

VOTING RECORDS

Key Business Issues | 2013 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature

2013
*Champions
for Business*
Page 28



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 2013 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 10,451 votes cast by legislators on 89 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 38 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 "Champions 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.

These 20 legislators and Governor Scott (see page 28) honored this year are the epitome of a "Champion for Business."



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Tom C. Feeney
President & Chief Executive Officer

A Look at the 2013 Session: Legislators Perpetuate Business Growth and Job Creation



By Brewster Bevis, Senior Vice President State & Federal Affairs

Extensive analysis of more than 10,400 votes cast on 89 business-related bills, the 2013 AIF Voting Records report revealed a very business-friendly Legislature. Historically, the House of Representatives scores relatively high marks, with this year leading to an overall average score of 89 percent in favor of pro-business legislation. In 2013, the Senate took a huge stride from its 2010, 2011 and 2012 score of 85 percent to an incredible 92 percent favorable business score.

As a whole, the Legislature took significant steps toward the adoption of an agenda further enabling Florida to be a premier economic powerhouse. Key legislation passed which will eliminate the sales tax on manufacturers' equipment (**HB 7007**), as well as adopting the *Daubert* standard (**HB 7015**) into our court system, thus ensuring a decrease in frivolous litigation against Florida's employers. Another major piece of legislation (**SB 662**) that passed this session addressed the drug repackaging loophole in Florida's workers' compensation system, which will finally establish fairness with workers' compensation prescription reimbursement rates. This initiative contains compromise language clarifying the maximum costs for prescription medications that physicians are allowed to charge in treating workers' compensation patients. Additionally, legislative leaders made it a priority to pass landmark legislation (**SB 1808**)

As a whole, the Legislature took significant steps toward the adoption of an agenda further enabling Florida to be a premier economic powerhouse.

to ultimately bring an end to the long and arduous debate over how to best defend our state's water bodies from nutrient pollution. Further, the Legislative and Executive branches worked tirelessly to pass **HB 7065**, which will protect water quality standards and ensure the future protection and restoration of the Everglades. This bill signifies a compromise between the business community and environmental groups by ensuring both sides are pleased with the plan of effective and safe use, as well as preservation. Finally, the passage of the "Manufacturing Competitiveness Act," (**SB 582**) will authorize local governments to voluntarily adopt, by ordinance, a local manufacturing development program that allows manufacturers to obtain master plan approval for manufacturing sites. Upon enactment into law, this act will improve the development approval process for Florida's manufacturers. This tremendous focus by the Legislature on a business-friendly agenda, coupled with a governor whose primary goal is job creation, is certainly one of the reasons why Florida's unemployment rate has dropped from 8.8 percent last year to a rate of 7.1 percent; below the national rate by .5 percent.

Despite the areas of success mentioned, various bills were debated

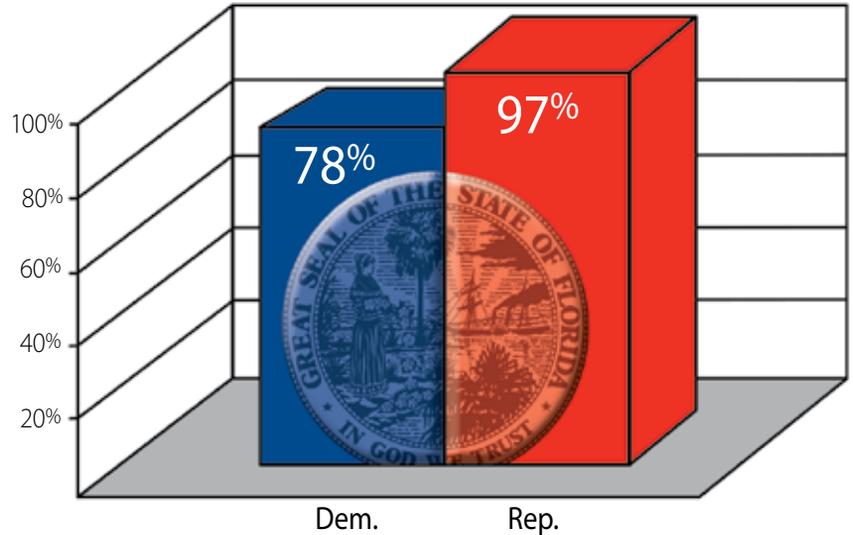
that would have harmed the business community; however, AIF was a determining force in halting several such efforts. One of the anti-business measures was **SB 1832**, which would have eliminated a \$220 million premium tax credit that insurance companies receive based on the aggregate salaries of their Florida employees. The salary credit was implemented in 1987 to provide an incentive for insurance companies to increase Florida jobs by locating home offices, regional service centers, and call centers in the state. The elimination of the credit, tantamount to a massive tax increase on Florida's insurance industry, could have had the unintended consequence of reducing jobs in Florida. With AIF's strong encouragement, the harmful language in the bill was amended out during the committee process.

There is no doubt that it was a good year for Florida's job creators. However, through lessening of onerous regulations and adopting business-friendly legislation, it can always be better. Governor Scott, the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives remain focused and committed to making Florida the best place in the nation to do business. AIF stands ready to assist them in achieving this goal.

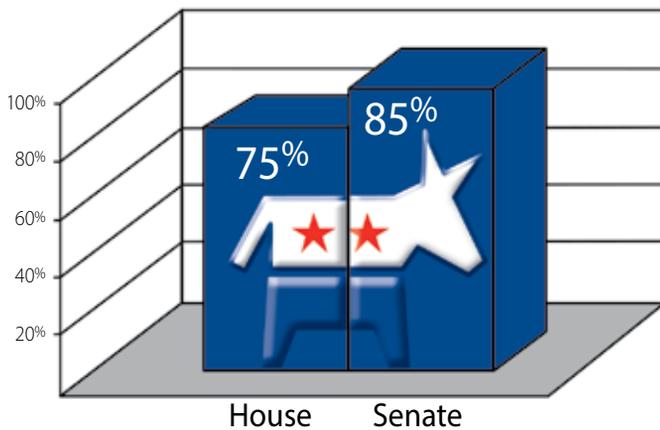
2013 Florida Legislature *by the Numbers*

