Corporation Act to allow for the creation of two new forms of corporate enterprise: the social purpose corporation and the benefit corporation	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Tourism Development</i>	<b>HB 7023</b> by Rep. Travis Hutson	Directs Space Florida to consult with VISIT Florida in developing a space tourism marketing plan	<b>PASSED</b>

## EDUCATION/WORKFORCE

<i>Postsecondary Education Tuition</i>	<b>HB 851</b> by Rep. Jeanette Nunez	Provides that students, regardless of their immigration status, who attend a Florida high school for three consecutive years and enroll in an institution of higher education within 24 months after graduation are not required to pay out-of-state fees	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Agricultural Industry Certifications</i>	<b>HB 487</b> by Rep. Jake Raburn	Develops a pathway for students to show their expertise in the agricultural industry	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Education Options</i>	<b>SB 850</b> by Sen. John Legg	Expands options to elementary students, expands options and strengthens requirements for middle school and high school students, creates a new middle grades early warning system to identify at-risk students	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Education Accountability</i>	<b>SB 1642</b> by the Senate Committee on Education	Creates a clarified A through F and 100-point school grading system where point values, not safety nets or triggers, are the indicator of the grade earned	<b>PASSED</b>

## ENERGY

<i>Fuel Terminals</i>	<b>SB 1070</b> by Sen. Wilton Simpson	Declares fuel terminals located in or next to Florida's ports as critical state infrastructure	<b>PASSED</b>
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## ENVIRONMENT

<i>Reclaimed Water</i>	<b>SB 536</b> by Sen. Wilton Simpson	Directs the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services to conduct a study and submit a report on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Carbon Dioxide Emissions</i>	<b>SB 1174</b> by Sen. Audrey Gibson	Urges the United State Congress to allow states to develop their own performance standards, compliance schedules, and guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions	<b>PASSED</b>

## HEALTHCARE

<i>Pharmacy Technicians</i>	<b>HB 323</b> by Rep. Mike La Rosa, Rep. Daphne Campbell	Removes the cap on the number of pharmacy technicians (previously three) that one pharmacist may supervise	<b>PASSED</b>
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## INSURANCE

<i>Flood Insurance</i>	<b>SB 542</b> by Sen. Jeff Brandes	Senate'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	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Insurer Solvency</i>	<b>SB 1308</b> by Sen. David Simmons	Adopts several updates from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Property Insurance</i>	<b>SB 1672</b> by the Senate Com. on Banking & Insurance	Addresses several aspects of Citizens eligibility for commercial residential multi-peril policies and includes several fraud protections including prohibiting contractors from waiving deductibles to induce policyholders to file claims	<b>PASSED</b>

## LEGAL & JUDICIAL

<i>Consumer Collection Practices</i>	<b>HB 413</b> by Rep. David Santiago	Subjects "control persons" of consumer collection agencies (CCAs) to state and federal criminal background checks, and subjects these persons to disqualifying periods based on the severity and recency of a criminal conviction	<b>PASSED</b>
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<i>Nursing Home Litigation</i>	<b>SB 670</b> by Sen. John Thrasher	Provides that the statutory cause of action is the exclusive remedy against a nursing home licensee, its management or consulting company, managing employees, and direct caregivers alleging direct or vicarious liability for the recovery of damages for the personal injury or death of a nursing home resident arising out of negligence or a violation of a resident's statutory rights	<b>PASSED</b>
<b>IT GOVERNANCE</b>			
<i>Agency for State Technology</i>	<b>HB 7073</b> by Rep. Seth McKeel	Creates the Agency for State Technology (AST), within the Department of Management Services, headed by an executive director who will serve as the state's Chief Information Officer	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Security of Personal Information</i>	<b>SB 1524</b> by Sen. John Thrasher	Creates the "Florida Information Protection Act of 2014," which seeks to create new Florida requirements for various notifications a company must make in the event of a data breach	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Protected Consumer's Information</i>	<b>SB 242</b> by Sen. Nancy Detert	Creates the "Keeping I.D. Safe (KIDS) Act" to authorize a representative of a minor consumer younger than sixteen years of age, or a guardian, to place a security freeze on that consumer's credit report	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Cable and Video Services</i>	<b>SB 1010</b> by Sen. Garrett Richter	Repeals a study by the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability on the status of video competition in Florida	<b>PASSED</b>
<b>TAXATION</b>			
<i>Motor Vehicle Taxes</i>	<b>SB 156</b> by Sen. Joe Negron	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	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Emergency Communication System</i>	<b>HB 175</b> by Rep. Greg Steube	Reduces the current charge for 911 services on all phone lines, including mobile	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Tax Cut Package</i>	<b>HB 5601</b> by Rep. Ritch Workman	Contains the final \$105 million in tax cuts of Governor Scott's goal of \$500 million in tax relief for Floridians this session	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Communications Services Tax</i>	<b>HB 803</b> by Rep. Jim Boyd	Clarifies that the state's Communications Service Tax (CST) is not applicable to communications between hotels and their franchises	<b>PASSED</b>
<i>Special Districts</i>	<b>SB 1632</b> by Sen. Kelli Stargel	Revises duties of Legislative Auditing Committee; specifies applicability of procedures regarding suspension and removal of member of governing body of special district; revises when special district may be declared inactive; prohibits special districts declared inactive from collecting taxes, fees, or assessments; and provides for costs of litigation & reasonable attorney fees under certain conditions	<b>PASSED</b>

