



# VOTING RECORDS

On Key | 2012 Regular  
Business | Session of the  
Issues | Florida Legislature



2 0 1 2  
*Champions*  
for **Page 37**  
*Business*



# ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*



Tom C. Feeney  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

## 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 2012 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 13,281 votes cast by legislators on 114 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 37 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

Tom C. Feeney  
President & Chief Executive Officer

# A Look at the 2012 Session: Legislators Embrace Job Creation and Economic Growth Proposals



by Jose L. Gonzalez

**A**fter completing a thorough analysis of more than 13,200 votes cast on 114 business-related bills, the 2012 *AIF Voting Records* report revealed the most business-friendly Florida House of Representatives since 2008. On average, Florida House Republicans scored high marks leading to an overall 89 percent of House votes in favor of pro-business legislation. Business-friendly votes in the Senate averaged 85 percent, matching 2011 and 2010 percentages.

This year, the Legislature took significant steps toward adopting an agenda that will reestablish Florida as a job creating and economic growth machine. Legislation was passed which will reduce unemployment compensation taxes (**HB 7027**) for all Florida employers, as well as provide valuable incentives (**HB 7087**) to important industries like manufacturing, agriculture, aerospace and film. In addition, Governor Scott and legislative leaders made it a priority to reduce regulations through the establishment of streamlined environmental permitting (**HB 503** and **HB 7003**)

## The 2012 Legislative Session was also marked by a decreasing gap between Democrats' and Republicans' voting records on pro-business legislation.

and the elimination of thousands of job-killing government rules. The Legislative and Executive branches also made reforming Florida's broken auto insurance system a priority with the passage of **HB 119**, which takes on a number of the cost drivers that had led Florida to having one of the most expensive auto insurance markets in the country. This focus on pro-business legislation, combined with a governor whose number one priority is creating jobs, is certainly one of the reasons why Florida was recently named the #2 state to do business in by *Chief Executive* magazine.

However, some critical issues that require courage and leadership from our elected officials remain on the table. There is still much work to be done in the areas of tort reform, workers' compensation drug repackaging and property insurance reform. As always, AIF remains focused on addressing these issues

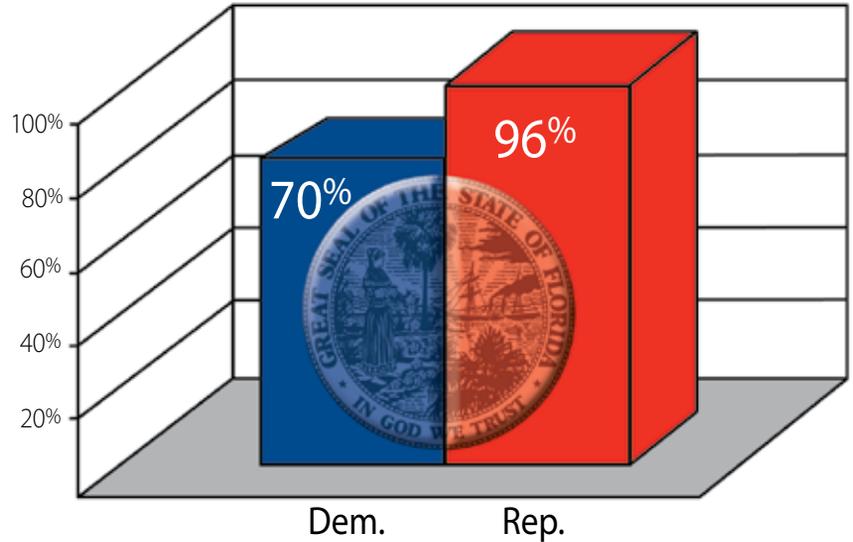
so that Florida can one day call itself the #1 place to do business in the country.

The 2012 Legislative Session was also marked by a decreasing gap between Democrats' and Republicans' voting records on pro-business legislation. Last year, the disparity between the two parties was one of the widest in 10 years – a 48 percent difference. This year, that margin narrowed to 26 percent with 96 percent of all Republicans and 70 percent of all Democrats voting in favor of legislation that will positively benefit Florida businesses, employers and the state's economy. Although Democrats' voting records continue to lag behind that of Republicans, Democrats are increasingly less resistant to pro-business measures that will bring new jobs and economic prosperity to Florida. The improvements in Democrats' scores are encouraging for our members and for our state.

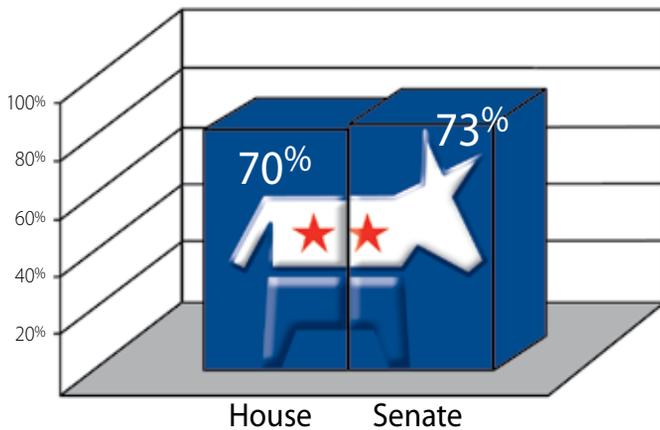
# 2012 Florida Legislature *by the Numbers*

