

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues

2011 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature



2011
Champions
for
Page 37
Business



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920



Barney T. Bishop III
President &
Chief Executive Officer

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complete
Voting
Records
report

Dear Employer:

It is my pleasure to provide you with this tabulation of the voting conduct of each member of the Florida Legislature during the 2011 Regular Session.

Voting Records reports on the votes made by every legislator on bills that were lobbied, advocated, promoted or opposed by Associated Industries of Florida. **By reporting on 18,200 votes cast by legislators on 146 bills**, this publication embodies the most exhaustive and complete record of the Legislature's approach to the concerns of Florida's employers.

We go to great lengths to ensure that legislators are aware of AIF's positions on issues of great importance to the business community. Every year before the session begins, we produce AIF's *Session Priorities*, which explains why we support or oppose key issues. In addition, during the session we provide each legislator with a *Daily Brief* on the activities of that day, highlighting bills of interest to business and our positions on those issues. Our greatest asset, however, is our experienced and accomplished legislative team, which has compiled a record of success second to none.

For 36 years, AIF has published *Voting Records*, an analysis of every vote cast by every legislator on major business issues. Yet voting records only tell part of the story. AIF also helps its member companies detect what bills and amendments are filed and by whom, and who is taking part in behind-the-scene efforts and debates on behalf of the business community.

These intangible forms of support through non-voting actions are also of vital importance and merit recognition. AIF instituted the "Champion for Business" award in 2003 to acknowledge lawmakers who provide leadership on key legislation. A "Champion for Business" is a legislator who takes risks for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate and who faces down the opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

The 18 lawmakers (see page 37) honored this year are the epitome of a "Champion for Business." In addition, we have selected six additional members for "Legislator of the Year" awards in light of their exemplary work on behalf of AIF's policy councils.



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516 North Adams Street
Post Office Box 784
Tallahassee, FL 32302-0784
Phone: 850.224.7173
Fax: 850.224.6532
E-mail: aif@aif.com
Internet: www.aif.com

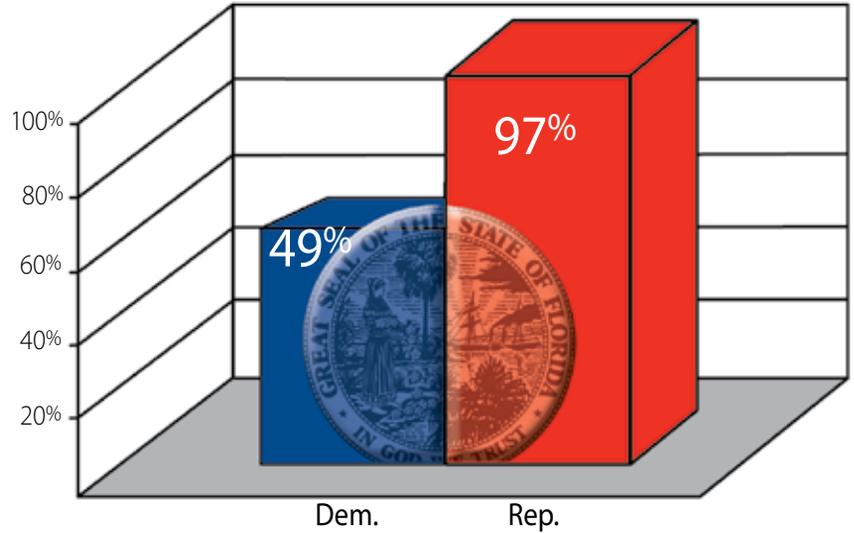
Barney T. Bishop III

President & Chief Executive Officer

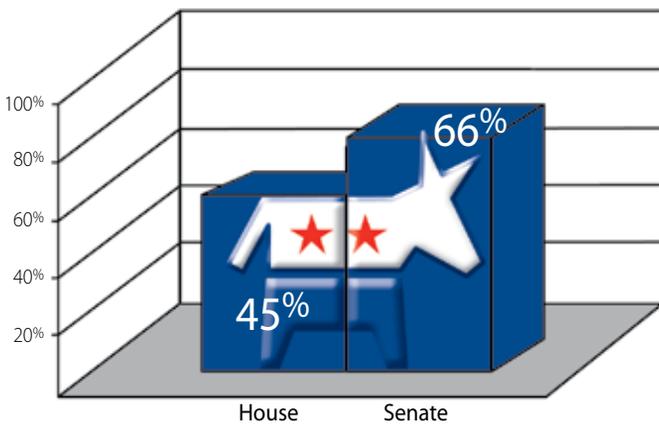
2011 Florida Legislature *by the Numbers*

Knowing how individual legislators cast their votes is extremely important when evaluating their stand on the issues facing our members. However, it is also important to look at the other areas of the data to find clues on how different segments of the Florida Legislature are casting their votes. For instance, which party in which chamber tends to support business issues more than the other? How do the current voting records compare to those from past years? This section will break down different segments of the votes and provide some interesting snapshots of what the mood of the Florida Legislature is on business issues.

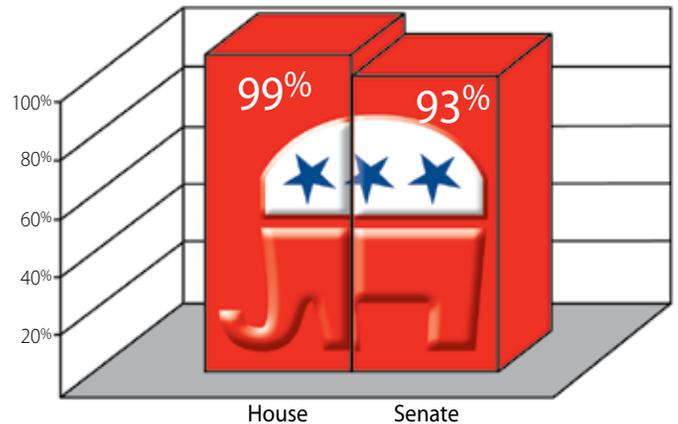
2011 Florida Legislature by Party



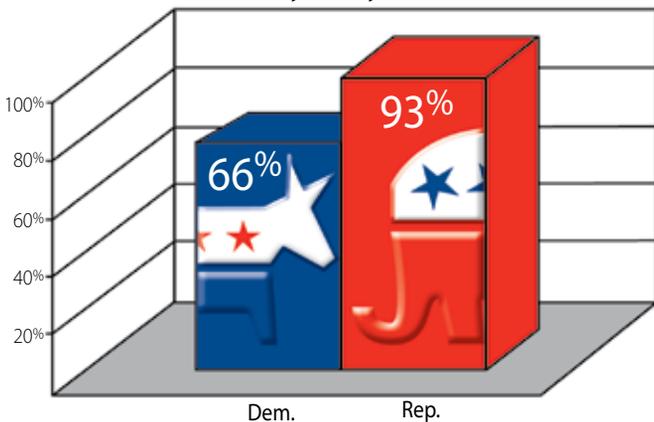
Democrats by Chamber



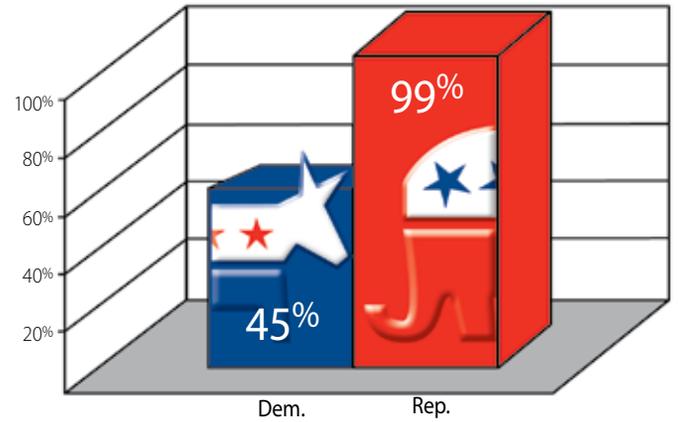
Republicans by Chamber



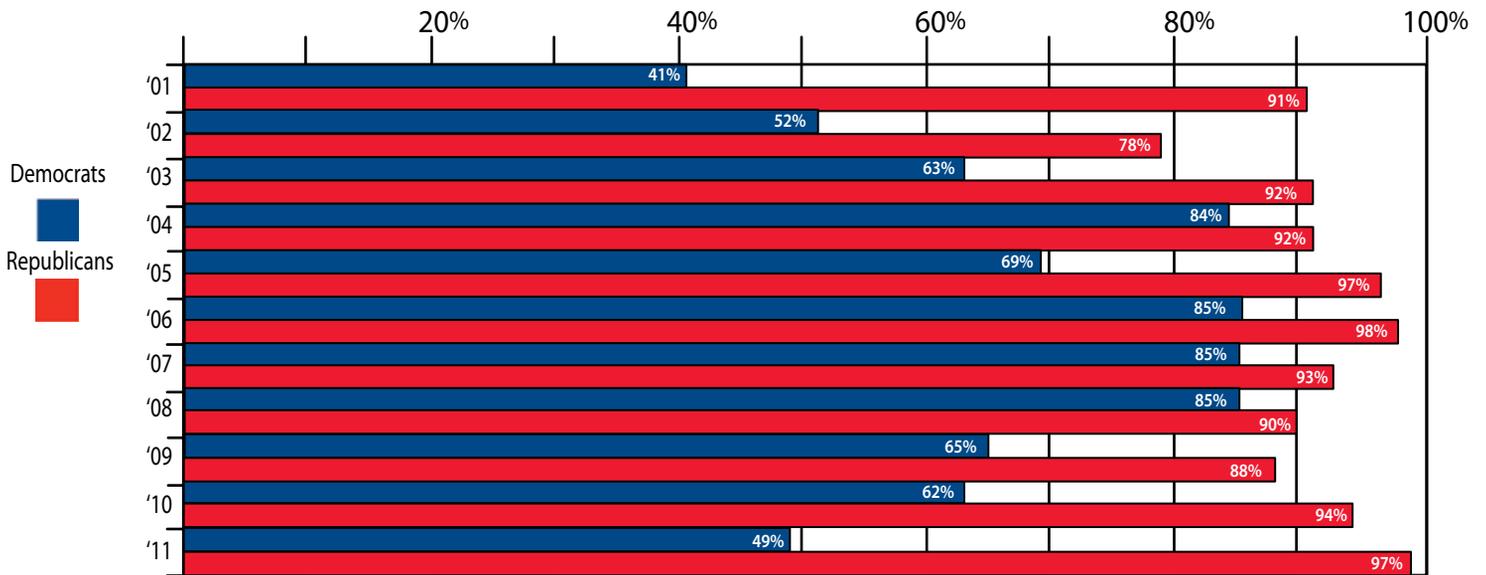
Senate by Party



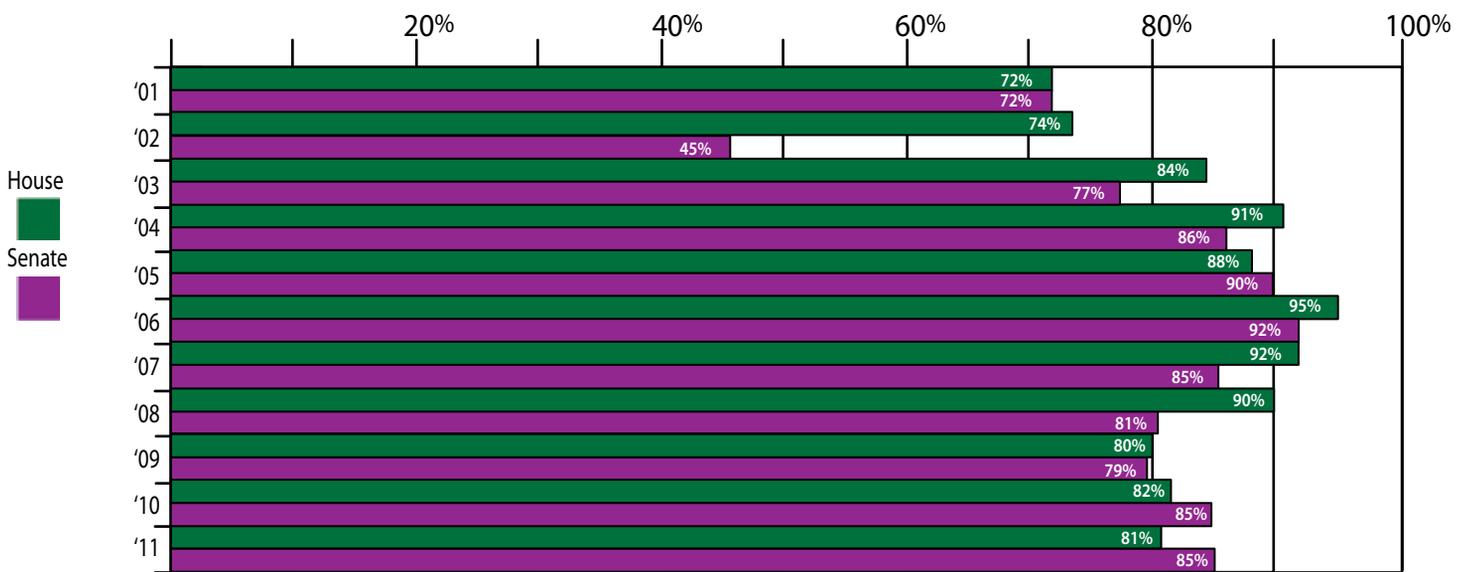
House by Party



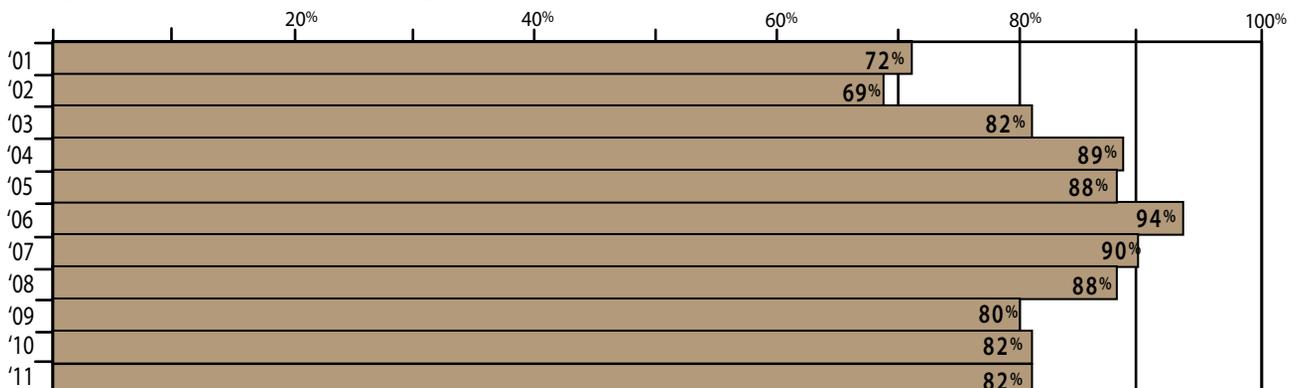
Party — Historical Voting Records



Chamber — Historical Voting Records



Legislature — Historical Voting Records



2011 Freshman Legislators *by the Numbers*

The 2010 election cycle has resulted in a dramatic change to the composition of the Florida Legislature.

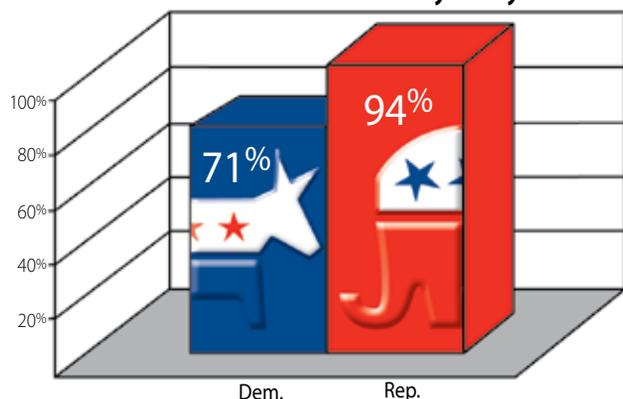
Over one-third of the Legislature is new — 43 freshmen in the House of Representatives as well as 13 freshmen members in the Senate. In light of term limits, AIF and its members must continuously educate legislators and leadership on the issues important to the business community.