## AIF Successfully DEFEATED the Following Attempts to Damage Florida's Legal and Business Climate:

<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>			
<i>Springs Regulation</i>	<b>SB 1576</b> by Sen. Charlie Dean	Provides for funding from documentary stamp revenues to pay for changes to the makeup and mission of the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) and requires the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) in Outstanding Florida Springs(OFSs)	Died in House messages
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>			
<i>Telemedicine</i>	<b>SB 1646</b> by the Senate Committee on Health Policy	Seeks to expand the use of telemedicine in the state but did not manage this expansion without adding regulatory barriers and costs on health care delivery	Died in Senate Committee on Approps.
<i>Step-Therapy</i>	<b>HB 1001</b> by Rep. Jason Brodeur	Makes it easier for prescribing providers to override step-therapy procedures and prescribe more costly medications before first trying lower-cost alternatives	Died in House messages
<i>Prior Authorization</i>	<b>SB 1354</b> by Sen. Denise Grimsley	Requires health insurers to use a single standardized form for obtaining prior authorization for a medical procedure; deemed a prior authorization request submitted for prescription drugs as approved unless an insurer responded within three business days; incorporated the step-therapy language from HB 1001	Died in House messages
<i>Health Care Regulation</i>	<b>HB 7113</b> by Rep. Greg Steube, Rep. Jason Brodeur	Comprehensive regulatory overhaul relating to telemedicine, step-therapy, advanced practitioners registered nurses, prior authorization, pharmaceuticals, etc.	Died in House messages
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
<i>Workers' Compensation Cost Task Force</i>	<b>SB 1580</b> by Sen. Alan Hays	Creates the Workers' Compensation Cost Task Force for the purpose of analyzing workers' compensation costs and recommend any changes to the current system	Died in Senate Committee on Approps.



## Economic Development

### Sports Facilities

**SB 1216** by Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) and its House companion **HB 7095** by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) creates a program for professional sports franchises and other entities managing sports facilities to receive state funding in order to construct or improve a professional sports facility. Applicants to this program would have to be recommended by the Department of Economic Opportunity and specific distributions of funds must be approved by the Legislature. A portion of **SB 208** by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) was incorporated into **HB 7095** that includes motorsports complexes in the program. AIF supported this legislation from the beginning because sports franchises and their facilities have a significant positive economic impact in Florida and employ thousands in the state.