**K**nowing 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.

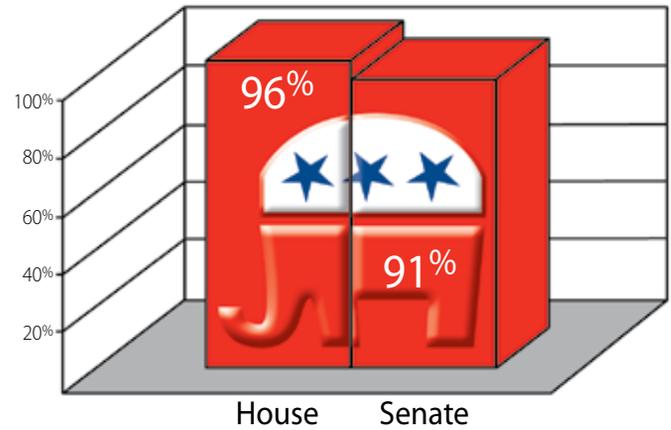
2012 Florida Legislature by Party



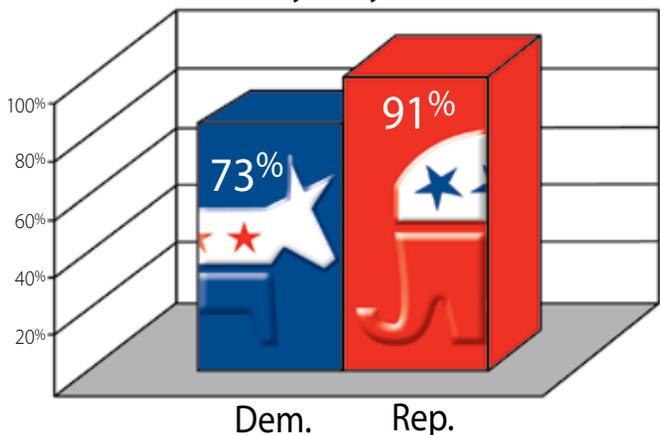
Democrats by Chamber



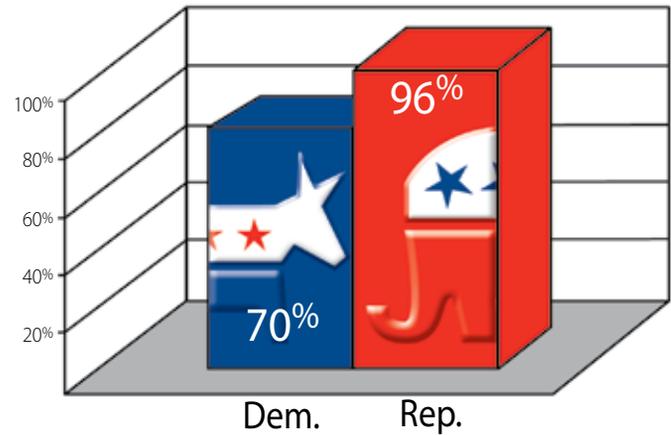
Republicans by Chamber



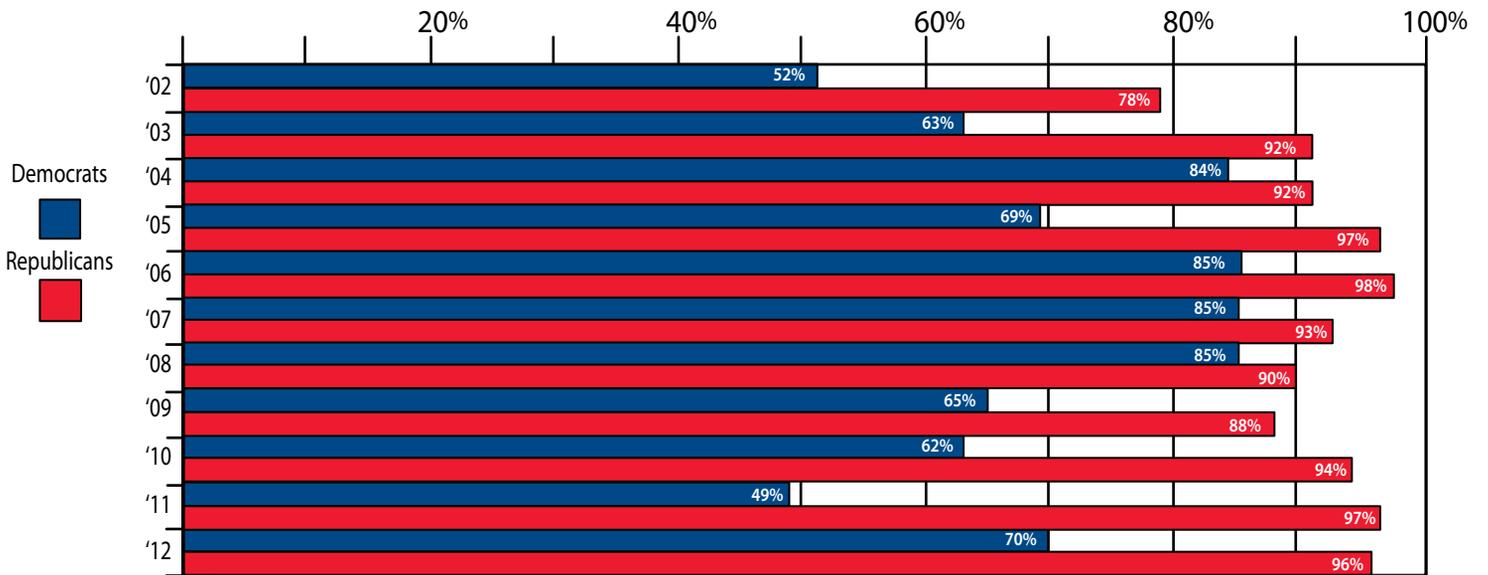
Senate by Party



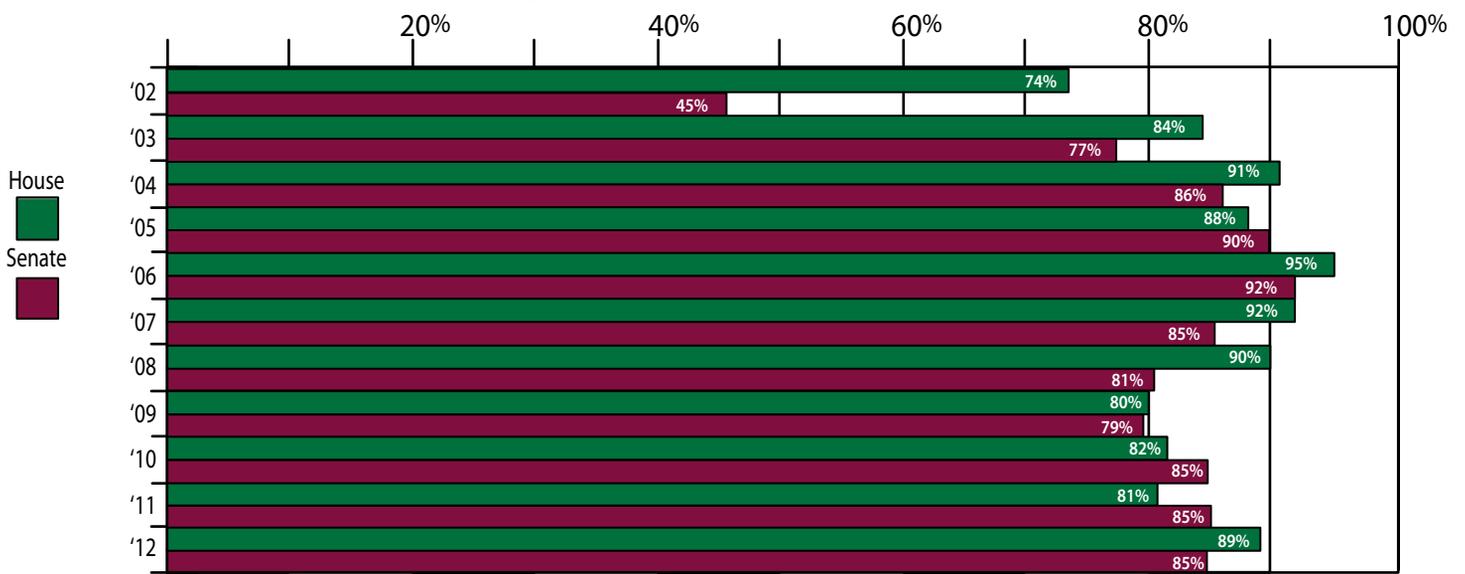
House by Party



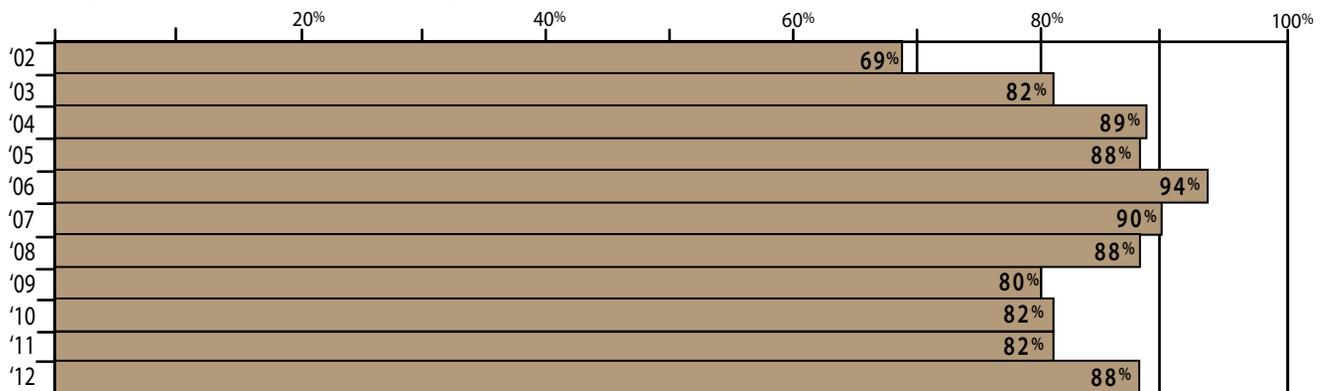
### Party — Historical Voting Records



### Chamber — Historical Voting Records



### Legislature — Historical Voting Records



# 2012 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
99%	Gardiner (R)	68	1	87%	Storms (R)	66	10
98%	Benacquisto (R)	95	2	84%	Detert (R)	71	14
98%	Haridopolos (R)	53	1	84%	Garcia (R)	58	11
98%	Richter (R)	109	2	82%	Jones (R)	71	16
98%	Simmons (R)	78	2	82%	Ring (D)	75	17
97%	Hays (R)	90	3	81%	Dean (R)	65	15
96%	Gaetz (R)	97	4	81%	Gibson (D)	77	18
96%	Latvala (R)	79	3	81%	Sachs (D)	68	16
96%	Thrasher (R)	101	4	80%	Margolis (D)	86	22
95%	Alexander (R)	74	4	76%	Fasano (R)	65	21
95%	Wise (R)	98	5	75%	Bullard (D)	51	17
94%	Bogdanoff (R)	88	6	75%	Lynn (R)	74	25
92%	Bennett (R)	107	9	74%	Dockery (R)	52	18
92%	Evers (R)	67	6	74%	Montford (D)	72	25
92%	Norman (R)	115	10	74%	Smith (D)	57	20
91%	Altman (R)	83	8	73%	Braynon (D)	53	20
91%	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	74	7	71%	Siplin (D)	60	24
90%	Flores (R)	83	9	68%	Sobel (D)	75	35
90%	Oelrich (R)	70	8	62%	Rich (D)	58	35
89%	Negron (R)	75	9	55%	Joyner (D)	48	40

**Total Votes With AIF/Business = 85%**

## AIF Voting Records

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

For 37 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)	70	0	98%	Brandes (R)	79	2	93%	Snyder (R)	64	5
100%	Boyd (R)	110	0	98%	Brodeur (R)	87	2	88%	Bembry (D)	80	11
100%	Grimsley (R)	53	0	98%	Broxson (R)	86	2	83%	Julien (D)	80	16
100%	Hooper (R)	85	0	98%	Burgin (R)	90	2	81%	Gibbons (D)	75	18
100%	Horner (R)	98	0	98%	Costello (R)	82	2	81%	Sands (D)	59	14
100%	O'Toole (R)	73	0	98%	Drake (R)	98	2	79%	Perman (D)	79	21
100%	Proctor (R)	75	0	98%	Eisnaugle (R)	79	2	78%	Williams, A. (D)	59	17
100%	Ray (R)	81	0	98%	Frishe (R)	65	1	77%	Chestnut (D)	56	17
100%	Renuart (R)	102	0	98%	Harrison (R)	82	2	77%	Porth (D)	63	19
100%	Roberson (R)	101	0	98%	Kreegel (R)	56	1	76%	Fullwood (D)	53	17
100%	Stargel (R)	76	0	98%	McBurney (R)	79	2	74%	Bernard (D)	69	24
100%	Tobia (R)	68	0	98%	Metz (R)	82	2	74%	Rouson (D)	58	20
100%	Wood (R)	79	0	98%	Moraitis (R)	81	2	74%	Saunders (D)	55	19
100%	Young (R)	82	0	98%	Nelson (R)	104	2	74%	Soto (D)	60	21
99%	Aubuchon (R)	72	1	98%	Nunez (R)	96	2	73%	Campbell (D)	57	21
99%	Baxley (R)	68	1	98%	Plakon (R)	92	2	73%	Waldman (D)	66	25
99%	Cannon (R)	66	1	98%	Smith (R)	80	2	72%	Reed (D)	50	19
99%	Coley (R)	72	1	98%	Van Zant (R)	82	2	71%	Kiar (D)	61	25
99%	Crisafulli (R)	88	1	98%	Weatherford (R)	65	1	71%	Taylor (D)	58	24
99%	Davis (R)	76	1	98%	Williams, T. (R)	61	1	70%	Abruzzo (D)	69	29
99%	Ford (R)	81	1	97%	Ahern (R)	83	3	70%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	54	23
99%	Glorioso (R)	78	1	97%	Bileca (R)	68	2	68%	Jones (D)	55	26
99%	Grant (R)	73	1	97%	Caldwell (R)	93	3	68%	Rogers (D)	56	26
99%	Hager (R)	86	1	97%	Dorworth (R)	73	2	66%	Clarke-Reed (D)	47	24
99%	Holder (R)	86	1	97%	Fresen (R)	67	2	66%	Garcia (D)	39	20
99%	Hudson (R)	79	1	97%	Gonzalez (R)	73	2	65%	Berman (D)	58	31
99%	Hukill (R)	89	1	97%	Harrell (R)	75	2	65%	Cruz (D)	50	27
99%	Ingram (R)	89	1	97%	Logan (R)	71	2	65%	Slosberg (D)	62	33
99%	Mayfield (R)	97	1	97%	Nehr (R)	89	3	64%	Clemens (D)	55	31
99%	McKeel (R)	85	1	96%	Corcoran (R)	66	3	64%	Randolph (D)	38	21
99%	Passidomo (R)	84	1	96%	Diaz (R)	75	3	64%	Steinberg (D)*	28	16
99%	Patronis (R)	88	1	96%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	64	3	59%	Thompson (D)	54	37
99%	Perry (R)	87	1	96%	Trujillo (R)	75	3	58%	Bullard (D)	43	31
99%	Porter (R)	88	1	95%	Artiles (R)	86	5	58%	Jenne (D)	59	42
99%	Precourt (R)	72	1	95%	Gaetz (R)	76	4	58%	Kriseman (D)	46	34
99%	Rooney (R)	86	1	95%	Goodson (R)	78	4	58%	Thurston (D)	42	30
99%	Steube (R)	81	1	95%	Legg (R)	62	3	57%	Schwartz (D)	43	32
99%	Weinstein (R)	91	1	95%	Pilon (R)	80	4	56%	Stafford (D)	45	35
99%	Workman (R)	112	1	94%	Oliva (R)	76	5	54%	Watson (D)	40	34
98%	Albritton (R)	85	2	94%	Schenck (R)	62	4	51%	Pafford (D)	40	38

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 89%

\*Rep. Steinberg resigned from the House of Representatives on 2/24/2012.

# 2012 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)	74	4	95%	Jones (R)	71	16	82%
Altman (R)	83	8	91%	Joyner (D)	48	40	55%
Benacquisto (R)	95	2	98%	Latvala (R)	79	3	96%
Bennett (R)	107	9	92%	Lynn (R)	74	25	75%
Bogdanoff (R)	88	6	94%	Margolis (D)	86	22	80%
Braynon (D)	53	20	73%	Montford (D)	72	25	74%
Bullard (D)	51	17	75%	Negron (R)	75	9	89%
Dean (R)	65	15	81%	Norman (R)	115	10	92%
Detert (R)	71	14	84%	Oelrich (R)	70	8	90%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	74	7	91%	Rich (D)	58	35	62%
Dockery (R)	52	18	74%	Richter (R)	109	2	98%
Evers (R)	67	6	92%	Ring (D)	75	17	82%
Fasano (R)	65	21	76%	Sachs (D)	68	16	81%
Flores (R)	83	9	90%	Simmons (R)	78	2	98%
Gaetz (R)	97	4	96%	Siplin (D)	60	24	71%
Garcia (R)	58	11	84%	Smith (D)	57	20	74%
Gardiner (R)	68	1	99%	Sobel (D)	75	35	68%
Gibson (D)	77	18	81%	Storms (R)	66	10	87%
Haridopolos (R)	53	1	98%	Thrasher (R)	101	4	96%
Hays (R)	90	3	97%	Wise (R)	98	5	95%

**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 **177,727 votes, 1,593 bills, and 734 legislators** over the span of **37 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)	69	29	70%	Glorioso (R)	78	1	99%	Porter (R)	88	1	99%
Adkins (R)	70	0	100%	Gonzalez (R)	73	2	97%	Porth (D)	63	19	77%
Ahern (R)	83	3	97%	Goodson (R)	78	4	95%	Precourt (R)	72	1	99%
Albritton (R)	85	2	98%	Grant (R)	73	1	99%	Proctor (R)	75	0	100%
Artiles (R)	86	5	95%	Grimsley (R)	53	0	100%	Randolph (D)	38	21	64%
Aubuchon (R)	72	1	99%	Hager (R)	86	1	99%	Ray (R)	81	0	100%
Baxley (R)	68	1	99%	Harrell (R)	75	2	97%	Reed (D)	50	19	72%
Bembry (D)	80	11	88%	Harrison (R)	82	2	98%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	54	23	70%
Berman (D)	58	31	65%	Holder (R)	86	1	99%	Renuart (R)	102	0	100%
Bernard (D)	69	24	74%	Hooper (R)	85	0	100%	Roberson (R)	101	0	100%
Bileca (R)	68	2	97%	Horner (R)	98	0	100%	Rogers (D)	56	26	68%
Boyd (R)	110	0	100%	Hudson (R)	79	1	99%	Rooney (R)	86	1	99%
Brandes (R)	79	2	98%	Hukill (R)	89	1	99%	Rouson (D)	58	20	74%
Brodeur (R)	87	2	98%	Ingram (R)	89	1	99%	Sands (D)	59	14	81%
Broxson (R)	86	2	98%	Jenne (D)	59	42	58%	Saunders (D)	55	19	74%
Bullard (D)	43	31	58%	Jones (D)	55	26	68%	Schenck (R)	62	4	94%
Burgin (R)	90	2	98%	Julien (D)	80	16	83%	Schwartz (D)	43	32	57%
Caldwell (R)	93	3	97%	Kiar (D)	61	25	71%	Slosberg (D)	62	33	65%
Campbell (D)	57	21	73%	Kreegel (R)	56	1	98%	Smith (R)	80	2	98%
Cannon (R)	66	1	99%	Kriseman (D)	46	34	58%	Snyder (R)	64	5	93%
Chestnut (D)	56	17	77%	Legg (R)	62	3	95%	Soto (D)	60	21	74%
Clarke-Reed (D)	47	24	66%	Logan (R)	71	2	97%	Stafford (D)	45	35	56%
Clemens (D)	55	31	64%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	64	3	96%	Stargel (R)	76	0	100%
Coley (R)	72	1	99%	Mayfield (R)	97	1	99%	Steinberg (D)*	28	16	64%
Corcoran (R)	66	3	96%	McBurney (R)	79	2	98%	Steube (R)	81	1	99%
Costello (R)	82	2	98%	McKeel (R)	85	1	99%	Taylor (D)	58	24	71%
Crisafulli (R)	88	1	99%	Metz (R)	82	2	98%	Thompson (D)	54	37	59%
Cruz (D)	50	27	65%	Moraitis (R)	81	2	98%	Thurston (D)	42	30	58%
Davis (R)	76	1	99%	Nehr (R)	89	3	97%	Tobia (R)	68	0	100%
Diaz (R)	75	3	96%	Nelson (R)	104	2	98%	Trujillo (R)	75	3	96%
Dorworth (R)	73	2	97%	Nunez (R)	96	2	98%	Van Zant (R)	82	2	98%
Drake (R)	98	2	98%	O'Toole (R)	73	0	100%	Waldman (D)	66	25	73%
Eisnaugle (R)	79	2	98%	Oliva (R)	76	5	94%	Watson (D)	40	34	54%
Ford (R)	81	1	99%	Pafford (D)	40	38	51%	Weatherford (R)	65	1	98%
Fresen (R)	67	2	97%	Passidomo (R)	84	1	99%	Weinstein (R)	91	1	99%
Frishe (R)	65	1	98%	Patronis (R)	88	1	99%	Williams, A. (D)	59	17	78%
Fullwood (D)	53	17	76%	Perman (D)	79	21	79%	Williams, T. (R)	61	1	98%
Gaetz (R)	76	4	95%	Perry (R)	87	1	99%	Wood (R)	79	0	100%
Garcia (D)	39	20	66%	Pilon (R)	80	4	95%	Workman (R)	112	1	99%
Gibbons (D)	75	18	81%	Plakon (R)	92	2	98%	Young (R)	82	0	100%

