

# VOTING RECORDS

On Key Business Issues

2010 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature



2010  
*Champions*  
for  
*Business* Page 33



# ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*



Barney T. Bishop III  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

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

## Dear Employer:

It is my pleasure to provide you with this tabulation of the voting conduct of each member of the Florida Legislature during the 2010 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 **14,862 votes** cast by legislators on **133 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 35 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 by whom, and who is taking part in behind-the-scene efforts and debates on behalf of the business community.

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

The 16 lawmakers (see page 33) honored this year are the epitome of a "Champion for Business." In addition, we have designated another four legislators for "Honorable Mention"; and six of our AIF Councils have awarded "Legislator of the Year" awards.

Barney T. Bishop III

President & Chief  
Executive Officer



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# AIF's Online Voting Records

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

For 35 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.

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 vote record by year or by subject matter, and then go even further and see the exact votes that led to the percentage they received. That's right. **Full transparency** ... from a legislator's vote percentage to the very bills and votes that were used that session.

So how robust is this program? It includes over **146,148 votes, 1,333 bills, 690 legislators over the span of 35 years.** *Online Voting Records* — a one-of-a-kind tool only available from Associated Industries of Florida.

146,148 votes, 1,333 bills,  
690 legislators over  
the span of 35 years

Match campaign promises  
with actual votes cast

Full transparency



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ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

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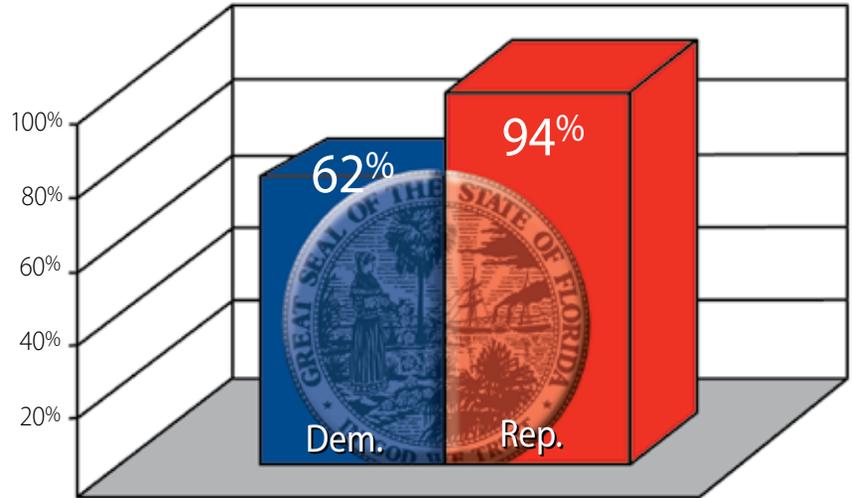
*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*

[www.aif.com/votes.shtm](http://www.aif.com/votes.shtm)

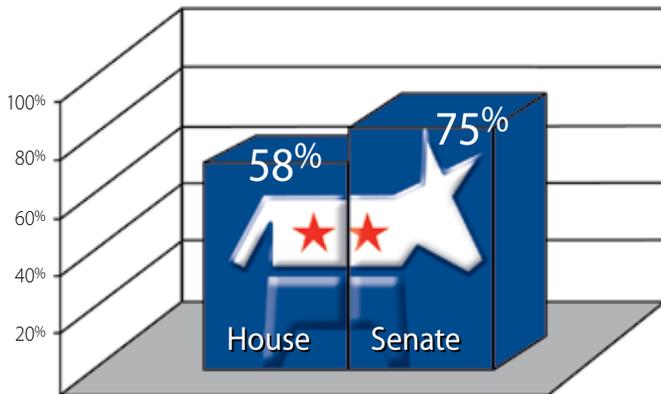
# 2010 Florida Legislature Voting Records *by the Numbers*

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 vote 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.