**SB 1216** was substituted for **HB 7095**, which is awaiting Governor Scott's signature as of 5/12/14

### Other Bills of Interest

**SB 208** *Relating to Motorsports Entertainment Complexes* by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) **DIED**; however provision is included in **HB 7095**

**HB 281** *Relating to Keystone XL Pipeline* by Rep. Mike Hill (R-Pensacola) **PASSED**

**HB 325/ SB 586** *Relating to Brownfields* by Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala) and Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) **PASSED**

**SB 372** *Relating to Developments of Regional Impact* by Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) **DIED**

**HB 685/SB 654** *Relating to Business Organizations* by Rep.

Pat Rooney, Jr. (R-Palm Beach Gardens) and Sen. Jeff Clemens (D-Lake Worth) **PASSED**

**SB 7023** *Relating to Economic Development* by Rep. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast) **PASSED**

## Education/Workforce

### In-State Tuition

**HB 851** by Rep. Jeanette Nunez (R-Miami) and its Senate counterpart **SB 1400** by Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) provides that students, regardless of their immigration status, who attend a Florida high school for three consecutive years and enroll in an institution of higher education within 24 months after graduation are not required to pay out-of-state fees, provided they submit their high school transcript as documentary evidence of attendance and graduation. While these students are not classified as residents for tuition purposes, they may be reported for purposes of state funding. AIF supports allowing all Florida high school graduates to qualify for in-state tuition at our public colleges, universities and independent universities regardless of their immigration status, subject to meeting all admission standards. This bill enables future generations of Florida's children to get a higher education and/or specialized degree, obtain good paying jobs and become contributors to our state's economy.

**SB 1400** died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations and **HB 851** was approved by both chambers and is awaiting Governor Scott's signature as of 5/12/14

### Other Bills of Interest

**HB 377/ SB 628** *Relating to Educational Facilities Financing* by Rep. George Moraitis, Jr. (R-Ft. Lauderdale) and Sen. Bill Montford (D-Apalachicola) **DIED**

**HB 487/SB 1206** *Relating to Agricultural Industry Certifications* by Rep. Jake Raburn (R-Valrico) and Sen. Bill Montford (D-Apalachicola) **PASSED**

**HB 541/SB 900** *Relating to Public-Private Partnerships* by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) and Sen. Jack Latvala **DIED**

**SB 790** *Relating to Education* by Sen. John Legg (R-Lutz) **DIED**

**SB 850** *Relating to Education* by Sen. John Legg (R-Lutz) **PASSED**

**SB 1528** *Relating to Charter Schools* by Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park) **DIED**

**HB 7117/SB 1642** *Relating to Education Accountability* by the House Education Committee and the Senate Committee on Education **PASSED**

**HB 7083** *Relating to School Choice* by Rep. Jose Diaz (R-Miami) **DIED**



## Environment

### Bills of Interest

**SB 312/SB 575** *Relating to Agriculture* by Rep. Ben Albritton (R-Bartow) and Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) **DIED**

**HB 601/SB 536** *Relating to Reclaimed Water* by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) and Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) **PASSED**

**HB 703/SB 1464** *Relating to Environmental Regulation* by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) and Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) **DIED**

**SB 1174** *Relating to Carbon Dioxide Emissions Guidelines* by Sen. Audrey Gibson (D-Jacksonville) **PASSED**

**HB 1427** *Relating to Citrus Greening Disease* by Rep. Ben Albritton (R-Bartow) **DIED**

**SB 1576** *Relating to Springs* by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) **DIED**

## Health Care

### Pharmacy Technicians

**SB 278** by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) and its House counterpart **HB 323** by Rep. Mike La Rosa (R-Saint Cloud) and Rep. Daphne Campbell (D-Miami Shores) removes the cap on the number of pharmacy technicians (previously three) that one pharmacist may supervise. Further, the bill authorizes pharmacists to administer the meningococcal vaccine and removes the requirement that a pharmacist obtain a prescription from a physician in order to administer the shingles vaccine. AIF supported this legislation from the beginning and advocates access for Floridians to high-paying jobs, such as pharmacy technician.

**SB 278** was substituted for **SB 323**, which is awaiting Governor Scott's signature as of 5/12/14

### Physician Assistants

**SB 1230** by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) and **HB 1275** by Rep. Larry Ahern (R-St. Petersburg) sought to increase the number of physician assistants (PA) that one physician may supervise at a time. This legislation would have exempted an increased ratio for dermatologists' offices, which generally requires more hands-on supervision by a physician. The bill also would have allowed a physician to supervise a physician assistant at a site other than their primary office for the provision of specialty skin services if certain training is completed. Further, the bill would have simplified the reporting system for PAs who work under multiple physicians in hospitals. Currently, a PA is required to list all of the physicians with whom they work in a report to the Department of Health (DOH). This bill would require the PA to report to DOH only their primary supervising physician. AIF supported this measure and continues to support removing regulatory scope of practice obstacles for qualified health care professionals to ensure greater access to quality health care for Floridians at more affordable costs.