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 89%

\*Rep. Steinberg resigned from the House of Representatives on 2/24/2012.

# 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	2012	History	Name/Party	2012	History
Alexander (R)	95%	90%	Jones (R)	82%	83%
Altman (R)	91%	92%	Joyner (D)	55%	60%
Benacquisto (R)	98%	97%	Latvala (R)	96%	85%
Bennett (R)	92%	90%	Lynn (R)	75%	87%
Bogdanoff (R)	94%	96%	Margolis (D)	80%	77%
Braynon (D)	73%	65%	Montford (D)	74%	79%
Bullard (D)	75%	82%	Negron (R)	89%	91%
Dean (R)	81%	90%	Norman (R)	92%	93%
Detert (R)	84%	91%	Oelrich (R)	90%	90%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	91%	95%	Rich (D)	62%	69%
Dockery (R)	74%	83%	Richter (R)	98%	94%
Evers (R)	92%	95%	Ring (D)	82%	80%
Fasano (R)	76%	84%	Sachs (D)	81%	71%
Flores (R)	90%	94%	Simmons (R)	98%	95%
Gaetz (R)	96%	89%	Siplin (D)	71%	78%
Garcia (R)	84%	90%	Smith (D)	74%	69%
Gardiner (R)	99%	94%	Sobel (D)	68%	67%
Gibson (D)	81%	73%	Storms (R)	87%	81%
Haridopolos (R)	98%	92%	Thrasher (R)	96%	93%
Hays (R)	97%	95%	Wise (R)	95%	90%

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



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name/Party	2012	History	Name/Party	2012	History	Name/Party	2012	History
Abruzzo (D)	70%	66%	Glorioso (R)	99%	97%	Porter (R)	99%	100%
Adkins (R)	100%	97%	Gonzalez (R)	97%	94%	Porth (D)	77%	68%
Ahern (R)	97%	98%	Goodson (R)	95%	96%	Precourt (R)	99%	96%
Albritton (R)	98%	99%	Grant (R)	99%	97%	Proctor (R)	100%	97%
Artiles (R)	95%	96%	Grimley (R)	100%	97%	Randolph (D)	64%	63%
Aubuchon (R)	99%	96%	Hager (R)	99%	98%	Ray (R)	100%	98%
Baxley (R)	99%	97%	Harrell (R)	97%	96%	Reed (D)	72%	65%
Bembry (D)	88%	72%	Harrison (R)	98%	97%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	70%	53%
Berman (D)	65%	55%	Holder (R)	99%	96%	Renuart (R)	100%	94%
Bernard (D)	74%	65%	Hooper (R)	100%	95%	Roberson (R)	100%	97%
Bileca (R)	97%	99%	Horner (R)	100%	97%	Rogers (D)	68%	57%
Boyd (R)	100%	100%	Hudson (R)	99%	97%	Rooney (R)	99%	100%
Brandes (R)	98%	98%	Hukill (R)	99%	96%	Rouson (D)	74%	60%
Brodeur (R)	98%	99%	Ingram (R)	99%	100%	Sands (D)	81%	70%
Broxson (R)	98%	99%	Jenne (D)	58%	58%	Saunders (D)	74%	70%
Bullard (D)	58%	49%	Jones (D)	68%	56%	Schenck (R)	94%	96%
Burgin (R)	98%	97%	Julien (D)	83%	71%	Schwartz (D)	57%	54%
Caldwell (R)	97%	97%	Kiar (D)	71%	64%	Slosberg (D)	65%	59%
Campbell (D)	73%	58%	Kreegel (R)	98%	96%	Smith (R)	98%	99%
Cannon (R)	99%	98%	Kriseman (D)	58%	57%	Snyder (R)	93%	95%
Chestnut (D)	77%	68%	Legg (R)	95%	95%	Soto (D)	74%	66%
Clarke-Reed (D)	66%	52%	Logan (R)	97%	98%	Stafford (D)	56%	44%
Clemens (D)	64%	49%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	96%	96%	Stargel (R)	100%	98%
Coley (R)	99%	97%	Mayfield (R)	99%	98%	Steinberg (D)	64%	52%
Corcoran (R)	96%	98%	McBurney (R)	98%	96%	Steube (R)	99%	98%
Costello (R)	98%	99%	McKeel (R)	99%	97%	Taylor (D)	71%	58%
Crisafulli (R)	99%	98%	Metz (R)	98%	98%	Thompson (D)	59%	64%
Cruz (D)	65%	53%	Moraitis (R)	98%	99%	Thurston (D)	58%	59%
Davis (R)	99%	99%	Nehr (R)	97%	95%	Tobia (R)	100%	98%
Diaz (R)	96%	98%	Nelson (R)	98%	96%	Trujillo (R)	96%	98%
Dorworth (R)	97%	97%	Nunez (R)	98%	98%	Van Zant (R)	98%	95%
Drake (R)	98%	95%	Oliva (R)	94%	94%	Waldman (D)	73%	66%
Eisnaugle (R)	98%	97%	O'Toole (R)	100%	97%	Watson (D)	54%	40%
Ford (R)	99%	96%	Pafford (D)	51%	45%	Weatherford (R)	98%	96%
Fresen (R)	97%	96%	Passidomo (R)	99%	99%	Weinstein (R)	99%	97%
Frishe (R)	98%	94%	Patronis (R)	99%	95%	Williams, Alan (D)	78%	58%
Fullwood (D)	76%	60%	Perman (D)	79%	59%	Williams, Trudi (R)	98%	97%
Gaetz (R)	95%	96%	Perry (R)	99%	99%	Wood (R)	100%	98%
Garcia (D)	66%	63%	Pilon (R)	95%	96%	Workman (R)	99%	97%
Gibbons (D)	81%	67%	Plakon (R)	98%	96%	Young (R)	100%	100%

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# The Bills

*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 2012 Session Priorities.

## BUSINESS REGULATION

### **HB 149 Relating to Website Notice of Foreclosure Action by Rep. Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala)**

AIF was integral in the defeat of a measure that would have required that legal publications, advertisements, or notices of foreclosure action be placed on a publicly accessible Internet website of a clerk of court in lieu of publication in any other form of media. The Internet alone does not provide sufficient public notice to all citizens and businesses of Florida, many of whom may not have access to a computer. Local newspapers offer citizens a single, convenient location to find all public notices as opposed to government entities publishing notices on their respective websites, which places this information in a myriad of different locations.

AIF **OPPOSES** proposals that would limit the publishing of public notices to the internet alone. To acknowledge the “digital divide” and ensure protection of due process, AIF recommends that no government entity required to provide notice of its actions to the public be the only entity that publishes that notice.

*HB 149 died in the House Civil Justice Committee; SB 230 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

### **SB 604 Relating to Limited Certification for Urban Landscape Commercial Fertilizer Application by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness)** **PRIORITY**

This bill would have allowed trained and certified fertilizer applicators to operate in a manner that does not unduly hinder their ability to practice their trade or remain fearful of being regulated out of existence by local governments. The bill recognizes that the practices of state certified applicators are

to be treated differently than those who are not. The proposed legislation would seek to exempt the regulated community from the ongoing efforts of local governments to adopt “one-size fits all” ordinances that seek to impose restrictions on product composition and create outright prohibitions on use. An amendment adopted late in the 2012 Legislative Session represented a compromise between businesses and local governments; however, the bill did not pass the full Legislature.

AIF **SUPPORTS** legislation that addresses the labyrinth of inconsistent, unscientific and arbitrary county and municipal ordinances which address the fertilization of urban turf, lawns, and landscapes.

*CS/SB 604 was laid on the table; CS/HB 421 died in the House State Affairs Committee.*

### **HB 609 Relating to Wage Protection for Employees by Rep. Tom Goodson (R-Titusville)**

This legislation provides that the regulation of wage theft is expressly preempted to the state. Therefore, local governments may not regulate over and above the existing state and federal laws. The bill also defines “wage theft” as an illegal or improper underpayment or nonpayment of an individual worker’s wages, salaries, commissions, or other similar form of compensation. HB 609 was filed in response to Miami-Dade County’s formation of a local process for employees to file claims for unpaid wages outside of the processes available under state and federal law. Currently, there are numerous legal avenues already available for employees to recoup wages. The Miami-Dade ordinance exposes employers to false claims by disgruntled employees. This scenario forces the employer to defend themselves from potentially fraudulent and costly claims.

AIF **SUPPORTS** legislation that will clarify the state’s authority to pre-empt local governments from regulating wage theft. A “patchwork” arrangement of local ordinances provides confusion and uncertainty to Florida’s employers.



#### **Tom C. Feeney**

President & CEO of Associated Industries of Florida ... former U.S. Congressman representing the 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Florida ... former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives ... more than 20 years experience in legislative and political affairs ... areas of expertise include banking, insurance, monetary and fiscal policy ... B.A. in Political Science from Penn State University and J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Issues:** General Business, Legal Reform, Insurance

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.

**“Associated Industries of Florida is a true champion for Florida’s business community and a tireless advocate for policies that spur long-term economic development in our state. AIF shares my goal of making Florida the best place for a business to start, expand or relocate to, and I appreciate all of their efforts to strengthen Florida’s business climate.”**

– Rick Scott, Florida Governor

*CS/HB 609 died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee; SB 862 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

**HB 937 Relating to Legal Notices by Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne)**

As originally filed, this legislation would have allowed local governments to place public notices on their websites instead of in newspapers. Under the direction of AIF and the business community, a “strike everything” amendment was adopted during the committee process that made significant changes to the original bill. The new language allows the placement of public notices in both newspapers and on websites — a move strongly supported by AIF.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that requires all public notices be printed in local newspapers and posted on the Internet.

*CS/CS/HB 937 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-212. SB 292 was laid on the table.*

**SB 2106 Relating to Tipped Employees by the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee**

SB 2106 would create an optional guaranteed wage for tipped employees in Florida. An employer may elect to guarantee tipped employees a certain wage for tipped employees who meet the eligibility requirements for the tip credit under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Specifically, the wage must equal at least 130 percent of the state minimum wage, rounded up to the next cent. By providing employers this option under SB 2106, employees would earn more money and the restaurant would be able to forecast labor costs better and thus, free up capital to hire additional employees and/or expand operations.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will offer employers an option when it comes to calculating a wage for tipped employees, thus giving the employer greater freedom in how they chose to run their business and stimulating job creation.

*SB 2106 died in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee.*

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPACE

**HB 59 Relating to Spaceport by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY**

HB 59 designates certain real property within the boundaries of Cecil Airport and the Cecil Commerce Center as spaceport territory. In addition to Cecil Field, the bill also provides that the board of directors for Space Florida may designate real property within the state as spaceport territory. In addition, the bill provides a tax exemption for machinery and equipment purchased for a new or expanding business in a spaceport territory. This bill will allow new and expanding businesses located at Cecil Airport and Cecil Commerce Center, or on property licensed as a FAA spaceport, to be eligible for this exemption. In order to qualify, a business must be engaged in spaceport activities.