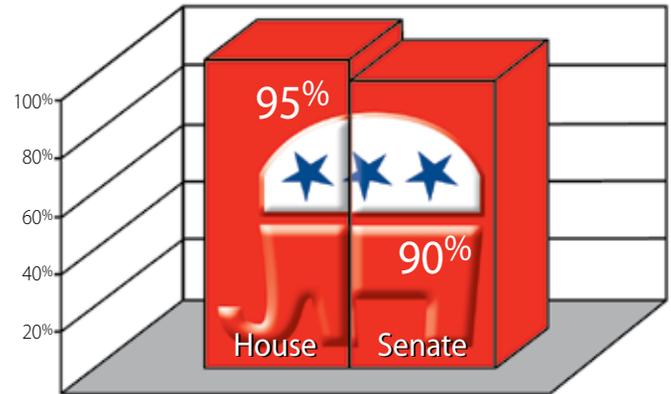
2010 Florida Legislature by Party



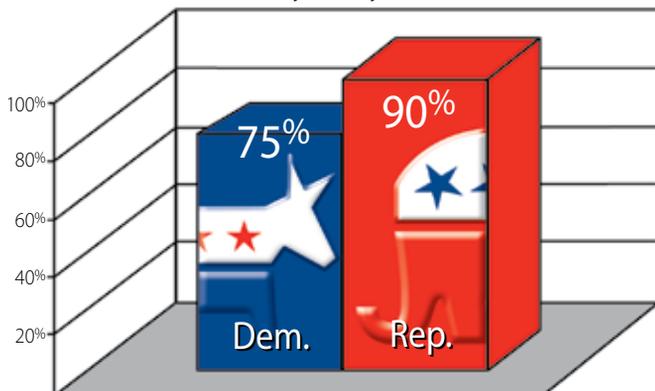
Democrats by Chamber



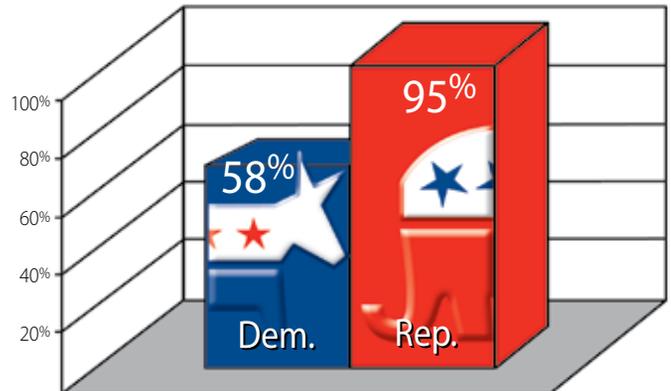
Republicans by Chamber



Senate by Party

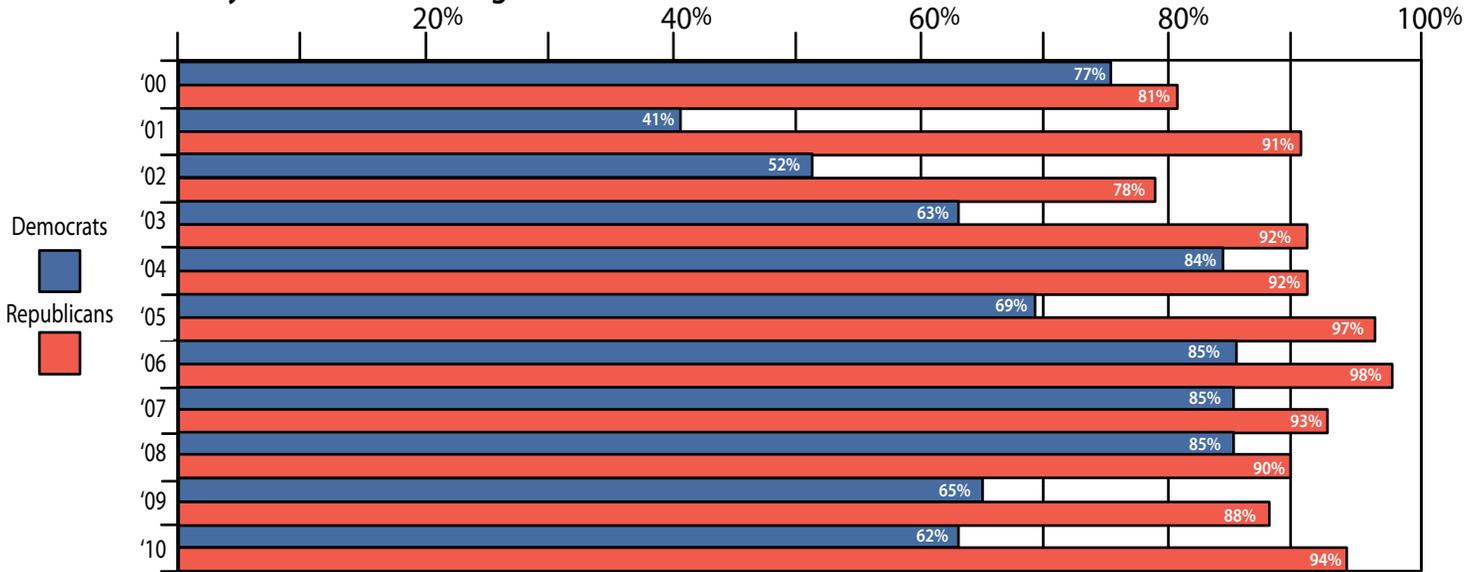


House by Party

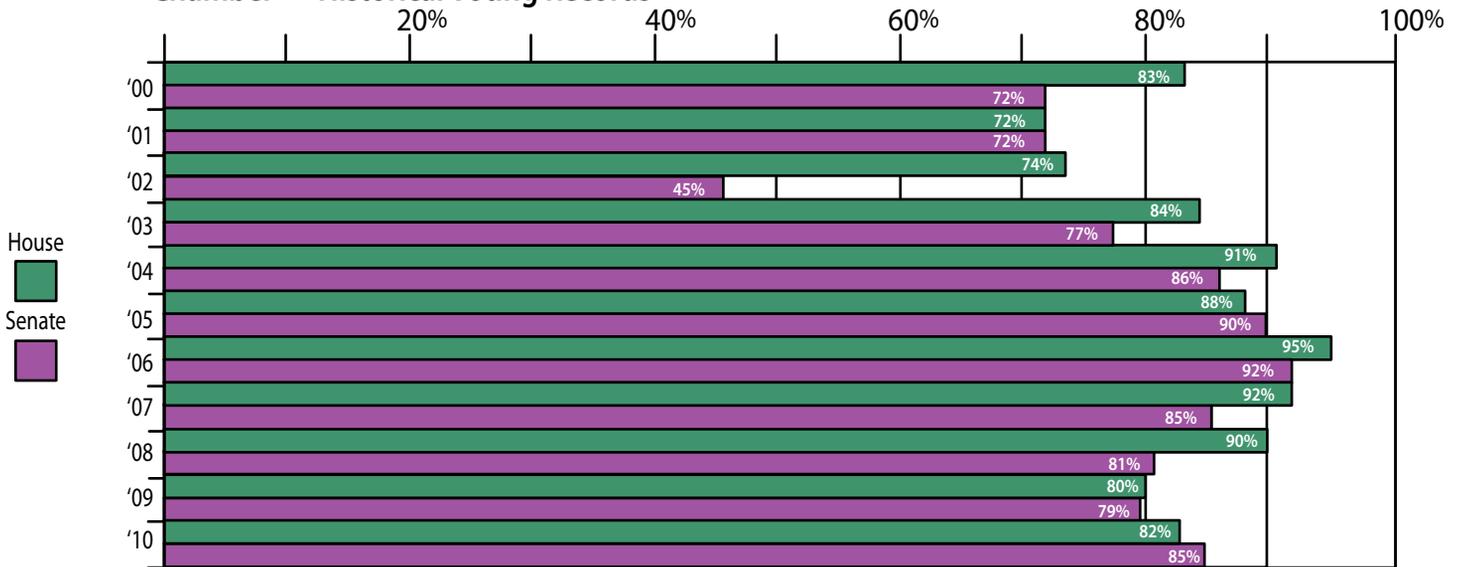


# Historical Vote Records

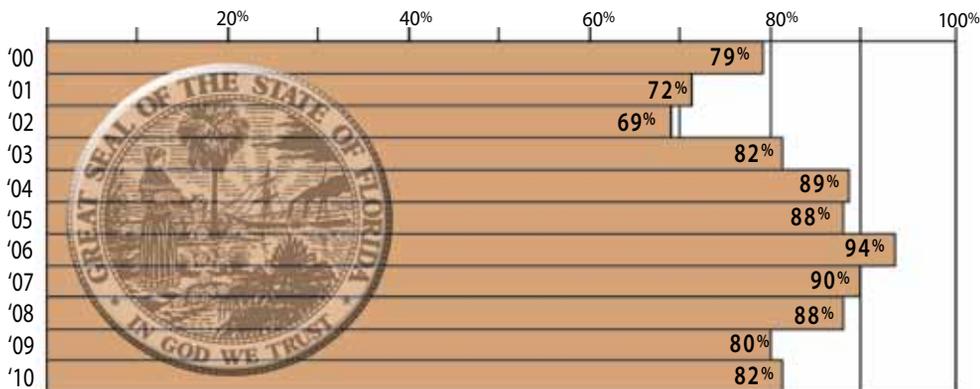
## Party — Historical Voting Records



## Chamber — Historical Voting Records



## Legislature — Historical Voting Records



## 2010 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.

F L O R I D A S E N A T E							
% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against
96%	Wise (R)	87	4	88%	Garcia (R)	85	12
94%	Baker (R)	90	6	87%	Negron (R)	84	13
94%	Constantine (R)	67	4	85%	Storms (R)	90	16
94%	Detert (R)	78	5	84%	Siplin (D)	83	16
94%	Oelrich (R)	82	5	83%	Jones (R)	64	13
94%	Peaden (R)	92	6	82%	Fasano (R)	87	19
93%	Altman (R)	101	8	81%	Ring (D)	92	22
93%	Atwater (R)	50	4	80%	Hill (D)	78	20
93%	Diaz de la Portilla (R)	66	5	78%	Justice (D)	88	25
93%	Lynn (R)	89	7	78%	Lawson (D)	77	22
93%	Thrasher (R)	86	6	76%	Rich (D)	51	16
92%	Bennett (R)	109	10	76%	Smith (D)	61	19
92%	Haridopolos (R)	77	7	75%	Aronberg (D)	48	16
91%	Crist (R)	79	8	75%	Sobel (D)	84	28
91%	Gardiner (R)	72	7	71%	Gelber (D)	69	28
91%	Richter (R)	70	7	70%	Bullard (D)	30	13
90%	Alexander (R)	63	7	69%	Wilson (D)	49	22
90%	Gaetz (R)	70	8	67%	Deutch (D)	16	8
88%	Dean (R)	64	9	67%	Villalobos (R)	37	18
88%	Dockery (R)	64	9	66%	Joyner (D)	50	26

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

# 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%	Cannon (R)	83	1	96%	O'Toole (R)	96	4	65%	Long (D)	68	37
99%	Crisafulli (R)	111	1	96%	Patronis (R)	82	3	64%	Bernard (D)	61	34
99%	Domino (R)	106	1	96%	Schenck (R)	108	5	64%	Rader (D)	67	38
99%	Snyder (R)	105	1	96%	Schultz (R)	90	4	63%	Fitzgerald (D)	67	40
99%	Stargel (R)	91	1	95%	Ford (R)	100	5	61%	Gibbons (D)	60	39
98%	Adams (R)	100	2	95%	Fresen (R)	103	5	61%	Taylor (D)	65	41
98%	Adkins (R)	88	2	95%	Frishe (R)	70	4	60%	Brandenburg (D)	61	40
98%	Burgin (R)	87	2	95%	Gaetz (R)	41	2	60%	Sands (D)	48	32
98%	Carroll (R)	117	3	95%	Galvano (R)	91	5	59%	Sachs (D)	55	38
98%	Cretul (R)	80	2	95%	Hays (R)	97	5	59%	Saunders (D)	57	40
98%	Dorworth (R)	112	2	95%	Hooper (R)	108	6	58%	Chestnut (D)	57	41
98%	Eisnaugle (R)	124	2	95%	Horner (R)	110	6	58%	Gibson (D)	58	42
98%	Evers (R)	91	2	95%	Hukill (R)	108	6	58%	Heller (D)	53	38
98%	Grimsley (R)	82	2	95%	Patterson (R)	102	5	58%	Kriseman (D)	61	44
98%	Hasner (R)	88	2	95%	Poppell (R)	101	5	58%	Reed (D)	53	39
98%	Hudson (R)	101	2	95%	Rivera (R)	62	3	58%	Skidmore (D)	55	40
98%	Kelly (R)	107	2	95%	Roberson, K. (R)	83	4	58%	Waldman (D)	63	45
98%	McBurney (R)	104	2	94%	Anderson (R)	84	5	57%	Braynon (D)	56	43
98%	McKeel (R)	86	2	94%	Grady (R)	91	6	57%	Brise (D)	52	39
98%	Plakon (R)	85	2	94%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	84	5	57%	Rouson (D)	44	33
98%	Precourt (R)	99	2	94%	Zapata (R)	72	5	57%	Soto (D)	51	38
98%	Tobia (R)	93	2	93%	Ambler (R)	77	6	56%	Bullard (D)	50	39
98%	Weatherford (R)	92	2	93%	Drake (R)	77	6	56%	Clarke-Reed (D)	50	40
98%	Williams, T. (R)	97	2	93%	Flores (R)	100	7	56%	Garcia (D)	50	40
97%	Aubuchon (R)	117	4	93%	Llorente (R)	82	6	56%	Jenne (D)	57	45
97%	Holder (R)	106	3	93%	Proctor (R)	96	7	56%	Kiar (D)	53	42
97%	Kreegel (R)	84	3	93%	Weinstein (R)	100	8	56%	Rogers (D)	51	40
97%	Legg (R)	90	3	92%	Bovo (R)	69	6	56%	Steinberg (D)	50	39
97%	Mayfield (R)	103	3	92%	Gonzalez (R)	94	8	56%	Thurston (D)	59	46
97%	Nehr (R)	103	3	92%	Renuart (R)	83	7	55%	Jones (D)	52	42
97%	Nelson (R)	115	3	92%	Thompson, N. (R)	84	7	55%	Randolph (D)	46	38
97%	Ray (R)	70	2	91%	Culp (R)	73	7	55%	Williams, A. (D)	46	38
97%	Reagan (R)	94	3	90%	Van Zant (R)	88	10	54%	Cruz (D)	48	41
97%	Troutman (R)	95	3	84%	Planas (R)	49	9	54%	Roberson, Y. (D)	49	41
97%	Wood (R)	95	3	74%	Thompson, G. (D)	66	23	52%	Porth (D)	46	43
97%	Workman (R)	89	3	72%	Homan (R)	62	24	51%	Pafford (D)	47	45
96%	Bogdanoff (R)	110	4	70%	Bembry (D)	71	30	49%	Bush (D)	42	43
96%	Coley (R)	80	3	69%	Abruzzo (D)	79	35	48%	Schwartz (D)	39	42
96%	Glorioso (R)	105	4	69%	Boyd (D)	71	32	47%	Fetterman (D)	44	50
96%	Murzin (R)	110	5	69%	Robaina (R)	61	27	46%	Rehwinkel-Vasilinda (D)	43	51

