



# DAILY BRIEF

From March 20, 2014

## Economic Development

### **SB 208 – relating to Motorsports Entertainment Complexes**

On Thursday, March 20th, SB 208, relating to Motorsports Entertainment Complexes, by Senator Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) passed the Senate Committee on Rules by a 12-1 vote. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.



The bill would allow for a monthly distribution of a specified amount of sales tax revenue to a complex certified as a motorsports entertainment complex by the Department of Economic Opportunity while the complex upgrades its facilities.

AIF supports this measure due to the massive economic driver that motorsports are in the state of Florida. The positive economic impact to the state and the jobs created is a worthwhile return.

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## Legal & Judicial

### **HB 387 – relating to Malt Beverage Tastings**

On Thursday, March 20th, HB 387, relating to Malt Beverage Tastings, by Representative Kathleen C. Passidomo (R-Naples) unanimously passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill, which would allow for retailers that are licensed to sell malt beverages for off premise consumption only to have manufacturers and distributors conduct beer tastings at their retail locations. Some issues were raised during the committee meeting related to ensuring the integrity of the tastings and making sure the practice is not abused. The legislation passed unanimously and now heads to the House Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.

AIF supports this legislation because it creates a level playing field here in the state for beer manufacturers.

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## Taxation & Budget

### **HB 175 – relating to Emergency Communication System**

On Thursday, March 20th, HB 175, relating to Emergency Communication System, by Representative Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) unanimously passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee. **AIF Senior Vice President of State and Federal Affairs, Brewster Bevis**, stood in support of this bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill would reduce the current charge for 911 services on all phone lines, including mobile, from the current \$0.50 to \$0.46. 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 next generation.

AIF supports lessening 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 776 – relating to Business Entities**

On Thursday, March 20th, SB 776, relating to Business Entities, by Senator Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, its last stop before the Senate floor.

The bill decreases and standardizes filing fees and costs for documents filed with the Department of State. Specifically, the repeal of the \$88.75 supplemental corporate fee will likely result in a net savings of \$13.75 for an LLC, \$25 for a for-profit corporation, and \$286.25 for an LP or LLLP due to a net reduction in fees when an annual report is filed.

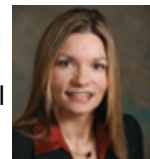
AIF supports this bill because it will likely reduce costs for LLCs, for-profit corporations, not-for-profit corporations and partnerships that operate in Florida.

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## **Health Care**

#### **SB 278 – relating to Pharmacy**

On Thursday, March 20th, SB 278, relating to Pharmacy, by Senator Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries. **AIF General Counsel, Tammy Perdue**, stood in support of this bill during the committee meeting. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Rules, its last stop before the Senate floor.



The bill would remove the cap of three pharmacy technicians that the Board of Pharmacy may authorize one pharmacist to supervise. Further, the bill would revise the composition of the board to increase the pharmacists representing both community and institutional class II pharmacies from a minimum of one in each category to a minimum of three each.

AIF supports access for Floridians to high-paying jobs, such as pharmacy technician.

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## **Education & Workforce**

#### **HB 377 – relating to Educational Facilities Financing**

On Thursday, March 20th, HB 377, relating to Educational Facilities Financing, by Representative George Moraitis, Jr. (R-Ft. Lauderdale) unanimously passed the House Education Committee. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

The bill expands the Higher Educational Facilities Financing Law (HEFFA) in two significant ways by adding non-profit, SACS accredited, K-12 schools to those institutions eligible to participate and

expanding the definition of a project that can be financed with tax exempt bonds, which would include related projects such as wetland mitigation when financing a building project. HEFFA was created in Florida Statute in 2001 to give independent, non-profit, four year, SACS accredited institutions (all 31 Independent Institutions) access to the tax exempt bond market to borrow funds for capital outlay and cash flow purposes. These funds are not backed by the full faith and credit of the state, but rather by private capital and institution credit. The bill also expands the types of projects that can be financed with tax exempt bonds. An amendment was adopted by the committee, clarifying that charter schools would not be eligible for this mechanism.

AIF supports this bill and has made this expansion a priority for the 2014 legislative session. This bill will allow ICUF institutions and non-profit SACS accredited K-12 institutions to expand their capacity and access for Florida's K-20 students and at no cost to the Florida taxpayers.

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## **Environment**

### **SB 536 – relating to Reclaimed Water**

On Thursday, March 20th, SB 536, relating to Reclaimed Water, by Senator Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the Senate floor.

The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, in cooperation with the five Water Management Districts, to conduct a study and submit a report on the expansion of the beneficial use of reclaimed water, including stormwater and excess surface water, in the state.

AIF supports state funding for alternative water supply projects. Water retention and storage are vital to expanding Florida's water supply, which will give the state a head start on economic development and jobs in the future.

### **SB 1576 – relating to Springs**

On Thursday, March 20th, SB 1576, relating to Springs, by Senator Charles Dean, Sr. (R-Inverness) unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation. AIF testified in support of the bill during the committee and pledged to continue to work on the bill. The bill now heads to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The bill provides for the protection of springs in Florida. Specifically, the bill 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). The bill also requires a study of nutrient reduction improvements for row crops and the beneficial use of reclaimed water, stormwater, and excess surface water.

AIF supports funding science-based programs and projects to improve the water quality and water quantity of Florida's major first-magnitude springs. AIF also supports state funding for alternative water supply projects.

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## Insurance

### HB 565 – relating to Insurance

On Thursday, March 20th, HB 565, relating to Insurance, by Representative David Santiago (R-Deltona) unanimously passed the House Regulatory Affairs Committee with 21 amendments. AIF stood in support of the bill during the committee. The bill now heads to the House floor.

This legislation makes changes to the boiler inspection law. The changes made should allow more persons to be eligible to inspect boilers in Florida while maintaining the inspector competency requirement in current law. The changes also mean insurers writing boiler and machinery insurance no longer have to maintain a certificate of authority to transact insurance in Florida in order for boiler inspectors employed by the insurer to be authorized to inspect boilers in Florida. However, the insurer must hold an insurance license in another state or Canadian province. The changes made by the bill to the use of retrospective rating in workers' compensation may reduce workers' compensation premiums for some employers which provides sensible regulatory reform for the insurance marketplace.

AIF supports this bill because it provides sensible regulatory reform for the insurance marketplace. Also, the changes made by the bill to the use of retrospective rating in workers' compensation may reduce workers' compensation premiums for some employers.