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

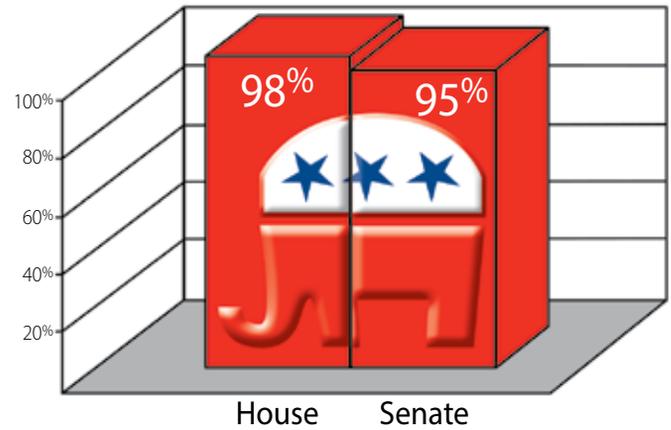
Legislature by Party



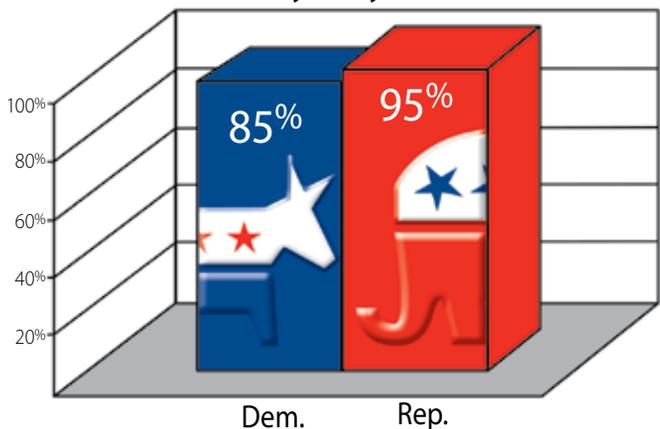
Democrats by Chamber



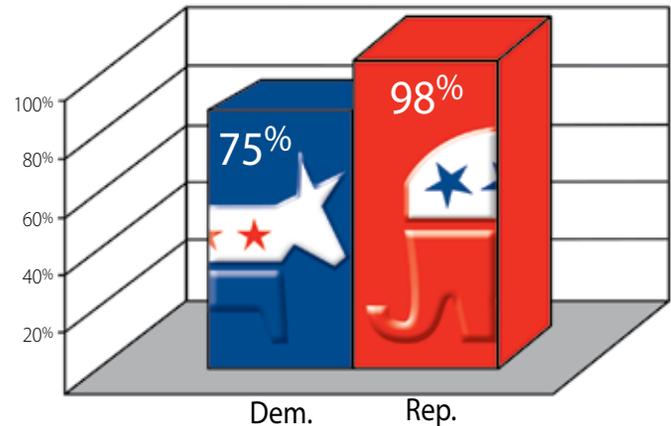
Republicans by Chamber



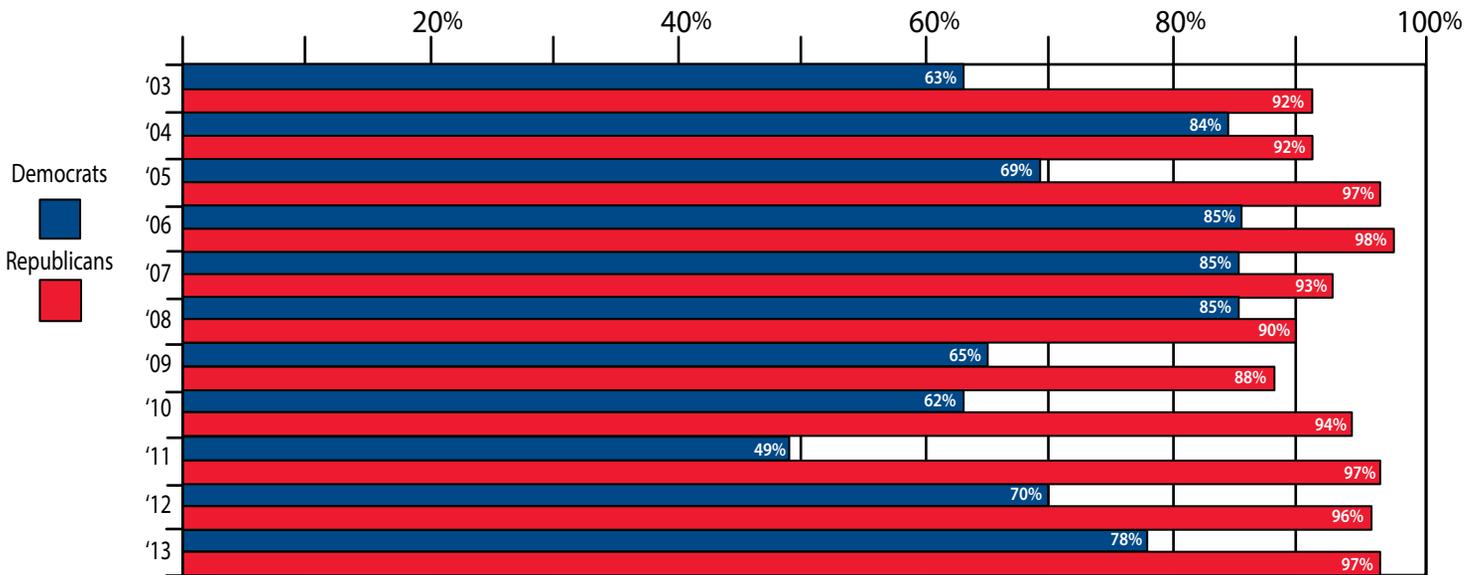
Senate by Party



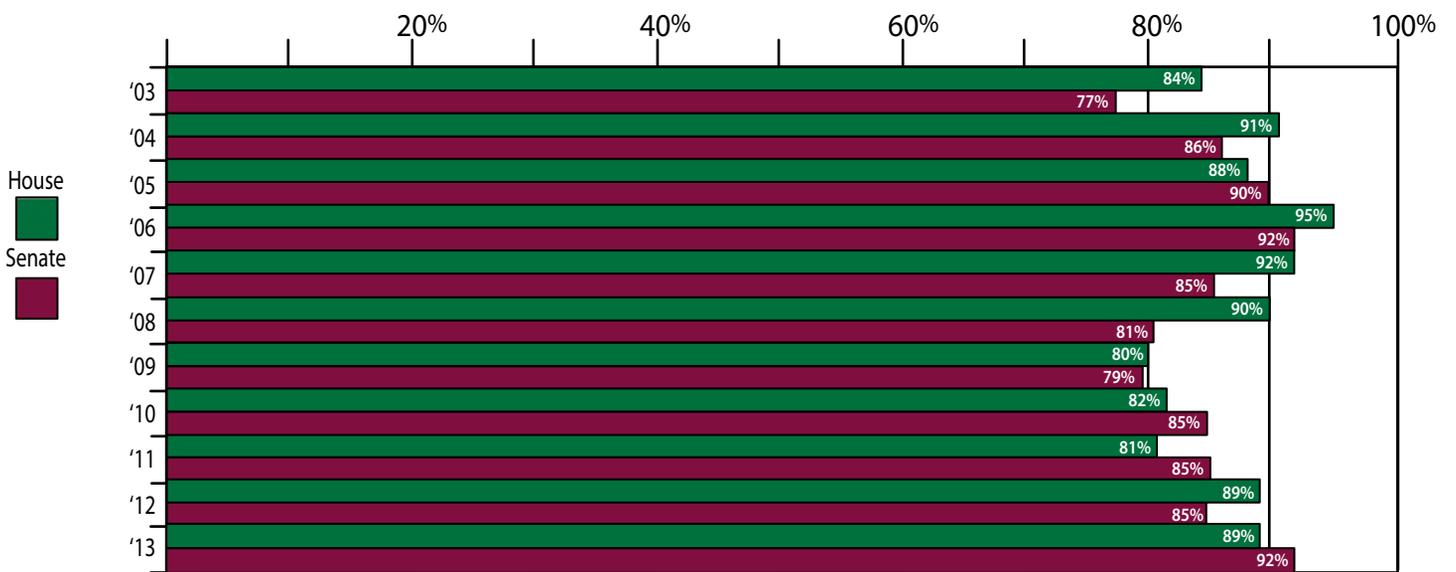
House by Party



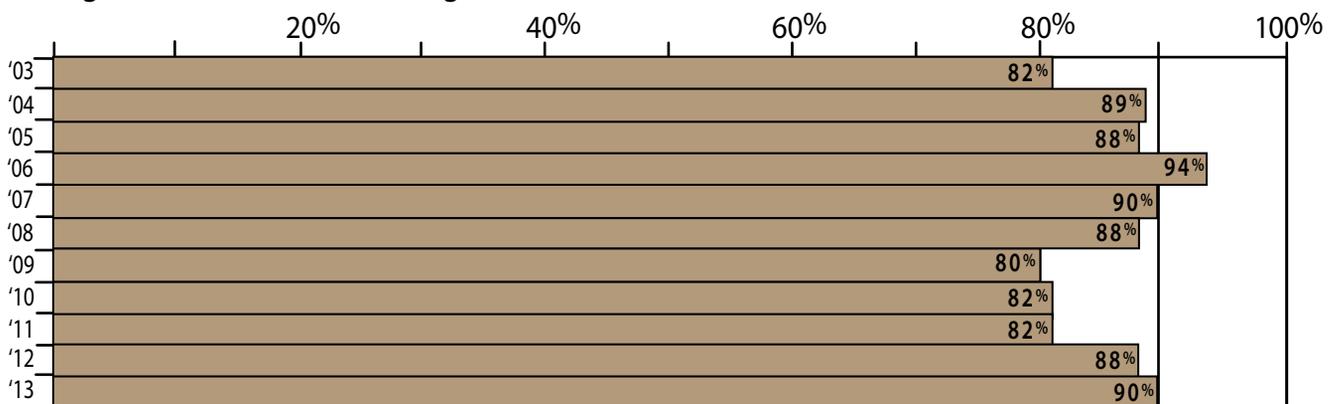
Party — Historical Voting Records



Chamber — Historical Voting Records



Legislature — Historical Voting Records





2013 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%	Stargel (R)	67	1	94%	Legg (R)	49	3
98%	Altman (R)	59	1	93%	Detert (R)	57	4
98%	Dean (R)	60	1	93%	Garcia (R)	54	4
98%	Gaetz (R)	40	1	93%	Hukill (R)	83	6
98%	Richter (R)	100	2	93%	Montford (D)	91	7
97%	Brandes (R)	62	2	91%	Margolis (D)	81	8
97%	Hays (R)	85	3	90%	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	57	6
97%	Simmons (R)	66	2	88%	Gibson (D)	50	7
96%	Bean (R)	89	4	87%	Sachs (D)	47	7
96%	Gardiner (R)	70	3	87%	Soto (D)	65	10
96%	Grimsley (R)	87	4	86%	Abruzzo (D)	54	9
96%	Latvala (R)	80	3	86%	Bullard (D)	36	6
96%	Lee (R)	86	4	86%	Ring (D)	80	13
96%	Simpson (R)	76	3	86%	Thompson (D)	56	9
95%	Benacquisto (R)	84	4	85%	Smith (D)	76	13
95%	Bradley (R)	84	4	84%	Sobel (D)	73	14
95%	Flores (R)	55	3	83%	Negron (R)	43	9
95%	Thrasher (R)	89	5	80%	Braynon (D)	43	11
94%	Evers (R)	51	3	79%	Clemens (D)	48	13
94%	Galvano (R)	82	5	76%	Joyner (D)	65	20

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 92%

AIF Voting Records

AIF 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 38 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.

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

% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
99%	Albritton (R)	76	1	98%	Raschein (R)	63	1	83%	Jones, S. (D)	53	11
99%	Boyd (R)	73	1	98%	Ray (R)	59	1	82%	Clarke-Reed (D)	49	11
99%	Caldwell (R)	73	1	98%	Santiago (R)	65	1	82%	Stewart (D)	59	13
99%	Combee (R)	74	1	98%	Schenck (R)	50	1	81%	Danish (D)	56	13
99%	Crisafulli (R)	66	1	98%	Weatherford (R)	49	1	81%	Gibbons (D)	58	14
99%	Fresen (R)	68	1	98%	Workman (R)	58	1	81%	Moskowitz (D)	46	11
99%	Ingram (R)	77	1	98%	Young (R)	50	1	81%	Richardson (D)	48	11
99%	La Rosa (R)	69	1	97%	Beshears (R)	71	2	80%	Williams (D)	53	13
99%	Porter (R)	70	1	97%	Cummings (R)	62	2	79%	Antone (D)	48	13
99%	Raburn (R)	66	1	97%	Coley (R)	58	2	79%	Rangel (D)	56	15
99%	Raulerson (R)	68	1	97%	Corcoran (R)	59	2	79%	Rouson (D)	52	14
99%	Rooney (R)	71	1	97%	Eagle (R)	66	2	79%	Stark (D)	52	14
99%	Stone (R)	67	1	97%	Goodson (R)	70	2	79%	Waldman (D)	61	16
99%	Smith (R)	70	1	97%	Hudson (R)	63	2	78%	Rogers (D)	51	14
98%	Adkins (R)	62	1	97%	Magar (R)	60	2	77%	Reed (D)	44	13
98%	Ahern (R)	61	1	97%	Nelson (R)	73	2	75%	Dudley (D)	46	15
98%	Artiles (R)	49	1	97%	O'Toole (R)	63	2	75%	Fullwood (D)	52	17
98%	Baxley (R)	60	1	97%	Oliva (R)	60	2	75%	Jones, M. (D)	52	17
98%	Bileca (R)	59	1	97%	Passidomo (R)	61	2	75%	Torres (D)	46	15
98%	Brodeur (R)	59	1	97%	Perry (R)	64	2	74%	Rader (D)	39	14
98%	Broxson (R)	65	1	97%	Pigman (R)	62	2	74%	Zimmermann (D)	42	15
98%	Davis (R)	58	1	97%	Renuart (R)	58	2	73%	Castor Dentel (D)	41	15
98%	Diaz, J. (R)	59	1	97%	Spano (R)	57	2	73%	Powell (D)	40	15
98%	Diaz, M. (R)	64	1	97%	Steube (R)	68	2	72%	Bracy (D)	43	17
98%	Fitzenhagen (R)	56	1	97%	Trujillo (R)	66	2	72%	Berman (D)	42	16
98%	Gonzalez (R)	65	1	97%	Wood (R)	61	2	72%	Kerner (D)	38	15
98%	Grant (R)	65	1	96%	Harrell (R)	55	2	71%	Pritchett (D)	45	18
98%	Hood (R)	57	1	96%	Patronis (R)	65	3	71%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	42	17
98%	Hutson (R)	65	1	96%	Van Zant (R)	54	2	71%	Watson, B. (D)	47	19
98%	Hager (R)	59	1	95%	Edwards (D)	56	3	69%	Cruz (D)	40	18
98%	Holder (R)	59	1	95%	Gaetz (R)	60	3	68%	Saunders (D)	41	19
98%	Hooper (R)	59	1	95%	Roberson (R)	62	3	68%	Slosberg (D)	36	17
98%	Mayfield (R)	65	1	95%	Tobia (R)	62	3	68%	Thurston (D)	41	19
98%	McBurney (R)	65	1	94%	Fasano (R)	59	4	67%	Campbell (D)	40	20
98%	McKeel (R)	39	1	94%	Moraitis (R)	60	4	67%	McGhee (D)	39	19
98%	Metz (R)	60	1	93%	Rodrigues (R)	52	4	63%	Stafford (D)	43	25
98%	Nunez (R)	58	1	88%	Lee (D)	66	9	59%	Rodriguez (D)	40	28
98%	Peters (R)	54	1	84%	Clelland (D)	53	10	54%	Pafford (D)	35	30
98%	Pilon (R)	64	1	84%	Taylor (D)	58	11	53%	Schwartz (D)	25	22
98%	Precourt (R)	56	1	84%	Watson, C. (D)	68	13				

