


ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA  
**LEGISLATIVE  
DAILY BRIEF**



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**JUNE 12, 2007**

Today marked the first official day of the 2007 Special Session on Property Tax Reform. Both the House and Senate were in session for a short period of time for the purpose of introducing the bills to be considered during the next 10 days. In addition, the House returned later in the afternoon to listen to a presentation by Representative Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) on the proposed consensus legislation developed by the House and Senate negotiation teams.

The House Policy and Budget Council also met this afternoon to listen to public testimony on the proposed property tax reform plan. The bulk of the presentations were from representatives from local governments, fire districts, and other special districts affected by the rollback on millage rates.

Keyna Cory, Chief Lobbyist for Associated Industries of Florida, testified on behalf of Florida's employers in support of rolling back property tax rate, but warned legislators to take their time in considering any changes to Florida's constitution.

Go to <http://link4.streamhoster.com/?u=aif&p=%2Fcoreysessionbpolicy.wmv&odaid=1099> to view Keyna Cory's testimony on AIF's position on property tax reform.

Both the Senate and House will be holding committee meetings tomorrow to discuss the proposed bills and the House will be in session starting at 6:00 pm.

### **Government Accountability**

The Legislative Sunset Advisory Committee held its first organizational meeting today. This joint committee was created by the 2006 Government Accountability Act to review and make recommendations to the Legislature on whether state agencies are to be abolished, consolidated, or allowed to continue operating. In 2006, the Legislature passed the Florida Government Accountability Act. The Act provides for a periodic review process for the continuation, modification, or abolition of many of the state agencies currently in existence. The Act also establishes an eight-year review schedule under which each state agency is given a termination date. It also attempts to address the issue of redundancy and red tape by reviewing an agency's service delivery so that duplicitous rules and procedures are done away with. This is important to the business community because employers interact with state agencies on a daily basis through the application of permits or through enforcement of licensure. Businesses depend on state

agencies and the services they provide for survival. Sometimes this process is smooth; but oftentimes it is marred by poor customer service and poor service delivery.

Representative Ray Sansom (R-Ft. Walton Beach), whose idea it was to create this process, attended the meeting and addressed the committee. He reminded them that the goal of this committee was to hold state agencies up to the same standard businesses in Florida are held. Businesses must constantly review their functions and service delivery in order to make sure that they are operating at the most efficient level. According to Representative Sansom, the Legislature must focus on this same goal in order to do away with redundancy and to save the taxpayer's money.

The Chairmen for the Legislative Sunset Committee are Representative Kevin Ambler (R-Tampa) and Senator Don Gaetz (R-Niceville). Each took the time to make some comments to the committee, which were followed by a presentation by Rick Mahler, Staff Director, who described the process and timeline by which the Committee will undertake the review of first group of agencies being considered. Representatives from OPPAGA also addressed the committee; they have been instructed to serve the committee by acting as the official research arm. OPPAGA analysts will undertake much of the fact-finding missions and provide their analysis to the Committee. According to Chairman Ambler, the Committee will be reviewing input from the first group of state agencies under review between August and December in order to make specific recommendations to the Legislature in early 2008 whether to abolish or retain these agencies. The Committee will also be traveling the state taking public testimony from businesses and Floridians who may have suggestions or complaints regarding service delivery by state agencies.

**AIF supports the strengthening and continuation of the Florida Government Accountability Act. Curbing unnecessary government expansion is wise public policy. Businesses and employers in Florida must be lean and efficient. Holding state agencies to this standard is not only appropriate, but also necessary for Florida's economy to continue to prosper.**

Please send your comments or suggestions to us at [aif@aif.com](mailto:aif@aif.com) or call the Governmental Affairs department at (850)224-7173.

- For more information on all of the important legislative information concerning the business community, go to our "members only" Florida Business Network web site at <http://fbnet.com>
- Send us your E-mail address and we will begin to send this report to you automatically via E-mail.