2011 Senate Freshmen	%w/AIF
Benacquisto, Lizbeth (R)	96%
Bogdanoff, Elyn (R)	98%
Díaz de la Portilla, Miguel (R)	98%
Evers, Greg (R)	93%
Flores, Anitere (R)	92%
García, Rene (R)	94%
Hays, Alan (R)	97%
Latvala, Jack (R)	86%
Margolis, Gwen (D)	70%
Montford, Bill (D)	83%
Norman, Jim (R)	94%
Sachs, Maria Lorts (D)	65%
Simmons, David (R)	93%

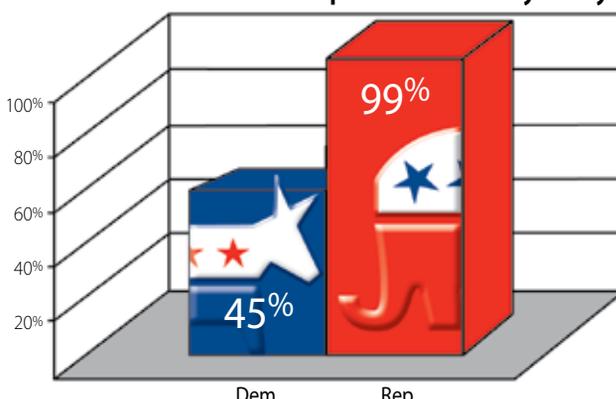
2011 House Freshmen	%w/AIF
Ahern, Larry (R)	99%
Albritton, Ben (R)	100%
Artiles, Frank (R)	97%
Baxley, Dennis (R)	97%
Berman, Lori (D)	48%
Bileca, Michael (R)	100%
Boyd, Jim (R)	99%
Brandes, Jeff (R)	99%
Brodeur, Jason (R)	100%
Broxson, Doug (R)	100%
Caldwell, Matt (R)	98%
Campbell, Daphne (D)	47%
Clemens, Jeff (D)	37%
Corcoran, Richard (R)	100%
Costello, Fred (R)	100%
Cruz, Janet (D)	45%
Davis, Daniel (R)	100%
Díaz, José (R)	98%
Fullwood, Reggie (D)	49%
Gaetz, Matt (R)	97%
Goodson, Tom (R)	97%
Grant, James (R)	96%

2011 House Freshmen	%w/AIF
Hager, Bill (R)	97%
Harrell, Gayle (R)	97%
Harrison, Shawn (R)	97%
Ingram, Clay (R)	100%
Julien, John Patrick (D)	64%
Logan, Ana Rivas (R)	98%
Metz, Larry (R)	98%
Moraitis, George (R)	99%
Nuñez, Jeanette (R)	98%
Passidomo, Kathleen (R)	98%
Perman, Steve (D)	42%
Perry, Keith (R)	99%
Pilon, Ray (R)	96%
Porter, Elizabeth (R)	100%
Rooney, Pat (R)	100%
Slosberg, Irv (D)	44%
Smith, Jimmie (R)	99%
Stafford, Cynthia (D)	35%
Steube, Greg (R)	98%
Trujillo, Carlos (R)	98%
Young, Dana (R)	100%

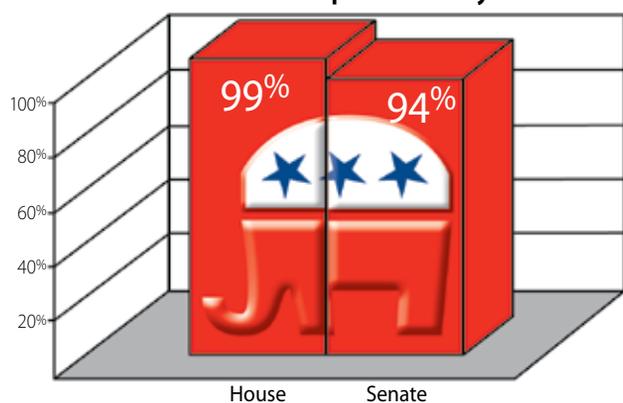
Freshmen Senators by Party



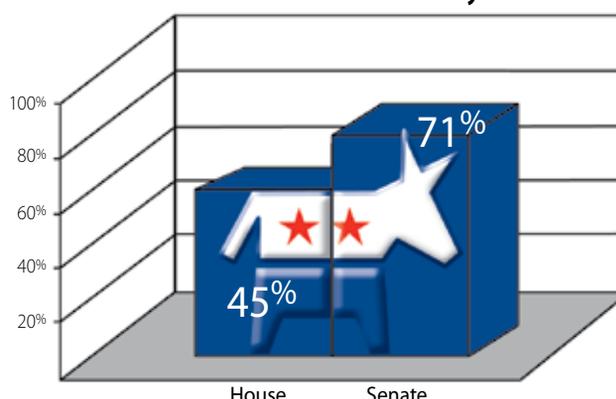
Freshmen Representatives by Party



Freshmen Republicans by Chamber



Freshmen Democrats by Chamber



2011 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues – Percentage with AIF

Voting Records is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.

FLORIDA SENATE							
% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
100%	Alexander (R)	93	0	92%	Jones (R)	94	8
98%	Bogdanoff (R)	125	3	92%	Negron (R)	104	9
98%	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	85	2	92%	Oelrich (R)	80	7
98%	Wise (R)	131	2	86%	Latvala (R)	78	13
97%	Gardiner (R)	88	3	86%	Storms (R)	79	13
97%	Haridopolos (R)	65	2	83%	Altman (R)	94	19
97%	Hays (R)	100	3	83%	Montford (D)	99	21
97%	Richter (R)	136	4	80%	Fasano (R)	94	23
96%	Benacquisto (R)	107	4	76%	Hill (D)	73	23
96%	Gaetz (R)	123	5	76%	Ring (D)	79	25
96%	Thrasher (R)	128	5	74%	Dockery (R)	78	28
94%	Garcia (R)	84	5	73%	Siplin (D)	83	30
94%	Norman (R)	100	6	70%	Margolis (D)	87	37
93%	Bennett (R)	98	7	65%	Sachs (D)	53	28
93%	Dean (R)	78	6	63%	Smith (D)	57	34
93%	Detert (R)	90	7	61%	Braynon (D)	55	35
93%	Evers (R)	74	6	58%	Sobel (D)	69	50
93%	Lynn (R)	106	8	51%	Rich (D)	49	48
93%	Simmons (R)	100	7	48%	Joyner (D)	56	61
92%	Flores (R)	131	12	33%	Bullard (D)	1	2

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 85%

AIF Voting Records

AIF is the undisputed leader in providing the business community with comprehensive voting record that allow employers to gauge how legislators are casting votes on bills that affect their businesses.

For 36 years, AIF has published Voting Records — the definitive legislative scorecard for the business community. With term limits, the historical aspect of a legislator's votes is more important than ever. Former legislators are showing up on the ballot again, and the ability to quickly view their past voting records is critical. In some cases it will allow employers to match campaign promises with actual votes cast.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
100%	Adkins (R)	109	0	99%	Glorioso (R)	111	1	96%	Renuart (R)	133	6
100%	Albritton (R)	121	0	99%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	103	1	64%	Julien (D)	96	55
100%	Bileca (R)	101	0	99%	Moraitis (R)	121	1	63%	Bembry (D)	78	45
100%	Bovo (R)	19	0	99%	Nehr (R)	122	1	59%	Bernard (D)	80	56
100%	Brodeur (R)	120	0	99%	Nelson (R)	132	1	57%	Chestnut (D)	66	49
100%	Broxson (R)	110	0	99%	Perry (R)	120	1	54%	Abruzzo (D)	68	58
100%	Burgin (R)	121	0	99%	Roberson (R)	126	1	50%	Porth (D)	62	62
100%	Cannon (R)	87	0	99%	Smith (R)	118	1	50%	Waldman (D)	73	72
100%	Corcoran (R)	119	0	99%	Tobia (R)	100	1	49%	Fullwood (D)	48	49
100%	Costello (R)	128	0	99%	Van Zant (R)	114	1	48%	Berman (D)	63	69
100%	Crisafulli (R)	115	0	99%	Weatherford (R)	98	1	48%	Garcia (D)	52	57
100%	Davis (R)	107	0	99%	Weinstein (R)	128	1	48%	Rogers (D)	59	64
100%	Ford (R)	121	0	99%	Workman (R)	145	1	48%	Soto (D)	59	63
100%	Frishe (R)	100	0	98%	Caldwell (R)	122	3	47%	Campbell (D)	55	61
100%	Grimsley (R)	78	0	98%	Diaz (R)	128	2	47%	Gibbons (D)	54	62
100%	Horner (R)	115	0	98%	Eisnagle (R)	120	2	47%	Sands (D)	54	61
100%	Hudson (R)	129	0	98%	Fresen (R)	112	2	47%	Saunders (D)	52	59
100%	Ingram (R)	114	0	98%	Holder (R)	140	3	47%	Williams, A. (D)	52	58
100%	Legg (R)	112	0	98%	Hooper (R)	122	3	46%	Kiar (D)	55	65
100%	Mayfield (R)	134	0	98%	Hukill (R)	125	2	46%	Reed (D)	49	57
100%	McKeel (R)	120	0	98%	Kreegel (R)	106	2	45%	Cruz (D)	53	66
100%	O'Toole (R)	114	0	98%	Logan (R)	113	2	45%	Jones (D)	50	60
100%	Patronis (R)	120	0	98%	Metz (R)	127	2	45%	Taylor (D)	52	63
100%	Plakon (R)	107	0	98%	Nuñez (R)	126	2	44%	Randolph (D)	56	70
100%	Porter (R)	112	0	98%	Passidomo (R)	123	2	44%	Slosberg (D)	54	70
100%	Precourt (R)	116	0	98%	Steube (R)	120	3	43%	Rouson (D)	48	63
100%	Proctor (R)	114	0	98%	Trujillo (R)	125	2	43%	Thompson (D)	56	74
100%	Ray (R)	119	0	98%	Williams, T. (R)	116	2	42%	Jenne (D)	53	74
100%	Rooney (R)	127	0	97%	Artiles (R)	120	4	42%	Perman (D)	50	70
100%	Schenck (R)	118	0	97%	Baxley (R)	113	3	42%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	50	68
100%	Stargel (R)	113	0	97%	Gaetz (R)	122	4	39%	Steinberg (D)	49	76
100%	Wood (R)	122	0	97%	Goodson (R)	112	4	38%	Thurston (D)	48	78
100%	Young (R)	116	0	97%	Hager (R)	130	4	37%	Clemens (D)	42	72
99%	Ahern (R)	120	1	97%	Harrell (R)	110	3	36%	Clarke-Reed (D)	39	68
99%	Aubuchon (R)	98	1	97%	Harrison (R)	122	4	35%	Stafford (D)	41	76
99%	Boyd (R)	131	1	97%	McBurney (R)	115	4	33%	Bullard (D)	31	64
99%	Brandes (R)	115	1	97%	Snyder (R)	119	4	32%	Kriseman (D)	34	71
99%	Coley (R)	120	1	96%	Gonzalez (R)	115	5	31%	Schwartz (D)	36	79
99%	Dorworth (R)	140	1	96%	Grant (R)	124	5	30%	Pafford (D)	38	89
99%	Drake (R)	125	1	96%	Pilon (R)	113	5	30%	Watson (D)	32	76

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 81%

2011 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues – Alphabetically

Voting Records is compiled using actual votes cast as reported in official state records. Each vote cast is measured equally, with no added points to certain bills.

FLORIDA SENATE							
Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Alexander (R)	93	0	100%	Jones (R)	94	8	92%
Altman (R)	94	19	83%	Joyner (D)	56	61	48%
Benacquisto (R)	107	4	96%	Latvala (R)	78	13	86%
Bennett (R)	98	7	93%	Lynn (R)	106	8	93%
Bogdanoff (R)	125	3	98%	Margolis (D)	87	37	70%
Braynon (D)	55	35	61%	Montford (D)	99	21	83%
Bullard (D)	1	2	33%	Negron (R)	104	9	92%
Dean (R)	78	6	93%	Norman (R)	100	6	94%
Detert (R)	90	7	93%	Oelrich (R)	80	7	92%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	85	2	98%	Rich (D)	49	48	51%
Dockery (R)	78	28	74%	Richter (R)	136	4	97%
Evers (R)	74	6	93%	Ring (D)	79	25	76%
Fasano (R)	94	23	80%	Sachs (D)	53	28	65%
Flores (R)	131	12	92%	Simmons (R)	100	7	93%
Gaetz (R)	123	5	96%	Siplin (D)	83	30	73%
Garcia (R)	84	5	94%	Smith (D)	57	34	63%
Gardiner (R)	88	3	97%	Sobel (D)	69	50	58%
Haridopolos (R)	65	2	97%	Storms (R)	79	13	86%
Hays (R)	100	3	97%	Thrasher (R)	128	5	96%
Hill (D)	73	23	76%	Wise (R)	131	2	98%

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 85%

AIF Online Voting Records

The unique software created by AIF provides you with a multitude of options when viewing voting records online. You can choose to see votes by year, legislator's name, subject, and party affiliation. Have one particular legislator in mind? No problem. You can view their voting record by year or by subject matter, and then go even further and see the exact votes that led to the percentage they received. That's right. **Full transparency** ... from a legislator's vote percentage to the very bills and votes that were used that session.

So how robust is this program? It includes over **164,446 votes, 1,479 bills, 733 legislators** over the span of **36 years**. Online Voting Records — a *one-of-a-kind* tool only available from Associated Industries of Florida.

H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Abruzzo (D)	68	58	54%	Gibbons (D)	54	62	47%	Porter (R)	112	0	100%
Adkins (R)	109	0	100%	Glorioso (R)	111	1	99%	Porth (D)	62	62	50%
Ahern (R)	120	1	99%	Gonzalez (R)	115	5	96%	Precourt (R)	116	0	100%
Albritton (R)	121	0	100%	Goodson (R)	112	4	97%	Proctor (R)	114	0	100%
Artiles (R)	120	4	97%	Grant (R)	124	5	96%	Randolph (D)	56	70	44%
Aubuchon (R)	98	1	99%	Grimsley (R)	78	0	100%	Ray (R)	119	0	100%
Baxley (R)	113	3	97%	Hager (R)	130	4	97%	Reed (D)	49	57	46%
Bembry (D)	78	45	63%	Harrell (R)	110	3	97%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	50	68	42%
Berman (D)	63	69	48%	Harrison (R)	122	4	97%	Renuart (R)	133	6	96%
Bernard (D)	80	56	59%	Holder (R)	140	3	98%	Roberson (R)	126	1	99%
Bileca (R)	101	0	100%	Hooper (R)	122	3	98%	Rogers (D)	59	64	48%
Bovo (R)	19	0	100%	Horner (R)	115	0	100%	Rooney (R)	127	0	100%
Boyd (R)	131	1	99%	Hudson (R)	129	0	100%	Rouson (D)	48	63	43%
Brandes (R)	115	1	99%	Hukill (R)	125	2	98%	Sands (D)	54	61	47%
Brodeur (R)	120	0	100%	Ingram (R)	114	0	100%	Saunders (D)	52	59	47%
Broxson (R)	110	0	100%	Jenne (D)	53	74	42%	Schenck (R)	118	0	100%
Bullard (D)	31	64	33%	Jones (D)	50	60	45%	Schwartz (D)	36	79	31%
Burgin (R)	121	0	100%	Julien (D)	96	55	64%	Slosberg (D)	54	70	44%
Caldwell (R)	122	3	98%	Kiar (D)	55	65	46%	Smith (R)	118	1	99%
Campbell (D)	55	61	47%	Kreegel (R)	106	2	98%	Snyder (R)	119	4	97%
Cannon (R)	87	0	100%	Kriseman (D)	34	71	32%	Soto (D)	59	63	48%
Chestnut (D)	66	49	57%	Legg (R)	112	0	100%	Stafford (D)	41	76	35%
Clarke-Reed (D)	39	68	36%	Logan (R)	113	2	98%	Stargel (R)	113	0	100%
Clemens (D)	42	72	37%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	103	1	99%	Steinberg (D)	49	76	39%
Coley (R)	120	1	99%	Mayfield (R)	134	0	100%	Steube (R)	120	3	98%
Corcoran (R)	119	0	100%	McBurney (R)	115	4	97%	Taylor (D)	52	63	45%
Costello (R)	128	0	100%	McKeel (R)	120	0	100%	Thompson (D)	56	74	43%
Crisafulli (R)	115	0	100%	Metz (R)	127	2	98%	Thurston (D)	48	78	38%
Cruz (D)	53	66	45%	Moraitis (R)	121	1	99%	Tobia (R)	100	1	99%
Davis (R)	107	0	100%	Nehr (R)	122	1	99%	Trujillo (R)	125	2	98%
Diaz (R)	128	2	98%	Nelson (R)	132	1	99%	Van Zant (R)	114	1	99%
Dorworth (R)	140	1	99%	Nuñez (R)	126	2	98%	Waldman (D)	73	72	50%
Drake (R)	125	1	99%	O'Toole (R)	114	0	100%	Watson (D)	32	76	30%
Eisnaugle (R)	120	2	98%	Pafford (D)	38	89	30%	Weatherford (R)	98	1	99%
Ford (R)	121	0	100%	Passidomo (R)	123	2	98%	Weinstein (R)	128	1	99%
Fresen (R)	112	2	98%	Patronis (R)	120	0	100%	Williams, A. (D)	52	58	47%
Frishe (R)	100	0	100%	Perman (D)	50	70	42%	Williams, T. (R)	116	2	98%
Fullwood (D)	48	49	49%	Perry (R)	120	1	99%	Wood (R)	122	0	100%
Gaetz (R)	122	4	97%	Pilon (R)	113	5	96%	Workman (R)	145	1	99%
Garcia (D)	52	57	48%	Plakon (R)	107	0	100%	Young (R)	116	0	100%

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 81%

HISTORICAL FLORIDA LEGISLATURE VOTING RECORDS On Key Business Issues

On Key Business Issues – Alphabetically

The AIF Historical Voting Records provides a cumulative tally of all the votes cast by legislators on AIF issues over their careers in the Florida Legislature.