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 89%



2013 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
Abruzzo (D)	54	9	86%	Hays (R)	85	3	97%
Altman (R)	59	1	98%	Hukill (R)	83	6	93%
Bean (R)	89	4	96%	Joyner (D)	65	20	76%
Benacquisto (R)	84	4	95%	Latvala (R)	80	3	96%
Bradley (R)	84	4	95%	Lee (R)	86	4	96%
Brandes (R)	62	2	97%	Legg (R)	49	3	94%
Braynon (D)	43	11	80%	Margolis (D)	81	8	91%
Bullard (D)	36	6	86%	Montford (D)	91	7	93%
Clemens (D)	48	13	79%	Negron (R)	43	9	83%
Dean (R)	60	1	98%	Richter (R)	100	2	98%
Detert (R)	57	4	93%	Ring (D)	80	13	86%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	57	6	90%	Sachs (D)	47	7	87%
Evers (R)	51	3	94%	Simmons (R)	66	2	97%
Flores (R)	55	3	95%	Simpson (R)	76	3	96%
Gaetz (R)	40	1	98%	Smith (D)	76	13	85%
Galvano (R)	82	5	94%	Sobel (D)	73	14	84%
Garcia (R)	54	4	93%	Soto (D)	65	10	87%
Gardiner (R)	70	3	96%	Stargel (R)	67	1	99%
Gibson (D)	50	7	88%	Thompson (D)	56	9	86%
Grimsley (R)	87	4	96%	Thrasher (R)	89	5	95%

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 92%

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 **188,178 votes, 1,682 bills, and 776 legislators** over the span of **35 years**. Online Voting Records — a *one-of-a-kind* tool only available from Associated Industries of Florida.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Adkins (R)	62	1	98%	Hood (R)	57	1	98%	Rodriguez (D)	40	28	59%
Ahern (R)	61	1	98%	Hutson (R)	65	1	98%	Rader (D)	39	14	74%
Albritton (R)	76	1	99%	Hager (R)	59	1	98%	Raschein (R)	63	1	98%
Antone (D)	48	13	79%	Harrell (R)	55	2	96%	Ray (R)	59	1	98%
Artiles (R)	49	1	98%	Holder (R)	59	1	98%	Reed (D)	44	13	77%
Bracy (D)	43	17	72%	Hooper (R)	59	1	98%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	42	17	71%
Baxley (R)	60	1	98%	Hudson (R)	63	2	97%	Renuart (R)	58	2	97%
Berman (D)	42	16	72%	Ingram (R)	77	1	99%	Richardson (D)	48	11	81%
Beshears (R)	71	2	97%	Jones, M. (D)	52	17	75%	Roberson (R)	62	3	95%
Bileca (R)	59	1	98%	Jones, S. (D)	53	11	83%	Rogers (D)	51	14	78%
Boyd (R)	73	1	99%	Kerner (D)	38	15	72%	Rooney (R)	71	1	99%
Brodeur (R)	59	1	98%	Lee (D)	66	9	88%	Rouson (D)	52	14	79%
Broxson (R)	65	1	98%	La Rosa (R)	69	1	99%	Santiago (R)	65	1	98%
Clelland (D)	53	10	84%	Moskowitz (D)	46	11	81%	Saunders (D)	41	19	68%
Cummings (R)	62	2	97%	Magar (R)	60	2	97%	Spano (R)	57	2	97%
Caldwell (R)	73	1	99%	Mayfield (R)	65	1	98%	Stewart (D)	59	13	82%
Campbell (D)	40	20	67%	McBurney (R)	65	1	98%	Stone (R)	67	1	99%
Castor Dentel (D)	41	15	73%	McGhee (D)	39	19	67%	Schenck (R)	50	1	98%
Clarke-Reed (D)	49	11	82%	McKeel (R)	39	1	98%	Schwartz (D)	25	22	53%
Coley (R)	58	2	97%	Metz (R)	60	1	98%	Slosberg (D)	36	17	68%
Combee (R)	74	1	99%	Moraitis (R)	60	4	94%	Smith (R)	70	1	99%
Corcoran (R)	59	2	97%	Nelson (R)	73	2	97%	Stafford (D)	43	25	63%
Crisafulli (R)	66	1	99%	Nunez (R)	58	1	98%	Stark (D)	52	14	79%
Cruz (D)	40	18	69%	O'Toole (R)	63	2	97%	Steube (R)	68	2	97%
Danish (D)	56	13	81%	Oliva (R)	60	2	97%	Taylor (D)	58	11	84%
Dudley (D)	46	15	75%	Powell (D)	40	15	73%	Thurston (D)	41	19	68%
Davis (R)	58	1	98%	Pafford (D)	35	30	54%	Tobia (R)	62	3	95%
Diaz, J. (R)	59	1	98%	Passidomo (R)	61	2	97%	Torres (D)	46	15	75%
Diaz, M. (R)	64	1	98%	Patronis (R)	65	3	96%	Trujillo (R)	66	2	97%
Eagle (R)	66	2	97%	Perry (R)	64	2	97%	Van Zant (R)	54	2	96%
Edwards (D)	56	3	95%	Peters (R)	54	1	98%	Waldman (D)	61	16	79%
Fitzenhagen (R)	56	1	98%	Pigman (R)	62	2	97%	Watson, B. (D)	47	19	71%
Fasano (R)	59	4	94%	Pilon (R)	64	1	98%	Watson, C. (D)	68	13	84%
Fresen (R)	68	1	99%	Porter (R)	70	1	99%	Weatherford (R)	49	1	98%
Fullwood (D)	52	17	75%	Precourt (R)	56	1	98%	Williams (D)	53	13	80%
Gaetz (R)	60	3	95%	Pritchett (D)	45	18	71%	Wood (R)	61	2	97%
Gibbons (D)	58	14	81%	Raburn (R)	66	1	99%	Workman (R)	58	1	98%
Gonzalez (R)	65	1	98%	Rangel (D)	56	15	79%	Young (R)	50	1	98%
Goodson (R)	70	2	97%	Raulerson (R)	68	1	99%	Zimmermann (D)	42	15	74%
Grant (R)	65	1	98%	Rodrigues (R)	52	4	93%				

Total Votes With AIF/Business = 89%



HISTORICAL FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues

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	2013	History	Name/Party	2013	History
Abruzzo (D)	86%	69%	Hays (R)	97%	95%
Altman (R)	98%	92%	Hukill (R)	93%	96%
Bean (R)	96%	95%	Joyner (D)	76%	62%
Benacquisto (R)	95%	97%	Latvala (R)	96%	87%
Bradley (R)	95%	95%	Lee (R)	96%	88%
Brandes (R)	97%	98%	Legg (R)	94%	95%
Braynon (D)	80%	67%	Margolis (D)	91%	78%
Bullard (D)	86%	53%	Montford (D)	93%	83%
Clemens (D)	79%	56%	Negron (R)	83%	90%
Dean (R)	98%	91%	Richter (R)	98%	95%
Detert (R)	93%	91%	Ring (D)	86%	81%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	90%	94%	Sachs (D)	87%	73%
Evers (R)	94%	95%	Simmons (R)	97%	95%
Flores (R)	95%	94%	Simpson (R)	96%	96%
Gaetz (R)	98%	90%	Smith (D)	85%	71%
Galvano (R)	94%	94%	Sobel (D)	84%	69%
Garcia (R)	93%	91%	Soto (D)	87%	69%
Gardiner (R)	96%	94%	Stargel (R)	99%	98%
Gibson (D)	88%	75%	Thompson (D)	86%	67%
Grimsley (R)	96%	97%	Thrasher (R)	95%	94%

More on the Web at aif.com/votes.shtm.





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name/Party	2013	History	Name/Party	2013	History	Name/Party	2013	History
Adkins (R)	98%	97%	Hood (R)	98%	98%	Rodriguez (D)	59%	59%
Ahern (R)	98%	98%	Hutson (R)	98%	98%	Rader (D)	74%	68%
Albritton (R)	99%	99%	Hager (R)	98%	98%	Raschein (R)	98%	98%
Antone (D)	79%	78%	Harrell (R)	96%	96%	Ray (R)	98%	98%
Artiles (R)	98%	96%	Holder (R)	98%	97%	Reed (D)	77%	67%
Bracy (D)	72%	72%	Hooper (R)	98%	95%	Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D)	71%	56%
Baxley (R)	98%	97%	Hudson (R)	97%	97%	Renuart (R)	97%	95%
Berman (D)	72%	58%	Ingram (R)	99%	99%	Richardson (D)	81%	81%
Beshears (R)	97%	97%	Jones, M. (D)	75%	59%	Roberson (R)	95%	96%
Bileca (R)	98%	99%	Jones, S. (D)	83%	83%	Rogers (D)	78%	60%
Boyd (R)	99%	99%	Kerner (D)	72%	72%	Rooney (R)	99%	99%
Brodeur (R)	98%	99%	Lee (D)	88%	88%	Rouson (D)	79%	63%
Broxson (R)	98%	99%	Larosa (R)	99%	99%	Santiago (R)	98%	98%
Clelland (D)	84%	84%	Moskowitz (D)	81%	81%	Saunders (D)	68%	68%
Cummings (R)	97%	97%	Magar (R)	97%	97%	Spano (R)	97%	97%
Caldwell (R)	99%	98%	Mayfield (R)	98%	98%	Stewart (D)	82%	82%
Campbell (D)	67%	60%	Mcburney (R)	98%	96%	Stone (R)	99%	99%
Castor Dentel (D)	73%	73%	McGhee (D)	67%	67%	Schenck (R)	98%	96%
Clarke-Reed (D)	82%	56%	Mckeel (R)	98%	97%	Schwartz (D)	53%	54%
Coley (R)	97%	97%	Metz (R)	98%	98%	Slosberg (D)	68%	60%
Combee (R)	99%	99%	Moraitis (R)	94%	97%	Smith (R)	99%	99%
Corcoran (R)	97%	98%	Nelson (R)	97%	96%	Stafford (D)	63%	49%
Crisafulli (R)	99%	98%	Nunez (R)	98%	98%	Stark (D)	79%	79%
Cruz (D)	69%	56%	O'Toole (R)	97%	97%	Steube (R)	97%	98%
Danish (D)	81%	81%	Oliva (R)	97%	95%	Taylor (D)	84%	62%
Dudley (D)	75%	75%	Powell (D)	73%	73%	Thurston (D)	68%	60%
Davis (R)	98%	99%	Pafford (D)	54%	46%	Tobia (R)	95%	97%
Diaz, J. (R)	98%	98%	Passidomo (R)	97%	98%	Torres (D)	75%	75%
Diaz, M. (R)	98%	98%	Patronis (R)	96%	95%	Trujillo (R)	97%	97%
Eagle (R)	97%	97%	Perry (R)	97%	97%	Van Zant (R)	96%	95%
Edwards (D)	95%	95%	Peters (R)	98%	98%	Waldman (D)	79%	67%
Fitzenhagen (R)	98%	98%	Pigman (R)	97%	97%	Watson, B. (D)	71%	48%
Fasano (R)	94%	85%	Pilon (R)	98%	96%	Watson, C. (D)	84%	84%
Fresen (R)	99%	97%	Porter (R)	99%	99%	Weatherford (R)	98%	96%
Fullwood (D)	75%	65%	Precourt (R)	98%	96%	Williams (D)	80%	61%
Gaetz (R)	95%	96%	Pritchett (D)	71%	71%	Wood (R)	97%	98%
Gibbons (D)	81%	69%	Raburn (R)	99%	99%	Workman (R)	98%	98%
Gonzalez (R)	98%	95%	Rangel (D)	79%	79%	Young (R)	98%	100%
Goodson (R)	97%	96%	Raulerson (R)	99%	99%	Zimmermann (D)	74%	74%
Grant (R)	98%	97%	Rodrigues (R)	93%	93%			

Rep. Clay Ford passed away during the 2013 Legislative Session.