AIF supports the expansion of spaceport facilities and

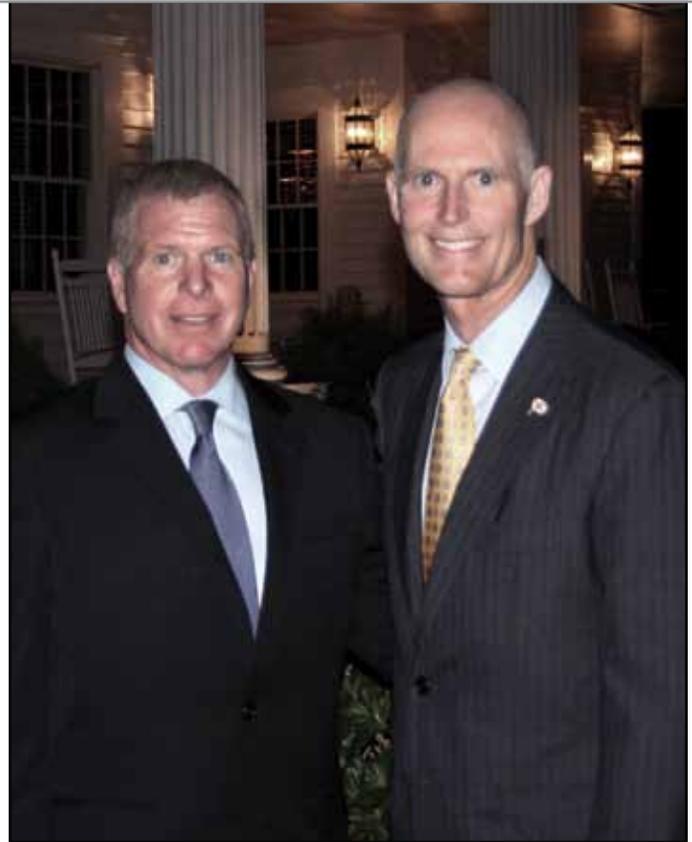
**Jose L. Gonzalez (Chief Lobbyist)**

Vice President – Governmental Affairs for Associated Industries of Florida ... coordinates AIF’s lobbying team and all research and advocacy efforts for the association ... nine years legislative experience ... Master’s degree in Public Administration with a specialization in Public Policy and a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Florida.

**Issues:** Taxation, General Business, Business Regulation



AIF President & CEO Tom Feeney with Florida Governor Rick Scott.



**Infographic:**

As the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers, AIF is focused on working with Gov. Scott to bring more manufacturing to Florida. With the help of the Legislature, important incentives were passed this year to help the manufacturing industry in our state.

applauds Rep. Ray's leadership on this bill.

**CS/HB 59 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-104. CS/SB 110 was laid on the table..**

**HB 487 Relating to Gaming by Rep. Erik Fresen (R-Ft. Miami) PRIORITY**

The legislation would have allowed for the creation of up to three Destination Resort casinos in the Broward, Miami-Dade county area, only after a local referendum vote showed support. The bill would have also greatly constricted Florida's already flourishing gaming industry by prohibiting the practice of unlicensed gaming in Internet Cafes, prohibiting future pari-mutuel licenses from being granted, granting state authority to "buy back" four underperforming pari-mutuels and the revocation of 18 dormant pari-mutuel licenses. Despite growing support by AIF and the business community, many provisions could not be agreed upon between the House & Senate. As a result, the issue died in the committee process.

AIF SUPPORTS any proposal 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 including thousands of jobs to Florida. Furthermore, we would like to



**Tamela Ivey Perdue, Esq.**

General Counsel for Associated Industries of Florida ... more than 20 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

**Bill supported by AIF**

**Bill opposed by AIF**

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.



Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) was a key supporter of AIF's pro-growth agenda.

we commend members of the Florida House for their continued support of Florida's vital space industry.

*SB 634 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No.2012-1. HB 97 was laid on the table.*

#### **SB 1108 Relating to Taxation by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne)**

This legislation creates a new sales tax exemption for manufacturers of gas and airline turbines. The bill was amended to include to provisions being sought by Governor Rick Scott. The first would provide an additional reduction in the corporate income tax rate in Florida. The second provision reduces the percentage by which manufacturers must prove that they have expanded their production in order to receive a sales tax exemption on machinery and equipment used in their day to day operations. As amended, manufacturers in Florida must only expand their production by 5% in order to be eligible for a sales tax exemption on these inputs. This tax incentive proposal was also included in HB 7087 — the House's omnibus economic development package — and passed by the Legislature.

As the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers, Associated Industries of Florida, SUPPORTS legislation that makes it easier for manufacturers to compete against their counterparts in neighboring states.

*CS/CS/CS/SB 1108 died in the Senate Budget Committee; CS/HB 939 died in the House Finance & Tax Committee.*

#### **HB 1119 Relating to New Markets Development Program by Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) **PRIORITY****

Known as the "New Markets Tax Credit" extension package, this legislation will infuse another \$97 million into the current program which has been responsible for creating jobs all across Florida's poorest areas. This program, a top priority for Associated Industries since 2008, is a significant economic development policy initiative meant to give new and existing businesses the ability and incentive to locate and grow in Florida. This proposal was absorbed by the House's overarch-

commend Rep. Fresen for his unparalleled leadership and commitment to this issue.

*HB 487 died in the House Business and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee; CS/SB 710 died in the Senate Rules Committee.*

#### **SB 634 Relating to Spaceport Facilities by Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto (R-Wellington) **PRIORITY****

SB 634 amends current law by defining the term "launch support facilities" and deleting the term "spaceport launch facilities." This legislation will provide Space Florida the ability to better fund infrastructure upgrades and improvements to space-related facilities by using Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) monies more appropriately for space infrastructure projects not airport related. Further, SB 634 provides for the alignment of federal and state definitions so that any future federal grants may qualify for the same projects.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation as a means of providing Florida's aerospace industry with the proper incentives to create jobs in a variety of high-value-added sectors. Furthermore,



#### **Brewster B. Bevis**

Vice President – External Relations 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.

**Issue:** Federal Affairs



Governor Rick Scott is joined by representatives of Florida's business community including AIF's Brewster Bevis at the signing of HB 7087 — a key economic development package designed to help various industries in Florida.

**Infographic:** This infographic outlines some of the tax saving proposals passed by the 2012 Legislature and the positive effects they will have on business owners throughout Florida.

ing economic development proposal — HB 7087.

AIF SUPPORTS the authorization of additional resources for eligible businesses that are committed to growing Florida's economy.

*CS/CS/HB 1119 died in the House Commerce and Tourism Committee; CS/CS/SB 1150 died on the Senate Calendar.*

**SB 1168 Relating to Freight Mobility Development by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate)**

SB 1168 creates the "Freight and Logistics Facility Credit," which provides tax credits relating to increased trade activities at port facilities. Credits can be used against the intangible personal property tax, the excise document tax, the sales and use tax, the corporate income tax, or the insurance premium tax. The tax credit is equal to either \$3,000 per "qualified full-time employee" who is hired as a result of increased "qualified trade activities," or 5% of any "capital investment" made by the taxpayer to facilitate increased "qualified trade activities."

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that encourages hiring and increased capital investments at Florida's port facilities.

*CS/CS/SB 1168 died on the Senate Calendar; HB 679 died in the House Business and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.*



**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.

**Issue:** Insurance

**Bill supported by AIF**

**Bill opposed by AIF**

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.

Rep. Charles McBurney (R-Jacksonville) was the featured guest at our 2012 Jacksonville Pre-Session Briefing.

**HB 1399 Relating to Transportation by Rep. Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg)**

HB 1399 sought to create the Strategic Port Investment Initiative within the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT). As provided in the bill, DOT would have been tasked with working with the deepwater ports to develop and maintain a priority list of strategic projects that meet the state's economic development goal of becoming a hub for trade, logistics, and export oriented activities.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that focuses on the development and expansion of Florida's 14 deepwater ports.

*CS/CS/CS/HB 1399 died in the Senate Transportation Committee; CS/CS/SB 1866 died on the Senate Calendar.*

**HB 1491 Relating to Capital Formation for Infrastructure Projects by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)**

This bill would create the state's first Florida Infrastructure Fund Partnership and institute a tax credit program designed to leverage private investment in state infrastructure projects. By creating a public-private partnership fund, the intent of the legislation is to seek outside investor commitments to build capital infrastructure projects during a time when state resources to do so are dwindling. Authorized to raise up to \$700 million in private funds to help build water and wastewater systems, power systems, roads and other strategic infrastructure needs, this proposal would couple private sector investing to meet the needs of public sector infrastructure projects.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will provide tax incentives to leverage private investment in state infrastructure projects.

*HB 1491 died in the House Commerce and Tourism Committee; SB 1472 died in the Senate Budget Committee.*

**HB 7023 Relating to Regional Workforce Boards by Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**

The legislation codifies tighter state fiscal and administrative control of the state's 24 regional workforce boards. The legislation is a priority of Governor Rick Scott, who spoke about the issue in his State-of-the-State address to a Joint Session of



the Legislature on opening day. Specifically, HB 7023 would also have required regional workforce board chairs and the respective executive directors to serve at the approval and pleasure of the Governor; however, the bill was amended to omit the requirement to have the Governor "approve" those selections while retaining the provision for service at the pleasure of the Governor.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will bring greater accountability and efficiency to the workforce system.

*CS/HB 7023 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-29. SB 1398 was laid on the table.*

**HB 7041 Relating to Governmental Reorganization by the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee**

In 2011, the Legislature, in conjunction with Governor Scott, undertook a massive reorganization of state agencies related to economic development, folding the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Agency for Workforce Innova-



**Keyna Cory (Senior Lobbyist)**

President, Public Affairs Consultants, a public affairs and governmental relations consulting firm and Vice Chair of the Small Business Regulatory Advisory Council ... more than 27 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

**Council:** Environmental Sustainability

tion (AWI) and the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED), into a new state agency called the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). The law also merged several public/private partnerships into Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI). In order to implement this overhaul, scores of statutory references were updated to reflect the name of the new department. PCB 7014 updates provisions or references which were enacted by other chapter laws, revises provisions or references which were drafting errors and repeals any remaining outdated provisions.

AIF has SUPPORTED the creation of the Department of Economic Opportunity from the beginning, and also supports this legislation, which further clarifies statute in order to implement the changes that were made in the 2011 session.

*CS/HB 7041 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-96. CS/SB 1204 was laid on the table.*

**👍 HB 7069 Relating to Economic Development Tax Refund Programs by Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**  
This legislation sought to remove the maximum cap on tax refunds available for the Qualified Targeted Industry and,

Qualified Defense Contractor and Space Flight Business Programs. This would have allowed companies that have taken advantage of these programs, and that continue to create jobs using these tools, to continue their efforts for job growth and creation.

AIF SUPPORTS the authorization of additional resources for eligible businesses that are committed to growing Florida's economy.

*CS/HB 7069 died in the House Military Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee; CS/SB 1110 died on the Senate Calendar.*

**👍 HB 7087 Relating to Economic Development by the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax (PRIORITY)**

Slated as this year's omnibus economic development package, HB 7087 contains a number of initiatives important to AIF including the reauthorization of the New Markets Tax Credit program, an expansion of the state's corporate income tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000, reenactment of the annual "sales tax holiday," and an expansion of the current manufacturing and aerospace tax incentives that seek to promote



Incoming House Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) addressed AIF members at the annual Tallahassee Pre-Session Briefing. Rep. Weatherford is three-time Champion for Business Award winner for his steadfast support of AIF and the business community.



**Slater Bayliss**

Partner, The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners ... over 13 years of legislative and campaign experience ... former Director of Corporate Relations for the Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development ... former personal assistant to Governor Bush serving as liaison between the Governor's office and agency secretaries and members of the Legislature ... former Finance Director for House Speaker Daniel Webster ... Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications from the University of Iowa.

**Issues:** Health Care, General Business

**👍** Bill supported by AIF

**👎** Bill opposed by AIF

**(PRIORITY)** = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.

AIF President & CEO Tom Feeney speaks at a rally in support of Congressman Steve Southerland's water quality criteria legislation in Tallahassee.



growth among these vital industries in Florida. Additional provisions contained within HB 7087 provide meaningful tax incentives to the film and agriculture industry.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because of the good incentives it includes for a number of target industries of Florida. The provisions in this bill will help attract and retain businesses in our state — a key goal for Governor Scott and members of AIF.

