



**FROM SPECIAL SESSION 'C'
FOR DECEMBER 6, 2001**

The Florida Legislature is in the ninth and final day of Special Session 'C'. Both the House and Senate adjourned Sine Die this afternoon.

THE BUDGET IS LAID TO REST

The House and Senate approved their new, revised budget for the 2002-02 fiscal year and left for home today.

The actual votes on the budget bill fell out along largely partisan lines. The Senate approved the new budget by a vote of 26 – 14. The House approved the budget by a vote of 80 to 39. The revised budget cuts roughly \$1.3 billion from the original fiscal year budget adopted during the 2001 Regular Session earlier this year.

The House will be back for interim committee meetings on December 17 and 18. The Senate cancelled their meetings scheduled for that same week. The Senate will instead return for interim committee work, in preparation for the Regular Session, the first full week in January.

The 2002 Regular Session begins on Tuesday, January 22. AIF's Daily and Weekly Briefs will begin again on that date.

FLORIDA BUILDING CODE DELAY

After some debate, the Senate concurred with the House amendments adopted yesterday and passed SB 52-C by Senator Charlie Clary (R-Destin). The bill delays the implementation of the Florida Building Code. The revised code under current law is set to become effective on January 1, 2002. The bill approved today pushes back the code's implementation to March 1, 2002. The bill awaits the Governor's approval.

PRORATION OF THE AVIATION FUEL TAX

During the last special session earlier this fall, AIF proposed either a reduction or temporary abatement of the aviation fuel tax. When that proposal failed to receive support, during this special session AIF shifted to advocating the reinstatement of two recently expired tax treatments favorable to the airlines. This proposal failed to receive a hearing, as well.

While we are disappointed, we do understand that given the pressing issues associated with balancing the state's budget, it was difficult for the legislature focus on anything else.

Given the necessity of air travel to the health of Florida's economy, AIF is certain that as the economic numbers continue to sink through the holidays, our proposals will be viewed with renewed interest when the Regular Session convenes in January. We expect that there will be a greater sense of urgency in getting action on these proposals and we look forward to working with the legislature at that time.

Stay tuned to our daily brief and to our web site at www.fbnet.com as the legislature makes some very important decisions on the state's economy. These decisions will have a major impact on the business community and AIF will be reporting to you everything that happens.

This report was prepared by Curt Leonard, Manager – Governmental Affairs at Associated Industries of Florida (AIF). Please send your comments or suggestions to us at aif@aif.com or call the Governmental Affairs department at (850)224-7173.

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- Send us your E-mail address and we will begin to send this report to you automatically via E-mail.