2013 Bill Index

Bill	Page	Bill	Page
BUSINESS REGULATION		HEALTH CARE	
HB 85/SB 84 – Public Private Partnerships	13	HB 239 – Practice of Optometry	21
HB 655 – Political Subdivisions	13	SB 398/HB 625 – Physicians Assistants.....	21
HB 807 – Emergency Communication System.....	13	HB 413 – Physical Therapy.....	22
HB 973 – Low-Voltage Systems	13	SB 648 – Health Insurance Marketing.....	22
HB 1125/SB 1216 – Employers and Employees.....	14	HB 939 – Medicaid Recoveries	22
SB 1666/HB 87 – Mortgage Foreclosures.....	14	SB 1816 – Health Care	22
		SB 1842 – Health Insurance.....	22
		HB 7169 – Fla. Health Choices Plus.....	23
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		INSURANCE	
HB 357 – Manufacturing Development	14	SB 468/HB 335 – Property & Casualty Insurance	23
HB 391/SB 518 – Exemptions from Tax on Sales, Use & Other	14	HB 553 – Workers’ Compensation System Admin	23
Transactions		SB 662 – Workers’ Compensation	23
HB 515/SB 98 – New Markets Development.....	15	SB 810 – Wrap-up Insurance.....	23
HB 663/SB 1012 – Economic Gardening.....	15	HB 835 – Citizens Property Insurance Corp	24
HB 7007 – Economic Development.....	16	HB 1107/SB 1262 – Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.....	24
		SB 1770 – Property Insurance	24
EDUCATION		IT GOVERNANCE	
HB 21 – Background Screening	16	HB 1309 – Procurement of Commodities & Contractual Services.....	25
SB 1076 – K-20 Education	16	SB 1506/HB 5011 – State Technology Working Capital TF	25
HB 7009 – Charter Schools.....	16		
HB 7029 – Digital Learning	16	LEGAL & JUDICIAL	
HB 7091 – K-20 Education.....	17	SB 186/HB 775 – Jurisdiction of the Courts.....	25
HB 7165 – Early Learning.....	17	HB 7015 – Expert Testimony	25
		TAXATION & BUDGET	
ENERGY		SB 290/HB 435 – Taxes on Prepaid Calling Arrangements	26
SB 338 – Theft of Utility Services.....	17	SB 316 – Taxes	26
HB 579 – Natural Gas Motor Fuel.....	18	SB 1516/HB 7099 – Internal Revenue Code	26
SB 682 – Fossil Fuel Combustion	18	SB 1832 – Taxation.....	26
		HB 4013 – Tax Refund Programs	26
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY		TELECOMMUNICATIONS	
HB 203 – Agricultural Lands.....	18	SB 52 – Use of Wireless communications Devices While Driving.....	27
SB 364 – Consumptive Use Permits For	18		
Development of Alternative Water Supply			
HB 415/SB 554 – Brownfields.....	19		
HB 713 – Water Quality Credit Training.....	19		
SB 948/HB 1063 – Water Supply.....	19		
HB 999/SB 1684 – Environmental Regulation.....	20		
SB 1106 – Agritourism	20		
HB 1393/SB 654 – Agricultural Storage & Shipping.....	20		
SB 1806 – Total Maximum Daily Loads.....	20		
SB 1808/HB 7115 – Numeric Nutrient Criteria.....	21		
HB 7065 – Everglades Improvement & Management.....	21		

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



The Bills

Voting Records was compiled using committee, amendment, and floor votes cast.

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

BUSINESS REGULATION

HB 85 Relating to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota)

HB 85 creates an alternative procurement process and requirements for public-private partnerships (PPPs), and creates a Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force which would provide guidance on how to implement PPPs to foster uniformity across the state. The bill also authorizes the use of PPPs for purposes of county transportation facilities.

AIF supported HB 85 and its companion, SB 84 by Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R-Miami), because they encourage private sector investment into local infrastructure projects across the state. Public-Private Partnerships have proven successful in aiding government needs for infrastructure project advancement utilizing private contractors, financiers and related industries.

HB 85 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-223.

HB 655 Relating to Political Subdivisions by Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando)

HB 655 and its Senate companion by Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs), SB 726, amend current law to further restrict political subdivisions from requiring an employer to provide employment benefits not required by state or federal law. Further, it is designed to block local governments from enacting sick-time rules, such as the one pending in Orange County.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because it is necessary to avoid what could become a patchwork of wage and benefit rules that may drive businesses away from Florida.

HB 655 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-200.

HB 807 Relating to Emergency Communication System by Rep. Greg Steube (R-Sarasota) and SB 1070 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla)

If passed, this legislation would have reduced the current charge for 911 services on all phone lines, including mobile, from the current \$0.050 to \$0.046. In addition, the legislation would have implemented the findings of the E911 Board, allowing for the collection of the 911 fee at the retail point of sale for prepaid wireless phone plans. Implementing a point of sale collection method for prepaid plans and enabling the fee to be collected from everyone with access to 911 would make it possible to reduce the fee for all consumers. The bill would have also put priority on allowing counties to use funds to upgrade and replace 911 systems for the next generation.

AIF SUPPORTS lessening the 911 surcharge on Florida's phone users, as well as supports a robust and modern emergency communications system vital to the welfare of Florida's business community.

Both bills died in committee.

HB 973 Relating to Low-Voltage Systems by Rep. Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford)

This bill and its companion, SB 1442 by Sen. Tom Lee (R-Brandon), sought to preempt local government regulation of alarm system contracting and to make uniform the regulatory aspect of such contracting while allowing local governments to maintain varying permit fees if below a certain amount. The bill also provides an exception from alarm system regulatory requirements for certain in-state workers not accessing customer premises or alarm codes.

AIF SUPPORTS this bill because it establishes a statewide standardized rate which would reduce the current fees imposed by certain local governments.

SB 973 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-203.

“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

 **HB 1125 Relating to Employers and Employees by Rep. Tom Goodson (R-Titusville) and SB 1216 by Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)**

HB 1125 and its companion, SB 1216 by Sen. Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park), would have established a statewide system of addressing wage theft complaints through the county courts. Further, this legislation addressed wage protection by creating a judicial process giving workers the ability to address their grievances in our court system. It would have provided consistency for both employees and employers.

AIF SUPPORTS any legislation aimed at protecting the wages of Florida employees while supporting employers in their quest to maintain a productive work environment.

HB 1125 died in committee and SB 1216 died on the Senate calendar.

 **SB 1666 Relating to Mortgage Foreclosures by Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater)**

Due to a provision within the legislation that would allow notices to be posted online in lieu of publication in any other form of media, AIF opposed the bill in the Sen-

ate Banking & Insurance Committee. However, a committee substitute was filed in the Senate Judiciary Committee to remove the harmful language thus making the bill no longer detrimental to Florida’s businesses.

To promote greater transparency and acknowledge the “digital divide,” AIF continues to support requirements that public notices be printed in local newspapers as defined by Chapter 50, Florida Statutes, as well as displayed on the Internet.

SB 1666 was substituted for HB 87 by Rep. Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-137.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

 **HB 357 Relating to Manufacturing Development by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) **PRIORITY****

HB 357 and its Senate companion by Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton), SB 582, authorize local governments to voluntarily adopt, by ordinance, a Local Manufacturing Development Program that would allow manufacturers to obtain master plan approval for manufacturing sites. The agreed upon master plan would set outer limits on the site that would remain applicable over the term of the master plan. Once the master plan is approved, the manufacturer would not need further local approval for future expansions or modifications (except for building code, life, or safety issues). Manufacturers residing in participating counties will also have access to a coordinated permitting process at the state level for the most common state permits. The bill also enables participating local governments to be self-identified as having a particular interest in having manufacturing facilities in their jurisdictions. Enterprise Florida can use this information when recruiting and placing manufacturing facilities. In essence, this creates some level of competition among counties for new manufacturing facilities.

HB 357 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-224.

 **HB 391 Relating to Exemptions from Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions by Rep. MaryLynn Magar (R-Tequesta) & SB 518 by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) **PRIORITY****

Currently, manufacturers must demonstrate a five percent productivity requirement to qualify for a sales tax exemption. The current situation puts Florida at a significant disadvantage among its closest competing states for the recruitment and retention of manufacturers. For many large manufactur-

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2013 Session Priorities.



Bill supported by AIF.



Bill opposed by AIF.

ers the imposition of the sales tax on equipment purchases is a multi-million cost issue. SB 518 and its companion, HB 391 by Rep. Magar, would expand the sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment for new or expanding businesses to all businesses by eliminating the 5 percent productivity requirement for expanding businesses to qualify for the tax exemption. The bill removes the limitation on the maximum amount of tax refunds an individual participant of either the Qualified Defense Contractor and Spaceflight Business Tax Refund program, or the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program may receive in all fiscal years.

AIF supported this legislation because it would have substantially improved Florida's competitive edge with other states by significantly decreasing operating costs for the state's manufacturers.

SB 518 died on the Senate calendar and HB 391 died in the House on second reading. However, the bill language was adopted into HB 7007 in its entirety by an amendment introduced by Sen. Hukill.



Governor Rick Scott addresses AIF's Manufacturing, Aerospace & Defense Council.

HB 515 Relating to New Markets Development Program by Rep. Jose Oliva (R-Hialeah) and SB 98 by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) **PRIORITY**

This legislation authorizes another round of incentives under the successful New Markets Development Program, which has been encouraging economic development in our state's low-income communities since 2010.

AIF SUPPORTS Florida's continued participation in the New Markets Development Program as it has created or retained over 1,400 jobs and is anticipated to create 8,000 jobs by 2016.

Both bills died in committee.

HB 663 Relating to Economic Gardening by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) and SB 1012 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla)

HB 663 and its companion, SB 1012 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla), would have amended the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program to remove the word "Pilot," thus making the Technical Assistance Program permanent, rather than temporary. This program has been in place since 2009 and is designed to provide low interest loans for infrastructure needs related to adding jobs and providing technical assistance to businesses with items related to the

company's growth. Different than many incentive programs, Economic Gardening is designed to increase the number of jobs by encouraging existing, smaller Florida businesses to expand. With passage of HB 663, businesses eligible for assistance are those that have between 10-99 employees and have generated at least \$1 million, but no more than \$50 million, in annual revenue. It directs the Department of Economic Opportunity to form a contract with the University of Central Florida's Institute of Economic Gardening to implement the Technical Assistance Program, and revises the business eligibility requirements to accommodate slightly larger companies that were previously ineligible for the program. HB 663 also appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund. These funds will go to the University of Central Florida to fund the Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Program and implement the Act during FY 2013-2014.

Economic Gardening has been an initiative AIF has supported since it was originally enacted in 2009. While recruiting companies to the state is a vital part of the state's economic growth, so too is helping existing small businesses expand and become economic engines in their community.

HB 663 and SB 1012 both died in committee.



Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Clearwater) speaks to AIF members at the 2013 Pre-Session Briefing in Tallahassee.

EDUCATION

HB 21 Relating to Background Screening for Noninstructional Contractors on School Grounds by Rep. Keith Perry (R-Gainesville)

HB 21 and its Senate companion, SB 318 by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring), would require the Department of Education (DOE) to create a uniform, statewide identification badge to be worn by non-instructional contractors signifying that a contractor has met specified requirements and background checks.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because it streamlines and makes uniform the ID requirements for non-instructional contractors working on school grounds.

HB 21 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-073.