**Total Votes With AIF/Business = 82%**

## 2010 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

# VOTING RECORDS On Key Business Issues

### *Alphabetically*

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

FLORIDA SENATE							
Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Alexander (R)	63	7	90%	Hill (D)	78	20	80%
Altman (R)	101	8	93%	Jones (R)	64	13	83%
Aronberg (D)	48	16	75%	Joyner (D)	50	26	66%
Atwater (R)	50	4	93%	Justice (D)	88	25	78%
Baker (R)	90	6	94%	Lawson (D)	77	22	78%
Bennett (R)	109	10	92%	Lynn (R)	89	7	93%
Bullard (D)	30	13	70%	Negron (R)	84	13	87%
Constantine (R)	67	4	94%	Oelrich (R)	82	5	94%
Crist (R)	79	8	91%	Peaden (R)	92	6	94%
Dean (R)	64	9	88%	Rich (D)	51	16	76%
Detert (R)	78	5	94%	Richter (R)	70	7	91%
Deutch (D)	16	8	67%	Ring (D)	92	22	81%
Díaz de la Portilla (R)	66	5	93%	Siplin (D)	83	16	84%
Dockery (R)	64	9	88%	Smith (D)	61	19	76%
Fasano (R)	87	19	82%	Sobel (D)	84	28	75%
Gaetz (R)	70	8	90%	Storms (R)	90	16	85%
Garcia (R)	85	12	88%	Thrasher (R)	86	6	93%
Gardiner (R)	72	7	91%	Villalobos (R)	37	18	67%
Gelber (D)	69	28	71%	Wilson (D)	49	22	69%
Haridopolos (R)	77	7	92%	Wise (R)	87	4	96%

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

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF	Name/Party	For	Against	% w/AIF
Abruzzo (D)	79	35	69%	Gibbons (D)	60	39	61%	Proctor (R)	96	7	93%
Adams (R)	100	2	98%	Gibson (D)	58	42	58%	Rader (D)	67	38	64%
Adkins (R)	88	2	98%	Glorioso (R)	105	4	96%	Randolph (D)	46	38	55%
Ambler (R)	77	6	93%	Gonzalez (R)	94	8	92%	Ray (R)	70	2	97%
Anderson (R)	84	5	94%	Grady (R)	91	6	94%	Reagan (R)	94	3	97%
Aubuchon (R)	117	4	97%	Grimsley (R)	82	2	98%	Reed (D)	53	39	58%
Bembry (D)	71	30	70%	Hasner (R)	88	2	98%	Rehwinkel-Vasilinda (D)	43	51	46%
Bernard (D)	61	34	64%	Hays (R)	97	5	95%	Renuart (R)	83	7	92%
Bogdanoff (R)	110	4	96%	Heller (D)	53	38	58%	Rivera (R)	62	3	95%
Bovo (R)	69	6	92%	Holder (R)	106	3	97%	Robaina (R)	61	27	69%
Boyd (D)	71	32	69%	Homan (R)	62	24	72%	Roberson, K. (R)	83	4	95%
Brandenburg (D)	61	40	60%	Hooper (R)	108	6	95%	Roberson, Y. (D)	49	41	54%
Braynon (D)	56	43	57%	Horner (R)	110	6	95%	Rogers (D)	51	40	56%
Brise (D)	52	39	57%	Hudson (R)	101	2	98%	Rouson (D)	44	33	57%
Bullard (D)	50	39	56%	Hukill (R)	108	6	95%	Sachs (D)	55	38	59%
Burgin (R)	87	2	98%	Jenne (D)	57	45	56%	Sands (D)	48	32	60%
Bush (D)	42	43	49%	Jones (D)	52	42	55%	Saunders (D)	57	40	59%
Cannon (R)	83	1	99%	Kelly (R)	107	2	98%	Schenck (R)	108	5	96%
Carroll (R)	117	3	98%	Kiar (D)	53	42	56%	Schultz (R)	90	4	96%
Chestnut (D)	57	41	58%	Kreegel (R)	84	3	97%	Schwartz (D)	39	42	48%
Clarke-Reed (D)	50	40	56%	Kriseman (D)	61	44	58%	Skidmore (D)	55	40	58%
Coley (R)	80	3	96%	Legg (R)	90	3	97%	Snyder (R)	105	1	99%
Cretul (R)	80	2	98%	Llorente (R)	82	6	93%	Soto (D)	51	38	57%
Crisafulli (R)	111	1	99%	Long (D)	68	37	65%	Stargel (R)	91	1	99%
Cruz (D)	48	41	54%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	84	5	94%	Steinberg (D)	50	39	56%
Culp (R)	73	7	91%	Mayfield (R)	103	3	97%	Taylor (D)	65	41	61%
Domino (R)	106	1	99%	McBurney (R)	104	2	98%	Thompson, G. (D)	66	23	74%
Dorworth (R)	112	2	98%	McKeel (R)	86	2	98%	Thompson, N. (R)	84	7	92%
Drake (R)	77	6	93%	Murzin (R)	110	5	96%	Thurston (D)	59	46	56%
Eisnaugle (R)	124	2	98%	Nehr (R)	103	3	97%	Tobia (R)	93	2	98%
Evers (R)	91	2	98%	Nelson (R)	115	3	97%	Troutman (R)	95	3	97%
Fetterman (D)	44	50	47%	O'Toole (R)	96	4	96%	Van Zant (R)	88	10	90%
Fitzgerald (D)	67	40	63%	Pafford (D)	47	45	51%	Waldman (D)	63	45	58%
Flores (R)	100	7	93%	Patronis (R)	82	3	96%	Weatherford (R)	92	2	98%
Ford (R)	100	5	95%	Patterson (R)	102	5	95%	Weinstein (R)	100	8	93%
Fresen (R)	103	5	95%	Plakon (R)	85	2	98%	Williams, A. (D)	46	38	55%
Frishe (R)	70	4	95%	Planas (R)	49	9	84%	Williams, T. (R)	97	2	98%
Gaetz (R)	41	2	95%	Poppell (R)	101	5	95%	Wood (R)	95	3	97%
Galvano (R)	91	5	95%	Porth (D)	46	43	52%	Workman (R)	89	3	97%
Garcia (D)	50	40	56%	Precourt (R)	99	2	98%	Zapata (R)	72	5	94%

**Total Votes With AIF/Business = 82%**

# FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

## VOTING RECORDS On Key Business Issues

### *Historical Alphabetically*

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

F L O R I D A S E N A T E					
Name/Party	'10	History	Name/Party	'10	History
Alexander (R)	90%	88%	Hill (D)	80%	80%
Altman (R)	93%	94%	Jones (R)	83%	83%
Aronberg (D)	75%	79%	Joyner (D)	66%	64%
Atwater (R)	93%	87%	Justice (D)	78%	72%
Baker (R)	94%	90%	Lawson (D)	78%	76%
Bennett (R)	92%	89%	Lynn (R)	93%	88%
Bullard (D)	70%	84%	Negron (R)	87%	91%
Constantine (R)	94%	88%	Oelrich (R)	94%	90%
Crist (R)	91%	85%	Peaden (R)	94%	83%
Dean (R)	88%	91%	Rich (D)	76%	75%
Detert (R)	94%	92%	Richter (R)	91%	91%
Deutch (D)	67%	80%	Ring (D)	81%	81%
Diaz de la Portilla (R)	93%	88%	Siplin (D)	84%	80%
Dockery (R)	88%	85%	Smith (D)	76%	70%
Fasano (R)	82%	86%	Sobel (D)	75%	69%
Gaetz (R)	90%	83%	Storms (R)	85%	78%
Garcia (R)	88%	83%	Thrasher (R)	93%	91%
Gardiner (R)	91%	93%	Villalobos (R)	67%	81%
Gelber (D)	71%	66%	Wilson (D)	69%	71%
Haridopolos (R)	92%	91%	Wise (R)	96%	88%