*HB 7087 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-32.*

**👍 HB 7115 Relating to Economic Development Agencies by the House Government Operations Subcommittee**

Currently, certain business records are confidential and exempt from Florida's public records requirements when held by an economic development agency and are requested to be exempt by the affected business. The categories of information to remain confidential and exempt include the following: business plans, intentions and interests; trade secrets; proprietary confidential business information; identification, account, and registration numbers; and information related to economic incentive programs. This legislation would continue the public records exemption by removing the repeal date of October 2, 2012.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation, which will continue to foster a positive environment in Florida for businesses, engaged in economic development. It is imperative that companies in Florida are able to conduct their business without the fear that proprietary information will be disclosed to the public.

*CS/HB 7115 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-28. CS/CS/SB 1206 was laid on the table.*

## EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

**👍 HB 1191 Relating to Parental Empowerment in Education by Rep. Michael Bileca (R-Miami) **PRIORITY****

HB 1191 Relating to Parental Empowerment in Education by Rep. Michael Bileca (R-Miami) enables parents, by petition, to request that the school district implement a parent-selected turnaround option if a school in the lowest performing category does not improve performance in the initial year of implementing a turnaround option selected by the school district. The turnaround option requested by parents must be considered for implementation by the district school board at a publicly noticed meeting if the petition is signed and dated by a majority of the parents of eligible students, i.e., students enrolled in the school or students who are scheduled for as-



**Sarah Busk**

Director, The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners ... with more than eight years of experience in legislative and political affairs ... served as a Special Events Representative on the Inaugural Committee for Governor Charlie Crist ... former Deputy Finance Director for Senate President Tom Lee's statewide campaign for Florida's Chief Financial Officer ... graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

**Issue:** General Business

signment to the school in the following school year.

AIF SUPPORTS legislative changes that will increase digital learning and improve foundational skills and readiness for college and careers.

*CS/CS/CS/HB 1191 died in the House Education Pre K-12 Committee; SB 1718 failed on third reading in the House.*

 **HB 7063 Relating to Digital Learning by Rep. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) PRIORITY**

The legislation will expand digital learning options for students in public schools by allowing students entering kindergarten through grade 5 to participate in Florida Virtual School Full Time (FLVS FT), full-time district virtual instruction programs, and full-time virtual charter schools. Furthermore, the measure expressly prohibits any individual from knowingly and willfully taking an online course or examination on behalf of another person for compensation. Any individual that violates this provision commits a misdemeanor of the second degree.

AIF will continue to SUPPORT legislative changes that will increase digital learning and improve foundational skills and readiness for college and careers.

*CS/CS/HB 7063 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-192. CS/CS/SB 1401 was laid on the table.*

## ENERGY

 **SB 648 Relating to Florida Climate Protection Act by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla)**

This legislation repeals the Florida Climate Protection Act, which authorized the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) 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 2010 to implement the program, while the Legislature was tasked to ratify the rules; however, this never occurred.



**Al Cardenas, Esq. (Federal Lobbyist)**

Partner with the law firm of Tew Cardenas LLP, chairs the Advocacy and Governmental Affairs group in Miami, Tallahassee and Washington, DC ... over 33 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:** Economic Development

**“AIF has been a consistent defender of Florida’s business community, taking tough positions and leading important initiatives that better our state and improve our economy.”**

**Sonya R. Deen**, Vice President, Government Relations  
JM Family Enterprises, Inc.

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.

*HB 4001; HB 4001 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-89. SB 648 was laid on the table.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

 **HB 503 Relating to Environmental Regulation by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) PRIORITY**

This legislation streamlines the state's environmental permitting process. It eliminates duplicative agency and local government reviews for environmental permits. HB 503 will give businesses community much needed regulatory relief and reforms regulatory permitting processes with local governments, water management districts, and the Department of Environmental Protection.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to streamline permitting across all state agencies. AIF would like to thank Rep. Patronis for his commitment to work with all stakeholders on a bill that will streamline the permitting process. Time is money, and Florida

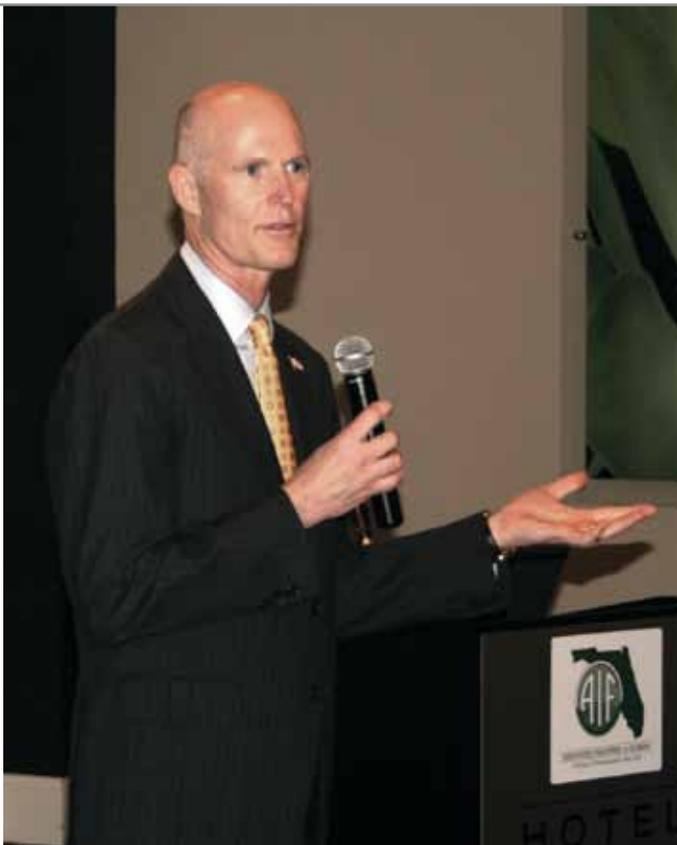
 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in  
AIF's 2012 Session  
Priorities.







Governor Rick Scott addresses members of AIF's Board of Directors in Tallahassee.

associated with creating wetlands.

AIF will continue to SUPPORT legislation encouraging public-private partnerships for Florida's infrastructure needs, particularly as it relates to water.

*CS/HB 1389 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-187. CS/SB 1858 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 7003 Relating to Environmental Resource Permitting by House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee** **PRIORITY**

The proposed legislation allows the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create a statewide Environmental Resource Permitting system. The new statewide rule will be similar to the current DEP and water management district existing rules, except to reconcile differences and conflicts that are not based on geographic differences in physical or natural characteristics. Essentially, there will be one interpretation guided by DEP instead of having 5 different interpretations and inconsistent applications. With a statewide ERP, no longer will Florida business experience different outcomes for similar projects. Instead, they will be afforded consistent and predictable outcomes no matter where they are located.

AIF SUPPORTS the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's proposal to have a statewide Environmental Resource Permit (ERP).

*CS/HB 7003 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-94. CS/SB 1354 has been laid on the table.*

 **HB 7051 Relating to Rules Establishing Numeric Nutrient Criteria by Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Ft. Myers)** **PRIORITY**

HB 7051 is legislation that was needed to send the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's new rules on numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) to the US Environmental Protection Agency. On December 8, 2011, the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission unanimously approved the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's numeric nutrient criteria rules. The approved rules set limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen allowed in Florida's waters and require a unitary, state-run nutrient control program. Because the proposed legislation triggers the ratification process, the

AIF and the Floridians for Copper & Metal Crime Prevention Coalition SUPPORT legislation that will enact precautionary methods to help deter the removal of metal from private property and government structures, causing economic loss for both the private and public sectors.

*CS/HB 1323 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-185. CS/SB 1324 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 1389 Relating to Water Storage and Water Quality Improvements by Rep. Steven Perman (D-Boca Raton)**

This legislation encourages public-private partnerships to accomplish water storage and water quality improvements on private agricultural lands. Currently, if a landowner uses its property to store water, there is a fear that the property could be classified as a wetland if an attempt was made to revert it back to agricultural use. This legislation clarifies that the land would not be classified as a wetland. HB 1389 could provide an economic benefit to farmers and ranchers by increasing their ability to store water and provide water quality benefits on their land without incurring the permitting restrictions



**Leslie Dughi**

Assistant Director of Greenberg Traurig's Tallahassee Governmental Affairs Practice ... state legislative practice spans over 24 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

Brewster Bevis, AIF's VP of External Relations, addresses members of the media at a press conference for the More Jobs for Florida Coalition.

Legislature must approve the rule. HB 7051 gives the appropriate approval and also directs the Department to submit its rule to EPA for review under the Clean Water Act.

AIF SUPPORTS ratification of the proposed numeric nutrient criteria rule proposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Furthermore, AIF would like to sincerely thank members for their bi-partisan support of this very important legislation for Florida.

*HB 7051 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-3. SB 2060 was laid on the table.*

## HEALTH CARE

### **HB 1329 Relating to Health Care Consumer Protection by Rep. Richard Corcoran (R-New Port Richey)**

This legislation would help educate Florida's employers and employees on the cost of care provided by certain facilities and physicians. Specifically, HB 1329 would require ambulatory surgical centers and diagnostic-imaging centers to publish and post a schedule of certain medical charges, require various medical practitioners to distribute a schedule of medical charges to uninsured patients for certain services, prohibit "balance billing" in certain emergency situations and require health insurers, health care facilities (and physicians providing care in those facilities) to disclose to an insured person whether or not a provider is in the insurer's network and if those facilities or physicians will bill additional charges to the person. This legislation is intended to assist employers and employees in gaining a better understanding of the cost of medical care.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that provides accountability among 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/HB 1329 died in the House Health and Human Services Committee; CS/CS/SB 1884 died on the Senate Calendar.*



#### **John French, Esq.**

AIF Special Counsel for Election Law ... 41 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



### **HB 1349 Relating to Statewide Implementation of Florida's Medicaid Reform Program by Rep. James Grant (R-Tampa)**

This Memorial would urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to approve the waivers submitted by Florida which would allow the state to implement the recently enacted Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program (SMMC).

AIF ENCOURAGES the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to approve the waiver requested by Florida for the implementation of these important reforms.

*CS/HB 1349 died in the House Health Regulation Committee; SB 1836 died on the Senate Calendar.*

### **HB 711 Relating to Sale or Lease of a County, District, or Municipal Hospital by Rep. Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater) **PRIORITY****

This legislation increases the requirements in statute associated with the sale or lease of a county, district or municipal hospital. Currently, the authority to negotiate and make the final decision on a sale or lease is with the hospital's govern-

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.

ing board. HB 711 would require every county, district or municipal hospital, by December 31, 2012, to evaluate continued ownership of such a hospital. This is to occur regardless of whether the governing board intends to sell or lease the hospital. The bill would also require that the governing board of a hospital, prior to completing the sale or lease, receive approval from a circuit court, or, if provided for in a hospital's charter, by a referendum of voters. Other provisions would increase the public's participation in the process and sunset the hospital taxing authority upon sale, unless a lower rate is ratified by a majority of voters in the district.

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 711 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-66. CS/CS/CS/SB 1658 has been laid on the table.*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### **SB 678 Relating to State Contracts by Sen. Chris Smith (D-Oakland Park)**

This proposed legislation would simply require any company doing business with the State of Florida to have call centers located within the United States.

AIF OPPOSES legislation that will create another layer of government regulation that interferes with a businesses' freedom to control costs and provide state services at the lowest possible price.

*SB 678 died in House Messages; HB 649 died in the House Government Operations Subcommittee.*

### **SB 1498 Relating to State Technology by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate)**

This proposal aims to significantly change the state's IT governance structure. It abolishes the Agency for Information Technology (AIT) and creates the Agency for State Technology (AST) which is given almost all of the state's IT responsibilities. It transfers technology related functions from the Department of Management Services (DMS) to the AST. In addition, the measure places all of the data centers under the

AST which is also a Cabinet agency housed in the Governor's Office.

AIF's Information Technology Council supports the role of an Information Officer for all enterprise IT business processes; however, we will continue to work with policy-makers to ensure that the proposal, as currently drafted, will most effectively execute the state's information technology needs.

*CS/SB 1498 died in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee; HB 1215 died in the House Government Appropriations Committee.*

### **HB 5501 Relating to One-Stop Business Registration Portal by Rep. Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater)**

This legislation directs the Department of Revenue (DOR) to establish and implement, by January 1, 2013, a One-Stop Business Registration Portal — through an Internet website — that provides individuals and businesses with a single point-of-entry into state government for completing and submitting documents required for transacting business in Florida.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to create a "One-Stop Business Registration" portal that will simply facilitate transactions with Florida's various state agencies.

*CS/HB 5501 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-139; SB 1976 was laid on the table.*

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### **HB 387 Relating to Electronic Filing of Construction Plans by Rep. Larry Ahern (R-St. Petersburg)**

This legislation authorizes building code administrators or building officials to accept electronically transmitted construction plans and related documents for permit approval purposes.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will promote cost savings due to increased government efficiency in the review of construction plans, and thus, increased timeliness in the processing of building permits.