SB 1076 Relating to K-20 Education by Sen. John Legg (R-Lutz)

The bill revises current career education programs and targets funding in an effort to better prepare and align Florida students to join the workforce. Specifically, the bill will encourage students' development of technology knowledge in pre-kindergarten through grade 12, thus effectively increasing opportunities in which students earn industry certifications in high school and beyond. Further, it designates three areas for university performance funding: computer and information technology (IT), high demand programs as identified by the Board of Governors (BOG) using a gap analysis, and cloud virtualization or related large data management.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation aimed at preparing Florida's students for a successful transition into the workforce.

SB 1076 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-27.

HB 7009 Relating to Charter Schools by Rep. George Moraitis (R-Ft. Lauderdale)

The bill includes several provisions that increase charter school accountability and transparency while also offering more flexibility. Later in the session, Rep. Moraitis attached an amendment that eliminates the ability of a charter school to access unused and underused school district facilities.

HB 7007 Relating to Economic Development by Rep. Carlos Trujillo (R-Doral) **PRIORITY**

Serving as the 2013 House economic development package, HB 7007 set in place regular reporting mechanisms of state economic incentive activities and requires reports to be made to the Legislature throughout the year. AIF successfully lobbied language that was rolled into the Governor's sales tax repeal on manufacturing equipment purchases contained in HB 7007. The language is to preserve the current law relating to a manufacturers' ability to receive a refund of sales taxes paid after the purchase of equipment. AIF has relentlessly advocated on behalf of Florida's business community to foster economic development initiatives. AIF would like to thank all the legislators who tirelessly supported this initiative; Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange), Rep. Mary-Lynn Magar (R-Tequesta) and Rep. Carlos Trujillo (R-Doral).

AIF SUPPORTS the state's economic development agency, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in its mission to extend economic opportunity and activity across Florida. Member companies of AIF have served as a voice and resource for Florida in recent years as the state has redefined its economic incentive activities. Leading the nation in sustainable job growth is the goal of Governor Scott and AIF.

HB 7007 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-039.

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2013 Session Priorities.

 Bill supported by AIF.  Bill opposed by AIF.

AIF SUPPORTS removing artificial enrollment caps that prevent charter schools from meeting the demand of students placed on waiting lists.

HB 7009 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-250.

HB 7029 Relating to Digital Learning by Rep. Manny Diaz (R-Hialeah) PRIORITY

HB 7029 and its companion, SB 904 by Sen. Jeffrey Brandes (R-St. Petersburg), sought to increase access to digital learning and mixed learning options. First, the bill will allow districts to provide part-time visual instruction for K-12 students in all courses, rather than only those courses measured through a statewide assessment. HB 7029 also removes blended learning courses from the definition of core-curricula classes and clarifies that district innovation schools are exempt from class size requirements.

AIF SUPPORTS establishing a Digital Learning Initiative to offer infrastructure, bandwidth, and mobile devices equipping all Florida students with access to quality, digital learning opportunities.

HB 7029 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-225.

HB 7091 Relating to K-20 Education by Rep. Elizabeth Porter (R-Lake City)

If passed, HB 7091 would have created three new standard high school diploma designations: College and Career, Industry, and Scholar. By creating these separate designations, it would have established a system to develop career education courses enabling students to earn credit in career courses while earning core academic credit for graduation. The bill also included a financial literacy requirement as a .5 credit hour course.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that promotes an increased course offering, thus preparing Florida's students for the workforce.

HB 7091 died in the House unfinished business calendar.

HB 7165 Relating to Early Learning by Rep. Marlene O'Toole (R-Lady Lake) PRIORITY

HB 7165 and its companion, SB 1722 by Sen. John Legg (R-Lutz), focus on four items: governance of the Office of Early Learning; accountability for Early Learning Coalitions, the Office of Early Learning and providers across the state; and transparency in spending for all three regarding the use of public funds. The bill will place the Office of Early Learning within the Department of Education (DOE), while granting autonomy from much of the DOE oversight structure. The bill also establishes statute roles and responsibilities for the Office of Early Learning, Early Learning Coalitions and program providers, which were previously left to the Office in rule-making authority. Further, it phases in spending caps and restrictions for coalitions across the state.

AIF SUPPORTS early learning programs as they are essential to providing support to working families across the state, as well as developing a productive for future Florida's workforce.

HB 7165 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-252.

ENERGY

SB 338 Relating to Theft of Utility Services by Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey)

SB 338 and its companion, HB 191 by Rep. Daniel Raulerson (R-Plant City), will increase criminal penalties for the theft of utility services. Specifically, the bill provides that thefts of utility services are punishable as theft under the general theft

Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) gives an update on the Workers' Compensation issue for AIF members.





Steve Lezman, Director of Governmental Affairs for PepsiCo and Chair of the AIF Manufacturing, Aerospace & Defense Council.

AIF SUPPORTS any efforts by the Legislature to provide Florida's businesses with a less expensive and cleaner alternative motor fuel.

HB 579 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-198.

 **SB 682 Relating to Fossil Fuel Combustion Products by Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey)**

Along with its House companion, HB 659 by Rep. Tom Goodson (R-Titusville), SB 682 addresses the continued use of coal ash in many products and creates a regulatory program under the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the beneficial use of Fossil Fuel Combustion Products. This bill will let the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) know that Florida wants to continue to use coal ash in various types of products. It also saves energy while producing revenue by using coal ash in products rather than incurring the cost of disposal.

AIF SUPPORTS any legislation promoting the beneficial use of Fossil Fuel Combustion Products in order to save Florida's businesses from the costly disposal of such resources.

SB 682 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-068

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

 **HB 203 Relating to Agricultural Lands by Rep. Halsey Beshears (R-Monticello)**

The purpose of this legislation is to prevent double regulations by governments. For example, if an agricultural activity is regulated by either the federal or state governments, then this bill prevents a local government from also charging a fee to regulate it. The current law applies to just Florida counties, but some municipalities have expanded their boundaries to include farm operations and are applying fees for certain activities. The Senate companion measure, SB 1190, was sponsored by Sen. Jeffrey Brandes (R-St. Petersburg).

AIF SUPPORTS legislation preventing municipalities from placing another layer of regulation, currently covered by federal or state regulations, on Florida agriculture.

HB 203 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-239.

statute. As a result of this change, persons committing theft of utilities will not necessarily commit a first degree misdemeanor. The bill also increases the civil penalty for a person violating the utility theft statute from the current three times the value of stolen services or \$1,000 (whichever is greater) to three times the value stolen or \$3,000 (whichever is greater).

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because it will hopefully dissuade thieves from targeting Florida businesses.

SB 338 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-030.

 **HB 579 Relating to Natural Gas Motor Fuel by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY**

HB 579 and its companion, SB 560 by Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey), will replace the annual decal and fee system with a motor fuel equivalent gallon form of taxation beginning January 1, 2019. The legislation further requires anyone selling natural gas fuel in Florida to obtain a natural gas retailer license from the Department of Revenue. There are currently 32 natural gas fueling stations in Florida and, with the development in the United States of proved reserves of natural gas, the potential for a less expensive and cleaner alternative to other motor fuels is expanded in this legislation.

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2013 Session Priorities.



Bill supported by AIF.



Bill opposed by AIF.

👍 SB 364 Relating to Consumptive Use Permits for Development of Alternative Water Supplies by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) **PRIORITY**

Also known as the “30 year alternative water supply permitting bill,” SB 364 and its House companion, HB 109 by Rep. Dana Young (R-Tampa), expands the water supply and reduces the cost of bonding such projects. They direct that the alternative water supply (AWS) development projects approved on or after July 1, 2013, are eligible for an extended consumptive use permit (CUP) of at least 30 years. These permits will be subject to compliance reports and water management district (WMD) water shortage orders. Under the bill, extended permits may not allow the use of non-brackish groundwater supplies or non-alternative water supplies.

AIF SUPPORTS state funding for alternative water supply programs and believes the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund (WPSTF) must be fully funded so alternative water supply projects, such as reclaimed water projects, desalination efforts and the collection and storage of rainwater, can be built to produce additional and sustainable future water supplies.

SB 364 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-169.

👍 HB 415 Relating to Brownfields by Rep. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast)

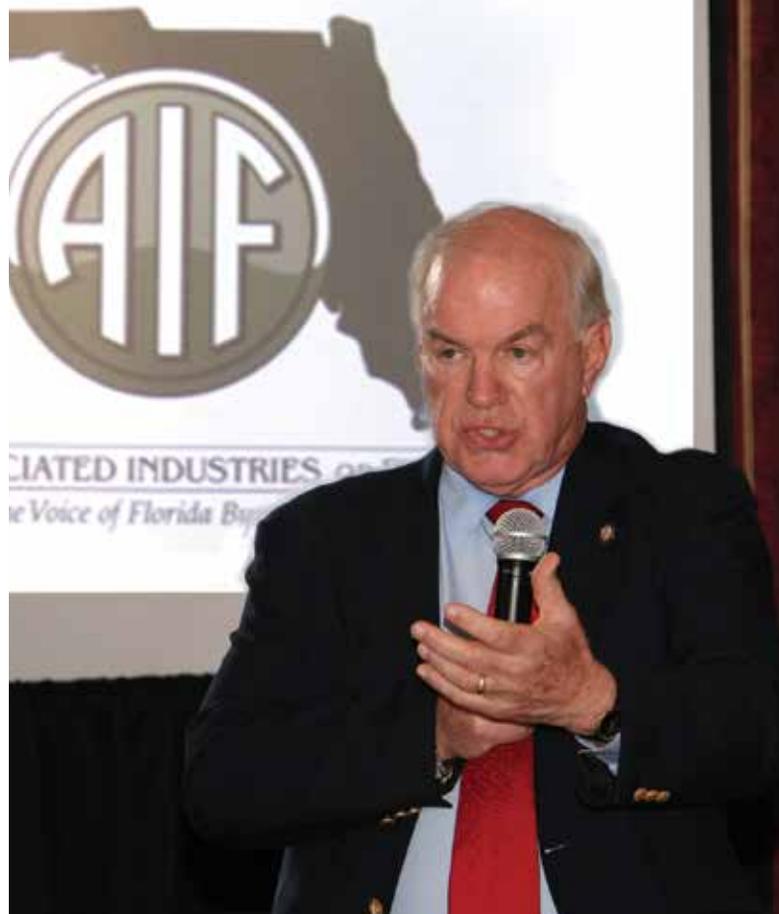
HB 415 and its companion, SB 554 by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne), specify that redeveloping Brownfield areas can be a significant element in other revitalization areas, such as community redevelopment areas, enterprise zones, and closed military bases. Further, they would require a local government to comply with certain provisions when designating a Brownfield area. Of these provisions, it allows for a public hearing when an area is going to be classified as a Brownfield.

AIF SUPPORTS any legislation promoting Florida’s Brownfield Program as it provides a variety of financial and regulatory incentives encouraging parties to voluntarily clean up and redevelop Brownfield sites. By restoring Brownfield sites, the properties get back on the tax rolls quicker and become useful to the community.

Both bills died in committee.

👍 HB 713 Relating to Water Quality Credit Trading by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-Sebring) **PRIORITY**

This bill and its Senate companion, SB 754 by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring), expand a pilot program to a statewide water quality credit trading program. Participation in this program is completely voluntary. The program is market-



Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) gives an update on important business issues.

based and allows businesses to buy trading credits (pollutant reductions) from others which saves them money rather than implementing a more expensive cleanup project.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because establishing a water quality credit trading program could reduce the costs of pollutant reduction activities to businesses.

