



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

W 2015 Regular Session & Special Session A rap-up

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AIF's 2015
Vote Records



AIF supports the Entertainment Tax Credit Program due to the jobs that a more robust film industry would produce in the state of Florida.

Economic Development

HB 451 & SB 1046 – *Relating to Entertainment Industry Tax Credit Program*

HB 451, by Rep. Mike Miller (R-Orlando) and **SB 1046**, by Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Venice), relating to Entertainment Industry Tax Credit Program, proposed significant modifications to the current incentives and benefits the state offers companies within the film and entertainment industry. **HB 451** and **SB 1064** modify the processes by which companies may receive such tax credits and exemptions and creates an additional incentive, the “Production Action Fund.” **AIF supported this legislation regarding the Entertainment Tax Credit Program due to the jobs that a more robust film industry would produce here in the state of Florida.**

HB 451 died on the calendar in the Florida House chamber; while **SB 1046** died in its last committee stop in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1032 – *Relating to Point-of-Sale Terminals*

SB 1032, relating to Point-of-Sale Terminals by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples), allowed a limited use of “point-of-sale terminals” for the sale of lottery tickets or games. A “point-of-sale terminal” is a charge card reader, like those used at a retail counter, self-service fuel pump or self-service checkout line. The bill authorizes the Department of the Lottery, approved vendors, and approved retailers to use point-of-sale terminals to facilitate sales of lottery tickets or games, provided that the purchaser is verified to be 18 years of age or older. Additionally, the terminal does not dispense lottery winnings. Lottery ticket sales revenue generated from point-of-sale terminals must be used to enhance instructional technology resources for students and teachers in Florida. **AIF supported legislation that introduced innovative means of funding Florida’s education system. In addition, enactment of this legislation would have created more manufacturing jobs in the state.**

SB 1032 died in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee, its last committee stop before heading to the floor.

Energy

HB 1205 & SB 1468 – *Relating to the Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources*

HB 1205, by Rep. Ray Rodrigues (R-Fort Myers) and **SB 1468**, by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples), relating to the Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources, sought to revise the Oil and Gas Program under the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Mining and Minerals Regulation Program in the Division of Water Resource Management (Division) to establish safer and more effective practices for oil and gas drilling, production, and exploration activities within Florida. The Program’s primary responsibilities would include conservation of oil and gas resources, correlative rights protection, maintenance of health and human safety, and environmental protection. **AIF supported the need to maintain appropriate permitting laws to protect the environment, to enhance efficiency between industry and the state, and to ensure the clear communication of appropriate standards.**

HB 1205 passed the Florida House with a vote of 82 yeas and 34 nays. **HB 1205** was then substituted for the Senate companion bill **SB 1468** by the Senate. The bill sponsor “temporarily postponed” the bill, and died on the calendar in the Senate chamber.

Environment & Agriculture

HB 7003 & SB 918 – *Relating to Water Resources*

HB 7003, by Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Lehigh Acres) and **SB 918**, by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness), comprehensively addressed major water issues, including shortages in the state of Florida. The bill created an interagency agreement to develop and implement a uniform water management system, regarding water supply planning, consumptive water use permitting, and resource protection programs. Some key components of the bill included the Springs Protection Program, the Central Florida Water Initiative, the Central and Southern Florida Project, and the Northern Everglades project. These issues are critical to Florida’s future because the Department of Environmental Protection projects a water shortage of 1.3 billion gallons of water per day by 2030. **AIF supported efforts to address Florida’s serious water challenges by developing legislation that would address a series of critical issues.**

The Senate and House each passed different versions of this legislation, but the bill ultimately died in the Senate.

Gaming

HB 1233 – *Relating to Gaming*

HB 1233, relating to Gaming by Rep. Dana Young (R-Tampa), would have created a statewide gaming commission to better regulate Florida’s gaming industry. There were two good amendments to **HB 1233** that AIF supported. One would have allowed two existing, long-standing pari-mutuel facilities to offer slot machine wagering, which would then permit these facilities to operate in a more competitive manner with other nearby gaming facilities. The second amendment would have called for referendum votes to take place in Miami-Dade and Broward counties on the creation of destination resorts, thereby putting the decision into the hands of the communities where these resorts would be located.