*CS/ HB 387 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-58. CS/CS/SB 600 died in Economic Affairs Committee.*



**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 28 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



AIF President & CEO Tom Feeney introduces incoming Senate President Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) at the annual AIF Tallahassee Pre-Session Briefing.

**SB 440 Relating to Initiatives and Referenda by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)**

This proposal authorizes a local government to retain certain initiatives or referendum processes in regard to any development order or in regard to any local comprehensive plan amendment or map amendment which was in effect as of June 1, 2011. The intent is to end several law suits challenging last session's growth act which prohibited those types of amendments, but failed to include any grandfathering of existing ones.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to protect the integrity of local government planning efforts.

*CS/SB 440 died in House Messages; HB 1489 died in the House Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee.*

**HB 673 Relating to Preference in Award of Governmental Entity Contracts by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford)**

Currently, the law authorizes state agencies, counties, municipalities, school districts, and other political subdivisions to award a preference to a Florida-based business for the pur-

chase of personal property, through competitive solicitation, when the lowest responsible and responsive bid, proposal, or reply is by a vendor whose principal place of business is in another state. The reciprocal preference law is discretionary and may be used by a procuring entity to award a preference to the lowest responsible and responsive vendor having a principal place of business in Florida. HB 673 expands the reciprocal preference provided in current law to include the purchase of construction services.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will result in more business being awarded to Florida-based companies as it relates to preference for construction services.

*CS/CS/HB 673 died in the House State Affairs Committee; SB 1460 died in the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee.*

**SB 704 Relating to Building Construction and Inspection by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)**

This bill amends a number of provisions related to building construction and inspection in Florida. The bill modifies



**Rheb Harbison**

Senior governmental consultant with Carlton Fields law firm in Tallahassee ... 31 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

**Council:** Manufacturers

Bill supported by AIF

Bill opposed by AIF

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.



AIF members in Jacksonville review some of the proposed legislative redistricting maps.

how local government code enforcement boards serve notices on property owners; authorizes building code administrators or building officials to accept electronically transmitted construction plans and related documents for permit approval purposes; and directs the Florida Building Commission to adopt a rule outlining an alternative method of screen enclosure design and establish a workgroup to assist the Commission in developing a rule for implementing an alternative screen design.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that will generate cost savings resulting from efficiencies associated with electronic filing.

*CS/CS/SB 704 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-13. CS/CS/HB 651 has been laid on the table.*

 **HB 7081 Relating to Growth Management by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)**

Slated as this year's premier growth management legislation, this bill makes a number of non-substantive modifications and clarifications to Ch. 2011-139, L.O.F., "The Community Planning Act" (the Act) that were compiled through various discussions and feedback received from stakeholders including the state land planning agency and local governments. Modifications include fixing cross-references, updating outdated language, and removing provisions throughout the statutes that the Act made obsolete. Such references include the twice-a-year limitation on adopting plan amendments that no longer exist and references to the evaluation and appraisal report that are no longer required.



**Nick Iarossi, Esq.**

Founding Partner of Capital City Consulting, LLC ... with more than 10 years legislative experience ... formerly worked in The Florida Senate, 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

Tom Feeney, AIF's President & CEO, joined Governor Rick Scott and legislative leaders at a press conference in support of PIP insurance reform legislation.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to clarify "The Community Planning Act" so as to guarantee that those developers can proceed with certainty.

*CS/CS/CS/HB 7081 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-99. CS/CS/CS/SB 842 was laid on the table.*

**HB 979 Relating to Developments of Regional Impact by Rep. Jose Felix Diaz (R-Miami)**

This legislation contains several provisions, including direction stating that reviewing agencies may make only recommendations or comments regarding a proposed development which are consistent with the statutes, rules, or adopted local government ordinances that are applicable to developments in the jurisdiction where the proposed development is located. In addition, the proposal includes a new exemption from the approval process which applies to any proposed development that the developer, local government, and Department of Economic Opportunity all agree in writing that the development-of-regional-impact review process does not apply.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that allows developers, local governments, and the newly created Department of Economic Opportunity to elect to use the state coordinated review process for certain developments and, thus, provide significant cost and time savings for private developers.

*CS/CS/HB 979 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-75. SB 1180 has been laid on the table.*

**HB 1013 Relating to Residential Construction Warranties by Rep. Frank Artiles (R-Miami) PRIORITY**

There is a common law implied warranty of fitness and merchantability or habitability related to the purchase of improved real estate purchased from the builder. This common law implied warranty applies to buildings and other improvements which are affixed to the real property, as opposed to fixtures that can be removed from the real property without damage to the premises. A recent District Court of



Appeal (DCA) decision expanded the common law implied warranty of fitness and merchantability or habitability to off-site improvements, such as roads and drainage areas within a subdivision. This opinion is contrary to a previous Florida Supreme Court opinion. This bill provides that the implied warranty of fitness and merchantability or habitability does not include off-site improvements.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will provide clarity as it relates to warranty obligations, thus promoting a more decisive environment for conducting business in Florida.

*CS/HB 1013 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-161. CS/CS/SB 1196 has been laid on the table.*

## INSURANCE

**HB 119 Relating to No-Fault Automobile Insurance by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) PRIORITY**

This legislation sets out to reform Florida's broken automobile insurance system, which has been plagued by rampant fraud and has led to auto insurance rates in Florida being the highest among most states in the country. HB 119 aims to



**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 33 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 2012 Session Priorities.



AIF's General Counsel Tammy Perdue, joined Senator Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) and other legislative leaders at a press conference in support of legislation to close the workers' compensation drug re-packaging loophole.

address the many cost drivers in the system that have been allowed to get out of control, including the over utilization of medical providers that provide massage therapy and other soft tissue services like acupuncture. In addition, the bill caps claimant attorneys' fees and eliminates contingency fee multipliers to reduce litigation. The bill also contains several provisions to combat fraud. With these provisions, the bill will reduce the cost of this mandatory coverage while providing for meaningful coverage for medical treatment in the event of an accident.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to pass meaningful PIP reform this session in order to address the rampant fraud that is plaguing the system. Businesses and consumers pay almost 50 percent more for auto insurance than other states in the nation. This is due to the unscrupulous actions of shady medical providers, trial attorneys, and criminals who stage auto accidents in order to access the available PIP benefits.

*CS/CS/HB 119 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-197. CS/CS/SB 1860 has been laid on the table.*

### **HB 245 Relating to Depopulation Programs of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) **PRIORITY****

This legislation aimed to change current law to allow surplus line insurers to take policies out of Citizens. Reducing the exposure of Citizens will substantially reduce the likelihood of claims-paying deficits and, thus, hurricane taxes on insurance premiums for Florida's employers. During consideration this year, much controversy surrounded a provision that would allow Citizens policyholders to "opt-in" to surplus line insurer plans instead of being given the choice to "opt-out" during the take-out process. The added opt-in provision which was opposed by AIF and the business community would discourage surplus line insurers from participating in the take-out process. The House refused to support the "opt-out" provision and voted down the bill from further consideration this year.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to return Citizens to an insurer of last resort. Further, we commend Rep. Boyd for his unwavering leadership on this controversial issue.



**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.

**Issue:** Regulated Industries

**Council:** Energy

*HB 245 died on the House Floor; SB 578 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 427 Relating to Civil Remedies Against Insurers by Rep. Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) PRIORITY**

HB 427 sought to place third party claimants on the same playing field for notice and settlement purposes as first party claimants, i.e., the policyholders. The bill's intent was to eliminate the "gotcha games" that insurers currently suffer when settlement demands for policy limits are unreasonable and result in more expensive litigation and claims cost. Due to some concerns expressed by members of the Legislature, the bill was laid on the table following a narrow vote of 7-8 by members of the House Civil Justice Committee.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that reforms Florida's current litigation procedures in bad faith claims against insurers. Furthermore, AIF greatly appreciates the valiant leadership and tenacity demonstrated by Rep. Passidomo in taking on this important public policy issue.

*HB 427 died in the House Civil Justice Subcommittee.*

 **HB 511 Relating to Workers Compensation by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) PRIORITY**

HB 511 focuses on addressing a loophole in the Workers' Compensation system that allows physicians to dispense repackaged drugs and charge employers exorbitant prices that greatly exceed the statutory reimbursement for the same pharmaceuticals dispensed by pharmacies. This legislation represented a significant compromise between all interested parties, including members of the business community, physicians and pharmacists. This compromise would have maintained the estimated \$62 cost savings for employers while continuing to ensure that physicians are not inhibited or discouraged from dispensing repackaged drugs; however, the bill did not make it to the finish line this legislative session.

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

*CS/HB 511 died on the House Calendar; SB 668 died in the Senate Budget Committee.*



**Bo Rivard, Esq.**

Partner with the law firm of Harrison Rivard Duncan and Buzzett ... more than 15 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 1053 Relating to Long-Term Care Insurance by Rep. Larry Metz (R-Eustis)**

HB 1053 specifies that, as applied to long-term care insurance policies, the continuation or renewal of a guaranteed renewable policy by the timely payment of required premiums does not constitute the making of a new policy or contract for any purpose. Therefore, any statutory or regulatory changes enacted after the original issue date of the guaranteed renewable policy would not be incorporated into the policy. The bill also codifies into law a definition of "guaranteed renewable" as it applies to the Long-Term Care Insurance Act.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to clarify the way long-term care insurance policies are defined in Florida.

*HB 1053 died in the Health & Human Services Committee; SB 1306 died in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.*

 **HB 1127 Relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation by Rep. Ben Albritton (R-Bartow) PRIORITY**

This legislation reduces the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation's (Citizens) maximum regular assessment from 6 percent to 2 percent which may be levied on most businesses' property and liability insurance premiums for claims paying deficits resulting from a hurricane. Current law requires insurers to pay the regular assessment within 30 days which in turn surcharge their customers to recoup amounts paid. The reduction of the regular assessment will not reduce the overall assessment authority of Citizens. Greater levies will be imposed through emergency assessments which are spread out over multiple years, reducing the financial burden on businesses and insurers.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to return Citizens to an insurer of last resort. AIF also SUPPORTS restoring the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (Cat Fund) to provide a safety buffer for Andrew-sized storms.

*HB 1127 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-80. CS/SB 1346 has been laid on the table.*

 **SB 1372 Relating to Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund by Sen. JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales) PRIORITY**

This legislation would have reduced hidden "hurricane assessments" on policyholders by reducing the amount of reinsurance backed by the state under the current Hur-

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2012 Session Priorities.

ricane Catastrophe Fund (CAT Fund). SB 1372 diminishes the size of the fund from \$17 billion to \$12 billion over five years, pushing private insurers and state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to buy more reinsurance in the private market. With erratic financial markets the CAT Fund's ability to retrieve bonds has condensed, leaving the fund with a \$3.2 billion shortfall in the event of a catastrophic storm. Florida's property insurance system is in need of real reform and this legislation takes an important step in addressing the potential crisis that could arise from the Cat Fund going insolvent.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that introduces greater stability to the state's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

CS/SB 1372 died in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on General Government Appropriations; HB 833 died in the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee.

## LEGAL & JUDICIAL

 **HB 243 Relating to Expert Testimony by Rep. Larry Metz (R-Eustis) PRIORITY**

This legislation would have required litigants to use accepted and proven scientific standards to qualify expert witnesses and eliminates the current possibility that mere opinion and junk science can be relied upon as evidence. The standard in HB 243 is the standard used in federal courts and in over 30 other states, which is vital to providing uniformity in Florida's judicial system.