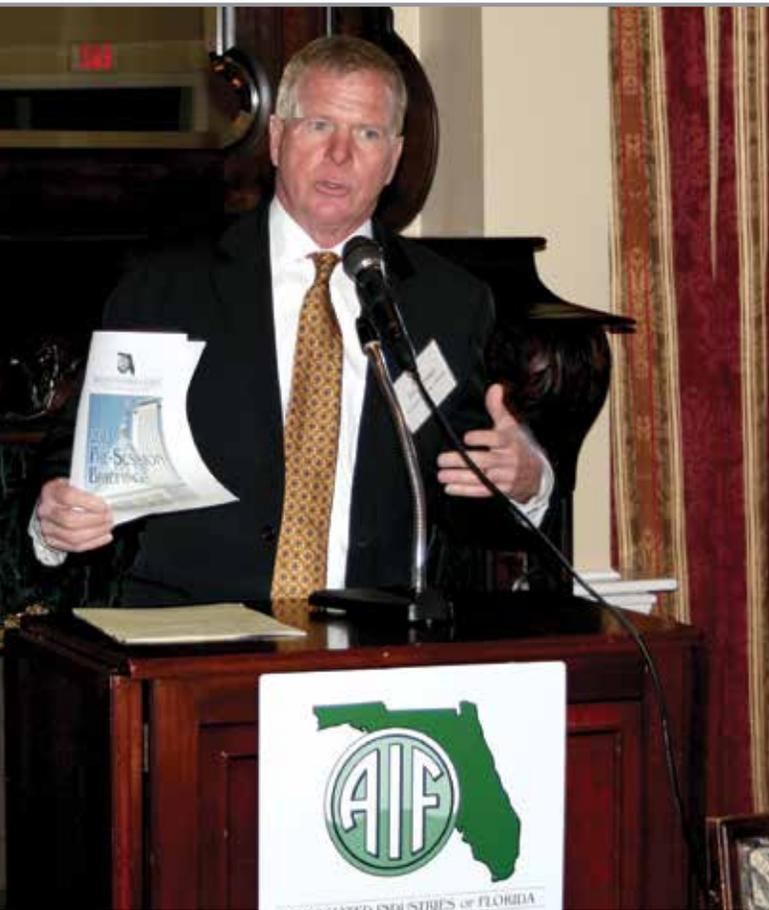
HB 713 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-146.

👍 SB 948 Relating to Water Supply by Sen. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring)

SB 948 and its companion, HB 1063 by Rep. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast), authorize the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACCS) to collect water use data from farmers throughout the state and provide it to Florida’s water management districts. It also allows the Department to create a water supply planning program.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation and state funding of scientifically based water supply planning data collection as a way to better understand Florida’s long term water supply needs.

SB 948 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-177.



AIF President & CEO Tom Feeney at the 2013 Pre-Session Briefing in Tallahassee.

adopting ordinances or policies designed to prohibit or limit agritourism activity on land deemed “agricultural” by the county property appraiser. The bill also clarifies the definition of “agritourism activity,” and establishes a limit on the liability for the landowner and the employees if a notice of risk is posted on the land.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that allows Florida farmers to safely expand their businesses through the use of agritourism.

SB 1106 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-179.

 **HB 1393 Relating to Agricultural Storage & Shipping by Rep. Halsey Beshears (R-Monticello)**

Along with its companion bill, SB 654 by Sen. Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee), HB 1393 expands the current laws protecting owners of certain containers to include those used for storage and transportation of agricultural or other commodities. It expands protection to owners of plastic bulk containers and certain criminal penalties are provided.

AIF SUPPORTS this bill because companies are experiencing theft of their agriculture containers and expanded penalties in the bill will address this problem.

HB 1393 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-211.

 **SB 1806 Relating to Total Maximum Daily Loads by the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation PRIORITY**

This legislation exempts the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rules from legislative ratification. The TMDL process is part of the technology used in establishing numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) in a water body, stream, or river.

AIF SUPPORTS water quality legislation that is site specific and science-based. The TMDL program is one of these types of programs.

SB 1806 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-070.

 **SB 1808 Relating to Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) by the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation & Conservation PRIORITY**

SB 1808 and its House companion, HB 7115 by Rep. Jake Raburn (R-Valrico), provide guidance for setting numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) for flowing waters of the state. Florida is currently facing the possibility of having to meet strict water quality standards regarding NNC (for nitrogen and phosphorous) in all water bodies as a result of a lawsuit by

 **HB 999 Relating to Environmental Regulation by Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City)**

HB 999 and its Senate companion, SB 1684 by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne), served as the major regulation reform bills of the 2013 Legislative Session. The bill amends and revises numerous provisions relating to development permit applications; marinas, boat yards, general permits for special events, well permits, regional water supply planning and agriculture water supply demand projections.

AIF SUPPORTS the sponsors’ efforts to help streamline the permitting process for Florida’s businesses.

HB 999 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-092.

 **SB 1106 Relating to Agritourism by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla)**

Thanks to Sen. Hays and Rep. Holly Merrill Raschein (R-Key Largo), Florida’s farmers can freely practice agritourism. Agritourism refers to the practice of attracting tourists to agricultural areas, usually for recreational or educational purposes. Agritourism provides Florida farmers with an alternative and innovative way to expand their incomes either through activities on the farm, or employment activities off of the farm. This legislation prohibits a local government from

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2013 Session Priorities.

 Bill supported by AIF.  Bill opposed by AIF.

radical environmental organizations. The proposed criteria are technically and scientifically flawed, as well as economically unattainable by the business and public sectors. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued new rules to help Florida achieve better water quality standards by using biological confirmation and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). Since the new rule will have an impact of more than one million dollars over the next five years, the Florida Legislature will have to ratify the rule.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts by the Florida Legislature to ratify the proposed numeric nutrient criteria rule proposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and thanks those involved in the passage of this initiative.

SB 1808 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-071.

 **HB 7065 Relating to Everglades Improvement & Management by Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Lehigh Acres) PRIORITY**

This legislation provides legislative finding that implementation of best management practices (BMPs), funded by the owners and users of land in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), effectively reduces nutrients in waters flowing into the Everglades Protection Area. To date, in their continued commitment to the Everglades, farmers and landowners in the region have spent \$200 million on BMPs. The legislation does not raise the current \$25 per acre Agricultural Privilege Tax that farmers and landowners pay the state. The legislation also moves towards completing the Everglades Restoration plan.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation necessary to authorize funding, and to begin implementing the revised \$880 million State Everglades Restoration Plan that Florida has already committed to complete. AIF opposes any increases in the Agricultural Privilege Tax and supports the inclusion of provisions in the legislation that requires the appropriate state agency to conduct a Use Attainability Analysis at the completion of construction projects to determine if the nutrient limits are attainable.

HB 7065 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-059.

HEALTH CARE

 **HB 239 Relating to Practice of Optometry by Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Lehigh Acres)**

HB 239 allows certified optometrists who complete additional coursework and pass an examination to provide a broader range of services, including administering and prescribing oral pharmaceutical agents. For the last several years,

“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.

optometrists have sought to increase their scope of practice, noting they can provide additional services for patients at a lower cost.

AIF SUPPORTS any legislation allowing trained, professional health care providers to deliver basic care they may currently be prohibited from providing due to regulatory licensing barriers.

HB 239 has been approved by the Governor and has been assigned Ch. No. 2013-26.

 **SB 398 Relating to Physicians Assistants by Sen. Aaron Bean (R-Jacksonville)**

Along with its House companion, HB 625 by Rep. Ronald “Doc” Renuart (R-Ponte Vedra Beach), SB 398 clarifies the services physician assistants (PAs) are authorized to execute. Specifically, the bill clarifies that PAs can order medications for a supervisory physician’s patient in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or mobile surgical facility.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation allowing trained, professional health care providers to deliver basic care they may currently be prohibited from providing due to regulatory licensing barriers.

SB 398 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-127.

 **HB 413 Relating to Physical Therapy by Rep. Travis Hutson (R-Palm Coast)**

This bill allows Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNPs) to authorize a physical therapist (PT) to implement a treatment plan for a patient. Further, the bill clarifies that

PTs may continue to implement their own treatment plans or those provided by a practitioner of record as long as the patient's condition is within the scope of physical therapy practice and the treatment timeframe is under 21 days.

AIF supports legislation allowing trained, professional health care providers to deliver basic care they may currently be prohibited from providing due to regulatory licensing barriers.

HB 413 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-197.

 **SB 648 Relating to Health Insurance Marketing Materials by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**

The bill repeals a health insurer's obligation to submit marketing materials to the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) prior to using them. Current law requires that each marketing communication to be used in the marketing of a health benefit plan be submitted for review by the OIR prior to its use. Further, the bill maintains the authority of OIR to review the marketing communications and disclosure statements as part of complaint investigations or market conduct reviews.

AIF SUPPORTS measures that will streamline regulatory requirements on Florida businesses.

SB 648 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-174.

 **HB 939 Relating to Medicaid Recoveries by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-Sebring)**

The bill would increase accountability in the state's Medicaid program by increasing the length of time for retaining all medical and Medicaid related records from 5 to 6 years for Medicaid providers; requiring Medicaid providers to report a change in any principal of the provider to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) in writing no later than 30 days after the change occurs; providing a definition for principals of a provider with a controlling interest for hospitals and nursing homes for purposes of conducting criminal background checks; authorizing, rather than requiring, AHCA to perform onsite inspections of a service location of a provider applying for a provider agreement before entering into the agreement; requiring AHCA to impose the sanction of termination for cause against a provider that voluntarily relinquishes their Medicaid provider number when being investigated; and clarifying the scope of immunity from civil liability for persons who report fraudulent acts or suspected fraudulent acts and providing a definition of fraudulent acts. A number of clarifying amendments were added throughout the legislative session, including one by Rep. Mia Jones

(D-Jacksonville), which would allow AHCA to enroll Florida-licensed out-of-state providers if they are providing expert opinions through telemedicine.

AIF SUPPORTS passage of legislation that would lessen incidences of fraud within the state's Medicaid program which could lower the amount by which Florida employers subsidize that program.

HB 939 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-150.

 **SB 1816 Relating to Health Care by Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City)**

If passed, this bill would have established a state premium assistance program, called Healthy Florida, to help low income Floridians purchase private health insurance coverage. This legislation was modeled after a plan that the Arkansas Legislature approved in late March. Further, it would have also provided for Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs) to be used to encourage healthy behavior. Enrollees would have been required to participate in cost sharing in the program.

SB 1816 was substituted for HB 7169 by Rep. Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park).

 **SB 1842 Relating to Health Insurance by Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs)**

The bill, for purposes of implementing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), addresses conflicts between federal and Florida law. In doing so, SB 1842 makes numerous changes to the Florida Insurance Code related to the requirements of the PPACA that applies to health insurers and policies.

SB 1842 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-101.

 **HB 7169 Relating to Florida Health Choices Plus Program by Rep. Travis Cummings (R-Orange Park)**

If passed, HB 7169 would have created the Florida Health Choices Plus (FHC Plus) program for low income parents and Social Security Income-eligible disabled adults with incomes under 100% of poverty and who are not eligible for Medicaid. The current Florida Health Choices Corporation, an online marketplace for purchasing health care coverage and services, would have administered the program which was estimated to have covered approximately 115,000 Floridians if approved. The cost of the program was estimated at \$25 million for the state's contribution to the enrollee accounts and the cost for FHC to administer the program.

HB 7169 died in the House returning messages.