AIF supported legislation that would have created a statewide gaming commission to better regulate Florida’s gaming industry. In addition, we supported allowing Florida’s existing pari-mutual industry to operate in a competitive manner. AIF has long supported the creation of high-end destination resorts to bring jobs and outside capital to the state.

HB 1233 died in its last committee stop in the House Appropriations Committee.



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Permitting

SB 466 & HB 413 – *Relating to Low-Voltage Alarm Systems*

SB 466, by Sen. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) and **HB 413**, by Rep. Bob Cortes (R-Maitland), relating to Low-Voltage Alarm Systems, amends the current law related to permits required for low-voltage alarm system installation. The bill clarifies that the current law applies to “all” low-voltage alarm system projects for which a permit is required by local government or “local enforcement agencies,” including both residential and commercial low-voltage alarm systems. The bill also clarifies that a permit is not required to install or service a “wireless alarm system,” and defines “wireless alarm system” as a burglar alarm system or smoke detector that is not hardwired. The bill lowers the maximum permitting fee from \$55 to \$40 per permit label. **AIF supported legislation that reduces unnecessary permitting on Florida businesses.**

SB 466 was substituted for **HB 413** and passed through the Florida House by a vote of 115 yeas to 0 nays. **SB 466** was approved by the Governor on Thursday, May 21st.

Property Rights

HB 391 & SB 896 – *Relating to Location of Utilities*

HB 391, by Rep. Clay Ingram (R-Pensacola) and **SB 896**, by Sen. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg), relating to the Location of Utilities, created new standards for financial responsibility when a municipality requires relocation of utility equipment situated in a right-of-way or easement. **AIF supported this legislation protecting the private property rights of Florida businesses.**

HB 391 passed through the House chamber by a vote of 110 yeas to 5 nays.

SB 896 died without hearing in its last committee stop in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Taxation

HB 7141 – *Relating to Taxation*

HB 7141, by the House Finance & Tax Committee and Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar), was a tax package bill that would encompass a wide variety of issues from tax exemptions, including agricultural items like feed for aquatic organisms, irrigation equipment, costs of maintenance and repairs of irrigation and power farm equipment, stakes and certain trailers, the reduction of taxes on state communications services tax (CST), tax exemptions on school supplies, to extending dates for tax credit in certain community contribution donations. **AIF supported legislation that would provide tax cuts for Florida’s**

consumers and businesses.

HB 7141 passed through the Florida House by a vote of 112 yeas to 3 nays. **HB 7141** was then referred to Senate Appropriations and Rules Committee. **HB 7141** died without hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

*Note: Portions of **HB 7141** were encompassed on **HB 33A**, which passed during the Special Session. See section on Special Session A to follow.*

SB 544 – *Relating to Exemption from the Sales and Use Tax for Certain Machinery and Equipment*

SB 544, relating to Exemption from the Sales and Use Tax for Certain Machinery and Equipment by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange), would have removed the expiration date for the exemption from sales and use tax for certain industrial machinery and equipment. The current exemption for industrial machinery and equipment continues through April 2017; therefore, the bill does not have a cash impact in Fiscal Years 2015-2016 or 2016-2017. The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that the bill will reduce general revenue receipts by \$122.4 million in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with a \$122.4 million recurring impact. The bill will reduce local government revenue by \$27.4 million in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with a \$27.4 million

recurring impact. **AIF supported the removal of the three year sunset on the complete elimination of sales tax imposed on the purchase of manufacturing equipment and machinery.** Doing so would lead to expanded manufacturing here in Florida.

SB 544 died in the Senate Appropriations Committee, the bills last committee stop before heading to the floor.