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

Name/Party	'10	History	Name/Party	'10	History	Name/Party	'10	History
Abruzzo (D)	69%	72%	Gibbons (D)	61%	71%	Proctor (R)	93%	95%
Adams (R)	98%	96%	Gibson (D)	58%	72%	Rader (D)	64%	66%
Adkins (R)	98%	94%	Glorioso (R)	96%	96%	Randolph (D)	55%	70%
Ambler (R)	93%	91%	Gonzalez (R)	92%	93%	Ray (R)	97%	95%
Anderson (R)	94%	93%	Grady (R)	94%	94%	Reagan (R)	97%	96%
Aubuchon (R)	97%	95%	Grimsley (R)	98%	96%	Reed (D)	58%	70%
Bembry (D)	70%	70%	Hasner (R)	98%	96%	Rehwinkel-Vasilinda (D)	46%	53%
Bernard (D)	64%	64%	Hays (R)	95%	94%	Renuart (R)	92%	90%
Bogdanoff (R)	96%	97%	Heller (D)	58%	72%	Rivera (R)	95%	96%
Bovo (R)	92%	91%	Holder (R)	97%	95%	Robaina (R)	69%	89%
Boyd (D)	69%	78%	Homan (R)	72%	88%	Roberson, K. (R)	95%	92%
Brandenburg (D)	60%	76%	Hooper (R)	95%	92%	Roberson, Y. (D)	54%	72%
Braynon (D)	57%	65%	Horner (R)	95%	93%	Rogers (D)	56%	57%
Brise (D)	57%	69%	Hudson (R)	98%	95%	Rouson (D)	57%	65%
Bullard (D)	56%	54%	Hukill (R)	95%	96%	Sachs (D)	59%	70%
Burgin (R)	98%	95%	Jenne (D)	56%	65%	Sands (D)	60%	74%
Bush (D)	49%	68%	Jones (D)	55%	58%	Saunders (D)	59%	74%
Cannon (R)	99%	97%	Kelly (R)	98%	94%	Schenck (R)	96%	95%
Carroll (R)	98%	97%	Kiar (D)	56%	70%	Schultz (R)	96%	91%
Chestnut (D)	58%	70%	Kreegel (R)	97%	95%	Schwartz (D)	48%	63%
Clarke-Reed (D)	56%	56%	Kriseman (D)	58%	66%	Skidmore (D)	58%	70%
Coley (R)	96%	96%	Legg (R)	97%	94%	Snyder (R)	99%	95%
Cretul (R)	98%	97%	Llorente (R)	93%	95%	Soto (D)	57%	72%
Crisafulli (R)	99%	96%	Long (D)	65%	75%	Stargel (R)	99%	96%
Cruz (D)	54%	54%	Lopez-Cantera (R)	94%	95%	Steinberg (D)	56%	58%
Culp (R)	91%	94%	Mayfield (R)	97%	95%	Taylor (D)	61%	60%
Domino (R)	99%	96%	McBurney (R)	98%	95%	Thompson, G. (D)	74%	76%
Dorworth (R)	98%	95%	McKeel (R)	98%	95%	Thompson, N. (R)	92%	94%
Drake (R)	93%	91%	Murzin (R)	96%	96%	Thurston (D)	56%	68%
Eisnaugle (R)	98%	96%	Nehr (R)	97%	93%	Tobia (R)	98%	96%
Evers (R)	98%	95%	Nelson (R)	97%	94%	Troutman (R)	97%	95%
Fetterman (D)	47%	54%	O'Toole (R)	96%	94%	Van Zant (R)	90%	90%
Fitzgerald (D)	63%	73%	Pafford (D)	51%	53%	Waldman (D)	58%	71%
Flores (R)	93%	95%	Patronis (R)	96%	92%	Weatherford (R)	98%	94%
Ford (R)	95%	94%	Patterson (R)	95%	95%	Weinstein (R)	93%	94%
Fresen (R)	95%	95%	Plakon (R)	98%	93%	Williams, A. (D)	55%	56%
Frishe (R)	95%	92%	Planas (R)	84%	84%	Williams, T. (R)	98%	96%
Gaetz (R)	95%	95%	Poppell (R)	95%	95%	Wood (R)	97%	95%
Galvano (R)	95%	94%	Porth (D)	52%	71%	Workman (R)	97%	95%
Garcia (D)	56%	69%	Precourt (R)	98%	94%	Zapata (R)	94%	95%



# The Bills

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

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

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

## BUSINESS REGULATION

### **HB 163 Relating to Prepaid Wireless Telecommunications Service by Rep. Joe Gibbons (D-Pembroke Park)** **PRIORITY**

This bill provides a method of collecting the E911 fee on prepaid wireless services at the point of sale by retailers in Florida. After much debate in the committee process, a compromise was developed which resulted in the delaying of the collection until July 1, 2013. Presently, the collection of prepaid wireless service fees is extremely difficult since there is no relationship between the provider and the customer. HB 163 presents a compromise that provides the E911 board time to work with all the parties to develop a method agreeable to all so that the fee can begin to be collected.

AIF **SUPPORTS** legislation that moves closer to determining the best and most efficient method for collecting E911 fees from prepaid wireless customers. These funds are necessary for maintaining public safety for citizens in the state of Florida.

*CS/CS/HB 163 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-50; CS/CS/CS/SB 1202 was laid on the table.*

### **SB 376 Relating to Effective Public Notices by Governmental Entities by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness)** **PRIORITY**

This bill would allow local governments to publish public notices on their respective websites instead of newspapers. AIF vehemently opposed the measure because the posting and printing of notices is very important to make sure that all citizens are informed of any public notices. Representatives from the newspaper industry note that 62% of adults over 65 do not use the internet, 36% of Hispanics do not use the internet, and 30% of African Americans do not use the internet. Furthermore, newspapers remain a viable and inexpensive way for Florida's citizens to receive news.

AIF **OPPOSES** legislation that requires all public notices to be published only on the internet. Local newspapers offer citizens a single, convenient location to find all public notices as opposed to government entities publishing notices on their respective web sites.

*SB 376 died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee; HB 1511 died in the House Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee.*

### **SB 382 Relating to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness)**

AIF has closely monitored provisions in this legislation that address criteria within the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes. Although this bill grants local governments the authority to enact more stringent criteria on fertilizer use, the language specifies that local fertilizer ordinances do not prohibit commercial fertilizer application to urban landscapes. Furthermore, the bill does not apply to the use of fertilizer on lands used for scientific research, such as urban storm water, water quality, agronomic, or horticultural.

AIF **SUPPORTS** legislation that clarifies the process local governments must go through to adopt provisions more stringent than the State's Model Fertilizer Ordinance. In addition, the bill contains specific language to prevent local governments from regulating the retail sale of fertilizer products.

*CS/CS/CS/SB 382 died in House messages; CS/CS/CS/HB 1445 died in the Senate Committee on Agriculture.*

### **SB 622 Relating to Gaming by Sen. Dennis Jones (R-Seminole)** **PRIORITY**

This compact gives the Seminoles exclusive gaming rights for 20 years, with a review in five years, to run banked card games at 5 of its 7 existing casinos and slot machines at four casinos outside Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Furthermore, the compact includes provisions that guarantee the



#### **Barney T. Bishop III**

President & CEO of Associated Industries of Florida ... former aide to state Treasurer Bill Gunter ... former Executive Director of the Florida Democratic Party ... more than 31 years experience in legislative and political affairs ... areas of expertise include appropriations, criminal justice, and behavioral health care issues ... B.S. in Political & Judicial Communication from Emerson College in Boston.

**Issues:** General Business, Appropriations, Criminal Justice

State of Florida a billion dollars over the next five years, with over \$437 million coming this year. For existing pari-mutuel facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, the bill reduces their tax rate from 50 to 35 percent; and tracks and frontons statewide would get expanded gaming hours and higher betting limits.

Associated Industries of Florida has closely monitored the debate in the Legislature for the past two years and has supported fair and equitable gaming in Florida. We have grave concerns about the compact because of its negative effect on the state's pari-mutuel industry.

*CS/SB 622 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-29; HB 7221 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 1299 Relating to Streamlining the Issuance of Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations Issued by State Agencies by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee)**

This legislation would require the Governor to establish a "One-Stop Business Connect Workgroup" to review how people are applying for licenses, certification and the registration process and how the state agencies are processing them. The workgroup will consist of 6 state agencies and by December 2010 report to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate on how to establish a "licensing portal" and implement a technology solution that provides businesses and individuals with all the requirements necessary to complete a business license, certifications, and registrations.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that will enable current and future business owners to access information they need for permitting, licensing, certification and registration in one convenient, internet-based portal.