F L O R I D A S E N A T E					
Name/Party	'11	History	Name/Party	'11	History
Alexander (R)	100%	90%	Jones (R)	92%	84%
Altman (R)	83%	92%	Joyner (D)	48%	61%
Benacquisto (R)	96%	96%	Latvala (R)	86%	82%
Bennett (R)	93%	90%	Lynn (R)	93%	89%
Bogdanoff (R)	98%	97%	Margolis (D)	70%	76%
Braynon (D)	61%	64%	Montford (D)	83%	83%
Bullard (D)	33%	83%	Negron (R)	92%	91%
Dean (R)	93%	91%	Norman (R)	94%	94%
Detert (R)	93%	92%	Oelrich (R)	92%	91%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	98%	98%	Rich (D)	51%	70%
Dockery (R)	74%	84%	Richter (R)	97%	93%
Evers (R)	93%	95%	Ring (D)	76%	80%
Fasano (R)	80%	85%	Sachs (D)	65%	69%
Flores (R)	92%	94%	Simmons (R)	93%	94%
Gaetz (R)	96%	87%	Siplin (D)	73%	79%
Garcia (R)	94%	91%	Smith (D)	63%	68%
Gardiner (R)	97%	93%	Sobel (D)	58%	67%
Haridopolos (R)	97%	92%	Storms (R)	86%	80%
Hays (R)	97%	94%	Thrasher (R)	96%	93%
Hill (D)	76%	79%	Wise (R)	98%	89%

Former legislators are showing up on the ballot again, and the ability to quickly view their past voting records is critical.

H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

Name/Party	'11	History	Name/Party	'11	History	Name/Party	'11	History
Abruzzo (D)	54%	65%	Gibbons (D)	47%	64%	Porter (R)	100%	100%
Adkins (R)	100%	97%	Glorioso (R)	99%	97%	Porth (D)	50%	66%
Ahern (R)	99%	99%	Gonzalez (R)	96%	94%	Precourt (R)	100%	96%
Albritton (R)	100%	100%	Goodson (R)	97%	97%	Proctor (R)	100%	96%
Artiles (R)	97%	97%	Grant (R)	96%	96%	Randolph (D)	44%	62%
Aubuchon (R)	99%	96%	Grimsley (R)	100%	97%	Ray (R)	100%	97%
Baxley (R)	97%	96%	Hager (R)	97%	97%	Reed (D)	46%	64%
Bembry (D)	63%	67%	Harrell (R)	97%	96%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	42%	48%
Berman (D)	48%	48%	Harrison (R)	97%	97%	Renuart (R)	96%	92%
Bernard (D)	59%	61%	Holder (R)	98%	96%	Roberson (R)	99%	95%
Bileca (R)	100%	100%	Hooper (R)	98%	94%	Rogers (D)	48%	53%
Bovo (R)	100%	92%	Horner (R)	100%	96%	Rooney (R)	100%	100%
Boyd (R)	99%	99%	Hudson (R)	100%	97%	Rouson (D)	43%	57%
Brandes (R)	99%	99%	Hukill (R)	98%	96%	Sands (D)	47%	68%
Brodeur (R)	100%	100%	Ingram (R)	100%	100%	Saunders (D)	47%	69%
Broxson (R)	100%	100%	Jenne (D)	42%	58%	Schenck (R)	100%	96%
Bullard (D)	33%	46%	Jones (D)	45%	53%	Schwartz (D)	31%	53%
Burgin (R)	100%	97%	Julien (D)	64%	64%	Slosberg (D)	44%	57%
Caldwell (R)	98%	98%	Kiar (D)	46%	63%	Smith (R)	99%	99%
Campbell (D)	47%	47%	Kreegel (R)	98%	95%	Snyder (R)	97%	96%
Cannon (R)	100%	98%	Kriseman (D)	32%	57%	Soto (D)	48%	64%
Chestnut (D)	57%	66%	Legg (R)	100%	95%	Stafford (D)	35%	35%
Clarke-Reed (D)	36%	48%	Logan (R)	98%	98%	Stargel (R)	100%	97%
Clemens (D)	37%	37%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	99%	96%	Steinberg (D)	39%	50%
Coley (R)	99%	97%	Mayfield (R)	100%	97%	Steube (R)	98%	98%
Corcoran (R)	100%	100%	McBurney (R)	97%	96%	Taylor (D)	45%	54%
Costello (R)	100%	100%	McKeel (R)	100%	97%	Thompson (D)	43%	65%
Crisafulli (R)	100%	98%	Metz (R)	98%	98%	Thurston (D)	38%	59%
Cruz (D)	45%	49%	Moraitis (R)	99%	99%	Tobia (R)	99%	97%
Davis (R)	100%	100%	Nehr (R)	99%	95%	Trujillo (R)	98%	98%
Diaz (R)	98%	98%	Nelson (R)	99%	96%	Van Zant (R)	99%	94%
Dorworth (R)	99%	97%	Nunez (R)	98%	98%	Waldman (D)	50%	64%
Drake (R)	99%	95%	O'Toole (R)	100%	97%	Watson (D)	30%	30%
Eisnaugle (R)	98%	97%	Pafford (D)	30%	43%	Weatherford (R)	99%	95%
Ford (R)	100%	95%	Passidomo (R)	98%	98%	Weinstein (R)	99%	96%
Fresen (R)	98%	96%	Patronis (R)	100%	94%	Williams, A. (D)	47%	52%
Frishe (R)	100%	94%	Perman (D)	42%	42%	Williams, T. (R)	98%	97%
Fullwood (D)	49%	49%	Perry (R)	99%	99%	Wood (R)	100%	97%
Gaetz (R)	97%	96%	Pilon (R)	96%	96%	Workman (R)	99%	97%
Garcia (D)	48%	63%	Plakon (R)	100%	96%	Young (R)	100%	100%

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Voting Records was compiled using committee, amendment, and floor votes cast on each of the following bills.

Unless otherwise noted, AIF took the same position on the bills listed at the end of each write-up.

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.

BUSINESS REGULATION

SB 226 Relating to Human Services by Sen. Chris Smith (D-Oakland Park) **PRIORITY**

Florida has a long history of contracting with not-for-profit and for-profit companies to provide necessary human services. Outsourcing these services allows the state to provide essential services to those determined to be in need or those who are in the care and custody of the state. Given the current fiscal environment, it is critical that the right balance be found between necessary government oversight and excessive reporting and control. This bill would enhance accountability, improve service delivery, eliminate duplicity and encourage savings in human service contracts.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that creates a more accountable, efficient and sustainable business climate for human service providers who provide essential services to the state.

CS/SB 226 died in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

HB 234 Relating to Firearms by Sen. Greg Evers (R-Crestview)

As originally filed, this controversial "open-carry" firearm measure was perceived to be a large burden on Florida's employers. Fortunately, AIF and the business community worked diligently with stakeholders this session to substantially amend this legislation. As originally filed, this legislation would expand Florida's current concealed weapons law to allow for those license holders to carry their weapons in the open. To address concerns and return the bill back to its original purpose, Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale) was successful in passing an amendment that strictly addresses accidental exposure. In addition, language that would have legalized open-carry was removed — a move strongly supported by AIF.

AIF OPPOSES legislation that would permit "open-carry"

of firearms in Florida; however, by amending this legislation, Florida's business owners will not be exposed to liability concerns or a new duty of care related to having knowledge of a potentially dangerous instrument on an employer's premises.

CS/CS/SB 234 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-145; CS/CS/HB 517 was laid on the table.

HB 241 Relating to Wage Protection by Rep. Tom Goodson (R-Titusville)

This legislation aims to address "wage theft," a term used to describe the failure of an employer to pay any portion of wages due to an employee. Present federal and state laws provide extensive protection from wage theft through various acts, including the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act and Florida's minimum wage laws; however, counties and municipalities have broad home rule powers that allow the local governments to enact ordinances. To provide absolute clarity in cases relating to wage theft, this measure provides that authority is expressly preempted to the state. Any local ordinances, including those already enacted, would have been nullified by the implementation of this legislation.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will clarify the state's authority to preempt local governments from regulating wage theft. A "patchwork" arrangement of local ordinances provides confusion and uncertainty to Florida's employers.

CS/HB 241 died in Senate messages; SB 982 died on the Senate Calendar.

HB 457 Relating to Fertilizer by Rep. Clay Ingram (R-Pensacola) **PRIORITY**

As originally filed, this model ordinance would have prohibited local governments from enacting their own fertilizer ordinances; however, this legislation was amended significantly during the committee process to address a number



Barney T. Bishop III

President & CEO of Associated Industries of Florida ... former aide to state Treasurer Bill Gunter ... former Executive Director of the Florida Democratic Party ... more than 32 years experience in legislative and political affairs ... areas of expertise include appropriations, criminal justice, and behavioral health care issues ... B.S. in Political & Judicial Communication from Emerson College in Boston.

Issues: General Business, Appropriations, Criminal Justice

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.



AIF hosts a *Power Lunch* with Secretary Herschel Vinyard of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Secretary Vinyard is a strong advocate for job creation in Florida by working to eliminate duplicative regulations and by expediting permit requests.

CS/HB 143 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-76; HB 7203 died in the House.

👍 HB 187 Relating to Streamlining the Issuance of Licenses, Certifications & Registrations Issued by State Agencies by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee) PRIORITY

Known as “Florida’s One-Stop Business Connect Act,” this legislation is a top priority for AIF in an effort to create a mechanism to assist business’ needs to comply with all corporate requirements necessary to do business in Florida. This proposal will require the Governor to establish a One-Stop Business Connect Workgroup that would be tasked with reporting an action plan back to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House and Governor. The primary purpose of the plan is to establish an online, self-service, single point of entry system for new and existing businesses to efficiently complete their transactions with the state. This mechanism would be available to all Florida businesses.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will create easier and more efficient mechanisms for Florida’s businesses to comply with state regulations and requirements.

CS/HB 187 died in Senate messages; SB 798 died in the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee.

👍 HB 287 Relating to Economic Development by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)

This bill will provide local governments more authority to grant economic development incentives after local voter approval. This legislation is important to give local governments more tools to encourage business growth in municipalities that approve, by local referendum, ad valorem tax breaks for certain targeted industries. Furthermore, local governments must administer and approve the incentives which include minimum wage and job growth requirements.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will stimulate economic activity by providing tax relief to new and expanding businesses in Florida.

CS/CS/HB 287 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-182; CS/SB 506 was laid on the table.

be addressed on the federal level.

CS/SB 2040 died in House messages; CS/HB 7089 died in the House Economic Affairs Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

👍 HB 143 Relating to Economic Development by Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY

This omnibus economic development package contains several tax incentives for various industries in the state of Florida. This legislation will increase funding for film industry incentives from \$38 million to \$42 million, implement a single sales factor for apportioning corporate income taxes, and provide spaceflight businesses with much needed tax relief. Furthermore, funding for Brownfields site contamination rehabilitation has been increased from \$2 million to \$5 million annually. HB 143 accomplished these tasks by incorporating several tax incentives into budget conforming legislation that was passed in the final minutes of the 2011 Session.

AIF SUPPORTS the passage of tax-based incentives that will stimulate job creation and development in Florida. The growth of digital media entertainment, film and space is vital to Florida’s prosperity and will keep our state competitive on a global scale.



Tamela Ivey Perdue, Esq.

General Counsel for Associated Industries of Florida ... more than 19 years legislative and legal experience, representing insurers and the business community on tort, workers’ compensation, insurance and other legal issues before the legislative and executive branches of government ... established legal practice specializing in insurance defense and administrative law ... formerly worked in The Florida Senate ... B.S. from Lee University and J.D. from Stetson University.

Issues: Legal & Judicial, Unemployment Compensation, Workers’ Compensation

Council: Florida Maritime

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2011 Session Priorities.

👍 HB 879 Relating to Targeted Economic Development by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)

This proposal would expand the definitions of a Qualified Targeted Industry to include efforts to expand trade and international economic activity. As a global hub for international activities, it is vital for Florida's economic development statutes to include incentives in this area. In addition, this legislation was broadened in scope to include the efforts of the energy zone economic incentive areas in designated instances.

AIF SUPPORTS continued availability of state funds for creating incentives that will stimulate economic development and recruit businesses to Florida – a top priority for Governor Rick Scott.

CS/CS/SB 879 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-223; CS/CS/HB 1318 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 943 Relating to Capital Formation for Infrastructure Projects by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando) PRIORITY

One of AIF's top legislative priorities this session, this legislation creates the state's first Florida Infrastructure Fund Partnership and institutes a tax credit program designed to leverage private investment in state infrastructure projects. By creating a public-private partnership fund, the intent of this legislation is to seek outside investor commitments to build capital infrastructure projects during a time when state resources are dwindling. This proposal authorizes up to \$700 million in private funds to help build water and wastewater systems, power systems, roads and other strategic infrastructure needs. In essence, this legislation would couple private sector investing to meet the needs of public sector infrastructure projects.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will encourage direct investment in our state's infrastructure projects. This proposal would effectively stimulate private sector growth and create jobs when our state needs them the most.

HB 943 died in Senate messages; CS/SB 976 died in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.

👍 HB 1231 Relating to Telecommunications by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee) PRIORITY

This legislation completes the deregulation of land-line telecommunications services while maintaining the Public Service Commission's oversight of inter-company disputes. Further-

more, the proposal continues the Legislature's past reform of the regulation of telecommunications services in Florida to recognize the rapidly changing, competitive market.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that modernizes Florida's communications laws and empowers consumers, not state regulation, to pick winners and losers.

CS/CS/HB 1231 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-36; CS/CS/SB 1524 was laid on the table.

👍 SB 2050 Relating to Destination Resorts by Sen. Oscar Braynon (D-Miami Gardens) PRIORITY

A highly contentious proposal during the 2011 Legislative Session, this measure would have created an overarching gambling commission that would oversee all gaming in the state. Five regions would be created within Florida to assist in determining where Destination Resorts could locate. The seven-member Destination Resort Commission, which is created through this legislation, would ultimately determine where a casino is allowed to be built. The bill also provided a graduated gross receipts tax rate that would be based upon the infrastructure investment in each resort. The tax rate ranges from 10 percent for investments of \$2.5 billion or more, 15 percent for investments of between \$1 billion to \$2.5 billion, and 20 percent for investments under \$1 billion.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will allow for free market bidding, ensuring that premier development companies come to Florida to build world-class destinations and bring all of these direct and indirect economic benefits to Florida and Florida businesses.

CS/SB 2050 died in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.

👍 SB 2156 Relating to Governmental Reorganization by Sen. JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales) PRIORITY

This comprehensive legislation overhauls and consolidates various development-related agencies in the state of Florida. The Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, along with parts of the Department of Community Affairs and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, will be consolidated under the newly created "Department of Economic Opportunity." The Department of Economic Opportunity will provide oversight and coordination of economic development functions, housing, growth management and community development programs. In an effort to streamline economic



Brewster B. Bevis

Vice President – External Affairs for Associated Industries of Florida ... coordinates all corporate development efforts and serves as an additional member of AIF's in-house lobby team ... previously served as Senior Director of Legislative Affairs for National Association of Builders & Contractors ... areas of expertise include immigration and labor issues ... B.S. in International Affairs from Florida State University.

Issues: Labor, Federal Legislation



Congressman Allen West (R-Ft. Lauderdale) meets with members of AIF to discuss his first term as a freshman member of the 112th U.S. Congress. Congressman West continues to be a strong voice in the fight against legislation that will hamper economic growth and recovery in Florida.

by requiring that districts cannot prioritize any reductions in teacher workforce based on seniority.

AIF SUPPORTS the passage of legislation to provide a more business-like approach to the profession of teaching and help keep our best teachers in the classroom. This measure will reform teacher evaluation, teacher pay and professional service contracts in a manner that focuses on student learning as the most important factor in these decisions.

CS/CS/SB 736 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-1; CS/HB 7019 was laid on the table.

👍 SB 1466 Relating to Class Size Requirements by Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs)

This bill clearly defines “core-curricula courses” and “extra-curricular courses,” and determines the class size maximum for “core-curricula courses,” to effectively reduce the number of courses to which the constitutional mandate applies from over 800 to just over 300. This change will enable districts to focus class size restrictions on the most critical core subjects and will help ease the fiscal impact of constitutionally restricted class size. Further, the bill would allow schools to temporarily exceed the class size limits in a case where a student enrolls after the October accounting of the class size. This will also help ease the implementation issues that districts have encountered in the past.

AIF supports increased flexibility in meeting the class size mandate so that districts can continue to offer a wide range of core and elective courses, which ultimately prepares Florida’s students for future employment and higher education.

CS/SB 1466 died in House messages.

👍 SB 2120 Relating to K-12 Education Funding by the Senate Budget Committee PRIORITY

This proposal will require districts to spend the difference between the amount spent on virtual education and the amount of student funding generated to purchase technology. School districts will also be granted the authority to designate a pilot school for transitioning to digital instructional materials and provide exemptions from certain laws restricting how funding for instructional materials may be used. Furthermore, districts will have more flexibility in administering the

development-related projects, the newly created agency will streamline these incentives so that such projects are approved or denied within 10 days of application.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to find a delivery system with goals and accountability measures in place to effectively promote economic policies that will recruit new industries from out of state and protect and assist existing businesses.