**SB 1230** died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations; **HB 1275** died in the House Health Policy Committee

### Transparency

**SB 488** by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate) aimed to protect consumers and bring more transparency to out-of-network charges. The bill would have required 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 amended 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 supported this bill and continues to support legislation that would deliver more information to patients about the providers involved in their treatment so that the patients can make better decisions about the care they receive.

**SB 488** died in the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

## Telemedicine

**HB 751** by Rep. Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park) and Rep. Mia Jones (D-Jacksonville) would have expanded the use of telemedicine technology in Florida, a top priority for AIF. The bill would have established definitions for “telehealth” and would have ensured that a provider documented telehealth services provided to a patient in Florida. Further, the bill would have allowed a health care provider not licensed in Florida to provide health care services to a patient in Florida as long as the provider registered with the applicable practice board or with the Department of Health. Health care providers would have been exempt from registering with the State of Florida if the service being provided was during an emergency situation, if the service was in consultation with a Florida licensed health care provider and if the provider did not provide service more than 10 times per year. AIF supported this legislation and continues to advocate for an unfettered role for telemedicine services that gives our citizens access to better quality care at lower costs.

**HB 751** died in the House Health & Human Services Committee

**SB 1646** by the Senate Committee on Health Policy also sought to expand the use of telemedicine in Florida. The bill did not, however, manage this expansion without adding regulatory barriers and costs on health care delivery which created serious concerns for AIF. AIF opposed this bill throughout the process because it would limit the practitioners who

could have utilized telemedicine technology in Florida.

**SB 1646** died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

## Step-Therapy

**HB 1001** by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) would have made it easier for prescribing providers to override step-therapy procedures and prescribe more costly medications before first trying lower-cost alternatives. The bill’s provisions would have undercut the ability of step-therapy programs to contain medication costs. AIF opposed this bill from its inception because it would have increased pharmacy costs for Florida’s consumers and businesses.

**HB 1001** died in the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

## Prior Authorization

**SB 1354** by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) contained several provisions opposed by AIF. The bill would have required health insurers to use a single standardized form for obtaining prior authorization for a medical procedure; deemed a prior authorization request submitted for prescription drugs as approved, unless an insurer responded within three business days; incorporated the step-therapy language from HB 1001; and required managed care organizations participating in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program to establish a broader prescribed drug formulary or preferred drug list. AIF adamantly opposed this bill because it would have created additional bureaucracy and inflated health care costs for Florida’s businesses.

**SB 1354** died in House messages

## Other Bills of Interest

**HB 7113** *Relating to Health Care* by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) and Rep. Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) **DIED**

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# Insurance

## Workers' Compensation

**SB 1580** by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) and **HB 1351** by Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala) sought to enact changes to the state's current workers' compensation laws. **SB 1580** would have created the Workers' Compensation Cost Task Force for the purpose of analyzing workers' compensation costs and recommend any changes to the current system. AIF strongly cautioned against forming this task force due to several cases currently pending before the Florida Supreme Court that challenge the constitutionality of the workers' compensation law. Given the court's recent opinions on other topics, including its recent disregard for the Legislature's fact finding ability, AIF continued to be very concerned that the outcome of any of the pending cases could disrupt the critical balance of the system on which Florida employers rely. AIF opposed these bills because the looming potential for the court to alter workers' compensation warranted the need for stability of the current system for the state's employers.