Speaker Designate Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) talks about Florida House priorities to AIF members.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation intended to streamline the workers' compensation system, allowing the reduction of rates while avoiding unintended consequences that could jeopardize rate affordability, coverage liability and market stability.

HB 553 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-141.

 **SB 662 Relating to Workers' Compensation by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) PRIORITY**

The bill addresses a drug repackaging loophole in Florida's workers' compensation system. SB 662 establishes the maximum charges permitted for prescription medications. Further, the legislation does not increase costs or delay medical treatment to injured workers. AIF supported this legislation because it addresses this loophole and will maintain the necessary balance to Florida's workers' compensation system.

SB 662 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-131.

 **SB 810 Relating to Wrap-Up Insurance Policies by Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) PRIORITY**

The bill allows insurance companies to offer a deductible feature for a workers' compensation policy which covers all parties performing work on a major construction site. Florida businesses will have the option to substantially reduce insurance costs for new facilities' construction by purchasing a wrap-up policy with a deductible. In addition, a deductible creates a direct monetary incentive for a construction project owner or general contractor to maintain a safe work site for employees.

AIF SUPPORTS measures that will streamline regulatory requirements on Florida businesses.

SB 810 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-175.

 **HB 835 Relating to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation by Rep. John Wood (R-Winter Haven) PRIORITY**

If passed, the bill provided for a number of positive reforms to Citizens, including the creation of an Inspector General for Citizens who reports to the Financial Services Commission and precluding Citizens from insuring property with a dwelling replacement cost or a condominium unit that has a dwelling and contents replacement cost of \$500,000, implemented over a 6 year time period. It precluded Citizens from insuring major structures for which a building permit for new construction is applied for on or after July 1, 2014,

INSURANCE

 **SB 468 Relating to Property & Casualty Insurance Rates & Forms by Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**

SB 468 and its companion, HB 335 by Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton), allow a property and casualty insurer to file a new policy or changes to an existing policy as an informational filing with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) in lieu of filing for approval prior to use. The bill will substantially reduce a backlog of form filings awaiting approval by the OIR. Thus, the bill will allow insurers to react timely to the insurance needs of the business community and will enhance competition among insurers.

AIF SUPPORTS the passage of legislation improving the regulatory environment for insurers and reducing the cost of insurance to businesses.

SB 468 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-066.

 **HB 553 Relating to Workers' Compensation System Administration by Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) PRIORITY**

AIF is proud to announce the passage of HB 553, sponsored by Rep. Hager and Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton). The bill amends various compliance and enforcement tools the Florida Division of Workers' Compensation uses to effectively administer the state's workers' compensation system for employers, carriers and health care providers.

and which is located seaward of the coastal construction line or within the Coastal Barrier Resources System, authorizing Citizens to require repair of damaged property, instead of paying to replace. It also authorized insurers taking policies out of Citizens to use Citizens' policy forms for 3 years, allowing these insurers to insure the property with reduced coverage.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to return Citizens to an insurer of last resort. 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.

HB 835 died in the House on second reading.

 **HB 1107 Relating to Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund by Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) and SB 1262 by Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) PRIORITY**

If passed, this legislation would have incrementally reduced the size of Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (FHCF) so it more accurately reflected the current economic reality. It would also reduce the likelihood of post "catastrophic events" assessments that would be passed onto all property casualty lines of insurance (except workers' compensation and medical malpractice).

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to restore the Florida Hurricane Cat Fund to a safety buffer for Andrew-sized storms, thereby ensuring it can meet its obligations in the event of a storm, and reduce the hurricane taxes funding its operations, as well as its possible deficits.

HB 1107 died in the House and SB 1262 died in committee.

 **SB 1770 Relating to Property Insurance by the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee and Sen. David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs) PRIORITY**

The reduction of potential hurricane taxes on business' property and casualty insurance premiums to fund Citizens' and Cat Fund deficits is an ongoing AIF priority. SB 1770 enacts new provisions which will help in achieving this goal for Citizens and extends the Cat Fund assessment exemption for Medical Malpractice until May 31, 2016. Citizens' deficit mitigation provisions include encouraging potential applicants to shop for coverage from private insurers and reducing coverage available through Citizens.

Many Citizens policyholders are not aware of post-claims assessments. In addition to the current potential surcharge disclosure requirements for new policies, the bill requires Citizens to disclose potential surcharge liabilities with each renewal notice. Further, the bill removes Citizens' eligibility

ambiguity by clarifying that a private insurer's offer that's within 15% of Citizens' rate for a new policy and within Citizens' current rate for a renewal policy makes the policy ineligible for coverage with Citizens. To provide Citizens with the tools to enforce these eligibility requirements, the bill establishes a Citizens clearinghouse under which private insurers will have the opportunity to submit offers for homeowners' coverage prior to the policies being placed in Citizens. In addition, the bill requires Citizens to establish a process to divert commercial residential policies to the private market. The bill reduces Citizens' potential deficits by reducing the maximum Citizens' policy limit from \$2 million to \$1 million, and beginning in 2014, reducing maximum limits by \$100,000 a year for 3 years to \$700,000. The bill also prohibits Citizens from covering structures commencing construction after July 1, 2014, seaward of the coastal construction control line. In order for the state's policymakers to monitor the effectiveness of these and existing Cat Fund and Citizens deficit mitigation efforts, the bill requires the Cat Fund and Citizens to submit to the Legislature and Financial Services Commission an annual exposure report.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to return Citizens to an insurer of last resort. 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.

SB 1770 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-060.

IT GOVERNANCE

 **HB 1309 Relating to Procurement of Commodities & Contractual Services by Rep. Ben Albritton (R-Bartow)**

The bill makes several changes specific to grant agreements and the state agency procurement process. It requires public agency contracts for services performed on behalf of the agency to contain contract provisions clarifying the public record responsibilities of the contractor. If a contractor does not comply with a public records request, the public agency must enforce the contract provisions in accordance with the contract. The bill creates additional requirements for grant agreements and requires the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to perform audits of executed grant agreements. It also requires agencies to designate a grant manager and provides training requirements for those managers. The bill revises several provisions governing state agency procurement and contracting, including, but not limited to: removing the



requirement that the Department of Management Services (DMS) establish and maintain a vendor list; permitting DMS to lead, rather than solely enter into, joint agreements with governmental entities; requiring an invitation to bid be awarded to the vendor with the lowest responsive bid; revising the training requirements for contract managers, including providing that both DMS and the CFO are jointly responsible for contract management training; requiring the agency head to sign, rather than certify under oath, a written statement of emergency; and finally, requiring the CFO to audit executed contract documents and contract manager records.

AIF originally **OPPOSED** this bill as it had a few unclear provisions. However, it was amended during session and AIF is now neutral to HB 1309.

HB 1309 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-154.

 **SB 1506 Relating to State Technology Working Capital Trust Fund/Department of State Technology by Sen. Joe Negron (R-Stuart) and HB 5011 by Rep. Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland)**

If passed, this legislation would have created the State Technology Working Capital Trust Fund within the Agency for State Technology of the Executive Office of the Governor. The trust fund would be established for use as a depository for funds received by the state data center from the billing of customer entities for the cost of services provided to the customer entity, funds received by the Agency for State Technology, interest earnings, and cash advances from customer entities. Also, moneys deposited in the trust fund would be used to fund operations of the Agency for State Technology and the state data center.

AIF **SUPPORTS** the creation of a state technology working capital trust fund and the establishment of the Agency for State Technology.

The legislation died in a Senate conference committee.

LEGAL & JUDICIAL

 **SB 186 Relating to Jurisdiction of the Courts by Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R-Miami)**

SB 186 and its companion, HB 775 by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona), effectively strengthen Florida's choice of law provisions in contracts and clarify the use of international arbitration in the state. We salute Sen. Diaz de la Portilla and Rep. Santiago for their leadership on this issue.

AIF has supported this issue for several years as such laws

create a more predictable and efficient legal climate, making Florida a better place to conduct business.

SB 186 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-164.

 **HB 7015 Relating to Expert Testimony by Rep. Larry Metz (R-Groveland) **PRIORITY****

The bill will align Florida's evidentiary standard for expert witness testimony with that of the federal courts. Currently, Florida is an outlier among states in its use of the outdated Frye standard for admissibility of expert witness testimony. The bill would align Florida with other leading states that utilize the *Daubert* standard, therefore ensuring that "junk science" is not admitted into our courts. This issue is important to the business community because Florida-based companies are regularly joined into costly and unnecessary lawsuits so that trial lawyers may gain access to our courts, thereby increasing the cost of doing business in Florida.

AIF has been a leading advocate for passage of this important legislation for the past several years. This bill brings fairness and predictability to our courtrooms, which enhances our business climate. We also thank their colleagues in the Florida Legislature who voted for this important legislation.

HB 7015 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-107.

TAXATION & BUDGET

 **SB 290 Relating to Taxes on Prepaid Calling Arrangements by Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) and HB 435 by Rep. Daniel Davis (R-Jacksonville)**

AIF supported both SB 290 and HB 435 in committee, but unfortunately both died early in the process. Under current Florida law, both state and local communications services tax (CST) and state gross receipts tax apply to the sales price of each communications service originating and terminating in Florida. The legislation would have treated prepaid calling arrangements the same as tangible personal property and subject it to sales tax rather than the CST.

AIF **SUPPORTS** clarification that prepaid calling arrangements, such as wireless phones purchased at retail stores, should be taxed as tangible personal property.

Both bills died in committee.

 **SB 316 Relating to Taxes by Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Venice)**

If passed, SB 316 would have required out of state retailers conducting business online to collect and remit Florida sales and use tax on sales to Florida customers by revising the

definition of dealers. Sen. Gwen Margolis (D-Miami), who co-sponsored this bill, attached a friendly strike-all amendment removing the manufacturing tax break from the bill. The strike-all still lowers the communication services tax (CST) rate and includes the back-to-school tax holiday.

AIF SUPPORTS this important piece of legislation, because it is a fairness issue for the “brick and mortar” retailers in our state and their employees.

SB 316 died in committee.

 **SB 1516 Relating to Internal Revenue Code sponsored by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**

This bill and its counterpart, HB 7099 by Rep. Ritch Workman (R-Melbourne), will update the Florida Income Tax Code to reflect changes Congress made to the U.S. Internal Revenue Code by adopting the Internal Revenue Code as in effect on January 1, 2013. The change will apply retroactively to January 1, 2013. However, the bill contains provisions that do not adopt the federal bonus depreciation and enhanced expensing provisions. The bill accomplishes this by extending current statutory provisions adopted by Florida in both 2009 and 2011 to decouple from similar bonus depreciation and enhanced expensing provisions enacted by Congress in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

AIF SUPPORTS the bill because it prevents Florida businesses from having to keep two sets of books even though the bill does not couple with the Federal changes in bonus depreciation and enhanced expensing provisions. The expenses will still exist, just taken over seven years.

SB 1516 has been approved by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-046.

 **SB 1832 Relating to Taxation by Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City)**

As it was originally written, the bill eliminated premium tax credits that insurance companies receive based on the aggregate salaries of their Florida employees. The salary credit was implemented in 1987 to provide an incentive for insurance companies to increase Florida jobs by locating home offices, regional service centers, and call centers in the state. The credit is an important tool in marketing Florida and in competing with other states for insurance industry jobs. The \$220 million of additional revenue resulting from the elimination of the credit will be used by the Legislature to reduce annual vehicle registration fees. With AIF's encouragement, the harmful language in the bill was removed by an amendment by Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) in

the House Appropriations Committee.