SB 2156 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-142.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

👍 SB 736 Relating to Education Personnel by Sen. Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY

As one of AIF’s top priorities to pass early in this legislative session, the reintroduction of teacher merit legislation was once again revisited following steep party line opposition in 2010. Commonly referred to as the “Student Success Act,” this measure creates an evaluation and compensation system for teachers that is at least 50% based on student achievement. The bill limits tenure for existing teachers and eliminates it altogether for teachers hired after July 1, 2011. Furthermore, this proposal will eliminate Last in First Out, or LIFO, policies



Chris Verlander

Senior Vice President – Corporate Development of Associated Industries of Florida ... more than 31 years expertise in insurance lobbying activities ... former President (1994-1997) and Vice Chairman (1997-1999) of American Heritage Life Insurance Company ... B.S. from Georgia Tech and M.B.A. from the University of Florida.

Issues: Insurance, General Business

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2011 Session Priorities.



House Democratic Leader Ron Saunders (D-Tavernier) joins over 100 members of the business community at AIF's annual *Pre-Session Briefing* in Tallahassee.

CS/HB 7151 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-177; CS/CS/SB 1732 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 7197 Relating to Public K-12 Education by Rep. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) PRIORITY

This legislation incorporates the ten elements of a high quality digital learning program and requires that students entering the ninth grade in 2011-2012 and thereafter must enroll in at least one online course in order to graduate from high school. The bill also requires districts to make multiple paths of virtual education available to students. It allows for the creation of virtual charter schools, as well as requires the online administration of all statewide assessments.

AIF SUPPORTS greater accountability in higher education that will adequately prepare Florida's students for the workforce.

CS/CS/HB 7197 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-137; CS/SB 1620 was laid on the table.

ELECTION REFORM/ REAPPORTIONMENT

👍 SB 830 Relating to Labor and Employment by Sen. John Thrasher (R-Jacksonville)

As originally filed, this measure would have prohibited state and local governments from automatic payroll deductions for membership dues and Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions for members of public employee unions; however, the sponsor of the Senate proposal offered an amendment that would only ban the use of dues for political purposes. Supporters of the proposal, including AIF and the business community, recognize that this amendment will help clarify the bill's original intent to get government out of the role of collecting union dues to be used for political activity.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to give union members more of a say on how their union dues are spent. At a time when dollars are scarce, union members should be allowed to keep their hard-earned money if they decide not to support their union's political activity.

CS/CS/SB 830 died on the Senate Calendar; CS/HB 1021 died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

constitutionally mandated class size requirements.

AIF SUPPORTS the increased move to digital learning so students are prepared to compete in the global digital economy.

SB 2120 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-55; CS/HB 5101 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 7151 Relating to Instructional Materials for K-12 Public Education by Rep. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) PRIORITY

This bill will require the Higher Education Coordinating Council to produce a report, with input from the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors, to establish performance outputs and outcomes designed to meet annual and long-term state goals and to evaluate Florida's articulation policies and practices. Furthermore, this report will establish a plan that aligns school districts and the Florida College System workforce development education programs and will improve the consistency of workforce education data collection and reporting by colleges and school districts.

AIF SUPPORTS greater accountability in higher education in an effort to adequately prepare Florida's students for the workforce.



Keyna Cory (Senior Lobbyist)

President, Public Affairs Consultants, a public affairs and governmental relations consulting firm ... more than 26 years experience representing a variety of clients, from small entrepreneurs to Fortune 500 companies, before the Florida Legislature ... majored in Political Science at the University of Florida.

Issues: General Business, Environmental, Taxation

Council: Environmental Sustainability

 **SB 1504 Relating to Initiative Petitions by Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs)**

This bill addresses signature-gathering for initiative petitions and resolves a major issue between the Legislature and the Florida Supreme Court as to the Court's powers of review of ballot summaries for constitutional amendments proposed by the Legislature. Under the bill, signature-gatherers must be Florida residents and must have their names on every petition form they gather. Furthermore, the company they work for must maintain records of every gatherer's name and address to facilitate locating a gatherer if fraudulent activity is found in regard to petitions that a person collected. Another provision within this legislation states that signature gatherers must be paid by the hour and cannot be paid on the basis of the number of signatures they gather – a "bounty system" that presently encourages fraud.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to reform Florida's petition signature gathering system. By bringing some accountability to the process, this bill will hopefully deter those out-of-state mercenary signature gathering firms from defrauding our citizens.

CS/SB 1504 died in the Senate budget Committee.

 **HB 7101 Relating to Judicial Nominating Commissions by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar)**

This legislation proposes a revision of the composition and terms of members of judicial nominating commissions (JNCs) that removes the Florida Bar's right to nominate potential council members to the Governor. Furthermore, the Governor would have been provided the discretion to appoint all commission members, four of whom must be attorneys, with persons of his choice. The current staggered terms of members would be replaced by four-year terms that run concurrently with that of the Governor making the appointments. The introduction of this legislation responds to the perception that the Florida Bar's nominees are disproportionately comprised of personal injury lawyers and Florida Bar "insiders" who politicize the selection process.

AIF SUPPORTS proposals that seek to reform the judicial nominating commissions and instill fairness and balance to the selection process.

HB 7101 died on the Senate calendar.

ENERGY

 **SB 762 Relating to Florida Climate Protection Act by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) PRIORITY**

This bill sought to repeal the Florida Climate Protection Act, which authorized the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules creating a cap-and-trade program. Additionally, it also deletes a provision allowing for cost recovery relating to greenhouse gas registries. The Florida Climate Protection Act was created in 2008 as part of then Governor Charlie Crist's energy initiatives. The Department of Environmental Protection was slated with developing rules by January of 2010 to implement the program, while the Legislature was tasked to ratify the rules; however, this process never occurred.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to repeal the Florida Climate Protection Act and eliminate efforts to implement a "cap-and-trade" program for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

SB 762 died in House messages.

 **SB 2106 Relating to Florida Energy and Climate Commission by the Senate Budget Committee**

This legislation would have provided for a transfer of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission within the Office of the Governor to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Further, it sought to abolish the Commission and would have transferred a majority of the Commission's duties to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

AIF SUPPORTS a reorganization of the Florida Energy & Climate Commission under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to better facilitate duties related to Florida's energy policy.

SB 2106 was vetoed by the Governor.

 **SB 2078 Relating to Energy by Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto (R-Wellington) PRIORITY**

This comprehensive energy reform proposal would require each public utility to develop a prioritized list of state owned or leased buildings over 5,000 square feet to have an energy audit performed. Further, it would require the Department of Management Services, in consultation with each state agency head, to perform energy savings retrofits. In addition, this proposal will allow an investor-owned utility (IOU) to petition the Public Service Commission for recovery of cost to



Al Cardenas, Esq. (Federal Lobbyist)

Partner with the Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners, chairs the Advocacy and Governmental Affairs Group in Miami, Tallahassee and Washington, DC ... over 32 years legislative experience ... served two terms as Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida ... twice-named one of Washington, DC's top lobbyists ... currently represents some of Florida's largest corporate and governmental entities before the Florida Legislature ... graduate of Florida Atlantic University and the Seton Hall University School of Law.

Issue: Federal Legislation

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.



AIF's Florida Energy Council (FEC) hosts Chairman Clay Ford (R-Pensacola) of the House Energy & Utilities Subcommittee to discuss the importance of Florida's energy policy. Like the FEC, AIF's other policy councils work closely with legislative leaders to craft proposals that will help Florida succeed as a pro-business state.

that are within 250 feet of the site. In 2005, AIF worked with stakeholders to implement the current notification process and believes this method is still sufficient. Additional mandates to the current contamination notification process would prove harmful to all property owners.

AIF OPPOSES changes to the current contamination notification laws. Such actions could result in egregious lawsuits and cause an unnecessary decrease in property values.

SB 132 died in the Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Committee.

👍 HB 239 Relating to Numeric Nutrient Criteria by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers) PRIORITY

In December 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published rules establishing numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's lakes, streams, rivers, and springs. Legislation offered by concerned stakeholders this year would prohibit the promulgation of these rules and directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt its own water quality standards through the well established Total Maximum Daily Loads program. The bill directs DEP to base these criteria on objective and credible data, and scientific studies and analysis. The EPA's new rules, which are not scientifically based, would cost our state, counties and municipalities billions of dollars to implement. In fact, one recent study showed that customer's water utility bills could increase between \$500 and \$900 a year if the EPA's rules were adopted. This legislation sends a powerful message to the federal government that we in Florida know what's best for our own water quality.

AIF encourages the Florida Legislature to engage and support our Congressional delegation in their efforts to stop the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's imposition of unreasonably restrictive water quality standards only on the State of Florida. These proposed federal standards are unscientific and costly for businesses and consumers.

CS/CS/CS/HB 239 died in Senate messages.

👍 HB 641 Relating to Tax Administration by Rep. Debbie Mayfield (R-Vero Beach) PRIORITY

The Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit Program (VCTC) was created to conduct voluntary cleanup of certain dry cleaning

produce or purchase renewable energy. Under this proposal, an IOU would be allowed to build a renewable energy facility, convert an existing fossil fuel facility, or purchase renewable energy; however, at least 25% of the renewable energy must be from a source other than solar.

AIF SUPPORTS energy policy that allows for the development and expansion of the renewable energy sector while maintaining reliability of services without any mandates by government or unreasonable prices. Furthermore, AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will enable those investor-owned utilities (that so desire) to develop renewable energy supply sources using the technology (solar, wind, biomass, other) and scale (large, medium, small) that makes the most sense for those investor-owned utilities and their customers.

CS/SB 2078 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL

👍 SB 132 Relating to Contamination Notification by Sen. Arthenia Joyner (D-Tampa) PRIORITY

This proposed legislation would change the notice process for contaminated sites. Currently, if you find contamination on your property, notice will be given to the property owners adjacent to the contaminated site. Legislation proposed this year would extend that notification requirement to properties



Chris Dudley

Joined Southern Strategy Group in 2000 ...over 16 years legislative experience ... formerly served as Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Acting Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Jeb Bush, and as Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy Legislative Director, and Special Assistant to former Lt. Governor Frank T. Brogan ... Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of South Florida.

Issue: Economic Development

solvent contaminated sites and Brownfield sites in designated Brownfield areas. The amount of the credit is 50 percent of the cost of voluntary cleanup activities integral to site rehabilitation, up to \$500,000 per site per year and can apply toward corporate income taxes.

The bill increases the cap on the total amount of tax credits available for the VCTC Program from \$2 million to \$5 million annually. Although this particular proposal was not passed individually, the tax credit was included in a larger tax relief proposal that was passed this session.

AIF SUPPORTS increasing the current \$2 million general revenue appropriation to \$5 million for applicable tax credits for Brownfield site cleanup.

CS/HB 641 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-86; SB 842 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

👍 HB 991 Relating to Environmental Regulation by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City)

This massive regulatory reform bill addresses real practical permitting problems and shortens the timelines to receive a permit without reducing standards. Specifically, this bill would allow applicants 90 days to respond to requests for additional information, provides the petitioner with the burden of ultimate persuasion, and creates incentive-based permitting. This legislation will attract businesses to the state of Florida and would help to eliminate duplication and shorten the time in which a company can obtain a permit.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to streamline the permitting process in Florida. Businesses must be relieved from unnecessary costs and extensive waiting periods when seeking development, construction, operating, and building permits.

CS/CS/CS/HB 991 died in Senate messages; CS/CS/SB 1514 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

👍 HM 1401 Relating to Federal Intrusion into State's Clean Water Program by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) PRIORITY

In 2008, a group of environmental organizations sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) alleging failure on

the part of the federal agency to comply with the Clean Water Act. In 2009, EPA entered into a consent decree to settle the lawsuit filed and committed to propose numeric nutrient standards for inland waters (lakes and flowing waters), as well as estuarine and coastal waters. This House Memorial urges the United States Congress to prevent the EPA from overextending its power and to direct the agency not to intrude into Florida's previously approved clean water program.

AIF encourages the Florida Legislature to engage and support our Congressional delegation in their efforts to stop the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) imposition of unreasonably restrictive water quality standards only on the state of Florida. These proposed federal standards are unscientific and costly for businesses and consumers.

CS/HM 1401 died in Senate Messages.



Chair Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers) participates in AIF's 2nd annual *Florida Water Forum*. As Chair of the House Select Committee on Water Policy, Rep. Williams possesses a vast knowledge of water policy issues facing Florida.



Leslie Dughi

Assistant Director of Greenberg Traurig's Tallahassee Governmental Affairs practice ... state legislative practice spans over 23 years representing health and life insurers, investor-owned health care facilities, and assisted living facilities ... formerly served as the Director of Government Affairs for the Florida Chamber of Commerce ... well-versed in grassroots and campaign development techniques having previously served as AIF's Chief Political Officer.

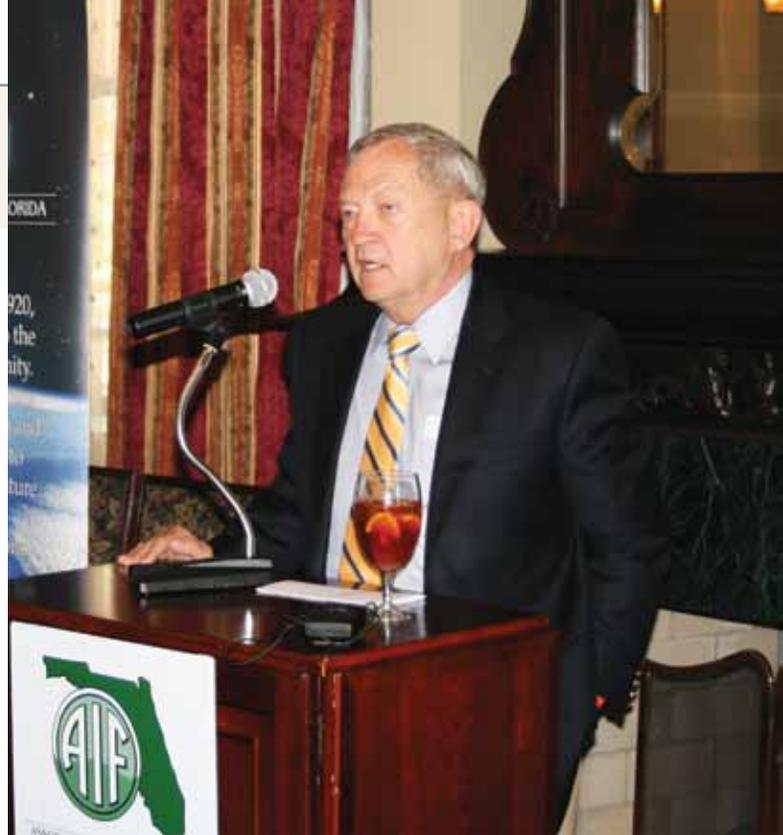
Issue: Health Care

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.

As Senate President Pro Tempore and Chair of the powerful Community Affairs Committee, Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton) has been a champion for growth management reform in Florida.



👍 SB 1528 Relating to Secondary Metal Recyclers by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne)

This proposed legislation creates a new category in law for “restricted regulated metals property” and imposes restrictions on the purchase of such property. Restricted regulated metals property includes such items as manhole covers, electric light poles, guard rails and traffic signs, which are the types of items normally involved in copper and metal theft. Under this measure, recyclers may only purchase such property after obtaining “reasonable proof” that the seller owns the property or is authorized to sell the property on behalf of the owner. In addition, recyclers may not provide cash for purchases of restricted regulated metals property. It is the intent of this proposal to aide in deterring copper and metal theft.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will further help to deter secondary metal theft. In 2008, AIF started the Floridians for Copper & Metal Crime Prevention Coalition and created the current standards on secondary metal recycling in Florida.

CS/CS/SB 1528 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

👍 SB 1698 Relating to Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal Systems by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) PRIORITY

This legislation sought to create a reasonable septic tank evaluation program and would make the program optional for local governments by allowing them to opt out of a septic tank evaluation program, unless the counties have a first magnitude spring. The bill sets a statewide uniform model standard should a local government wish to adopt an evaluation program. This is designed to protect businesses by promoting a consistent, predictable and stable business climate without having the potential for many different and potentially inconsistent local regulations. In addition, this measure would help to protect Florida’s springs with reasonable regulations that do not unfairly target or place undue burdens on citizens and businesses by directing that a local evaluation program require only what is necessary to remediate a failing system.

AIF SUPPORTS revising the legislation dealing with the septic tank inspection program passed last session. It is vital to bring all stakeholders together and produce a workable

solution to the septic tank evaluation program.
CS/CS/CS/SB 1698 died on the Senate calendar.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT/ AFFORDABLE HOUSING

👍 SB 410 Relating to Impact Fees by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)

In what has been a non-controversial issue this session, SB 410 would create the “preponderance of the evidence” standard of review for the government in cases challenging the imposition or amount of an impact fee. Presently, a local government wins if their action was “fairly debatable.” Under this legislation, local governments must prove their case by the “preponderance of the evidence”, which is the standard in civil cases today. Essentially, the bill will take away the “upper hand” that local governments have in defending their ordinances in court.