**SB 1580** died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations; **HB 1351** died in the House Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

## Other Bills of Interest

**HB 375/SB 870** *Relating to Insurance* by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona) and Sen. Chris Smith (D-Oakland Park) **DIED**

**HB 391** *Relating to Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center* by Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) **DIED**

**HB 879/SB 542** *Relating to Flood Insurance* by Rep. Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater) and Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) **PASSED**

**HB 565** *Relating to Insurance* by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona) **DIED**

**HB 1271/SB 1308** *Relating to Insurer Solvency* by Rep. Clay Ingram (R-Pensacola) and Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) **PASSED**

**SB 1672** *Relating to Property Insurance* by the Senate Committee on Banking & Insurance **PASSED**

# IT Governance

## State Technology

**HB 7073** by Rep. Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland) and **SB 928** by the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee seeks to create the Agency for State Technology (AST), within the Department of Management Services, headed by an executive director who will serve as the state's chief infor-

mation officer. The AST would be responsible for developing and implementing information technology standards, while consolidating services where applicable. Creating a state data center would also be a task of the AST, including oversight of the state's digital storage and management. The defunct Agency for Enterprise Information Technology is abolished by the bill and its duties are transferred to the AST. The AST would be given extensive authority to set state technology policy and perform project oversight of large IT projects. AIF has been working on this issue for many years and continues to advocate that Florida's business processes have much to gain from technology as long as there are effective information governance laws in place and strong leadership from the Executive Branch.

**SB 928** was substituted for **HB 7073**, which is awaiting Governor Scott's signature as of 5/12/14

## Information Protection

**SB 1524** by Sen. John Thrasher (R-St. Augustine) and **HB 7085** by the House Civil Justice Subcommittee create the "Florida Information Protection Act of 2014," which seeks to create new Florida requirements for various notifications a company must make in the event of a data breach. Under the bill, companies would be required to give notice within 30 days of the discovery of the breach or belief that a breach occurred, unless delayed at the request of law enforcement for investigative purposes or if another good cause can be determined. This measure was originated by Attorney General Pam Bondi. AIF and our members across all industries and areas of the state worked with General Bondi and Sen. Thrasher throughout session to find a way to provide consumer safeguards needed, while avoiding unintended consequences that create costly regulatory burdens on businesses. AIF applauds General Bondi and Sen. Thrasher for their diligent leadership in protecting consumer information in a manner that is fair and not burdensome to Florida businesses. AIF advocated for this important legislation because it provides clear direction to companies for handling data and security challenges in a timely and consistent manner.

**HB 7085** was substituted for **SB 1524**, which is awaiting Governor Scott's signature as of 5/12/14

## Other Bills of Interest

**HB 151/SB 242** *Relating to Security of a Protected Consumer's Information* by Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen (R-Fort Myers) and Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Venice) **PASSED**

**HB 4017/SB 1010** *Relating to Cable and Video Services* by Rep. Ray Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers) and Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) **PASSED**



## Legal & Judicial

### Fair Settlement Reform

**HB 187** by Rep. Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) would have established a 60-day timeframe during which an insurer may investigate and, if warranted, tender policy limits to settle a liability, a top priority for AIF this session. An offer of policy limits within 60 days should be legally sufficient to demonstrate a “good faith effort” by the insurer to settle a liability claim on behalf of its policyholder and bar a bad faith cause of action. This bill would have given businesses and insurers reasonable time to settle a liability claim without litigation. AIF stood in support of this bill because it would have decreased the cost of litigation and asserted more certainty in settling liability claims.

**HB 187** died in the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

### Accuracy in Damages

**HB 379** by Rep. Charles David Hood, Jr. (R-Daytona Beach) aimed to prevent plaintiffs in personal injury cases from artificially inflating medical expenses billings that could be used as evidence in a trial. Under this bill, only the amount actually paid in-full would be admissible in court and only medical services deemed necessary would be eligible for reimbursement. AIF supported this legislation and continues to support leveling the playing field and making Florida’s legal climate a better place to do business.

**HB 379** died in the House Judiciary Committee

### Malt Beverages

**HB 387** by Rep. Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) and **SB 470** by Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Venice) would have allowed malt beverage tastings on premises of an authorized vendor to sell alcoholic beverages, by the drink, for consumption on premises or the premises of any vendor authorized to sell alcoholic beverages only in sealed containers for consumption off premises if it has at least 10,000 square feet or is a licensed

package store. Current law permits only wine and liquor distributors and vendors to conduct wine and liquor tastings at licensed premises that are authorized to sell such beverages. AIF supported these bills because they would have expanded competitiveness through the marketing opportunities that tastings provide.