*CS/CS/HB 1299 died in the House General Government Policy Council pending review of committee substitute; CS/SB 2378 died in the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee.*

 **HB 1375 Relating to Motor Vehicle Dealers by Rep. Marcelo Llorente (R-Miami)**

This bill seeks to encumber motor vehicle dealers and licensees (manufacturers, distributors, and importers) by requiring franchise agreements among both parties to abide by the Florida Automobile Dealers Act. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) upheld that amendments to the Florida Automobile Dealers Act do not apply to

dealers having franchise agreements which were signed prior to the effective date of the amendment. In essence, dealers have different protections under the law depending on when they signed their franchise agreement.

**AIF OPPOSES** any measure that will create further bureaucracy in franchise agreements for Florida businesses and allows the Legislature to retroactively impact existing contract agreements.

*HB 1375 died in the House Insurance, Business, & Financial Affairs Policy Committee; CS/SB 2410 died on the Senate calendar.*

 **HB 1565 Relating to Rulemaking by Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow)**

This bill requires an agency to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs (SERC) prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, not just on those having an impact on small business or those requested by a substantially affected person. Additionally, the measure would also cause an agency's failure to prepare a SERC on any rule to be a material failure. The bill also expands SERC requirements to include: an economic analysis that demonstrates if a rule creates a regulatory environment that impedes or hinders economic growth and private-sector job creation; expands the growth of state government that is not provided in the enabling statute for the rule; and increases regulatory costs to small businesses or if it is likely to adversely impact private-sector job creation or result in higher unemployment.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that seeks to create a regulatory environment that is not destructive, but rather complementary to the Florida business community.

*CS/CS/HB 1565 was vetoed by the Governor; CS/CS/SB 1844 was laid on the table.*

 **SB 1584 Relating to Procurement of Contractual Services by Sen. Chris Smith (D-West Palm Beach)**

The bill contains provisions that purport to create a more stable business environment for providing outsourced human services related to mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, or juvenile justice and to ensure accountability, eliminate duplication, and improve efficiency with respect to the provision of such services.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that will improve service, increase efficiency, and ensure cost-effectiveness when out-



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

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

**Issues:** Ethics & Elections, Government Accountability, Taxation, Workforce Housing

Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Heathrow) speaks to AIF members in Orlando about the importance of having a strong pro-business legislature.



credit-based rebate incentive that is not subject to legislative appropriations. Digital media entertainment and film are two industries that Florida must grow to be a part of the global economic landscape.

*CS/CS/HB 697 died in Senate Messages; CS/CS/SB 1430 died in the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee.*

**👍 HB 773 Relating to Expedited Permitting by Rep. Paige Kreegel (R-Punta Gorda)**

Currently, Florida statute allows for expedited permitting of targeted economic development projects that meet certain job creation requirements. While good in theory, very few permit applications have benefited from this process, with only three projects utilizing the process over the last four years. In practice, this legislation would reduce the job creation requirements from 100 jobs to 50 jobs. It also broadens the eligibility to renewable energy projects that meet the job requirements. Lastly, the oversight of the permitting remains at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) while the economic development analysis will be administered by the Governor's Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development (OTTED).

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that removes unnecessary levels of governmental oversight from the expedited permitting process. Removing OTTED from the environmental aspects of the expedited permit review chain may lead to streamlining of expedited permitting and comprehensive plan amendment reviews by the DEP. Businesses would then need to execute only one agreement with the DEP, not separate ones with each agency or governmental entity.

*CS/CS/HB 773 died in the House Full Appropriations Council on Education & Economic Development; CS/SB 1126 was laid on the table.*

**👍 HB 983 Relating to the Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples) PRIORITY**

This bill would have created the "Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program" which assists startup and small companies in obtaining federal and state partner-

sourcing human services.

*CS/CS/SB 1584 died in the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee.*

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**👍 HB 697 Relating to Entertainment Industry Economic Development by Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando) PRIORITY**

As an extension of a current grant program administered by the Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development (OTTED), this bill revises the entertainment industry financial incentive program to include the expansion of tax credits and broaden the applicability and funding for the program. This economic incentive bill awards transferable tax credits for certain qualified expenditures in the film and entertainment industry. Additionally, the measure allows for the credits to be used to offset corporate income tax or sales and use tax liabilities and, in certain instances, can be transferred or carried forward.

AIF SUPPORTS passage of legislation creating a tax



**Tamela Ivey Perdue, Esq.**

General Counsel for Associated Industries of Florida ... more than 18 years legislative and legal experience, representing insurers and the business community on tort, workers' compensation, insurance and other legal issues before the legislative and executive branches of government ... established legal practice specializing in insurance defense and administrative law ... formerly worked in The Florida Senate ... B.S. from Lee University and J.D. from Stetson University.

**Issues:** Legal & Judicial, Unemployment Compensation, Workers' Compensation

**👍** Bill supported by AIF

**👎** Bill opposed by AIF

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

Throughout the year, legislative leaders meet with AIF members on issues important to employers. Here we have Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando) Chairman of the House Energy & Utilities Committee speaking to members of AIF's Florida Energy Council.



working in conjunction with representatives of the consensus estimating conferences, to develop Florida-specific economic analysis methods that provide a more comprehensive picture of the economic and fiscal impacts of legislation. Under the provisions of SB 1178, these analyses of proposed legislation can be requested by either the Senate President or Speaker of the House.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that addresses the cost-benefit analysis of economic development incentive policies. Additionally, AIF applauds the leadership of the Legislature in passing this very good piece of legislation.

*CS/SB 1178 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-101; CS/HB 121 was laid on the table.*

**👍 SB 1184 Relating to Tax Credits for Research and Development by Sen. John Thrasher (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY**

This bill seeks to award corporate income tax credits for companies that are identified as target industry businesses, as defined by the state of Florida. Additionally, the awarded tax credit may not exceed 50 percent of a business' corporate tax liability in one year (including other corporate tax credits that have been applied). These tax credits, which aren't available until 2011, would be awarded to businesses and given the ability to carry forward, for up to 5 years. Additionally, any unused tax credits may be transferred or sold to other business entities, at no less than 75 percent of their face value. The purchaser, or assignee, must use the tax credit in the taxable year that the purchase or transfer of credit is made.

AIF SUPPORTS measures that provide assistance to companies looking to bridge the gap between research and the commercialization of their products.

*SB 1184 died in the Senate Commerce Committee; HB 607 died in the House Finance & Tax Council.*

**👍 SB 1752 Relating to Economic Development by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) PRIORITY**

Known as the "Jobs for Florida" package, this bill will enact substantial changes to statutes, implement millions in tax credits for job creation, and loosen regulatory burdens on industries in need of relief. With a total price tag of \$218 million,

ships in their business growth. The program would make one-time awards of up to \$250,000 per project while requiring a minimum of 75% of the project's total funding to be supplied independently. This bill, like many of the economic development measures in the House, is also contained within the Senate's "Jobs for Florida" package.

AIF SUPPORTS continued availability of state funds for enhancing economic development through incentives for start-up companies and the recruitment of new businesses and talent to Florida.

*CS/CS/HB 983 died in Senate messages; CS/SB 1472 died on the Senate calendar.*

**👍 SB 1178 Relating to Cost and Benefit Analysis of Legislation by Sen. Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY**

More commonly known as Dynamic Modeling, this legislation will modernize the process of evaluating the fiscal impact of proposed legislation and allow policymakers the ability to consider potential revenue enhancements, as well as costs to the state, when setting policy. This legislation will direct the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR),



**Chris Verlander**

Senior Vice President – Corporate Development of Associated Industries of Florida ... more than 30 years expertise in insurance lobbying activities ... former president (1994-1997) and Vice Chairman (1997-1999) of American Heritage Life Insurance Company ... B.S. from Georgia Tech and M.B.A. from the University of Florida.

**Issues:** Insurance, General Business

SB 1752 will promote business growth by allowing for current Florida businesses to expand their operations or for out-of-state businesses to bring their work to the state of Florida, and subsequently providing work for Floridians. Under SB 1752, Floridians should also see an expanding job pool with the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Incentive linking tax refunds with a combination of the number of jobs created, wages paid, location of business, as well as the Florida First Provision which provides for the preferential hiring of Florida citizens.

AIF SUPPORTS the provisions included in the 2010 “Jobs for Florida” package. Paramount to AIF is the millions of dollars that will directly benefit Space Florida and the space industry. AIF’s support is based on not only the smaller provisions and benefits of the bill, but the overall package that is essential in Florida’s efforts to improve the economy and expand businesses.

*CS/SB 1752 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-147; CS/CS/HB 1509 was laid on the table.*

#### **SB 2426 Relating to New Markets Development Program by Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey)**

This legislation is a glitch bill for last year’s top economic development priority for AIF, the New Markets Tax Credit legislation. This legislation will continue to codify the state program that is intended to encourage capital investment into low income areas by awarding tax credits to investing entities. SB 2426 HB 1229, while innocuous in nature, is an important piece of the New Markets program making a difference in the state.

AIF SUPPORTS the “New Markets” Tax Credit Program because of its potential to create jobs and stimulate economic activity in areas of the state that need it the most.