AIF SUPPORTS a thorough review and, where appropriate, a limitation on the use of impact fees. Through all of the Legislature’s attempts to lower taxes, they have yet to place any mandates of fairness or limitation on the ever-growing local government funding source of “user fees.”

SB 410 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-149; HB 7021 was laid on the table.



Towson Fraser

Joined Southern Strategy Group in 2008 with more than 11 years of political and governmental experience ... most recently served Governor Charlie Crist as his Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Affairs Director ... served as Communications Director for Speaker Allan Bense as well as the Republican Party of Florida, the Department of Management Services, and the Department of Community Affairs ... worked in the House Majority Office under Speakers John Thrasher and Tom Feeney ... Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from the University of Florida.

Issue: Space

 **HB 639 Relating to Affordable Housing by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral) PRIORITY**

This bill removes the statutory limitations on the amount of documentary stamp revenue that goes into the State Housing Trust Fund and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund. Furthermore, it provides that funds from the State Housing Trust Fund or the Local Government Housing Trust Fund that are appropriated for use in the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program, Florida Homeownership Assistance Program, Community Workforce Housing Innovation Pilot Program, or the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program may not be used to finance or otherwise assist new construction until July 1, 2012.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that repeals the Housing Trust Fund cap and appropriates all doc stamp revenue toward affordable housing. AIF has worked closely with the Sadowski Coalition in an effort to allocate these funds to be used for which they were originally intended.

HB 639 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-189; SB 912 was laid on the table.

 **HB 7001 & HB 7003 Relating to the Community Renewal Act by Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY**

These two proposals collectively comprise the “Community Renewal Act,” otherwise known as 2009’s landmark growth management legislation – SB 360. As originally intended, SB 360 offered larger developments the option of avoiding the Developments of Regional Impact process in certain densely populated areas. After being found unconstitutional by a circuit court in 2009, the Legislature took up this issue separately in HB 7001 & 7003 to avoid a violation of the Constitution’s single-subject rule. Given the non-controversial nature of the Community Renewal Act, yet crucially needed by members of the development community, these individual proposals were expeditiously passed and signed into law by Governor Scott early in the 2011 Legislative Session.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to re-enact the Community Renewal Act so as to guarantee that those developments which relied on the legislation, as well as those needing to avail themselves of its benefits, can proceed with certainty.

HB 7001 & HB 7003 were approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-14 and Chapter No. 2011-15, respectively; SB 174 & 176 were laid on the table.



John French, Esq.

AIF Special Counsel for Election Law ... Forty-one years of experience in the legislative process ... expertise in elections, health care, and taxation... A/V rated attorney with B.A. and J.D. degrees from Florida State University.

Issues: Ethics, Election Reform

“AIF’s leadership helped Florida’s maritime businesses cut through over-burdensome red tape and reduce duplicative credentialing costs so we can focus on creating jobs and expanding Florida’s global position as a leading exporter of goods to the Caribbean, Latin America and beyond.”

– Rick Murrell, Chairman and President, Tropical Shipping

 **SB 7207 Relating to Growth Management by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral) PRIORITY**

This comprehensive growth management proposal will allow local governments to regain power over their planning efforts, streamline processes and remove unworkable provisions that delay economic development. In particular, the discretion of concurrency would be left up to the judgment of local governments. Concurrency in growth management planning is a requirement that schools, parks and roads be built along with the development that uses them. In essence, local government will now have the authority to decide whether or not to allow existing resources to be strained by the new development. Furthermore, local governments would no longer have to prove whether their development plans are financially feasible.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to eliminate or re-address the transportation concurrency requirements in Florida. Furthermore, AIF SUPPORTS the repeal of mandatory school concurrency; and where it is voluntarily implemented, should only be done on a district-wide basis.

HB 7207 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-139; CS/HB 7129 died in returning House messages; CS/CS/SB 1122 was laid on the table; CS/CS/SB 1512 died in the Senate Budget Committee; CS/CS/SB 1904 died in the Senate Transportation Committee.

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2011 Session Priorities.



Jose Gonzalez, AIF's Vice President for Governmental Affairs, presents Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) with a *Champion for Business Award* at an AIF briefing in Tallahassee. Speaker Cannon continues to be a principled leader on behalf of AIF and the business community.

HEALTH CARE

SJR 2 Relating to Healthcare Services by Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow Floridians to opt out of the individual healthcare mandate to purchase health insurance, which is currently contained in President Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – more commonly known as "ObamaCare." The federal law currently requires every American to obtain health insurance by 2014. This proposal will now proceed to Florida voters on the 2012 ballot. As such, at least 60 percent of the voters would have to approve of the language for it to be added to the Florida Constitution.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to give Floridians the opportunity to vote in favor of "opting out" of federal health care reform.

CS/SJR 2 was signed by officers and filed with Secretary of State; CS/CS/HJR 1 was laid on the table.

SB 100 Relating to Autism by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate) **PRIORITY**

The bill would require a licensed physician to screen a minor for autism spectrum disorder when their parent believes the child exhibits symptoms of the condition. If the physician determines there is a basis for the concern, the child must be referred to a specialist for additional screening. If the physician does not determine there is a basis for concern, the

physician must tell the parent about other available screening options. Further, the bill would require health insurers to provide direct patient access to an appropriate specialist for autism screening or evaluation and also mandates that insurance policies cover a minimum of three visits per policy year for this screening or evaluation.

AIF OPPOSES the addition of new health care provider or benefit mandates that will drive up the overall cost of coverage and result in higher premiums for employers and their employees.

CS/SB 100 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

HB 445 Relating to Wellness or Health Improvement Programs by Rep. Clay Ingram (R-Pensacola)

The bill would allow health insurers to offer a voluntary wellness or health improvement programs to employers and employees. Insurers would be allowed to encourage participation in these wellness programs by providing rewards or incentives. Furthermore, the bill sets out a process for verifying that an employee suffers from a condition that would inhibit participation in these programs.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will lead to a healthier workforce and lower premiums. Costs to insurers could be offset by a reduction in the insurer's medical expenses due to having a healthier insured population. Furthermore, this legislation will offer these incentives without mandating coverage on the backs of Florida's insurance providers.

CS/CS/HB 445 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-167; CS/CS/SB 1522 was laid on the table.

HB 479 Relating to Medical Malpractice by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee) **PRIORITY**

This legislation will create an "expert witness certificate" that must be obtained by an expert witness who is licensed in another jurisdiction before testifying in a medical negligence case and further provides for disciplinary action against fraudulent expert witness testimony. Although this legislation was amended in the eleventh hour to remove several provisions supported by AIF, the business community supports this bill as a step in the right direction to discourage fraud



Richard Gentry, Esq.

Head of Gentry & Associates, a government consulting firm in Tallahassee ... prior General and Legislative Counsel for the Florida Home Builders Association ... in his 27 years with the association, Mr. Gentry was actively involved in legislation which included growth management, affordable housing and environmental laws.

Issues: Growth Management, Workforce Housing

Council: Florida Development & Infrastructure

abuses associated with medical malpractice claims. Prior to the introduction of this proposal, medical malpractice claims invited fraud, and subsequently, higher health care-related costs for Florida employers — an unsustainable atmosphere for attracting and retaining businesses in Florida.

AIF SUPPORTS proposals to discourage fraud abuses associated with medical malpractice claims. Current practices invite fraud which creates higher health care-related costs for Florida employers.

CS/CS/CS/HB 479 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-233; CS/SB 1590 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 619 Relating to Sale or Lease of a County, District, or Municipal Hospital by Rep. Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater)

This bill would require any sale or lease of a hospital owned by a county, district, or municipality to go before a circuit court for oversight when agreements are entered into on behalf of the taxpayers. Further, the bill would require more transparency in the governing board's decision-making

process when deciding to agree to the sale or lease and would allow for more public input into the proposed sale or lease.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will ensure that the taxpayer and the community are protected by ensuring that full and fair market value is received in exchange for the sale and/or lease of public hospitals.

CS/CS/CS/HB 619 died in Senate messages; CS/CS/SB 1448 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

👍 HB 661 Relating to Nursing Home Litigation Reform by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar)

This legislation revises numerous provisions of law related to litigation against nursing homes. It requires the court to hold an evidentiary hearing to determine if there is a reasonable basis to find that an officer, director or owner of a nursing home acted outside the scope of duties in order for a lawsuit to proceed against an officer, director, or owner of a nursing home. In addition, the legislation provides a cap of \$250,000 on non-economic damages in any claim for wrongful death in nursing home lawsuits, regardless of the number of claimants or defendants. The bill also requires a claimant to bring a lawsuit pursuant to either the statute relating to nursing home civil enforcement or the statute relating to abuse of vulnerable adults and requires the court to hold an evidentiary hearing before allowing a claim for punitive damages to proceed.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will level the playing field and protect Florida's health care providers from gratuitous lawsuits.

CS/CS/HB 661 died in Senate messages; CS/SB 1396 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

👍 HB 935 Relating to Health Care Price Transparency by Rep. Richard Corcoran (R-New Port Richey)

This bill would require primary care physicians (including osteopathic physicians and podiatrists) to publish a schedule of charges for the services they offer and to post the schedule in the reception area of their office. The schedule must include the fees that would be charged to an uninsured patient paying for medical services on their own. The bill also

Congressman Steve Southerland (R-Panama City) discusses his role as a staunch supporter of free-market enterprise in Florida. Even in his first term, Congressman Southerland refuses to remain idle in the fight against federal mandates that will endanger Florida's economic recovery.



Rheb Harbison

Senior governmental consultant with Carlton Fields law firm in Tallahassee ... 30 years of senior level experience in communications, public affairs, marketing and business development ... principally responsible for advocating on behalf of the firm's clients before the legislative and executive branches, asserting positions on a variety of state business issues ... holds a B.S. in Communications from Florida State University.

Issues: Environmental, Health Care

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.

FLORIDA Water

Addressing the critical issue of Florida

INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA AIF The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920 American Water Works



Jose Gonzalez and Richard Anderson, Chair of the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association, meet with Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam. Commissioner Putnam has been a strong ally in the fight against federally imposed Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC).

agents to market and sell these policies. These IHIPs would be exempt from rate approval, underwriting restrictions, and guarantee issue requirements and coverage mandates currently required by Florida's Insurance Code. Florida health insurance policies are required to include all 52 benefit and provider mandates in current law, as well as follow other regulatory restraints that many believe drive up the cost of health insurance premiums for Floridians.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will increase competition in Florida's health insurance market at a level not previously seen within the state. The increased competition will result in greater affordability for Florida's employers and consumers.

HB 1117 died in the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee.

👍 HB 1125 Relating to Health and Human Services by Rep. Richard Corcoran (R-New Port Richey)

This bill further implements the Florida Health Choices Program which was first established by the Legislature in 2008. The program provides for a centralized market for the sale and purchase of health care products including, but not limited to, health insurance plans, health maintenance organization plans, prepaid services, service contracts, and flexible spending accounts. The bill also calls for the Office of Insurance Regulation to approve risk-bearing products to be offered while the bill gives the corporation the authority to approve non-risk bearing products.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will promote the free market sale of health care-related services and contracts, thus reducing costs for Florida's employers and consumers.

CS/HB 1125 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-195.

👍 HB 1193 Relating to Health Care Services by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples)

Simply put, this bill would prohibit a person from being compelled to purchase health insurance and is specifically directed toward negating the individual mandate contained in the recently enacted Federal Health Care Reform Act. Similar to other proposals that seek to prohibit this mandate within Florida's Constitution, this legislation would counteract the

provides that a primary care provider, upon request, must provide a reasonable estimate for non-emergency medical treatment to patients. Further, this estimate must be consistent with the posted schedule. Physicians in violation of this requirement would have a penalty assessed which would be determined by the physician's regulatory board.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that provides accountability amongst Florida's health care providers. Providing clarity in these types of services will bring private health care providers more in-line with other private sector industries by increasing efficiency and promoting accountability.

CS/CS/HB 935 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-122; CS/SB 1410 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 1117 Relating to Interstate Health Insurance Policies by Rep. Richard Corcoran (R-New Port Richey)

In an effort to expand the affordable health insurance options to Florida employers and individuals, this bill would permit the solicitation and sale of "interstate health insurance policies" (IHIPs) in Florida. An IHIP is a health insurance policy governed by the law of any other state, district, or commonwealth in the U.S. Further, the bill would allow insurance



Nick Iarossi, Esq.
 Founding Partner of Capital City Consulting, LLC ... with more than 10 years legislative experience ... formerly worked in the Florida Senate, The Florida House of Representatives and the Office of Insurance Regulation ... expertise in banking and insurance, privacy and public records, health care, procurement, parimutuels, technology, and education ... graduate from Florida State University College of Law.
Issues: Insurance, Privacy

harmful effects of the Health Care Reform Act statutorily.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to negate the dangerous and radical proposals passed by Congress to overhaul our nation's health care system.

CS/HB 1193 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-126; CS/SB 1754 was laid on the table.

 **HB 7107 & 7109 Relating to Medicaid Managed Care by Rep. Rob Schenck (R-Springhill)** PRIORITY

This legislation will simplify the state's Medicaid program, which is a patchwork of carve outs and duplicative services, by moving the state's neediest citizens into managed care-type entities. This proposal provides for three separate programs — the Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance Program, which will provide primary and acute care for Medicaid recipients; the Long-Term Managed Care Program for residential, home and community-based care; and the Managed Long-Term Care Program for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Further, this reform package directs the Agency for Health Care Administration to prepare and submit a waiver to the federal government in order to implement this program. Prior to the introduction of a comprehensive overhaul of the state's Medicaid program, employers and employees have continually subsidized the high cost of this program in the form of higher private health insurance premiums.

AIF SUPPORTS the Legislature's plan to make bold changes to the Medicaid Program by streamlining this highly fragmented delivery and payment system. These changes will implement efficiencies and accountability to enable the state to have budget predictability with this program moving forward.

CS/HB 7107 & CS/HB 7109 were approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-134 and 2011-135, respectively; CS/CS/CS/SB 1972 was laid on the table.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

 **SB 102 Relating to Agency for Enterprise Technology by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate)**

The bill creates the Department of Information Technology under the Governor and specifies that the Executive Director is the state's Chief Technology Officer. The newly created department would be required to coordinate with all state

agencies to create a plan to move all agency IT operations to the new Department for the 2012-13 fiscal year. It creates three divisions in the department: the Division of Strategic Procurement for acquisition management, the Division of Policy Formation for setting technical standards, and the Division of Implementation for operational duties. Furthermore, the bill requires a work plan that addresses development of a revised financial management infrastructure, creation of future customer-relationship management systems, and consolidation of all state data centers.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to streamline Florida's IT operations, thus allowing for greater efficiency in the implementation of these services by state agencies.

CS/SB 102 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

INSURANCE

 **HB 99 Relating to Commercial Insurance Rates by Rep. Brad Drake (R-DeFuniak Springs)** PRIORITY

One of AIF's top insurance priorities for 2011, this bill allows five new types of commercial insurance to be exempt from the Office of Insurance Regulation's (OIR) rate filing and approval process which results in an exemption for over 80% of commercial rates. This measure builds upon legislation passed in 2010 that allows certain commercial lines to be exempt from the rate filing process. In addition, this year's proposal further exempts the following commercial lines from having to obtain prior rate approval: fiduciary liability, general liability, non-residential property and multiperil, excess property, and burglary and theft lines. Motor vehicle fleets with fewer than 20 vehicles would also be exempt from having to obtain prior approval for insurance pricing from the OIR.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation aimed at de-regulating commercial insurance lines in Florida. Competition should be the primary determinant of insurance rates, especially for commercial insurance, which is typically purchased by sophisticated business entities.

CS/CS/HB 99 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-160; CS/CS/SB 178 was laid on the table.

 **SB 408 Relating to Property & Casualty Insurance by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples)** PRIORITY

This legislation reduces the time frame to file hurricane claims from 5 years to 3 years following a hurricane, increases



H. Frank Meiners

President, Frank Meiners Governmental Consultants, LLC ... formerly with BellSouth as their Executive Director in Tallahassee where he lobbied communications issues ... more than 32 years legislative experience ... graduate of the University of South Florida in Mathematics and of the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Issue: Taxation

Council: Information Technology

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.

solvency requirements for insurance companies, eliminates public adjusters' abuses, and repeals the current requirement that property replacement costs be paid up front and replaced with the payment of actual cash value with a holdback until repairs are actually completed. Increased reliance on private insurers is vital for the restoration of the private residential insurance market and will reduce Citizens and the potential for hurricane-related taxes. Despite strong measures contained within this legislation, the proposal was amended in the final days of session to no longer exempt insurers from providing mandatory comprehensive sinkhole coverage – a move strongly opposed by AIF.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will encourage private property insurers to increase their market share in Florida, thus reducing the dependence on artificial government insurance.

CS/CS/CS/SB 408 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-39; CS/CS/HB 803 was laid on the table.

 **HB 967 Relating to Personal Injury Protection Insurance by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee) PRIORITY**

The bill would substantially reform Florida's no-fault motor vehicle statute and would provide for caps on attorney's fees, restore the ability of insurers to require examinations under oath, and allows insurers to include mandatory arbitration clauses in their contracts. During the committee process, this proposal was combined with another Personal Injury Protection (PIP) measure that would have further curbed costs to Florida's employers; however, the comprehensive PIP reform package was narrowly defeated before reaching the floor for a final vote.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will reduce the costs associated with litigation and automobile insurance premiums from the PIP no-fault system.