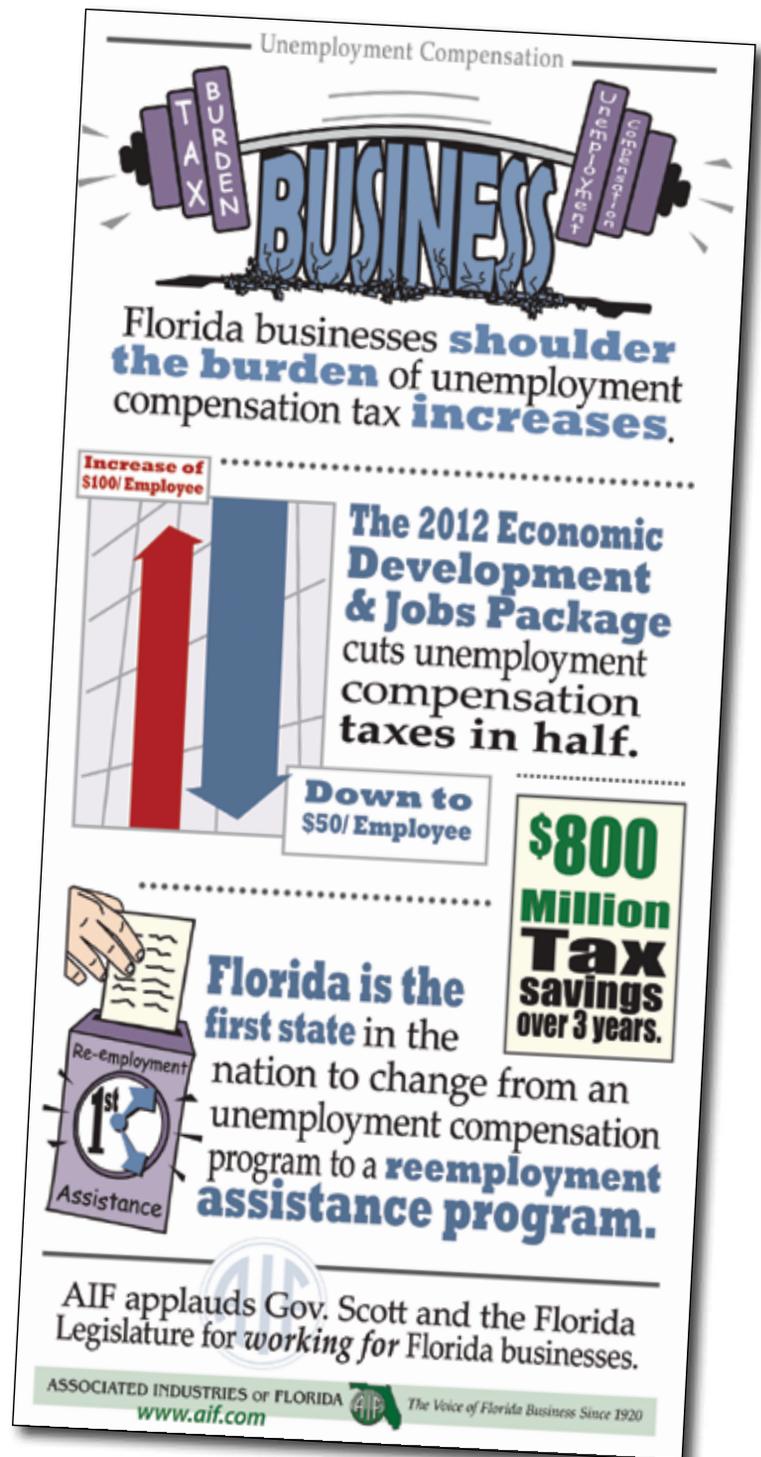
AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will utilize highly regarded legal standards to ensure a level playing field during litigation.

HB 243 died in Returning Messages; CS/SB 378 has been laid on the table.

## TAXATION & BUDGET

 **HB 103 Relating to Transfer of Tax Liability by Rep. John Wood (R-Haines City)**

This legislation changes the process for purchasing a business that may have an unpaid tax. Currently, the transferee assumes the tax liabilities unless an exception applies. The bill allows the transferee to take the business without assuming



Unemployment Compensation

**BURDEN TAX** **BUSINESS** **Unemployment Compensation**

Florida businesses **shoulder the burden** of unemployment compensation tax **increases.**

**Increase of \$100/Employee**

**The 2012 Economic Development & Jobs Package cuts unemployment compensation taxes in half.**

**Down to \$50/Employee**

**\$800 Million Tax savings over 3 years.**

**Florida is the first state in the nation to change from an unemployment compensation program to a reemployment assistance program.**

AIF applauds Gov. Scott and the Florida Legislature for *working for* Florida businesses.

ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA [www.aif.com](http://www.aif.com)  The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

**Infographic:** Florida employers have seen dramatic increases in their unemployment compensation taxes with the recent downturn in the economy. This year, AIF worked on legislation to reduce the proposed increase in unemployment compensation taxes for all employers.



**Stephen W. Shiver**

Partner, Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners ... over 13 years legislative and campaign experience ... former aide to House Speaker Tom Feeny 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.

**Issues:** Economic Development, General Business

the transferor's liability if the transferor obtains a certificate of compliance from the Department of Revenue that the business owes no back taxes or if the transferee requests an audit by the Department of Revenue within 90 days to find out that the transferor is not liable for any outstanding taxes.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because it makes Florida more attractive to potential buyers of businesses by providing certainty on not having to assume any outstanding tax liabilities or clarifying the maximum tax liability if the buyer agrees to assume them.

*HB 103 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-55. SB 170 has been laid on the table.*

 **HB 133 Relating to the Assessment of Residential and Non-Homestead Real Property by Rep. James Frishe (R-Belleair Bluffs)**

During the General Election in November 2008, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment that would grant authority to the Legislature to prohibit property assessors from considering two factors contributing to increased property values; changes or improvements made to improve a property's resistance to wind damage or the installation of a renewable energy device. HB 133 sought to simply implement that authority statutorily.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will encourage mitigation-based upgrades on real property and reduce property insurance costs for Floridians.

*CS/HB 133 died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee; CS/SB 156 died in the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax.*

 **HB 737 Relating to Tax on Sales, Use and other Transactions by Rep. Elizabeth Porter (R-Lake City)**

This legislation authorizes a sales tax holiday for specific clothing, footwear and school supplies. Clothing, wallets, and bags, including handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags with a sales price of \$75 or less per item are included; however, the bill excludes sales tax purchases from the exemption that take place at certain establishments and locations. Like many tax incentives proposed this year, HB 737 was included in HB 7087 — the House's omnibus economic development package — and passed by the Legislature.

AIF SUPPORTS increasing business activity by allowing

Floridians to purchase essential school supplies and other necessities without paying sales tax.

*CS/HB 737 died in Conference Committee; CS/SB 982 died in the Senate Budget Committee.*

 **HB 809 Relating to Communications Services Tax by Rep. James Grant (R-Tampa) **PRIORITY****

This legislation takes a step forward to begin modernizing and reforming Florida's decades-old phone tax laws in light of monumental advances in technology. This is achieved by adding some new definitions and updating existing provisions contained in Florida statute. HB 809 defines "Internet access service," "digital goods" and "digital services," and states that the term "cable service" is replaced with the broader term "video service" to reflect what has evolved in the marketplace since the Communications Services Tax (CST) was put in place. Ultimately, this action would clarify that people who buy phone service in "bundles" with digital items such as cloud data storage and home security would not have to pay communications taxes on those items when they are not listed separately on customer bills.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will make the administration of the Communications Services Tax (CST) more efficient.

*HB 809 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-70; CS/CS/CS/SB 1060 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 941 Relating to Insurance by Rep. Doug Holder (R-Sarasota) **PRIORITY****

This legislation seeks to repeal a provision of the workers' compensation regulatory framework relating to what is labeled "excess profits." Under current law, workers' compensation rates are set and carriers are told by the state what rates they must charge their policyholders. At the end of a reporting period, the state evaluates the company's performance and sometimes determines that, even with the mandated charges, the carrier should refund some of its profits. This process usually occurs a few years subsequent to the year in which the "excess" was experienced, which creates both accounting and cash flow problems for the companies.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will alleviate burdensome and confusing regulations, thus creating a more fair and predictable regulatory environment.



**Gerald Wester**

Founding Partner, Capital City Consulting, LLC ... former Chief Deputy over Florida Department of Insurance's regulatory staff ... more than 36 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 2012 Session Priorities.

*HB 941 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-213. HB 4169 died in Senate Messages.*

**HJR 1003 Relating to Tangible Personal Property Tax Exemptions by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando) **PRIORITY****

HJR 1003 proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution that would provide an additional exemption from ad valorem taxes on tangible personal property valued between \$25,000 and \$50,000. In addition, this proposal gives local municipalities and counties the option of providing additional tangible personal property exemptions by ordinance.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that will aid small and medium-sized businesses by reducing the red tape associated with paper-work, as well as high property taxes.

*CS/HJR 1003 has been signed by Officers and filed with the Secretary of State; CS/SJR 1064 has been laid on the table.*

**SB 1514 Relating to Tax on Sales, Use and other Transactions by Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Venice) **PRIORITY****

Known as the “E-Fairness” measure, this legislation would compel online retailers to charge sales taxes on products shipped to Florida. Online retailers would be liable for paying the tax if the retailer has a relationship with persons in the state helping them solicit business. In addition, a substantial amendment supported by AIF was adopted during the committee process that would have placed a “revenue neutral” provision to allow any additional revenue collected by online retailers to be returned to Floridians through tax relief.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to enforce the fair collection of state sales tax. Common sense updates can and should be made to Florida’s tax system to level the playing field for all retailers selling goods in Florida.

*CS/CS/SB 1514 died in the Senate Budget Committee; SB 2098 died in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.*

**HB 5701 Relating to Taxation by the House Finance & Tax Committee**

This legislation requires a one-time “speed-up” of estimated corporate income tax payments so that any estimated tax payment that would otherwise be due no later than Sunday, June 30, 2013, shall be paid on or before June 28, 2013. In addition, this proposal contains recommendations offered directly by AIF and the business community. Such provisions state that the change in the due date should be a one-time event rather than a permanent change in the bill, and that the

Department of Revenue (DOR) should be encouraged to be reasonable and lenient in waiving penalties if some companies miss payments as a result of the changed due date. The DOR will be instructed to send out notices to all businesses who pay corporate income taxes to give them ample warning of this one-time change.

AIF SUPPORTS the adoption of the federal tax code for 2012. Further, AIF commends members of the Legislature for heeding concerns from the business community as it relates to reporting taxes in a fair and timely manner.

*HB 5701 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-145; CS/SB 2068 has been laid on the table.*

**HB 7027 Relating to Unemployment Compensation by the House Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee **PRIORITY****

This tax relief package will ensure that businesses are not facing exponential tax increases this year during this economic time when job creation and economic recovery must be the focus of our work. HB 7027 will lower the wage base on which taxes are calculated to \$8,000 per employee and will spread out the payments employers make to replenish the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for an additional 2 years. Furthermore, this legislation does not require additional federal borrowing and still maintains our repayment to the federal government by the end of 2013, as scheduled.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to bring tax relief to all the Florida employers who are potentially facing a drastic increase in the amount of unemployment taxes they must pay.

*CS/HB 7027 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-30; SB 1416 has been laid on the table.*

**HB 7125 Relating to Exemptions from Local Business Taxes by the House Economic Affairs Committee**

This legislation simply specifies that an individual licensed and operating as a real estate broker associate or sales associate is not required to apply for an exemption from a local business tax and does not have to pay the tax.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that 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.

*HB 7125 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2012-102; CS/SB 770 has been laid on the table.*

Visit [aif.com/votes.shtml](http://aif.com/votes.shtml) to access the complete Voting Records report.



# The Legislature can turn your company upside down with one single piece of legislation.



On our web sites you'll find the information you need — when you need it — on the political, legislative, and regulatory efforts that are shaping your company's future.

## Associated Industries of Florida Online – [www.aif.com](http://www.aif.com)

AIF's main web site is your entryway to all of AIF's legislative and regulatory information, which includes:

- AIF's legislative proposals and Session Priorities
- AIF's legislative positions and Voting Records
- AIF publications and session reports
- Press releases and news articles
- Email links to legislators
- AIF polling data
- ... *And more!*

### **NOT A MEMBER?**

Contact **Brewster Bevis, Vice President–External Relations** at (850) 224-7173 or [bbevis@aif.com](mailto:bbevis@aif.com) to learn more about AIF's legislative and membership services.

## AIF Political Council Online – [www.aifpc.com](http://www.aifpc.com)

This ultimate political web site for the Florida business community is available only to members of the Political Council, a political research and information service:

- Political polling data
- District and voter demographics
- Biographical and issue profiles of candidates
- Expansive campaign contribution reporting
- Ongoing news and activities from the campaign trail
- ... *And more!*

### **NOT A MEMBER?**

Membership in AIFPC is in addition to membership in AIF. If you're not a member, contact **Ryan Tyson, Vice President – Political Operations**, at (850) 224-7173 or [rtyson@aif.com](mailto:rtyson@aif.com) to find out more about our political operations.



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

[www.faif.org](http://www.faif.org)



The Foundation of Associated Industries of Florida was formed in 2008 to address the educational and development needs of Florida's business community. FAIF is governed by an independent board of directors. The Foundation does not engage in any political activities.

The private business sector's support is critical to the success and continuance of FAIF's initiatives and programs. Florida businesses cannot afford to rely on public opportunities alone to train and prepare their future employees and leaders. FAIF will foster programs that identify business needs today and create solutions that will last into the future.

We are confident you will want to be a part in these programs and opportunities. We welcome your participation and suggestions as we move forward. Your contributions to FAIF are tax deductible and can be made by visiting [www.faif.org](http://www.faif.org) or contacting our executive director, Steve Trickey at 850.224.7173.

FAIF is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Registration Number: CH28665. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800.435.7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. FAIF may use a percentage of your contribution to support required administrative costs, direct costs, and/or activities.

# 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 business 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 Council Information Express e-mail 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 — includes 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 email at [rtyson@aif.com](mailto:rtyson@aif.com).