*SB 2426 died in the Senate Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means; CS/HB 1229 died on the House calendar.*

#### **HB 7109 Relating to Tax Refund Program for Qualified Target Industry Businesses by Rep. Jennifer Carroll (R-Jacksonville)**

This bill makes extensive changes to the incentive program and tax refunds of the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) program. HB 7109 would extend the QTI program for ten additional years, and in 2020 it will again be subject to another

sunset review. Additionally, HB 7109 defines “return on investment” (ROI), which is the state gain in revenue, as a percentage of the incentive investment, and further requires that the Office of Economic and Demographic Research review the model of ROI calculations every three years. Finally, the bill allows for a continued review of the programs’ goals through the requirement that OTTED review the list of targeted industries every four years in cooperation with local economic development programs, economists, and the state university system.

AIF supports the QTI initiative as this bill is considered to be part of the state’s economic development “tool kit.” Furthermore, this bill directly benefits businesses in the state of Florida due to the fact that all recipients must be headquartered in Florida and meet certain wage requirements in order to qualify.

*CS/HB 7109 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-136; CS/CS/SB 1856 was laid on the table.*

#### **HB 7201 Relating to Economic Development by Rep. Ellyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale)**

This AIF priority bill amends Florida Statute 212.031; providing a partial sales tax exemption for renting, leasing, letting or granting a license for the use of real property to defined persons. Specifically enhancing the spaceport and manufacturing businesses, this measure enhances the current sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment purchases. Furthermore, the bill creates a Local Government Distressed Area Matching Grant Program administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED). OTTED will have the authority to review qualifying and evaluation criteria and will prioritize businesses located in economically distressed areas. Lastly, this bill appropriates \$5 million of non-recurring funds and \$5 million of recurring funds from General Revenue to Space Florida to further the growth and development of the aerospace industry. Several provisions of HB 7201 are also included in Sen. Don Gaetz’s (R-Niceville) SB 1752, more commonly referred to as the “Jobs for Florida” package.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation aimed at protecting Florida’s space industry and the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars it provides to our state.

*HB 7201 died in Senate messages.*



#### **Keyna Cory (Senior Lobbyist)**

President, Public Affairs Consultants, a public affairs and governmental relations consulting firm ... more than 25 years experience representing a variety of clients, from small entrepreneurs to Fortune 500 companies, before the Florida Legislature ... majored in Political Science at the University of Florida.

**Issues:** General Business, Environmental, Taxation

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF’s 2010 Session Priorities.

Sen. John Thrasher (R-Jacksonville) was awarded a Champion for Business Award in 2010 for his sponsorship and leadership on SB 6 — the teacher performance pay bill. Here Sen. Thrasher addresses AIF members at the annual Pre-Session Briefing in Tallahassee.



## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### 👍 **SJR 2 Relating to Class Size Requirements for Public Schools by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) PRIORITY**

This bill would place the Class Size mandate back on the ballot for voters to consider and allow a modification that would increase flexibility in implementing the requirement. The proposed constitutional amendment would require the same class sizes that are required currently to be measured at the school level (rather than at the class level which is required for next year). Additionally, the measure adds a “hard cap” so that the school averages have to be achieved within a hard limit of 21, 27, and 30 in individual classes.

AIF SUPPORTS the measure because it does not go backward on class size achievements to date. Additionally, the proposed amendment ensures that Florida’s children have access to rigorous or specialty courses such as AP, arts, etc., which we believe are essential to providing well rounded and prepared graduates.

*SJR 2 was signed by Officers and filed with the Secretary of State; HJR 7039 was laid on the table.*

### 👍 **SB 4 Relating to Education Accountability by Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Sarasota) PRIORITY**

This bill raises high school graduation requirements to include Algebra II, Geometry, and more rigorous science courses such as Biology and Chemistry. Research shows that these courses are needed so that Florida’s high school graduates are prepared for both higher education and jobs in the 21st century economy. AIF has prioritized college readiness for three years and has supported these increased standards for the past two years. SB 4 makes important improvements in Florida’s graduation requirements so that students are prepared for the needs of employers and able to compete in a global workforce.

AIF SUPPORTS a continued emphasis on increasing the rigor of high school course offerings and graduation requirements.

*CS/CS/SB 4 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-22; CC/CS/HB 7053 was laid on the table.*

### 👍 **SB 6 Relating to Education Personnel by Sen. John Thrasher (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY**

This bill requires that school districts adopt performance appraisals for instructional personnel and school administrators that differentiate among four levels of performance: unsatisfactory, needs improvement, effective, and highly effective. SB 6 requires school districts to adopt a salary schedule that compensates employees based upon performance appraisals and prohibits the use of years of service or degrees held in setting the salary schedule. Additionally, the bill ends the use of professional service contracts for classroom teachers hired on or after July 1, 2010. For classroom teachers hired on or after July 1, 2010, the bill requires one probationary contract and authorizes up to four annual contracts. Such teachers must be designated effective or highly effective on two out of the three preceding years’ performance appraisals to receive an annual contract beyond the fifth year.

AIF strongly SUPPORTS SB 6 because these measures will create a more business-like approach to teacher pay. The bill



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

Partner with the Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners, chairs the Advocacy and Governmental Affairs group in Miami, Tallahassee and Washington, DC ... over 31 years legislative experience ... served two terms as Chairman of the Republican Party of Florida ... twice-named one of Washington, DC’s top lobbyists ... currently represents some of Florida’s largest corporate and governmental entities before the Florida Legislature ... graduate of Florida Atlantic University and the Seton Hall University School of Law.

**Issues:** Federal Legislation

would build a system that allows the BEST teachers to have a CAREER in the classroom!

*CS/CS/SB 6 was vetoed by the Governor; CS/HB 7189 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 623 Relating to Instructional Materials for K-12 Public Education by Rep. Rachel Burgin (R-Tampa)** PRIORITY

The bill provides flexibility for school districts to purchase IT hardware in the instructional materials category so that students have more access to technology in the classroom. During its consideration throughout the legislative process, this measure has received broad support from school districts and business groups alike.

AIF SUPPORTS the increase of technology use in K-12 public education to better prepare students for jobs in the future. In the 21st century's digital economy, such materials will provide our students with a competitive edge on a global scale.

*CS/CS/HB 623 died in Senate messages; SB 1124 died in the Senate Education Pre-K – 12 Committee.*

 **HB 1287 Relating to Public K-12 Education by Rep. Tom Grady (R-Naples)**

HB 1287 would remove the \$2000 cap on bonuses paid to teachers whose students pass rigorous courses and exams, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education courses. Instead of being capped, teachers have the potential to earn \$50 for every student who achieves a passing grade on the end-of-course exam. The bill also required school districts to reinvest 100 percent of funds dedicated for these programs, without diverting them to cover unrelated expenses.

AIF SUPPORTS this bill because it addresses a number of college and career readiness issues. Access to rigorous courses in high school has demonstrated that students will possess the necessary skills to progress and succeed throughout higher education.

*CS/CS/HB 1287 died pending review of committee substitute in the House PreK-12 Appropriations Committee.*

## ELECTION REFORM/REAPPORTIONMENT

 **HB 131 Relating to Elections by Sandy Adams (R-Oviedo)** PRIORITY

The key provision of this legislation is the reenactment of

provisions regulating electioneering communications organizations (ECOs) to replace similar provisions that were thrown out by a federal court in late 2008. The new regulatory scheme limits the definition of electioneering communications to comport with the court decision. It also sets out the period during which ECO regulation is required — 60 days before a general election or 30 days before a primary. The registration and reporting scheme is essentially the same as for candidates and other types of committees.

AIF SUPPORTS the enactment of Electioneering Communications Organizations (ECO) legislation that follows the guidelines established by federal courts.

*CS/CS/HB 131 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-167.*

 **HB 1207 Relating to Elections by Rep. Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland)** PRIORITY

This legislation intends to reenact elections communications organizations (ECOs) in a form consistent with a recent federal court decision that struck down the old regulatory scheme on constitutional grounds. Additionally, it establishes freestanding “leadership funds” to be controlled by the majority and minority caucus leaders of each legislative chamber. Respective caucus leaders are expected to report their financial activities on a fund-by-fund basis to ensure transparency and accountability. The key provision of this legislation is the reenactment of provisions regulating electioneering communications organizations (ECOs) to replace similar provisions that were thrown out by a federal court in late 2008. The new regulatory scheme limits the definition of electioneering communications to comport with the court decision. It also sets out the period during which ECO regulation is required — 60 days before a general election or 30 days before a primary. The registration and reporting scheme is essentially the same as for candidates and other types of committees.

AIF SUPPORTS the enactment of Electioneering Communications Organizations (ECO) legislation that follows the guidelines established by federal courts. However, AIF will OPPOSE any such legislation that goes beyond these guidelines and thus infringes on the right of free speech per the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

*CS/CS/HB 1207 was vetoed by the Governor; CS/SB 880 was laid on the table.*



**Chris Dudley**

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

**Issues:** Economic Development

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

**👍 HJR 7231 Relating to Standards for Establishing Legislative and Congressional District Boundaries by Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**

This proposal is intended to facilitate and clarify the two Fair Districts Florida amendments (amendments 5 & 6) that will appear on the general election ballot in November 2010. This proposed amendment was necessitated by contradictory criteria and real uncertainties in the Fair Districts provisions that make actual implementation impossible. Furthermore, this proposed constitutional amendment clarifies that criteria applicable to redistricting should be applied in a balanced, as opposed to mandatory, manner and enhances the protections for minority access districts and for districts that protect communities of interest. Before it can go into effect, HJR 7231 must be approved by 60 percent of voters during the upcoming November 2010 general election.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that helps clarify the Fair Districts Florida amendments and allows for the Legislature to balance the many requirements necessary for redistricting to take place.