CS/CS/HB 967 died in the House Health and Human Services Committee; CS/SB 1694 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

 **HB 1243 Relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) PRIORITY**

This legislation would result in a substantial reduction of Citizens, reducing the exposure and losses it currently experiences. As originally filed, the bill called for a glide path and capped rate of increases on premiums by 20% per territory and 25% on any individual policyholder; however, a last min-

ute amendment reduced the territorial cap to 15%. This change also reduces the \$400 million additional premiums Citizens would have collected under the 20% cap, to \$300 million as currently proposed. Nonetheless, the provisions within this proposal will assist in returning Citizens to an insurer of last resort, and thus, reduces the potential for hurricane taxes.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will return Florida's insurance market to a point of sustainability and viability. It is vital to return Citizens to an insurer of last resort to substantially reduce the potential for hurricane taxes on businesses' insurance premiums.

CS/CS/ HB 1243 died on the House calendar; CS/SB 1714 died in the Senate Rules Committee.

 **SB 1330 Relating to Residential Property Insurance by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) PRIORITY**

Known as the Homeowner's "Consumer Choice" bill, this legislation would provide homeowners with the option of choosing from a property insurer with a competitive, market-based rate. Currently, the state-created Citizens Property Insurance Corporation provides property insurance to those unable to find coverage in the private insurance market. The artificially low rates created by Citizens produce an unsustainable market on the backs of Florida's private property insurers. Since Citizens does not possess the funds to pay out claims in the event of a disaster, hidden "hurricane tax" assessments will be borne by Florida's businesses - a market that is simply unsustainable. Florida homeowners would have the choice of choosing from competitive market rates from private insurers, while sending Citizens back to an "insurer of last resort."

AIF SUPPORTS legislation aimed at de-regulating commercial insurance lines in Florida. Competition should be the primary determinant of insurance rates, especially for commercial insurance which is typically purchased by sophisticated business entities.

SB 1330 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

 **HB 1411 Relating to Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Protection Insurance by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) PRIORITY**

This legislation includes many provisions which will reduce Personal Injury Protection (PIP) fraud, and thus business' automobile insurance premiums. Specifically, this proposal makes submission to examination a condition precedent to recovery of policy benefits, bars PIP claimants who submit false or misleading statements from receiving policy ben-



David Rancourt (Cabinet Lobbyist)

Founding Partner of Southern Strategy Group with more than 24 years legislative experience ... formerly served as Director of the Florida Division of Elections, as Deputy Secretary of State, and Deputy Chief of Staff under Governor Jeb Bush ... serves a strong client base with varied interests in both executive and legislative branches of government ... holds a B.S. in Economics from Florida State University and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Florida.

Issue: Executive Branch



Speaker-designate Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) talks with AIF members about the upcoming redistricting & reapportionment process in Florida. This session, Speaker-designate Weatherford has demonstrated consistent leadership on AIF's top legal and economic development issues.

to be held to a higher behavioral standard, excessive attorney fees, and stripping defendants of the opportunity to use attorney-client privilege in certain instances.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that reforms Florida's current litigation procedures in bad faith claims against insurers and encourages the Florida Legislature to set the state's policy on how such claims are handled rather than leave that policy-making task to the courts.

CS/SB 1592 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

👍 SB 2132 Relating to Department of Financial Services by the Senate Budget Committee

This legislation clarifies the reimbursement amounts applied to workers' compensation drugs. Current law has a loophole which allows physicians who dispense repackaged drugs to receive reimbursement amounts at exponentially higher rates than any other pharmacy provider. With no existing regulation for the price of repackaged drugs that are not dispensed by pharmacies, this creates unpredictable cost fluctuations that drive up workers' compensation pharmacy costs. This bill would have clarified that all drugs are subject to the same statutory fee amounts regardless of where the drug is dispensed; however, language concerning the rates that physicians charge for repackaged drugs was removed from the proposal. Had the provision remained, this measure could have saved Florida private sector employers \$62 million in workers' compensation rates.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will reduce workers' compensation costs to Florida employers while helping Florida to restore its vibrant economic position.

SB 2132 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-59.

LEGAL & JUDICIAL

👍 SB 142 Relating to Negligence by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) PRIORITY

Despite amendments to alter the bill's intended purpose, AIF was successful in passing this measure with the strongest protections possible for auto manufacturers. Prior to the Legisla-

efits, provides for insurers to recoup funds previously paid, and specifies civil penalties for claimants who make false or fraudulent insurance claims. By creating direct disincentives for deceitful "fly by night" clinics to file fraudulent PIP claims, Florida's employers will be able to reduce costs associated with PIP fraud.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will rein in increased costs associated with fraudulent PIP claims. Florida's businesses and consumers should not continue to shoulder the burden of additional "fraud taxes" initiated by unscrupulous practices.

CS/HB 1411 died in the House Health and Human Services Committee; CS/SB 1930 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

👍 SB 1592 Relating to Civil Remedies Against Insurers by Sen. John Thrasher (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY

Known more commonly as the insurer "bad faith" reform legislation, this bill addresses a major liability insurance cost driver by ensuring that insurers have the necessary information and opportunity to promptly investigate and pay only meritorious claims from injured third parties. Some of the most egregious abuses for employers today include denying businesses a reasonable time period to cure a complaint without having to go to court, requiring a defendant's insurer



Jim Rathbun

President of Rathbun & Associates ... more than 22 years experience representing individuals and entities before the Legislature, state agencies, Governor, and Cabinet ... formerly worked with the Florida House of Representatives and served as Staff Director of the House Republican Office ... B.S. from Florida State University.

Issues: Energy & Utilities

Council: Florida Energy

👍 Bill supported by AIF

👎 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.

ture's passage of crashworthiness legislation, Florida was the only state in the nation that prohibited the introduction of any evidence relating to the driver's condition at the time of an automobile crash when that driver was suing an auto manufacturer over the "crashworthiness" of the vehicle. Correcting this inequity will now open the door to automotive manufacturing companies that previously had not considered Florida as a base of operation.

[AIF SUPPORTS efforts by the Florida Legislature to clearly express that a Florida Supreme Court-created standard regarding crashworthiness is absurd and unfair.](#)

CS/SB 142 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-215; CS/HB 201 was laid on the table.

HB 391 Relating to Expert Testimony by Rep. Larry Metz (R-Eustis)

In 1993, the United States Supreme Court established guidelines for federal judges when admitting scientific evidence and expert testimony. However, that standard is not binding on Florida's state court judges, which has ultimately resulted in judges having total discretion to determine which opinions are admissible. This measure effectively revises the criteria for admission of expert evidence in Florida's state courts, thus preventing different standards from being applied in different areas of the state.

[AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will go a long way to help Florida correct a litigation crisis that increases costs to all American businesses and consumers.](#)

CS/HB 391 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee; CS/SB 822 died on the Senate calendar.

SB 450 Relating to Emergency Management by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) PRIORITY

This legislation provides civil immunity to any person who gratuitously provides housing, shelter, food or certain other provisions to first responders in the wake of a declared disaster. This legislation is important to community recovery and business continuity following catastrophic events. When communities are able to provide for their own first responders, they are able to restore services and return to a state of normalcy much more quickly.

[AIF SUPPORTS legislation that offers basic protection from unnecessary litigation to business owners who offer their services to first responders during natural disasters.](#)

CS/CS/SB 450 was approved by the Governor and

assigned Chapter No. 2011-43; CS/HB 215 was laid on the table.

HB 567 Relating to Judgment Interest by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) PRIORITY

Addressing the calculation methodology for judgment interest, this legislation is important to Florida businesses because the current methods create situations where exorbitant and inequitable interest rates result in the over-compensation of plaintiffs. Further, this inequity discourages settlements and holds the defendants financially liable for delays they do not cause. As originally filed, this bill revises the statute to index the rate at 300 basis points above the current prime rate; however, amendments adopted throughout the committee process have revised the bill to 400 basis points.

[AIF SUPPORTS revising current law to create a more fair and balanced formula for applying interest to damage awards.](#)

CS/HB 567 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-169; CS/CS/SB 866 was laid on the table.

HB 701 Relating to Property Rights by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)

This bill amends the "Bert Harris Act" to make changes to Florida's statutory protections on real property rights. In 1995, the Bert Harris Act was enacted by the Legislature to provide a new cause of action for private property owners whose property has been "inordinately burdened" by state and local government action that may not rise to the level of a "taking" under the State or Federal Constitution. The inordinate burden applies either to an existing use of real property or a vested right to a specific use. In addition, this legislation specifies that a moratorium on a development that is in effect for longer than one year is not a temporary impact to real property and may constitute an "inordinate burden." Further, the bill expands the options for private property owners to obtain compensation or remedy for governmental action that inordinately burdens real property.

[AIF SUPPORTS legislation that preempts state and local governments from infringing on private property rights. By providing more clarity in these types of cases, Florida will offer a far more stable atmosphere for conducting business and encouraging growth.](#)

CS/CS/HB 701 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-191; CS/SB 998 was laid on the table.



Bo Rivard, Esq.

Partner with the law firm of Harrison Rivard ... more than 14 years governmental relations experience with an emphasis on health care and land use ... recently appointed by Gov. Scott to the Republican Party of Florida Executive Committee ... graduate of the University of Florida and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law.

Issue: Executive Branch

Council: Florida's Community Hospitals

 **HB 1425 Relating to State Minimum Wage by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)**

Florida law requires that the minimum wage be increased based on increases in inflation and can never be lower than the federal minimum wage. Unfortunately, in the past few years, Florida's economy has experienced a period of deflation; and the law is silent as to how periods of deflation are to be considered in the calculation. During these times, the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) has completed its calculation using deflation but has established Florida's minimum wage equal to the federal level. This legislation would clarify the calculation of the minimum wage for economic conditions that are not already expressed in the state constitution. This legislation simply provides clarity for the AWI in its calculations when economic conditions occur that the Constitution did not address.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to bring clarity and predictability to this process that will avoid litigation and create a fair and balanced approach to the calculation of minimum wage in Florida.

CS/HB 1425 died in the House Economic Affairs Committee; CS/SB 1610 died on the Senate Calendar.

SEAPORTS

 **HB 283 Relating to Seaport Security by Rep. Dana Young (R-Tampa)** **PRIORITY**

This legislation is a top priority for AIF and members of our Florida Maritime Council who regularly conduct business in Florida's seaports. The bill removes expensive and duplicative security background screening procedures and aligns Florida's security measures with the federal standards administered through the Department of Homeland Security. This matters to businesses because the bill will significantly lower the cost per employee working on each port by eliminating the state background checks, which are unnecessary since federal background checks are already conducted. This will help Florida companies across all industries lower the transportation and shipping costs of the supplies they purchase and the goods they sell.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to reduce red tape and regulatory burdens, such as duplicative security credentialing, which encumber businesses in their daily work. The passage of this bill will undoubtedly make Florida a more attractive

"I commend Barney Bishop and the AIF team for their powerful advocacy efforts on space issues and for the strength in their leadership, depth of their legislative relationships, and steadfast support of Florida's aerospace industry and Space Florida's efforts."

– Frank DiBello, President, Space Florida

place for doing business.

CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 283 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-41; CS/SB 524 was laid on the table.

 **HB 399 Relating to Infrastructure Investment by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville)** **PRIORITY**

Construction to widen and modernize the Panama Canal is nearing completion; and seaports on the entire U.S. coastline are considering their options on how to best position themselves to participate in what is expected to be an economic windfall in maritime transit of oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods and other cargo. This legislation requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue a notice of intent for a port conceptual permit within 30 days after receiving the application. Requiring DEP to issue a notice of intent for a port conceptual permit within 30 days will provide more certainty to port related businesses, thereby reducing their costs.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation that will help Florida's port businesses expand Florida's position as an international commerce leader. Florida's 14 deepwater seaports are significant economic drivers for the state and must be provided with adequate funding to promote development and growth.



Stephen W. Shiver

Director of Governmental Affairs for the Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners ... over 12 years legislative and campaign experience ... former aide to House Speaker Tom Feeney and Majority Office Liaison to House Majority Leader Mike Fasano ... former Executive Director for the Republican Party of Florida ... has represented some of Florida's largest corporate and governmental agencies before the Florida Legislature ... graduate of Florida State University.

Issue: Economic Development

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2011 Session Priorities.

CS/CS/CS/HB 399 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-164; CS/CS/CS/SB 768 was laid on the table.

SPACE

SB 652 Relating to Liability of Spaceflight Entities by Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) PRIORITY

The bill will remove the sunset provision in Florida's current law providing immunity to spaceflight companies for injuries or death resulting from the normal risks associated with spaceflight activity. Eliminating the sunset provision will provide a sense of stability on this issue and keep Florida competitive with other states looking to recruit companies in this growing field.

AIF SUPPORTS this bill and the entire space agenda, and will work with Space Florida and other partners in the aerospace industry to make Florida a desirable location for aerospace commerce.

SB 652 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-153; CS/HB 703 was laid on the table.

HB 671 Relating to Research & Development Tax Credits by Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY

Tax credits for research and development is a concept that AIF has supported for a number of years as it supports growth in research and development to innovate our state's economy. The credits offered in this legislation are modeled after a federal program which will allow recipients to claim a tax credit against Florida corporate income taxes. The tax credit would be equal to 10% of the difference between a company's qualified research and development expenditures in the current taxable year. Additionally, the bill would allow any unused tax credits to be sold to other companies.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will stimulate research and development in one of Florida's most significant, high wage industries – Space. Such proposals will simultaneously keep existing aerospace companies in Florida, while drawing new businesses into the state from across the globe.

CS/HB 671 died in the House Finance and Tax Committee; SB 942 died in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.

SB 790 Relating to Tax Credits by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY

This bill authorizes an aerospace-sector jobs tax credit and tuition reimbursement tax credit against state corporate income taxes. The intent of the bill is to encourage both the creation of aerospace jobs and increase availability of higher education and training to existing aerospace industry employees. The maximum amount of credits any aerospace business may claim in a single calendar year is \$200,000; the total amount of credits claimed under the program in a calendar year by all eligible businesses is capped at \$2 million. Aerospace businesses may carry forward any unused credits for up to 5 years.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will create jobs within the aerospace sector, while maintaining those currently in existence. With the Space Shuttle program nearing its end, failing to act would have drastic consequences for the space industry in the state and associated jobs in those businesses.

SB 790 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

HB 873 Relating to Corporate Tax Credits and Refunds by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY

With the retirement of the Space Shuttle program later this year, and the cancellation of its successor Constellation program, it is projected that as many as 9,000 Florida jobs directly associated with the program will be lost. This legislation would create two corporate income tax credits (transferable and non-transferable) for certified spaceflight businesses that meet specified job-creation and investment levels. The non-transferable tax credit would be equal to 50 percent of the net corporate income tax liability in a given tax year, while the transferable corporate income tax credit would be based on a certified spaceflight business's net operating losses, and can be sold to any other Florida corporate income tax payer.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will provide much needed assistance to Florida's ailing space industry.

CS/CS/HB 873 died in House Conference Committee; CS/SB 1224 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow) shares his insight with AIF members on the political landscape for the 2011 Legislative Session. As a powerful member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Dorworth has put forth exemplary effort to pass much needed tax relief for Florida's employers.



Stacey Webb

Joined Southern Strategy Group after serving as Assistant Chancellor for Community Colleges at the Florida Department of Education leading the division's legislative efforts on issues relating to economic and workforce development ... also served as Staff Director and Majority Office Senior Analyst with the House of Representatives ... 16 years legislative experience ... received a B.A. from Stetson University and a M.P.A. from the University of Central Florida.

Issue: Education

TAXATION

HB 311 Relating to Local Business Taxes by Rep. Kenneth Roberson (R-Port Charlotte)

Currently, “local business tax” means the fees charged and the method by which a local governing authority grants the privilege of engaging in or managing any business, profession, or occupation within its jurisdiction. The bill provides that an individual who engages in or manages a business, profession, or occupation as an employee of another person is not required to pay a local business tax, obtain a local business tax receipt, or apply for an exemption from a local business tax.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that eliminates the requirement for certain employees to pay a “local business tax” if their employer is already paying a similar tax. This legislation will reduce the tax burden on employees across Florida and create a more business-friendly environment at a time when Florida’s economy needs it the most.

CS/CS/CS/HB 311 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-78; CS/CS/SB 582 was laid on the table.

HJR 381 & HB 1163 Relating to Homestead/Non-Homestead Property by Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow) PRIORITY

This proposed constitutional amendment will reduce the annual growth in assessment limitation on certain non-homestead property, from 10 percent to 5 percent, upon voter approval of the amendment. Further, the bill clarifies that the non-homestead assessment limitation does not apply to improvements made to the property. If approved by the voters with in 2012 presidential preference primary, this provision takes effect on January 1, 2012. If approved by the voters in the 2012 general election, the provision takes effect on January 1, 2013.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will provide a more equitable property tax system and help for first-time homeowners.

