

From March 6, 2011

With over 12 total hours of policy & budget debate, the Florida Legislature adjourned "Sine Die" at approximately 3:35 a.m. Saturday morning. In an unusual move, the Legislature had to extend the 2011 session into day 61 due to a breakdown in negotiations between the House and Senate. A disagreement over a tax relief bill (HB 7203) which was amended late in the session to include some gaming language that was objectionable to the members of the House of Representatives led to this extension of session.

The House & Senate spent a majority of their time on Friday taking up conforming legislation relating to the state budget, which came in at \$69.7 billion for fiscal year 2011-2012. The 2011 Session was an extremely successful one for AIF and the business community, even in light of the fiscal crisis in Florida. Over 90 percent of AIF's priorities were passed this session, including:

- Repeal of Duplicative Seaport Security Standards (HB 283)
- Unemployment Compensation Taxes (HB 7005)
- Defeat of the ant-business immigration legislation and mandatory E-Verify for all employers (SB 2040)
- Meaningful tort reform Crashworthiness (SB 142)
- Passage of corporate income tax reform Single Sales Factor (HB 143)
- Deregulation of Commercial Insurance Rates (HB 99)
- Property Insurance Reform (SB 408)
- Medical Malpractice Reform (HB 479)
- Medicaid Reform (HB 7107)
- And much more...

Be on the lookout for our AIF **2011 Session Wrap-Up** publication next week followed by our annual **Voting Records** and **Champions for Business** reports.