*HJR 7231 was signed by Officers and filed with Secretary of State; SJR 2288 was laid on the table.*

## ENERGY

**👍 HM 1535 Relating to Federal Energy or Climate Legislation or Regulations by Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Oviedo)**

This Memorial would urge the President, Congress and the Florida Congressional delegation to oppose the American Clean Energy and Security Act (HR 2454, the Waxman-Markey bill) and any other proposals by federal agencies that will artificially raise energy prices for consumers and place an undue burden on the economy for little or no environmental benefit.

**AIF's Florida Energy Council (FEC) voted overwhelmingly to SUPPORT** this Memorial, as the federal legislation has the potential to impede the already fragile recovery of Florida's economy. The Council recognizes that any federal legislation or agency rules that would cause energy prices to increase, thereby inflating the cost of doing business, is not warranted at this time. Not only are Floridians struggling in this difficult economy, but Florida's employers cannot withstand what amounts to an additional tax on energy.

*CS/HM 1535 died in Senate messages.*

**👍 HB 7179 Relating to Qualifying Improvements to Real Property by Rep. Steve Precourt (R-Orlando)**

Establishing the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, this bill would allow for local governments to offer financing to individual residential, commercial and industrial property owners for energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements and wind resistance improvements. The financing would operate as a special assessment on the owner's property tax bill and spread out over a period of time. Also, the program is strictly voluntary and thus local governments would not be compelled to abide by any mandate.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that incentivizes property owners to improve energy efficiency through sensible and affordable means.

*CS/HB7179 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-139; SB 2322 was laid on the table.*

## ENVIRONMENTAL

**👍 SB 550 Relating to Environmental Protection by Sen. Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs) PRIORITY**

This bill is a consensus driven product that contains many issues important to the business community. In light of the upcoming EPA rule on numeric nutrient criteria, language is included that states the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program is the best approach for establishing numeric criteria. Further, the bill claims that the EPA proposal will have extreme economic impacts on the state. The bill also contains a septic tank inspection program that would begin next year and would require an inspection to take place every five years to see if the system needs to be pumped out, repaired or replaced. Other issues in the bill include expedited permitting for renewable energy projects, tax credits for Brownfield redevelopment projects and provide a longer duration for limestone permits.

**AIF SUPPORTS** SB 550 and thanks Sen. Constantine for this consensus driven legislation that will benefit both the environment and businesses in our state.

*CS/CS/CS/SB 550 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-205.*

**👍 HB 1109 Relating to Water Supply by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Meyers) PRIORITY**



**Leslie Dughi**

Assistant Director of Greenberg Traurig's Tallahassee Governmental Affairs practice ... state legislative practice spans over 22 years representing health and life insurers, investor-owned health care facilities, and assisted living facilities ... formerly served as the Director of Government Affairs for the Florida Chamber of Commerce ... well-versed in grassroots and campaign development techniques having previously served as AIF's Chief Political Officer.

**Issues:** Health Care

Dealing with the state's water issues, HB 1109 provides a re-write of Chapter 373, the section of law dealing with water resources and water planning. The bill consolidates all water supply-related sections such as water supply policy, planning, production and funding currently spread throughout Chapter 373 into a new Part VII of that Chapter. It will centralize water supply provisions into one location and will lead to a more efficient management and administration of water law.

AIF SUPPORTS state funding for alternative water supply programs. Furthermore, AIF commends Rep. Williams for recognizing the importance of funding water supply projects under the Water Protection and Sustainability Program.

*CS/HB 1109 died in Senate messages.*

 **HB 1177 Relating to Brownfield Development by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Meyers)**

Back in 1997, Florida started the "Brownfield's Redevelopment" Act to encourage the clean up and redevelopment of Brownfield sites, especially those which are complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The bill also makes changes to the current program by specifying that Brownfield projects are eligible for funding and priority ranking when they meet existing statutory criteria under the state's Water Pollution Control Financial Assistance Revolving Loan Program.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because of its capability to create jobs and restore property to be developed that was at one time not usable.

*HB 1177 died in the House Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee; CS/CS/SB 544 died in the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.*

 **HM 1589 Relating to Numeric Nutrient Criteria by Rep. Juan Zapata (R-Miami)** PRIORITY

This memorial urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw proposed numeric nutrient criteria for the water quality standards of our state's water bodies. EPA is slated to release numeric nutrient criteria that may make the majority of Florida's water impaired without scientific bases. The cost to bring our standards to EPA proposed levels could cost Florida approximately \$140 million a year.

AIF SUPPORTS the House Memorial and thanks our Florida Congressional Delegation for their efforts to have

EPA delay or withdraw their proposed numeric nutrient criteria standards.

*CS/HM 1589 died in Senate messages; SB 2474 died in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.*

 **HB 7243 Relating to Environmental Control by Rep. Trudi Williams (R-Ft. Meyers)** PRIORITY

As a major piece of recycling legislation for the 2010 session, HB 7243 sets a goal for Florida to reach a 75% recycling goal by 2020. Furthermore, the bill contains many of the recommendations made by the AIF Environmental Sustainability Council. HB 7243 directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in conjunction with Enterprise Florida, to create a Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC). The state will lead by example and immediately begin their plan to reach the 75% goal. HB 7243 directs state agencies, schools, universities and local government to report their recycling efforts on a standardized form created by DEP. In an effort to help DEP capture the information they need to make sure recycling goals are being met, private businesses will be able to report their recycling practices as well.

AIF believes that Florida can increase its recycling rate, but the management of waste is much more than recycling. Additionally, AIF SUPPORTS the creation of the Recycling Business Assistance Center as it has the potential of creating jobs; however, we will continue to oppose mandates. We want to thank Sen. Constantine for his work on this important bill.

*HB 7243 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-143; CS/CS/SB 570 was laid on the table.*

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

 **SB 262 Relating to Affordable Housing by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)** PRIORITY

This bill includes a segment to remove the cap on the Housing Trust fund, also known as the Sadowski Trust Fund. A portion of documentary stamp taxes from the sale of homes are placed in this fund to be used for affordable housing activities. Currently, there is a statutory cap on how much of the trust fund can be allocated toward affordable housing. SB 262 allows the cap to be lifted and all monies collected within the Sadowski Trust Fund can be used to fund affordable housing.



**Towson Fraser**

Joined Southern Strategy Group in 2008 with more than 10 years of political and governmental experience ... most recently served Governor Charlie Crist as his Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Affairs Director ... served as Communications Director for Speaker Allan Bense as well as the Republican Party of Florida, the Department of Management Services, and the Department of Community Affairs ... worked in the House Majority Office under Speakers John Thrasher and Tom Feeney ... Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Florida.

**Issues:** Space

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.



# “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.

## **HB 591 Relating to Health Insurance by Rep. Yolly Roberson (D-North Miami Beach) PRIORITY**

This bill mandates that health insurers include antiretroviral (ARV) drugs on their drug formulary or preferred drug list. Further, it would prohibit insurers from using the important cost efficiency tool called “prior authorization” for any ARV drugs. Staff analysis has noted that this mandate would cost the state money if the mandate is included in the state’s Medicaid Program.

AIF OPPOSES any health insurance mandate that makes healthcare coverage less affordable and accessible to Florida employers. Furthermore, AIF calls for the Legislature to acknowledge and use the current statutory requirement for any proposed mandate to have a cost study conducted prior to its approval.

*CS/HB 591 died in the House Insurance, Business, & Financial Affairs Policy Committee.*

## **SB 1232 Relating to Healthcare Services by Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey)**

This bill would eliminate the ability of health insurers to use prior authorization as a way to ensure appropriate hospital services are provided. Specifically, this legislation would not allow a claim to be denied by an insurer if, “due to an unintentional act, error or omission,” the hospital did not get authorization for the hospital services. Prior authorization is an effective cost control measure employed by insurers to confidently determine the appropriateness of a hospital admission.



### **Richard Gentry, Esq.**

Head of Gentry & Associates, a government consulting firm in Tallahassee ... prior General and Legislative Counsel for the Florida Home Builders Association ... in his 26 years with the association, Mr. Gentry was actively involved in legislation which included growth management, affordable housing and environmental laws.

**Issues:** Growth Management, Workforce Housing

AIF OPPOSES any healthcare mandates that drive up premiums for businesses and their employees. Furthermore, we believe that eviscerating group coverage plans and consequently driving up costs will provide additional burdens to our state’s struggling businesses.

*CS/SB 1232 died in the Senate Commerce Committee; CS/HB 715 died pending review of committee substitute in the House Health Care Regulation Policy Committee.*

## **HR 1561 Relating to Federal Healthcare Legislation by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)**

This bill encourages Florida’s Attorney General to file suit against the federal government on the constitutionality of the federal reform package that requires all Americans to purchase health insurance by a certain date.