AIF OPPOSES the elimination of the credit which could have the unintended consequences of reducing jobs in Florida, thus making Florida less competitive for jobs within the insurance industry. With that language removed, AIF was then neutral to SB 1832.

SB 1832 died on the House third reading calendar.

 **HB 4013 Relating to Tax Refund Programs by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona)**

The bill eliminates the maximum amount of tax refunds a business could receive over all fiscal years for both the Qualified Target Industry and Qualified Defense and Space Flight Business Programs. The current limits imposed on the percentage of total award and the dollar amount a qualifying project could receive in a given fiscal year would remain in effect. Also, these programs are subject to annual appropriation by the Legislature.

AIF SUPPORTS this bill because it has created many jobs in Florida in the space and defense industries and the elimination of the live time cap will foster even further job growth.

HB 4013 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-096.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

 **SB 52 Relating to the Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving by Senator Nancy Detert (R-Venice)**

The bill provides for secondary enforcement of a ban on texting while driving. Specifically, a driver must be first pulled over for a violation of another traffic law before that driver may be cited for violating the texting-while-driving ban. Also, graduated penalties and exceptions are provided. Further, the bill allows for a driver to text when legally parked. The bill also provides that a driver's wireless billing records and testimony from those receiving messages are admissible as evidence in a proceeding to determine whether a violation has been committed. Like its House companion, HB 13, this bill also now applies to the use of tablets, as well as wireless cell phones. The bill may generate additional revenues for local and state governments as a result of the penalties.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because it will effectively decrease automobile accidents, thus lowering insurance costs for Florida's businesses.

SB 52 has been signed by the Governor and assigned Ch. No. 2013-058.



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10th Annual Champions for Business Reception

Join us and engage with members of the Florida Legislature as we congratulate the **2013 Champions for Business Award** winners!

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**Speaker-Designate
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Champions for Business



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, the Governor and these 20 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.

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

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



Gov. Rick Scott is only the second governor to receive an *AIF Champions for Business Award* in its ten year history.

As a longtime friend to the business community, Governor Scott proved again this year to be an ally by signing various pieces of important legislation promoting the state's free enterprise system. Perhaps most notably, Governor Scott signed **HB 7007**, which includes numerous provisions including one to eliminate the sales tax on manufacturing equipment. This landmark bill will usher in countless jobs to Florida as well as a booming manufacturing industry. Under the Governor's leadership, Florida has become one of the most attractive states in which to manufacture goods and AIF is committed to working alongside the Governor to perpetuate this progress.



Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) is receiving his fourth *AIF Champions for Business Award*. A strong business advocate, Senator

Richter played a tremendous role in the passage of **HB 7015** by sponsoring it in the Senate. By aligning with the federal court system with the adoption of the *Daubert* standard for expert witness testimony, Florida will essentially bar "junk science" from our court system. In doing so, Florida's businesses will not be regularly joined into costly and unnecessary lawsuits by trial lawyers.



Sen. Joe Negrón (R-Palm City) is receiving his third *AIF Champions for Business Award*. This year, Senator

Negrón proved to be the voice of reason in the hotly con-

tested health care debate. His bill, **SB 1816**, would have established a state premium assistance program called Healthy Florida, to assist low-income Floridians in purchasing private health insurance coverage. The bill would have also encouraged healthy behavior through a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). AIF supported **SB 1816** as it was the only health care proposal addressing the inordinate hidden tax that Florida employers pay to cover the cost of care provided to uninsured Floridians.



Sen. John Legg (R-Lutz) is receiving his first *AIF Champions for Business Award*. As an outspoken education reformer,

Senator Legg sponsored a landmark bill to revise current career education programs and target funding in an effort to better prepare and align Florida's students to join the workforce. Thanks to Senator Legg, **SB 1076**, also known as the "Career and Professional Education Act of 2013," builds upon a 2007 initiative and will give high school freshmen five options toward earning a diploma, designates three areas for university performance funding, and encourages student development in technology in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.



Sen. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) is receiving his third *AIF Champions for Business Award*. A strong defender of the business com-

munity, Senator Hays was involved in a number of issues of vital importance to employers across the state. This year, Senator Hays is being recognized for his relentless commitment to workers' compensation legislation and the passage of **SB 662**. The bill addresses a

drug repackaging loophole in Florida's workers' compensation system and will maintain the necessary balance to the system, which is important to all businesses in the state.



Sen. Chris Smith (D-Oakland Park) is receiving his third *AIF Champions for Business Award*. This Session, as Senate Minority Leader,

Senator Smith oversaw a Democrat caucus that voted with business 85 percent of the time. This was nearly a 20 percent increase since 2011. In addition, Leader Smith was a strong ally during a Senate floor debate on an AIF-opposed amendment to remove much needed fertilizer language from **HB 999**. While the amendment ultimately passed, Leader Smith's commitment to the business community & AIF on this important issue was evident.



Sen. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) is receiving his first *AIF Champions for Business Award*. Along with Representative Jim Boyd,

Senator Galvano tirelessly advocated on behalf of Florida's manufacturers by supporting **HB 357** and by carrying the companion measure, **SB 582**. Also referred to as the "Manufacturing Competitiveness Act," this legislation will authorize local governments to voluntarily adopt, by ordinance, a Local Manufacturing Development Program that will allow manufacturers to obtain master plan approval for manufacturing sites. Once the master plan is approved, the manufacturer would not need further local approval for future expansions or modifications (except for building code, life, or safety issues), thus improving the development approval process for Florida's manufacturers.

2 0 1 3 *Champions for Business* (continued)



Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) is receiving his second *AIF Champions for Business Award*. Throughout the 2013 Session, Representa-

tive Boyd displayed steadfast leadership in economic policy and insurance policy alike. With his sponsorship, **HB 357**, also known as the “Manufacturing Competitiveness Act,” this legislation will authorize local governments to voluntarily adopt, by ordinance, a Local Manufacturing Development Program that would allow manufacturers to obtain master plan approval for manufacturing sites. Once the master plan is approved, the manufacturer would not need further local approval for future expansions or modifications (except for building code, life, or safety issues), thus improving the development approval process for Florida’s manufacturers.



Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) is receiving his third *AIF Champions for Business Award*. As the incoming Speaker of the

House, Representative Crisafulli demonstrated critical leadership by introducing an amendment to **SB 1832**, a bill originally written to eliminate an insurance premium tax credit, effectively crippling Florida’s prosperous insurance industry. Representative Crisafulli’s amendment rid the bill of its harmful language thereby ensuring no harm will come to Florida’s insurance businesses or its employees.



Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Shalimar) is recognized as a *Champion for Business* because of his leadership and support of various

legal reform measures designed to reduce frivolous litigation. AIF salutes him for his sponsorship and commitment of Florida’s new laws which increase access to health care, lower insurance costs and create a better regulatory and economic environment for Florida employers.



Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) is receiving his first *AIF Champions for Business Award*. Along with Senator

Hays, Representative Hudson was instrumental in the passage of **SB 662**, by carrying its companion measure, **HB 605**. Championed in the House by Rep. Hudson, this vital piece of workers’ compensation reform will guarantee Florida’s workers will have access to prescription medications and medical treatment without delay, while also ensuring no unnecessary financial burden to Florida’s employers.



Rep. Larry Metz (R-Groveland) is receiving his first *AIF Champions for Business Award*. By successfully sponsoring **HB 7015**,

Representative Metz has made the steps necessary to align Florida’s evidentiary standard for expert witness testimony with that of the federal courts. The bill will align Florida with other leading

states that utilize the *Daubert* standard, therefore barring “junk science” from our courts. In doing so, Florida’s businesses will not be regularly joined into costly and unnecessary lawsuits by trial lawyers.



Rep. Jimmy Patronis (R-Panama City) is receiving his fourth *AIF Champions for Business Award*. This year, Representative Patronis is being

recognized for successfully sponsoring and passing an omnibus environmental regulation bill, **HB 999**. The bill provides a major step forward in streamlining the permitting process for Florida’s businesses by amending and revising numerous provisions relating to the development of permit applications for marinas, boat yards, general permits for special events, well permits, regional water supply planning and agriculture water supply demand projections.



Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando) is receiving his second *AIF Champions for Business Award*. With his sponsorship, **HB 655** was passed and

signed into law. The bill amends Florida law to further restrict political subdivisions from requiring an employer to provide employment benefits not required by federal law. The bill also blocks local governments from enacting their own sick-time rules. Representative Precourt led the charge to avoid this unnecessary patchwork of wage and benefit rules, which could have driven businesses away from Florida.



Rep. Jake Raburn (R-Valrico) is a proven leader in the agriculture industry, Rep. Raburn is receiving his first AIF Champions for

Business Award for this unwavering leadership he displayed by championing language dealing with fertilizer application in our state, an AIF priority. With his continued support, AIF hopes to pass legislation that would enact commonsense fertilizer use policies that will ensure that our environment is protected and our businesses are able to operate without having to navigate through a patchwork of confusing local government ordinances.

AIF Manufacturing, Aerospace & Defense Council Award



Sen. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange) is receiving her second AIF Champions for Business Award. As a staunch supporter of the state's aerospace

and manufacturing industries, Senator Hukill spearheaded the Senate push to pass legislation that would eliminate the sales tax on manufacturing equipment. With her leadership, language was included in **HB 7007** that would eliminate this tax, thus making Florida a much more desirable place for manufacturers to do business. In addition, Senator Hukill sponsored and passed **SB 236 (HB 4013)** deleting caps on tax refunds for qualified defense contractors and space flight businesses.



Rep. MaryLynn Magar (R-Hobe Sound) is receiving her first AIF Champions for Business Award. Representative Magar led the House

effort on legislative language that would eliminate the sales tax on manufacturing equipment. The language was

included in **HB 7007** that would eliminate this tax, thus making Florida a much more desirable place for manufacturers to do business.

AIF Environmental & Agricultural Sustainability Council Award



Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-New Port Richey) is receiving his first AIF Champions for Business Award.

This year, Senator Simpson was a leader on a number of issues of paramount importance to employers across our state. Senator Simpson is being recognized for his steadfast support of the Everglades Restoration Plan. With his leadership in the Senate, **HB 7065** was passed and signed into law. This vital piece of legislation will ensure Florida can properly protect and manage our state's most delicate treasure.



Rep. Matt Caldwell (R-Lehigh Acres) is receiving his second AIF Champions for Business Award. Representative

Caldwell sponsored **HB 7065**, a bill that revises legislative findings for achieving water quality goals and the Everglades "Long-Term Plan." This legislation was critical to ensure the Everglades restoration plan would be

completed and reflects the cooperation between farmers, environmental advocates and legislators.

AIF Financial Services Council Award



Rep. Kevin Rader (D-Boca Raton) is receiving his first AIF Champions for Business Award. During the 2013 Session, Representa-

tive Rader often took politically courageous positions supporting significant insurance reforms including the CAT Fund bill, omnibus insurance bill, and workers' compensation drug repackaging bill. We applaud Representative Rader's courage to fight for sound public policy for Florida's consumers and businesses.



Rep. Bill Hager (R-Boca Raton) is receiving his first AIF Champions for Business Award. This year, Representative Hager sponsored legislation

aimed at "right-sizing" Florida's Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (Cat Fund). Currently the fund is overexposed and incapable of meeting its obligations if a devastating, Andrew-sized storm were to hit Florida. While politically difficult, Representative Hager's commitment to resolve this crisis of fiscal irresponsibility shows his dedication to the future of this great state.

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.

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