Transportation

HB 817 – *Relating to Transportation Network Companies*

HB 817, relating to Transportation Network Companies by Rep. Matthew Gaetz (R-Shalimar), prompted the state to create a regulatory framework for the operation of Transportation Network Companies (TNC), instead of regulations being created at the local level. Currently, TNC's are not referenced in the state of Florida's statute; however, some jurisdictions at the local level have enacted regulations regarding TNC's. **AIF supported this legislation regarding statewide digital transportation service policies to create price competition, promote consumer choice, enhance customer experience, create jobs and remove anti-competitive local regulations.**

HB 817 died on the calendar in the Florida House chamber.



The removal of the three year sunset on the complete elimination of sales tax imposed on the purchase of manufacturing equipment and machinery will help to expand manufacturing here in Florida.

► Special Session A • June 1-19



HB 33A – Relating to Taxation

HB 33A, relating to Taxation, by House Finance & Tax Committee and Rep. Matthew Gaetz (R-Shalimar), is a broad-based tax package designed to bring relief to Florida families and businesses.

Below is some of what the tax package, **HB 33A**, will include:

- Reduces the communications services tax (CST) rate by 1.73 percentage points permanently.
- Exempts aquacultural products and feed for aquacultural products from sales tax.
- Expands the farm equipment sales tax exemption to include storage equipment, irrigation equipment, parts and repairs, trailers, and plant stakes.
- Increases the annual limit on the Research and Development Corporate Tax Credit from \$9 million to \$23 million for calendar year 2016.
- Increases the amount of tax credits available for brownfield rehabilitation from \$5 million annually to \$21.6 million in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and returns to \$5 million annually thereafter.
- Provides a 10-day “back-to-school” tax holiday.
- Allows businesses in enterprise zones as of May 1, 2015, to apply for enterprise zone incentives for an additional three years.

As of Tuesday, June 16th, **HB 33A** was approved by the Governor.

AIF supports tax cuts for Florida’s consumers and businesses.

SB-2A – Relating to Health Insurance Affordability Exchange

SB-2A, relating to the Health Insurance Affordability Exchange, by Sen. Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville), would have established the Florida Health Insurance Exchange (FHIX) program. **SB-2A** was the same version approved by the Senate during the regular session. The FHIX program would have used federal dollars to provide premium assistance to approximately 800,000 of the low income and uninsured Floridians. Participants would have been required to pay premiums ranging from \$3 to \$25 a month and show proof that they were employed or were receiving employment assistance services. **AIF supported SB-2A because it is consistent with our longstanding health care policy objectives that seek to ensure a thriving Florida workforce by increasing the accessibility and affordability of quality health care for Florida residents.**

SB-2A passed through the Florida Senate by a vote of 33 yeas to 3 nays, but failed to pass through the Florida House by a vote of 41 yeas to 72 nays, causing this bill to die.

“Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Florida Business”

The Foundation of Associated Industries of Florida was formed in 2008 to address the educational and development needs of Florida’s business community. FAIF is governed by an independent board of directors. The Foundation 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 or contacting our executive director, Steve Trickey at 850.224.7173.

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FLORIDA

Water Forum 2015

Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld
September 24th & 25th

**Be the first
to hear from
Florida's
key policy-
makers on
critical water
legislation.**

This meeting will provide participants with the most current information from Florida's policy leaders in the legislature and state government on issues relating to water policy. Experts and policymakers in the industry will serve as guest speakers and panelists and will provide a solid agenda of the on-going, critical issues facing our state.

The Florida Water Forum has garnered overwhelming recognition by business community leaders, regional and local government officials and members of the general public. Registration is open to all. A detailed agenda will be announced at a later date.

Day 1 • 9/24

5–7pm Networking
Reception

Day 2 • 9/25

9am–1pm General Session
(lunch included)

1–3pm Breakout Sessions

Register On-Line at www.flawaterforum.com

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Orlando • Aug. 25-27, 2015
JW MARRIOTT



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conference!*

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