**HB 387** died on the calendar in the House; **SB 470** died in the Senate Committee on Rules

### Wage Theft

**SB 926** by Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) and **HB 957** by Rep. Neil Combee (R-Auburndale) sought to standardize the process statewide for civil action in the court system for wage theft claims. The legislation would have preempted local regulation on the matter and simplified how businesses operating in multiple counties addressed these claims. AIF supported the uniform process that would have fostered positive work environments and encouraged economic development.

**SB 926** died on the calendar in the Senate; **HB 957** died in the House Local & Federal Affairs Committee

### Other Bills of Interest

**HB 413/SB 1006** *Relating to Consumer Collection Practices* by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona) and Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) **PASSED**

**HB 569/SB 670** *Relating to Nursing Home Litigation* by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar) and Sen. John Thrasher (R-St. Augustine) **PASSED**

**HB 771/SB 1182** *Relating to Secondary Metals Recyclers* by Rep. Neil Combee (R-Auburndale) and Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) **DIED**

**HB 1135/SB 1138** *Relating to Civil Liability of Farmers* by Rep. Kevin Rader (D-Boca Raton) and Sen. Greg Evers (R-Crestview) **DIED**

## Taxation

### Motor Vehicle Fees

**SB 156** by Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City) and **HB 7123** by the House Finance & Tax Subcommittee reduce 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, a top priority for AIF. The fee reductions result in a \$12 per year savings in the amount paid to register a motor vehicle, \$2 to register a vessel, and either \$4.50 or \$9 to register a mobile home. The total result of this bill is a \$395 million tax reduction for Florida’s residents. This legislation is the lion’s share of Governor Scott’s goal of \$500 million in tax





cuts during session. AIF supported this legislation from the outset because it leaves more money in the pockets of Floridians and encourages growth and job creation for businesses, especially those with a fleet of vehicles.

**HB 7123** was substituted for **SB 156**, which Governor Scott signed into law on April 2, 2014. The law takes effect on September 1, 2014

### Emergency Communications

**HB 175** by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) and **SB 294** by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) seeks to reduce the current charge for 911 services on all phone lines, including mobile. In addition, the legislation implements the findings of the E911 Board, allowing for the collection of the 911 fee at the retail point of sale for prepaid wireless phone plans. Implementing a point of sale collection method for prepaid plans and enabling the fee to be collected from everyone with access to 911 may make it possible to reduce the fee for all consumers. The bill would also put priority on allowing counties to use funds to upgrade and replace 911 systems for the next generation. AIF was a proponent of this legislation because it lessens the 911 surcharge on Florida's phone users, as well as supports a robust and modern emergency communications system vital to the welfare of Florida's business community.

**SB 294** was substituted for **HB 175**, which is awaiting Governor Scott's signature as of 5/12/14

### Communications Services Taxes

**SB 266** by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) sought to lower the state portion of the communications services tax (CST), a top priority of AIF. More specifically, the bill sought to reduce the state portion of the CST rate by 0.58 percent, from 6.65 percent to 6.07 percent and the tax rate on direct-to-home satellite services from 10.8 percent to 10.22 percent. The bill would have changed the distribution of direct-to-home satellite CST revenue to ensure local governments continued to receive the same amount of revenue as they did under current law. AIF supported this bill because the tax rate on communications services is higher than on general sales and makes the communications services expense a significant deterrent for businesses to locate here.

**SB 266** died in the Senate Committee on Appropriations

**SB 712** by Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) sought to revise the definition of the term "prepaid calling arrangement" for purposes of the communications services tax (CST) and the sales tax. The primary effect of the bill would have been to include mobile communications services that met specified conditions. The bill also provided that if a purchaser of a prepaid calling arrangement paid sales tax on the sale or recharge of such arrangement, no additional sales tax or CST would be due or payable if the purchaser applies one or more units of the prepaid calling arrangement to obtain communications services that are provided to or through the same handset or other electronic device that is used by the purchaser to access mobile communications services, other services that are not communications services or products. AIF supports clarification that prepaid calling arrangements, such as wireless phones purchased at retail stores, should be taxed as tangible personal property.

