



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920



2009 SESSION PRIORITIES



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

COUNCILS



The Councils of Associated Industries bring together unique sectors of the business community in order to develop and promote issues vital to those respective industries. The following pages represent the 2009 Legislative Agendas for each of the eight councils within AIF.

Information Technology



Sen. Al Lawson (D-Tallahassee) receives the IT Council “Legislator of the Year” Award.

During the 2008 legislative session, the Information Technology Council (ITC)

reviewed all bills filed and identified twelve bills that would have an impact on IT companies. Of those, SB 1892 established the policy groundwork for eventual consolidation of state data center facilities to achieve cost savings gained through greater economies of scale. In summary, the current law provides for:

- Creation of the Northwood Shared Resource Center and the Southwood Shared Resource Center as “primary data centers” managed by boards of trustees acting as the agency head of the data center;
- Creation of the State Data Center System (SDCS) comprised of all data centers and computing facilities; and
- Transfers of certain data center functions to the new shared resource centers.

The ITC provided input on the bill as it moved rapidly through the Legislature. The Governor’s office asked the ITC for our position after it passed and it was delivered to the Governor for his signature. In responding to the Governor, the Council restated its neutrality, but added three points. They were the need for up-front funding, the need for the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) executive director to be named, and the need to have an overall champion of the project to ensure the success. Only the appointment of a permanent Executive Director has occurred so far due to the unfortunate financial issues facing the state.

In addition to the data center consolidation bill, the ITC provided detailed input and testimony on SB 2008. This bill was the glitch bill for the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT), but due to lack of money as well as the desire to implement data center consolidation, this bill did not pass. Portions of it were added to SB 1892, the Data Center Consolidation bill.

Florida’s state government has legacy IT equipment and a decreasing number of professionals that are able to maintain them. In a time of shrinking state budgets and economic uncertainty, technology has the potential to turn government around and save money at the same time. As legislators consider how to cut government programs without hurting the people being served, IT emerges as one solution to providing the most efficient level of service.

Council Position

The ITC will continue to encourage the enhancement of government spending on IT in order to provide better service to citizens and employers. In addition, the Council will continue its support of the AEIT and will work towards ensuring that its structure is conducive to achieving sound IT policies and governance for all state agencies.

Information Technology Council Lobbyist: Frank Meiners

Council Priorities

With the lobbying expertise and influence of Associated Industries of Florida and the continued success and exceptional growth of its Information Technology Council, the acceptance of our input on technology issues is great. We hope to again have a good year in 2009 in spite of the terrible budgetary problems that exist in Florida and the country. The ITC’s 2009 legislative priorities are as follows:

- **Track and provide approved input for the expected glitch bill regarding the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT);**
- **Track and provide approved input for the expected glitch bill regarding the State Data Center System (SDCS);**
- **Support funding for the AEIT and the SDSCS;**
- **Identify any bill or proposed bill that impact procurement and/or IT companies and provide approved input; and**
- **Track and provide input to agency technology projects and issues.**