CS/CS/CS/CS/CS/HJR 381 was filed with the Secretary of the State and CS/CS/CS/1163 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-125; CS/CS/SJR 658 and CS/SB 1722 were laid on the table.

SB 508 Relating to Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions by Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale) PRIORITY

The Legislature has approved “Sales Tax Holidays” for a number of years, notably from 2005 through 2007, and then again in 2010, to allow consumers to purchase tax-exempt goods for a given period of time. This year, a proposal was introduced that would reinstate the Sales Tax Holiday between August 12 and August 14, 2011. Items free from sales tax in the bill include clothing, text books and other school supplies. Although this individual legislation did not pass, the sales tax holiday will be reenacted under a comprehensive tax proposal that was passed this year.

AIF SUPPORTS increasing business activity by allowing Floridians to purchase essential school supplies and other necessities without paying sales tax.

CS/SB 508 died in the Senate Budget Committee; CS/HB 733 died in the House Conference Committee.

HB 887 Relating to Communications Services Tax by Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow)

This bill eliminates the requirement of the Department of Revenue to provide tax amounts and brackets to communications services dealers. It further requires communications services dealers to compute state communications services tax (CST) and local CST based on a rounding algorithm. This algorithm must be carried to the third decimal place and be rounded to



Gerald Wester

Managing Partner, Capital City Consulting, LLC ... former Chief Deputy over Florida Department of Insurance’s regulatory staff ... more than 34 years lobbying experience ... expertise in insurance, banking, and health care issues ... Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Florida State University.

Issue: Insurance

Council: Financial Services

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2011 Session Priorities.

a whole cent using a method that rounds up to the next cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will eliminate antiquated and cost-prohibitive tax criteria for multi-state communications dealers.

CS/CS/CS/HB 887 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-120; CS/CS/SB 1198 was laid on the table.

 **SJR 958 Relating to State Revenue Limitation by Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale)**

This joint resolution will limit revenues collected by state government to the amount collected the previous year, plus an annual adjustment based on a combination of population growth and the rate of inflation. Any funds in excess of the limits will be placed in the state's "rainy day fund" until that fund reaches 10% of the prior year's total budget. At that point, the Legislature must vote to either provide tax relief or reduce property taxes. Further, this revenue limitation could be overturned by the Legislature, if necessary, by a super majority vote.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that establishes a state revenue cap because it is clear that the state has not demonstrated fiscal constraint in the past when revenues were increased beyond the critical needs of the state.

CS/SJR 958 was signed by officers and filed with Secretary of State; HJR 7221 was laid on the table.

 **SB 1128 Relating to Local Retirement Plans by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate) PRIORITY**

This bill addresses the sustainability of local pension plans by prohibiting the use of actuarial or cash surpluses outside of the plan, as well as prohibiting the plans from reducing required contributions to fund normal costs. This legislation does not allow for the accrual of sick or annual leave to be included in benefit calculations and caps overtime at 300 hours; however, it does allow for firefighter and police plans, with member approval, to increase member contributions without increasing member benefits.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to bring Florida's pension system more in line with that of the private sector. Florida's taxpayers are shouldering the burden of the growing liability of these state and local government pension plans.

CS/CS/SB 1128 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-216; CS/HB 7241 was laid on the table.

 **SB 1506 Relating to Corporate Income Tax by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate) PRIORITY**

With an increased desire to bring the "Single Sales Factor" option for apportioning corporate income taxes to Florida, this legislation provides for an elective single sales factor for com-

panies that, on or before July 1, 2013, make qualified capital expenditures in Florida of at least \$250 million. Additionally, a company must maintain the same number of employees it had when it applied. Although this particular legislation was not passed individually, the issue was thoroughly examined by policymakers this legislative session and was included in an omnibus economic development proposal that was passed by the Legislature.

AIF SUPPORTS a voluntary Single Sales Factor option in apportioning corporate income tax in Florida. By offering a positive change to the state's corporate income tax policy, companies are encouraged to relocate and conduct business in Florida.

CS/SB 1506 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

 **SB 1548 Relating to Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement by Sen. Evelyn Lynn (R-Daytona Beach) PRIORITY**

This bill would implement the requirements of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA) by making substantial changes to Florida's sales tax laws. By being a member of the SSUTA, Florida joins 20 other states in membership of the agreement. This will allow many out-of-state sellers to voluntarily collect Florida's use tax and remit it to the DOR. In essence, it would not employ a new tax on Florida businesses, but would rather make it easier for the out-of-state sellers to collect and remit the tax.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation expressing Florida's intent to join the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. Failure to do so continues to allow out-of-state sellers to have an unfair competitive advantage over the brick and mortar retailers.

CS/SB 1548 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

 **SB 1766 Relating to Assessment of Real Property/Challenge Proceedings by Sen. Ronda Storms (R-Brandon) PRIORITY**

This legislation addresses some of the current abuses that continue to be inflicted upon property taxpayers. As property values have fallen all over the state, unfair and excessive tax assessments have become an unacceptable burden on property owners. There are still several counties in the state where Value Adjustment Boards (VABs) rule in favor of taxpayers less than 5% of the time. This is, in part, due to the fact that these Boards are simply not following what other counties recognize as well established law.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to repair the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) process so that the state can ensure even-handed outcomes for small and large businesses alike in Florida.

CS/SB 1766 died in the Senate Budget Committee.

 **SB 2100 Relating to Retirement by the Senate Budget Committee PRIORITY**

Florida's taxpayers are shouldering the burden of the growing liability of state and local government pension plans. Dur-



This year, AIF was invited to join Governor Rick Scott at the bill signing ceremony for SB 2100, a law which will provide significant costs savings to Florida's Retirement System.

ing this uniquely challenging fiscal time, the need to make significant improvements to the Florida Retirement System cannot be ignored. This proposal will account for approximately 25% of the total savings that the Legislature needed to close a projected revenue shortfall of \$4 billion. Components within this comprehensive reform package include a mandatory 3% employee contribution to state pension plans, as well as modification of the Deferred Retirement Option Program and calculation of benefits that will yield about \$1.1 billion in savings to the state.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to bring Florida's pension system more in line with that of the private sector. Florida's taxpayers are shouldering the burden of the growing liability of these state and local government pension plans.

SB 2100 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-68; CS/SB 1130 died in the Senate Budget Committee; CS/CS/HB 1405 was laid on the table.

👍 HB 7185 Relating to Corporate Income Tax by Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando) PRIORITY

This proposal reenacts the perennial corporate income tax "piggyback" bill to adopt the federal changes that were made to the corporate income tax code. In some cases, however, when the federal code changes allow for increased depreciation of certain assets that would cost the state revenue, the state does not always codify those particular changes. In 2008 and 2009, the "piggyback" bill allowed taxpayers to spread the benefits received by the federal code changes over seven years. This year's legislation extends this process for the 2010 and 2011 federal changes, thus avoiding the \$500,000 estimated loss in corporate income tax that the state cannot afford to relinquish.

AIF SUPPORTS the adoption of a corporate income tax "piggyback" bill that codifies federal income tax code changes and ensures that businesses are not burdened with keeping two sets of books.

CS/HB 7185 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-229; CS/CS/SB 1998 was laid on the table.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

👍 HB 7005 Relating to Unemployment Compensation by Rep. Doug Holder (R-Sarasota) PRIORITY

This comprehensive unemployment compensation reform proposal updates and revises the claims process of the unemployment system to guarantee that only people who truly qualify for benefits are receiving payments. Specifically, the proposal passed by the Legislature this year cuts back the maximum number of weeks a person can receive unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 23 weeks when the jobless rate is at 10.5% or higher. The bill also revises the tax calculation formula for 2012 to provide some minor savings to many employers across the state, based on each individual company's experience with the system.

AIF applauds members of each chamber for working together to reach an agreement that will provide much needed relief to maintain and sustain Florida's unemployment compensation system.

CS/CS/HB 7005 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2011-235; CS/CS/SB 728 was laid on the table.

Visit aif.com/votes.shtm to access the complete Voting Records report.



Ways to be Involved...

As we face increasingly more demanding election cycles, it is imperative for AIF to play a leading role in electing pro-business candidates to the Florida Legislature, as well as to statewide offices. In order for us to advance our ideals it is critical that we have elected officials who understand and respect the free enterprise system. After all, they set the laws and regulations that affect your pocketbook and your business's bottom line.

AIF's political operations offer several avenues for businesses to be involved, whether it's through membership to our Political Council to keep you "in the know," or contributions to our political action committees to support pro-business candidates. The campaign season is upon us, now is the time to get involved.

Political Council

The Council provides members an opportunity to take part in our bi-annual candidate interviews as well as access to candidate questionnaires and our *Political Express* information service.

Election Watch: Outline of Races

This publication has become the "can't miss" tool for everyone following state legislative races. It provides information on all House and Senate candidates, including personal & professional information, fundraising totals, political history, and current campaign news.

Email Information Services

Members of the Political Council receive frequent updates via email to ensure they are kept up-to-date. *Political Insight* is a report on all the current political news and campaign updates. *Information Express* is designed to provide rapid delivery of hot political happenings as they occur.

Members-Only Website

A one-of-a-kind website available only to members of the Council. This site provides the most in-depth information available anywhere on candidates for the Florida Legislature — profiles, expansive contribution reporting, in-depth questionnaires, district demographics, etc.

AIF PAC

Our political action committee here at AIF allows us to contribute hard dollars to AIF endorsed candidates. An annual commitment can be added to your dues in order to help us assist the candidates we need to be in Tallahassee.

Leadership PAC

With political winds subject to drastic changes at a moment's notice, members of LPAC keep AIF on the front line of the battle during campaign cycles. This committee's primary mission is to fund electioneering, polling & research and leadership giving on behalf of AIF.

Our political services to members are second to none. Business leaders around the state utilize these services to enhance their ability to stay in touch with Florida politics.

If you're interested in joining the Political Council or contributing to the AIF's political entities, please contact Ryan Tyson, Vice President of Political Operations at 850.224.7173 or at rtyson@aif.com.

2 0 1 1 *Champions for Business*



The *Champion for Business* award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

For 36 years, Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) has published *Voting Records*, an analysis of every vote cast by every legislator on every major business issue. The votes provide tangible evidence of whether or not a legislator upholds the ability of Florida companies to operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation. It is a valuable tool used by AIF and the business community to determine which legislators running for re-election deserve our support. Yet, voting records only tell part of the story.

AIF instituted the *Champion for Business* award in 2003 to acknowledge lawmakers who do more than vote for business and provide leadership on key legislation. A *Champion for Business* is a legislator who takes risks for his or her belief in the free-enterprise system, who defies the status quo when it is harmful to our state's competitive climate, and who faces down opponents to the growing prosperity of Florida's citizens.

The *Champion for Business* is evidence that, in our efforts to let our members and their legislators know who has been good for business and who has been bad, we leave no stone unturned.

This year, AIF selected those legislators who we deem are strong and forceful advocates for the business community. In our collective wisdom, these 18 legislators are the epitome of what a *Champion for Business* should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session. In addition, AIF is proud to present *Council Awards* to a group of policy-makers who exhibited great leadership on behalf of AIF's Council system.

Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the senators and representatives we turned to when we needed someone on whom we could depend.



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA
The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

2 0 1 1 *Champions for Business*

Throughout the 60 days of lawmaking, these were the leaders we turned to when we needed someone we could depend upon.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As Chairman of the powerful Senate Budget Subcommittee

on Health and Human Services Appropriations, Sen. Negron was the principal negotiator behind the sweeping Medicaid reform package (**HB 7107**) passed by the Florida Legislature this past session. As a top priority for the business community, Medicaid reform will establish a more coordinated care model that will not only ensure cost-efficient quality care to our neediest residents, but will provide the state more control over the dollars it spends on this program. For years this program has grown exponentially, which has taken resources from other important areas of public policy. AIF has been a long-time supporter of Medicaid reform, and we are deeply thankful for Sen. Negron's leadership on this issue. For this we are proud to recognize Sen. Negron as a Champion for Business.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) is receiving his third *AIF Champion for Business Award*. This year Sen. Richter once again demonstrated why he is considered

one of the go-to-members of the Florida Legislature when vital pro-business legislation needs to be passed. Sen. Richter sponsored one of the top legal reform bills of the 2011 legislative session – **SB 142** Relating to Crashworthiness. Prior

to the passage of **SB 142**, Florida was the only state in the nation that prohibited the introduction of any evidence relating to a driver's condition at the time of an accident, when that driver sued an auto manufacturer over the "crashworthiness" of the vehicle. For his sponsorship of this AIF priority and his willingness to tackle the tough issues, AIF is proud to recognize Sen. Garrett Richter as a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. With his return to the Florida Legislature as a member

of the Senate, Sen. Simmons continues to provide strong support for the issues most important to employers and the business community. Sen. Simmons is being recognized for his sponsorship of legislation providing greater flexibility to school districts needing to comply with the 2002 Class Size Amendment. His bill (**SB 1466**) expands the list of core-curricula courses that are exempt from the Class Size requirements and allows for districts to submit their official student census only once per year. These reforms will go a long way in helping to address the budgetary challenges created by the Class Size amendment. For his strong commitment to Florida's education system, we are proud to distinguish Sen. David Simmons as a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Sen. Ring continues to be a strong proponent of economic devel-

opment in Florida and an advocate for transforming Florida's economy. This year Sen. Ring is being recognized for his leadership on passage of legislation that enacts major changes in Florida's corporate income tax structure. Known as the Single Sales Factor, this legislation creates an optional mechanism for eligible corporations to use a new method to calculate Florida income for state corporate income tax purposes. With passage of this legislation, companies which invest at least \$250 million in capital infrastructure can benefit from this new formula. Thanks to Sen. Ring's work on this issue, Florida will now be able to compete with other states that currently provide companies this incentive. For this reason, AIF is proud to call Sen. Jeremy Ring a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. Elyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale) is receiving her first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As a new member of the Florida Senate, Sen. Bogdanoff has

quickly positioned herself as a leader on issues important to the business community. Sen. Bogdanoff is Chair of the

Whether they proposed an imp

influential Budget Subcommittee on Finance & Tax where she presides over a number of important business issues. AIF is recognizing Sen. Bogdanoff this year for her sponsorship of legislation dealing with Judgment Interest – **SB 866** – which addresses the calculation methodology for judgment interest. This issue is important to Florida businesses because the current methods create situations where exorbitant and inequitable interest rates result in the over-compensation of plaintiffs, discourage settlements, and hold the defendants financially liable for delays they do not cause. Thanks to Sen. Bogdanoff's leadership, the Legislature was able to revise current law to create a more balanced formula for applying interest to damage awards. For this reason, AIF is proud to call Sen. Elyn Bogdanoff a *Champion for Business*.



Sen. Jack Latvala
(R-St. Petersburg) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Sen. Latvala has returned to the Florida Senate and continues to be a

staunch supporter of issues important to Florida's employers. His leadership and vast experience in the legislative process made him an incredibly influential member of the Senate this legislative session. Sen. Latvala is being recognized for his sponsorship of pro-business legislation, including **SB 524**, which aims to reduce security credentialing requirements at our deep-water ports, and for his leadership in the fight against immigration reform legislation that would have been harmful to Florida's economic recovery. Sen. Latvala's understanding of the significant challenges facing small business owners presented by the proposed mandatory E-Verify requirements was instrumental in defeating this legislative proposal. For these reasons, AIF is proud

to call Sen. Jack Latvala a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. Anitere Flores
(R-Miami) is receiving her third *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As a new member of the Florida Senate, Sen. Flores continues to be one of the strongest advocates for Florida's business community. Sen. Flores picked up where she left off as a leader in the Florida House of Representatives and was named Chair of the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee. As Chair, Sen. Flores presided over a number of legal reform priorities for the business community. Most importantly, she oversaw the deliberations of the controversial immigration reform legislation (**SB 2040**)

proposed this year. Throughout this very emotional and contentious debate, Sen. Flores allowed all sides of the issue to articulate their opinions in a fair and balanced environment. Sen. Flores was keenly aware of the economic implications of this proposal and repeatedly advocated on behalf of employers. For these reasons, AIF is proud to call Sen. Anitere Flores a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Sen. JD Alexander
(R-Lake Wales) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As the Senate Appropriations Chair, Sen. Alexander has had

the difficult task of dealing with record budget shortfalls during a period of unprecedented economic downturn. In light of these challenges, Sen. Alexander has been able to reduce government spending and balance the budget without increases in taxes or fees for employers. In addition, Sen. Alexander managed

to score a perfect 100 percent on AIF's Voting Records; a feat not easily achieved in the Florida Senate. This year, Sen. Alexander also played a pivotal role in the defeat of immigration reform legislation that would have potentially required employers of all sizes to comply with the federal E-Verify employee verification system, which is riddled with errors and is a regulatory burden for business owners. Sen. Alexander's impassioned speech on the Senate floor helped shed light on the difficulties facing farmers who are trying to stay in business while dealing with workforce shortages, as well as the challenges facing migrant workers in our state. His debate helped carry the day for the opponents of this measure, including AIF and the business community. For these reasons AIF is proud to call Sen. JD Alexander a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Dorothy Hukill
(R-Port Orange) is receiving her second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As Chair of the House Economic Affairs Committee, Rep. Hukill was

responsible for presiding over a number of subcommittees that handled important pro-business legislation. Rep. Hukill was instrumental in the passage of AIF priorities dealing with insurance issues, such as the major property insurance reform package (**SB 408**) and legislation that further expanded the de-regulation of commercial insurance lines in Florida (**HB 99**). Throughout the entire session, Rep. Hukill made sure that these bills were moving through the process and assisted the respective sponsors of these measures. For her steadfast support of the business community and the financial services industry in Florida, AIF is proud to once again designate Rep. Dorothy Hukill as a *Champion for Business*.

ortant bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session.

