



DAILY BRIEF

From February 20, 2012

Week 7 of the 2012 Legislative Session convened in a quiet fashion as the House & Senate did not meet to discuss any of the year's top priorities. Nonetheless, quite a few of AIF's top issues have been calendared for consideration this week, including:

- SB 668 Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Services by Senator Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) is one of AIF's top priorities for 2012. This legislation focuses on correcting a loophole in the workers' compensation system that allows physicians to dispense repackaged drugs and charge employers exorbitant prices that greatly exceed the statutory reimbursement for the same pharmaceuticals dispensed by pharmacies. The existing loophole allows repackaged or relabeled prescription drugs to be dispensed at rates up to 679% more than what a pharmacy would charge. (View the AIF Call to Action on this issue)
- HB 1393 Relating to Taxation of Transient Rentals by Representative Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) will unduly provide special tax relief to Online Travel Companies (OTCs) over Florida-based hotels and motels as it relates to remitting income taxes on the cost of hotel rooms. (Read AIF's Position on this issue)
- SB 1150 Relating to New Markets Development Program by Senator Garrett Richter (R-Naples) increases the total amount of tax credits available to be allocated for the New Markets Development Program, which was enacted in 2009 to encourage capital investment in rural and urban low-income communities, from \$97.5 million to \$195 million, as well as increases the amount of permissible tax credits to be distributed in a single fiscal year from \$20 million to \$40 million.
- HB 979 Relating to Developments of Regional Impact by Representative Jose Felix Diaz (R-Miami) which allows developers, local governments, and the newly created Department of Economic Opportunity DEO to elect to use the state coordinated review process for certain developments and thus provide significant cost and time savings for private developers.
- SB 1064 Relating to Tangible Personal Property by Senator Nancy Detert (R-Venice) would empower the Legislature to modify the tangible personal property tax. Under this proposed legislation, such taxes would not be due unless the assessed value of the property exceeds a specified amount greater than twenty-five thousand dollars.