**SB 712** died in House messages; however, provision is included in **HB 5601**

### Tax Reductions

**HB 5601** by Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne), Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) and the House Finance & Tax Subcommittee contains the final \$105 million in tax cuts of Governor Scott's goal of \$500 million in tax relief for Floridians this session. Many AIF-supported provisions that failed as stand-alone bills were ultimately added to this package.

This legislation will enact the following:

- Three-day back-to-school tax holiday in August, estimated to save \$40 million for families
- Sales tax holiday for hurricane supplies worth up to \$750
- Sales tax holiday in September for energy-efficient appliances
- Three-year exemption on sales tax for cement mixing drums
- Eliminates the sales tax for child car seats, bicycle helmets, medicinal pet food and college meal plans
- Reduces the tax on prepaid calling plans
- Increases tax credits for New Market programs and Habitat for Humanity
- Cuts taxes on uncollectable debt on credit cards issued

by retailers

- Lowers the effective tax rate for title insurance
- Distributes \$5 million from cigarette taxes to the Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
- Reduces taxes on electricity for businesses and shifts revenue to the Public Education Capital Outlay program, a top priority of Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam

AIF supported this package of tax cuts for individuals and businesses because it will stimulate the economy and make Florida a more attractive place to live and conduct business.

**HB 5601** passed both chambers and was signed into law by Governor Scott on 5/12/14

### Other Bills of Interest

**SB 134** *Relating to Tax-exempt Income* by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) **DIED**

**HB 155/SB 596** *Relating to Defense Contracting* by Rep. Jimmie Smith (R-Lecanto) and Sen. Greg Evers (R-Crestview) **DIED**

**HB 567/SB 362** *Relating to Hurricane Preparedness* by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar) and Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park) **DIED**; however, provision is included in **HB 5601**

**HB 776** *Relating to Business Entities* by Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) **DIED**

**SB 792** *Relating to Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions* by Sen. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) **DIED**; however, provision is included in **HB 5601**

**HB 803/SB 898** *Relating to Communications Services Tax* by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) and Sen. Joseph Abruzzo (D-Wellington) **PASSED**

**SB 1076** *Relating to Electrical Power or Energy* by Sen. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) **DIED**; however, provision is included in **HB 5601**

**HB 1237/SB 1632** *Relating to Special Districts* by Rep. Larry Metz (R-Groveland) and Sen. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) **PASSED**

**SB 1342** *Relating to Nonresidential Farm Buildings* by Sen. Charlie Dean, Sr. (R-Inverness) **DIED**

## Transportation

### Bills of Interest

**HB 947/SB 1070** *Relating to Fuel Terminals* by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) and Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) **PASSED**

**HB 1389/SB 1618** *Relating to Chauffeured Limousines* by Rep. James Grant (R-Tampa) and Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) **DIED**

# Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Florida Business

The Foundation of Associated Industries of Florida was formed to address the educational and development needs of Florida's business community. FAIF is governed by an independent board of directors and does not engage in any political activities.

The private business sector's support is critical to the success and continuance of FAIF's initiatives and programs. Florida businesses cannot afford to rely on public opportunities alone to train and prepare their future employees and leaders. FAIF will foster programs that identify business needs today and create solutions that will last into the future.

We are confident you will want to be a part in these programs and opportunities. We welcome your participation and suggestions as we move forward. Your contributions to FAIF are tax deductible and can be made by visiting [www.faif.org](http://www.faif.org) or contacting our executive director, Steve Trickey at 850.224.7173.



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# AIFPC Tampa Candidate Interviews

July 9–10, 2014

Wednesday, July 9, 2014: 8 am – 5:30 pm

Thursday, July 10, 2014: 8 am – 5:30 pm

Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel  
4200 Jim Walter Blvd., Tampa

For reservations call: 800.468.3571 or 813.877.9200  
Book your group rate: AIFPC Candidate Interviews

AIFPC Members will receive complete information on all events via e-mail. For more information, please contact Ryan Tyson at 850.224.7173 or [rtyson@aif.com](mailto:rtyson@aif.com).

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