Champions for Business

(continued)



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. John Wood (R-Haines City) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. This year, Rep. Wood sponsored **HB 803** – the major property

insurance reform bill for the 2011 session. Recognizing the precarious position the state of Florida is in, due to our regulatory climate and our insistence on post-hurricane financing, Rep. Wood set out to enact many of the reforms passed during last year’s legislative session that were subsequently vetoed by Governor Crist. Rep. Wood led the charge in the House and served as the principle negotiator with the Senate on a number of proposals designed to deal with many of the cost drivers in the property insurance system, including the reduction of time frames for filing claims, increasing solvency requirements for insurance companies, eliminating abuses by public adjusters and repealing the requirement that property replacement costs be paid up front and replaced with payment of actual cash value. These major reforms will hopefully go a long way in bringing back the private property insurance market to Florida. AIF is proud to distinguish Rep. John Wood as an *AIF Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Very few members of the House played

a more important role in the success of the business community’s agenda than Speaker-Designate Weatherford. Throughout the session, Speaker-Designate Weatherford communicated with AIF and its members and offered his assistance to get pro-business legislation moving through the committee process. As a staunch supporter of meaningful legal reform, Speaker-Designate Weatherford ensured that the top tort reform bills for the session passed out of the House, including legislation providing fairness in “crashworthiness” cases (**SB 142**) and curbing abuses in our state’s medical malpractice system (**HB 479**). Speaker-Designate Weatherford represents exactly the type of pro-business legislator needed to get government out of the way of employers and create the best business climate for our state in order to spur economic activity and job creation. For this and many other reasons, AIF is proud to call Speaker-Designate Will Weatherford a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. This session Rep. Patronis undertook a major re-write of Florida’s

environmental permitting laws (**HB 991**) in order to speed up the approval process and bring certainty to businesses dealing with state agencies. Rep. Patronis went out of his way to bring all stakeholders to the table and granted unprecedented access to all groups involved. Neverthe-

less, Rep. Patronis remained in tune with the needs of the business community by advocating for meaningful reductions in regulation and greater efficiencies in the system. Although his bill did not make it to the finish line, a number of the proposals included in his legislation made it into other pieces of legislation that were passed this session. Rep. Patronis was also the House sponsor of an important piece of legislation dealing with business-backed reforms to local government pension plans (**HB 7241**). For these reasons, AIF is proud to name Rep. Jimmy Patronis a *AIF Champion for Business Award*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Myers) is receiving her first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Since her election to the Florida House, Rep. Williams has been the busi-

ness community’s point person on issues surrounding Florida’s water policy. With a professional background and expertise in the area of water policy, Rep. Williams has first-hand knowledge of the challenges facing Florida and its employers when it comes to water supply and water quality. As Chair of the House Select Committee on Water Policy, Rep. Williams led the charge on addressing water issues of great importance to Florida’s employers. Perhaps of greatest importance to AIF and its members are Rep. Williams’ efforts to address the negative consequences of federal water quality standards (known as Numeric Nutrient Criteria) being pushed on Florida by

The votes provide tangible evidence of whether or not a legislator upholds the ability of Florida companies to operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation.

the federal government. Rep. Williams sponsored legislation (**HB 239**) that would have gone a long way in providing Florida with the tools to mitigate the costly implementation of these arbitrary water quality standards. For her efforts to bring awareness to water quality and supply issues, AIF is proud to call Rep. Trudi Williams a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Marlene O'Toole (R-The Villages) is receiving her first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As the prime sponsor of AIF's top legal reform bill, **HB 201**, Rep.

O'Toole proved her mettle by going up against the powerful trial bar in a fight to bring fairness to the way juries in Florida hear "crashworthiness" cases. Prior to passage of this bill, Florida was the only state in the nation that prohibited the introduction of any evidence relating to the driver's condition at the time of an auto accident when that driver is suing an auto manufacturer over the "crashworthiness" of the vehicle. Despite amendments to alter the bill's intended purpose, Rep. O'Toole was successful in passing this legislation with the strongest protections for auto manufacturers. Correcting this inequity will now open the door to auto manufacturing companies that previously had not considered Florida as a base of operation. For her commitment to meaningful legal reform, AIF is proud to call Rep. Marlene O'Toole a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Dana Young (R-Tampa) is receiving her first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Being a freshman in the House of Representatives typically does not

lend itself to passing major legislation, but this did not deter Rep. Young from filing one of the business community's

top priorities for the session. Rep. Young was the prime sponsor of **HB 283** — a bill designed to eliminate duplicative and costly security credentialing at our deep water ports. By passing this legislation, Florida is no longer at a competitive disadvantage with our neighboring states and we can best be prepared to meet the demands and opportunities presented by the expansion of the Panama Canal. For this reason, AIF is proud to call Rep. Dana Young a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Doug Holder (R-Sarasota) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As Chairman of the House Economic Development and

Tourism Subcommittee, Rep. Holder was tasked with the difficult job of sponsoring major legislation dealing with Florida's unemployment compensation tax system (**HB 7005**). In a short period of time, Rep. Holder was able to learn the intricacies of this complex system in order to advocate for some important reforms to the way benefits are awarded. These reforms, a priority for AIF and its members, will go a long way in reducing the number of frivolous benefit claims that represent a drain in the system. During the final days of session, Rep. Holder was able to negotiate successfully on behalf of the House to keep many of the important reforms included in the legislation. For his leadership on this very difficult issue and his commitment to helping Florida employers, AIF is proud to call Rep. Doug Holder a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Since his election to the House of Representatives, Rep. Dorworth has been a strong defender of the free enterprise

system in Florida and has filed a number of pro-business bills each year. This year, Rep. Dorworth sponsored **HJR 381**, a proposed constitutional amendment that, if approved by the voters during the next general election, will protect first time home-buyers from increased property taxes and will cap the annual change in assessed value for commercial property to five percent (a reduction from the current 10 percent). These important property tax changes will hopefully spur the housing market in Florida and provide commercial property owners with some much needed tax relief. For his commitment to improving Florida's business climate and his leadership on key business issues, AIF is proud to call Rep. Chris Dorworth a *Champion for Business*.



2011 CFB Winner

Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Workman tackled what is probably one of the most contentious

pieces of legislation during the 2011 session. AIF is recognizing Rep. Workman for his sponsorship of **HB 1405**, a bill aiming to reform Florida's state pension system. Florida's business community has long recognized the need for making improvements to the Florida Retirement System due to the growing liability of maintaining these state and local government plans. Under Rep. Workman's watch, state employees will now have some "skin in the game" by requiring a contribution of three percent of an employee's salary to fund their retirement plans. By bringing Florida's pension plan more in line with the private sector, the state will save over \$1 billion. Rep. Workman took on ferocious attacks from the unions, but never wavered and in the end was able to pass a package of bold reforms. For these reasons, AIF is proud to call Rep. Ritch Workman a *Champion for Business*.

Council Awards

Associated Industries of Florida is made up of a diverse group of businesses and associations that represent a wide array of economic sectors. AIF has organized a number of councils in order to best represent groups of employers that share a common subject area or interest. AIF's Council system has already produced excellent results, both legislatively and politically.

Florida Maritime Council



Rep. Joe Abruzzo

(D-Wellington) has always been a strong supporter of the business community, and this year he continued to prove his effectiveness as a legislator by filing and passing one of AIF's top priorities – **HB 215** Relating to Emergency Management. As a top priority for maritime companies located in hurricane-prone areas of the state, this legislation provides civil immunity to any person or business owner who gratuitously provides housing, shelter, food or certain other provisions to emergency workers in the wake of a declared disaster. This bill is important to community recovery and, most importantly, business continuity following catastrophic events. For his determination in passing this important piece of legislation, AIF's Florida Maritime Council is proud to call Rep. Joe Abruzzo its *Legislator of the Year*.

Environmental Sustainability Council



Rep. Ken Roberson

(R-Port Charlotte) sponsored and helped pass a critical rulemaking bill that will go a long way in addressing the regulatory needs of Florida's employers. **HB 993** includes a critical provision for the business community that was added late in the session, which shifts the burden of proof to the challenger instead of a developer or business owner when environmental harm is alleged. By successfully advocating for this change, Rep. Roberson has helped speed up the permitting process for business owners in Florida. For this reason, AIF's Environmental Sustainability Council would

like to honor Rep. Ken Roberson as its *Legislator of the Year*.

Financial Services Council



Rep. Brad Drake

(R-DeFuniak Springs) and Sen. Steve Oelrich (R-Gainesville) are being recognized for their sponsorship of legislation dealing with the de-regulation of commercial insurance in Florida (**HB 99** and **SB 178**). With resounding support from both sides of the aisle, Rep. Drake and Sen. Oelrich were able to pass one of AIF's top insurance priorities for the 2011 session. This legislation expands on similar legislation passed last year by allowing five new types of commercial insurance to be exempt from the Office of Insurance Regulation's (OIR) rate filing and approval process. This results in an exemption for over 80% of commercial rates in Florida. For their support of legislation that allows the free market, and not government, to dictate rates, AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to designate Rep. Brad Drake as its House Legislator of the Year and Sen. Steve Oelrich as its Senate *Legislator of the Year*.

Florida Development and Infrastructure Council



Rep. Gary Aubuchon

(R-Cape Coral) has been a steadfast supporter of affordable housing issues for the last several years. As a homebuilder and real estate broker, Rep. Aubuchon understands the importance of Florida's housing market and the role it plays in our state's economic recovery. This year, Rep. Aubuchon was finally able to pass legislation (**HB 639**) scrap-

ping the cap on the amount of documentary stamp revenue that goes into the State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds. This has been a goal for AIF and housing advocates for a number of years, since it is well known that housing dollars equal jobs in our economy. Very few sectors provide more impact on job creation than housing, and Rep. Aubuchon was a true champion on behalf of the business community on this issue. For this reason, AIF's Development and Infrastructure Council is proud to designate Rep. Gary Aubuchon as its House *Legislator of the Year*.

Florida Development and Infrastructure Council



Sen. Mike Bennett

(R-Bradenton) holds the distinction of being one of AIF's most awarded members of the Legislature, and this year he is being recognized once again for his leadership on growth management issues. Sen. Bennett was instrumental in the passage of one of the most sweeping reforms of Florida's growth management law. After considering recommendations from AIF members, Sen. Bennett put together a package of reforms (**SB 7207**) that will allow local governments to regain power over their planning efforts, streamline the process, and remove unworkable provisions that delay economic development. Florida's growth management laws had not been altered in over 25 years, and this set of changes was incredibly well received by members of the business community. It is without hesitation that AIF's Florida Development and Infrastructure Council designates Sen. Mike Bennett as its Senate *Legislator of the Year*.

Past Champions for Business & Council Award Winners

2010 Champions for Business

Speaker Larry Cretul – *Unemployment Compensation*
Rep. Dean Cannon – *Medicaid Reform*
Rep. Steve Crisafulli – *Economic Development/Aerospace*
Rep. Brad Drake – *Commercial Insurance*
Rep. Adam Hasner – *Unemployment Compensation*
Rep. Alan Hays – *Workers' Compensation*
Rep. Mike Horner – *Parental Waivers*
Rep. Ralph Poppell – *Dynamic Scoring*
Rep. Perry Thurston – *International Commercial Arbitration*
Rep. Will Weatherford – *Economic Development/Job Creation*
President Jeff Atwater – *Tort Reform*
Sen. Rudy Garcia – *Unemployment Compensation*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Economic Development*
Sen. Garrett Richter – *Property Insurance*
Sen. John Thrasher – *Education Reform*
Sen. Thad Altman – *Aerospace Industry Relief*

2010 Council Legislator of the Year

Financial Services Council
Sen. Durell Peaden – *Commercial Insurance*
Rep. Bill Proctor – *Property Insurance*
Florida Maritime Council
Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Seaport Development*
Rep. Lake Ray – *Seaport Investment*
Florida Education, Economic, & Workforce Development Council
Rep. John Legg – *Teacher Accountability*
Sen. Nancy Detert – *Education Requirements*
Information Technology Council
Rep. Marlene O'Toole – *IT Contracting*
Florida Development & Infrastructure Council
Rep. Dorothy Hukill – *Growth Management/Economic Development*
Environmental Sustainability Council
Sen. Lee Constantine – *Water Policy*
Rep. Trudi Williams – *Recycling Incentives*

2009 Champions for Business

Rep. Dean Cannon – *Energy Legislation*
Rep. Anitere Flores – *Workers' Compensation*
Rep. Adam Hasner – *Elections*
Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera – *Property Taxes*
Rep. Jimmy Patronis – *Medicaid Reform*
Sen. Garrett Richter – *Workers' Compensation*
Sen. Mike Fasano – *Economic Development*
Sen. Chris Smith – *Public Notices*
Sen. Don Gaetz – *Low Income Pool (LIP) Transparency*

2009 Council Legislator of the Year

Financial Services Council
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Surplus Lines Insurance Taxation*
Rep. Bryan Nelson – *Property Insurance*
Rep. Pat Patterson – *Surplus Lines Insurance*
Florida Energy Council
Rep. Charles Van Zant – *Energy Legislation*
Rep. Seth McKeel – *Oil & Gas Exploration*
Florida Maritime Council
Sen. Dave Aronberg – *Seaport Security*
Florida Education, Economic, & Workforce Development Council
Rep. Erik Fresen – *High School Graduation Requirements*

2008 Champions for Business

Rep. Thad Altman – *Space Legislation*
Rep. Anitere Flores – *Education & Workforce Development*
Rep. Peter Nehr – *Property Tax Reform*
Rep. Ray Sansom – *Economic Development*
Rep. Baxter Troutman – *Metal Theft Legislation*
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Administrative Procedures Act*
Sen. Mike Fasano – *Transportation*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Taxes*
Sen. Bill Posey – *Space Legislation*
Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Economic Development*

2008 Council Legislator of the Year

Financial Services Council
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance*
Sen. Al Lawson – *Property Insurance*
Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink – *CatFund Reduction*
Florida Energy Council
Rep. Paige Kreegel – *Energy Legislation*
Florida Maritime Council
Rep. Kevin Ambler – *Seaport Security*

2007 Champions for Business

Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*
Rep. Charlie Dean – *Tort Reform*
Rep. Alan Hays – *Property Insurance*
Rep. Rich Glorioso – *Transportation*

2007 Council Legislator of the Year

Governmental Outsourcing Council
Rep. Aaron Bean – *Contracting Legislation*
Information Technology Council
Rep. Will Weatherford – *Enterprise Information Technology*
Sen. Al Lawson – *Enterprise Information Technology*

2006 Champions for Business

Governor Jeb Bush – *Support of Business Agenda*
Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*
Senate President Tom Lee – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*
Rep. Marty Bowen – *Agriculture*
Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform/Repeal of Joint & Several*
Rep. Fred Brummer – *Tax Reform*
Rep. Mike Davis – *Affordable Housing*
Rep. Adam Hasner – *Energy Legislation*
Rep. Matt Meadows – *Tax Incentives for Manufacturing*
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*
Rep. Marco Rubio – *Private Property Rights*
Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*
Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Relief for Businesses*
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*
Sen. Jim King – *Economic Development*
Sen. Dan Webster – *Tort Reform*

2005 Champions for Business

Governor Jeb Bush – *Tort Reform*
Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform*
Rep. Frank Attkisson – *Private Sector Protection*
Rep. Holly Benson – *Medicaid Reform Legislation*
Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform*
Rep. Fred Brummer – *Repeal of Intangible Tax*
Rep. Rene Garcia – *Medicaid Reform Legislation*
Rep. Joe Pickens – *Asbestos and Silica Reform Act*
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance Reform*
Rep. Dwight Stansel – *Tort Reform*
Rep. John Stargel – *Tax Reform*
Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Reform*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Tax Reform*

2004 Champions for Business

Rep. Allan Bense – *Support of Business Agenda*
Rep. Kim Berfield – *Workers' Compensation Reform*
Rep. Mike Davis – *Growth Management*
Rep. Jeff Kottkamp – *Premises Liability Legislation*
Rep. Bruce Kyle – *Court Funding*
Rep. Joe Negron – *Court Funding*
Rep. John Stargel – *Tax Reform*
Sen. JD Alexander – *Workers' Compensation Reform*
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*
Sen. Mike Haridopolos – *Tax Reform*
Sen. Rod Smith – *Court Funding*

2003 Champions for Business

Rep. Allan Bense – *Support of Business Agenda*
Rep. Dudley Goodlette – *Workers' Compensation*
Rep. Connie Mack – *Tort Reform*

The Champion for Business award symbolizes our gratitude for extraordinary efforts by legislators on behalf of the business community.

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- Learn More about the Latest Political Trends and Redistricting in Florida

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