AIF 2 0 1 2

# Champions for Business



For 37 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.

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 16 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 policymakers who exhibited great leadership on behalf of AIF's Council system.

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

# Champions for Business

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



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Steve Crisafulli** (R-Merritt Island) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. This year Rep. Crisafulli is being recognized for his outstanding

leadership in the environmental policy arena. He sponsored and helped pass **HB 7003** which allows the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to create a statewide Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) system. This will allow employers to be afforded a consistent, predictable outcome irrespective of their business' location in the state.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Matt Caldwell** (R-Ft. Myers) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Caldwell was the prime sponsor of **HB 7051**, a bill that

allows DEP to proceed with the implementation of sensible Numeric Nutrient Criteria rules. This legislation was critical to ensuring that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not impose burdensome rules that will add to the already increasing costs of doing business in Florida.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Seth McKeel** (R-Lakeland) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As Chairman of the powerful House State Affairs Com-

mittee, Rep. McKeel played a key role in the passage and ratification of legislation dealing with Numeric Nutrient Criteria rules. Legislative ratification of this Florida-based solution to the establishment of water quality criteria was incredibly important to the business community. His constant attention and leadership on this issue ensured the timely passage of this important rule.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Jimmy Patronis** (R-Panama City) is receiving his third *Champion for Business Award*. This year, Rep. Patronis is being recognized for successfully

sponsoring and passing landmark environmental permitting legislation (**HB 503**). This bill provides a major step forward in streamlining permitting across state agencies. The bill will help accelerate the permit approval process and bring certainty to businesses dealing with multiple state agencies.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Steve Precourt** (R-Orlando) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Precourt helped craft a dynamic economic development

package, which incorporated many of AIF's top economic development incentives for 2012. The legislation included tax breaks and incentives for important industries like manufacturing, agriculture and film. The incentives included in **HB 7087** will ensure that Florida remains a beacon for investment and economic activity.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. James Grant** (R-Tampa) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award* winner. Rep. Grant led the charge to reform Florida's Communications

Services Tax, the third highest such tax on communications services in the country. Rep. Grant's sponsorship of **HB 809** ensures that Florida consumers (both residents and businesses) do not pay these excessive taxes on goods or services that are not "communications services" but are provided by communications service providers. The legislation also establishes a task force to review and recommend ways to further simplify this insidious tax and options for a hopeful reduction of the overall tax burden on Floridians.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Erik Fresen** (R-Miami) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Fresen was the prime sponsor of legislation (**HB 487**) that

would enact comprehensive gaming reform in the state of Florida. Furthermore, the bill would allow for the construction of up to three Destination Resorts in Florida, which would create tens of thousands of jobs and bring billions in private capital investment to our state.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Eric Eisnaugle** (R-Orlando) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. A strong supporter of the business community, Rep.

Eisnaugle has championed economic development and free market principles since his arrival in the House. He is being recognized for his leadership in passing a proposed constitutional amendment (**HJR 1003**) which, if approved, would exempt thousands of small businesses from having to pay Tangible Personal Property (TPP) taxes. In addition, the amendment would allow local municipalities and counties the option of providing additional TPP exemptions by ordinance.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Will Weatherford** (R-Wesley Chapel) is now a three-time *AIF Champion for Business Award* winner. As the incoming Speaker of the House, Rep.

Weatherford has been the true definition of a champion for the business community. This year, Rep. Weatherford spearheaded efforts to mitigate the impending unemployment compensation tax increase on Florida businesses. Thanks to his leadership, the reforms included in **HB 7027** will save employers approximately \$50 per employee.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Jim Boyd** (R-Bradenton) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Throughout the 2012 Session, Rep. Boyd was the steady force

behind efforts to reform Florida's broken auto insurance system. **HB 119** was one of AIF's top priorities this year because of its ability to address the major cost drivers leading to Florida consumers and businesses paying almost 50 percent more for auto insurance than most other states in the country. The fraud-fighting provisions championed by Rep. Boyd will go a long way in helping promote a healthy auto insurance market in Florida.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Dan Davis** (R-Jacksonville) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Rep. Davis sponsored **HB 4169**, a bill designed to repeal

the arcane regulatory practice of prohibiting workers' compensation carriers from carrying over "excess profits." This prohibition creates both accounting and cash flow problems for these companies. The elimination of this regulatory provision will alleviate these burdensome and confusing regulations, thus creating a more fair and predictable regulatory environment. The provisions of **HB 4169** eventually found their way onto a different piece of legislation, thanks to Rep. Davis' determination and constant attention.



2012 CFB Winner

**Rep. Mack Bernard** (D-West Palm Beach) is receiving his first *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Since his arrival in the House of Representatives, Rep. Bernard

has been a strong supporter of Florida's business community. His strong desire to improve our economic climate has made him a valuable member of the House. This year, Rep. Bernard is being recognized for his role in passing important reforms to Florida's workers' compensation system. Rep. Bernard filed **HB 307**, a bill designed to ensure that all companies, regardless of their legal structure, are required to provide workers' compensation coverage to their employees. This important clarification has been a goal of AIF since the passage of the 2003 workers' compensation reforms because it also ensures that companies remain

*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.*

# Champions for Business

(continued)

immune from civil actions for work injuries since there will be no doubt that workers' compensation coverage is required.



2012 CFB Winner

**Sen. Elyn Bogdanoff** (R-Ft. Lauderdale) is receiving her second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As a long-time opponent of the expansion of gaming in Florida,

Sen. Bogdanoff took on the difficult task of sponsoring legislation aimed at passing real, comprehensive gaming reform in our state. The legislation offered by Sen. Bogdanoff would also allow for the construction of up to three Destination Resorts in south Florida – a proposal that would lead to the creation of thousands of jobs and billions in private capital investment. Sen. Bogdanoff also played a major role this session in the debate to bring tax equity to our Mainstreet retailers who are struggling to compete with online retailers that currently do not charge sales taxes on purchases made over the Internet. Sen. Bogdanoff offered legislation that would restore fairness by requiring these virtual companies to remit sales taxes back to the state.



2012 CFB Winner

**Sen. Chris Smith** (D-Oakland Park) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. Sen. Smith continues his long track record of working with the

business community to pass legislation that improves our state's business climate. This year Sen. Smith is being recognized for his work on two important business issues. First, he was the prime Senate sponsor of metal theft legislation (**SB 540**) which enacted critical provisions to help thwart costly crimes that are costing businesses in Florida hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. In addition, Sen. Smith played a key role in passage of legislation that will ensure that all companies, regardless of their legal structure, are required to provide workers' compensation coverage to their employees.



2012 CFB Winner

**Sen. Don Gaetz** (R-Destin) is receiving his second *AIF Champion for Business Award*. As the incoming Senate President, Sen. Gaetz had many

responsibilities to meet this year. First, he directly oversaw the Senate's redistricting effort – an incredibly

important task for the future of Florida. Yet he still had the time to put forth pro-business proposals and good public policy. Sen. Gaetz was instrumental this year in helping bring tax relief for employers in the form of lower unemployment compensation taxes. Sen. Gaetz is very interested in bringing much needed reforms to Florida's broken unemployment compensation system and AIF is committed to working with him to achieve this goal.



2012 CFB Winner

**Sen. Jack Latvala** (R-St. Petersburg) is a two-time *AIF Champion for Business Award* winner. A strong defender of the business commu-

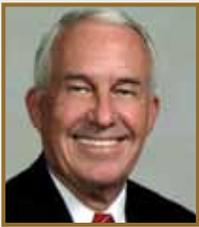
nity, Sen. Latvala was involved in a number of issues of vital importance to employers across our state. Sen. Latvala is being recognized this year for his steadfast support of free market principles in the health care arena. Akin to a game of "whack-a-mole," Sen. Latvala successfully defeated a number of attempts this session to pass mandatory contracting provisions between hospitals and health plan providers. In essence, these proposals would have obliterated the competitive process by which managed-care entities negotiate with their provider networks.

*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.*

# 2 0 1 2 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.

## Environmental Sustainability



**Rep. Clay Ford** (R-Pensacola) and **Sen. Jim Norman** (R-Tampa) are both being recognized as *Legislators of the Year* by the AIF Environmental Sustainability Council for their work in passage of metal theft legislation. As the prime sponsors of **HB 885**



and **SB 1324**, these two legislators spearheaded efforts to address the costly practice of metal theft in our state. Unfortunately, unscrupulous individuals have realized that there is a lucrative market for metals in our state. This up-tick in metal theft is coming at a very high cost for business owners who are victims of these crimes. Both **HB 885** and **SB 1324** include important provisions to deter this practice.

## Hospital Council



**Rep. Ed Hooper** (R-Clearwater) sponsored and helped pass an important piece of legislation that will ensure that there is greater public oversight in the sale or lease of a county district or municipal hospital. **HB 711** will make sure 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. Rep. Hooper has been a vocal advocate of greater transparency for these highly complex and important transactions. For these reasons, the AIF Council for Community Hospitals is proud to recognize Rep. Ed Hooper as its *Legislator of the Year*.

## Development and Infrastructure Council



**Rep. Frank Artiles** (R-Miami) sponsored a key piece of legislation for Florida's construction and development industries.

Rep. Artiles filed **HB 1013** in response to a recent 5th District Court of Appeal's decision which would have exposed builders in Florida to new and unwarranted causes of action. This opinion would have made builders responsible for off-site improvements that had nothing to do with warranties associated with the construction of a home. Thanks to Rep. Artiles' leadership and his sponsorship of this legislation, Florida's construction industry will be protected from frivolous lawsuits. For these reasons, the AIF Florida Development and Infrastructure Council is proud to designate Rep. Frank Artiles as its *Legislator of the Year*.

## Financial Services Council



**Rep. Bill Hager** (R-Boca Raton) is being recognized as AIF's Financial Services Council House *Legislator of the Year* for his

courageous efforts on bringing attention to Florida's precarious property insurance system. This year, Rep. Hager sponsored legislation (**HB 803**) that aimed at "right sizing" Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (Cat Fund). Currently, Florida's Cat Fund is over-exposed; and if a storm or series of storms were to hit Florida, there exists a real potential for the Cat Fund to default on its responsibilities. While politically unpopular, Rep. Hager's dedication to addressing this crisis shows his commitment to the future of Florida.



**Sen. Joe Negron** (R-Palm City) was designated this year as the prime negotiator and sponsor of legislation (**SB 1860**) to reform Florida's

broken auto insurance system. Sen. Negron's experience dealing with difficult and complex issues once again came in handy as legislators worked with Governor Scott to pass meaningful reforms that addressed the rampant fraud and cost drivers in the system. Throughout the weeks of debate, public testimony and negotiations, Sen. Negron remained fair and deliberate, always keeping the best interests of Floridians and employers in mind. For these reasons, AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to call Sen. Joe Negron its Senate *Legislator of the Year*.

# PAST *Champions for Business*

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

## **2011 Champions for Business**

Rep. Chris Dorworth – *Property Tax Reduction*

Rep. Doug Holder – *Unemployment Compensation*

Rep. Dorothy Hukill – *Insurance Reform*

Rep. Marlene O'Toole – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Jimmy Patronis – *Environmental Permitting*

Rep. Will Weatherford – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Trudi Williams – *Water Policy*

Rep. John Wood – *Property Insurance Reform*

Rep. Rich Workman – *Pension Reform*

Rep. Dana Young – *Port Security*

Sen. JD Alexander – *Immigration Reform*

Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff – *Judgment of Interest*

Sen. Anitere Flores – *Immigration Reform*

Sen. Jack Latvala – *Port Security*

Sen. Joe Negron – *Medicaid Reform*

Sen. Garrett Richter – *Tort Reform*

Sen. Jeremy Ring – *Single Sales Factor*

Sen. David Simmons – *Class Size*

## **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*

## **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*

## **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*

## **2007 Champions for Business**

Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*

Rep. Charlie Dean – *Tort Reform*

Rep. Alan Hays – *Property Insurance*

Rep. Rich Glorioso – *Transportation*

## **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*

# SAVE THE DATE!



4<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundation of  
Associated Industries of Florida

## Golf Tournament September 12, 2012



Shingle Creek Golf Club in Orlando, Florida, is a David Harman designed 18-hole par 72 Championship (7,228 yards) Golf Course. The challenging yet enjoyable Shingle Creek Golf Course will provide panoramic vistas in a relaxing environment. Shingle Creek Golf Club with its naturalistic grace and elegance will define the edges of the upcoming Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.



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

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## ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

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### Rosen Shingle Creek



#### Conference Highlights:

- AIF Champions For Business Reception and Award Ceremony with Legislators in Attendance
- Top Industry and State Agency Experts Discuss Important Business Issues
- Learn More about the Latest Political Trends

#### And Much More!

Don't miss your chance to attend this Summer's most informative and comprehensive conference!