AIF commends Rep. Eisnaugle for introducing this proactive legislation and SUPPORTS this bill because it will protect Florida consumers from the overreaching arm of federal healthcare.

*HB 1561 died in the House Rules and Calendar Council.*

## **HB 7235 - Relating to Compulsory Health Insurance Coverage by Rep. Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton)**

This legislation would provide Attorney General Bill McCollum more authority to bring legal action against the recently passed Federal Health Care Reform. McCollum, along with 18 other Attorneys General across the country, contend that the reform package’s mandate for individuals to purchase health care coverage is unconstitutional.

AIF commends Rep. Galvano for introducing this proactive legislation and SUPPORTS this bill because it will protect Florida consumers from the overreaching arm of federal healthcare.

*HB 7235 died in Senate messages.*

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **SB 1218 Relating to Information Technology by Sen. Jeremy Ring (D-Margate)**

This bill seeks to make significant changes to IT governance. Fundamentally, it creates the Office of Chief Technology Officer within the Department of Financial Services and creates three divisions within its oversight: Strategic Procurement; Policy Formulation, Development and Standards; and Imple-

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2010 Session Priorities.

mentation. This bill raises significant concerns about what may have happened to the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) which was created two years ago and charged with many of the same goals as the proposed Office of the Chief Technology Officer.

**AIF and its Information Technology Council (ITC) SUPPORTS legislation that deals with improving IT Governance for the state of Florida.**

*CS/SB 1218 died in the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee.*

**👍 SB 1706 Relating to State Financial Matters and SB 902 relating to Public Trust by Sen. JD Alexander (R-Winter Haven)**

These bills enhance the authority of the Legislature over agency contracting that affects the state budget. It prohibits agencies, with exceptions, from obligating the state through certain types of contractual clauses, and requires advance notice to the Governor and Legislature before entering into certain high-value or no-cost contracts. Furthermore, this bill specifies contractual language addressing the state's ability to terminate contracts, which must be included in all executive and judicial contracts, and creates misdemeanor penalties for agency employees who willfully violate these provisions.

**AIF's IT Council was one of the most vocal OPPONENTS of these bills during the 2009 session. AIF continues to be OPPOSED because these bills will place an inordinate amount of restrictions on businesses contracting with the state.**

*CS/SB 1706 died in House messages, CS/SB 902 died on the House calendar.*

**👍 SB 2020 Relating to Information Technology by Sen. JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales)**

This budget conforming bill revises the duties of the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology (AEIT) by expanding its role in purchasing IT products for enterprise services. It establishes a competitive solicitation process for procuring a statewide consolidated email service and requires the consolidation of SUNCOM Network services by October 2010. Additionally, it places requirements on the consolidation of the data centers.

**AIF and its Information Technology Council (ITC) SUPPORT this bill because it makes needed revisions to the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology that AIF supports.**

*CS/SB 2020 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-148.*

## INSURANCE

**👍 HB 447 by Rep. Bill Proctor (R-St. Augustine) PRIORITY**

Known as the "consumer choice" bill, HB 447 would provide homeowners with the option of purchasing their homeowners' insurance from a private insurance company using rates higher than their approved rates in lieu of the state's insurance company, Citizens. By encouraging private insurance companies and their private claims-paying capital to return or continue to do business in Florida, this bill will help to reduce the burden of "hidden hurricane taxes" on businesses' insurance premiums to fund Citizens' claims paying deficits. The bill also contains other property insurance provisions designed to address claims fraud and abuse and other cost drivers leading to higher rates.

**AIF SUPPORTS legislation which makes competition the primary determinant of insurance rates, including consumer choice for homeowners, flex rating for insurers and exemption from OIR prior approval of rates for certain commercial policies.**

*CS/CS/HB 447 died on the House calendar; CS/CS/SB 876 died in the Senate Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means.*

**👍 HB 663 Relating to Building Safety by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral)**

This bill provides certain standards of training for home inspectors, including language that requires anyone authorized to make such inspections (architects, engineers, builders, building inspectors or home inspectors) to perform these inspections themselves — and not delegate it to an employee.

**AIF SUPPORTS legislation that deters abuses associated with insurance mitigation fraud. From an actuarial perspective, Florida's insurance companies simply cannot afford to provide mitigation discounts to policyholders who do not adequately equip their homes.**

*CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 663 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-176; CS/CS/SB 648 was laid on the table.*



**Nick Iarossi, Esq.**

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

**Issues:** Insurance, Privacy

 **HB 885 Relating to Life Insurance by Rep. John Tobia (R-Melbourne)**

This bill addresses several different requirements for life insurance providers in the state of Florida. It specifies circumstances under which an insurer is not required to send notice of replacement of a life insurance policy to the current insurer. In addition, this bill allows coverage of spouses and dependent children under a group life insurance policy up to the amount for which the employee is insured under the policy. For purposes of group life insurance, this measure also prohibits creation of a class of employees consisting solely of employees covered under the employer's group health plan. It also bars the sale or transfer of annuities, which were purchased as part of a settlement to satisfy Medicare secondary payer requirements, to third parties that are not connected with the settlement.

**AIF SUPPORTS** efforts to strengthen Florida's life insurance laws and protect consumers of these products.

*CS/CS/HB 885 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-61; SB 1364 was laid on the table.*

 **HB 1181 Relating to Public Adjustors by Rep. Janet Long (D-St. Petersburg) PRIORITY**

This legislation aims to reign in unscrupulous public adjusters who entice homeowners to reopen claims against insurance companies. As a result of this practice, millions of dollars of re-opened claims from the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons are creating a financial strain on insurance companies and the state of Florida. The bill would require greater disclosure to homeowners from the part of these public adjusters. In addition, this measure also shortens the time frame that claims can be open from five years to three.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that will reduce abusive practices performed by public adjusters and protects businesses from risk of excess taxation. AIF commends Rep. Long for her legislation that affords insurers the opportunity to underwrite policies in Florida without facing burdensome assessments.

*CS/HB 1181 died in the House General Government Policy Council; CS/CS/SB 2264 died in House messages.*

 **SB 2044 Relating to Property Insurance by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples) PRIORITY**

This bill contains provisions that would allow insurers to raise rates within certain parameters and require minimal

review from the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR). The bill contains other AIF priorities designed to improve the property insurance market, such as increasing solvency requirements for new domestic property insurers. The bill also includes a very important provision dealing with public adjusters in Florida, which was the subject of another AIF priority bill described above — HB 1181 by Rep. Janet Long (D-St. Petersburg).

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation which makes competition the primary determinant of insurance rates, reduces the abusive practices performed by public adjusters, and protects businesses from risk of excess taxation.

*CS/CS/SB 2044 was vetoed by the Governor.*

 **SB 2108 Relating to Insurance by Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples)**

This bill provides premium discounts for residential property owners who install construction mitigation features that effectively reduce the amount of damage taken during a hurricane. This legislation also provides administrative sanctions in addition to the existing criminal penalties for home mitigation inspectors who do not personally inspect the home, or otherwise falsify inspection reports. This language is provided in response to a significant increase in abuses by home mitigation inspectors in falsifying the existence of loss mitigation features to qualify for discounts.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that protects insurance providers from the deceitful practices of dishonest home inspectors. Florida's insurance industry readily provides discounts to homeowners who install the proper mitigation features.

*CS/SB 2108 died in the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee.*

 **SB 2176 Relating to Commercial Insurance De-Regulation by Sen. Durrell Peadar (R-Crestview) PRIORITY**

This bill exempts certain commercial insurance products from the State's rate filing and prior approval process. Nonetheless, an insurer must notify the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) of any changes to rates for these exempted types of insurance within 30 days after the effective date of the change. The bill specifies the information that must be included in the notice, and requires that underwriting files, premiums, and loss and expense statistics must be maintained by the insurer and subject to review by the OIR.



**H. Frank Meiners**

President, Frank Meiners Governmental Consultants, LLC ... formerly with BellSouth as their Executive Director in Tallahassee where he lobbied communications issues ... more than 31 years legislative experience ... graduate of the University of South Florida in Mathematics and of the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

**Issues:** Taxation, Information Technology Council

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

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

*CS/CS/SB 2176 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-175; CS/HB 1563 died in the House Government Operations Appropriations.*

## LEGAL & JUDICIAL

### **HB 437 Relating to Contingency Fee Agreements/ DLA & Private Attorneys by Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)** **PRIORITY**

This legislation puts reasonable limitations on contingency fee awards to private law firms, exclusive of costs and expenses related to litigation. This limitation would ensure that the people of Florida get the maximum benefit from the litigation, while attorneys working on these cases continue to receive adequate compensation. This bill also creates an open, accountable structure for how the Attorney General's office conducts business for the people of Florida.

Florida's Attorney General serves as the state's chief legal officer, thus requiring the resources that this bill provides to handle certain complex cases with this legislation's policy. AIF SUPPORTS this very good measure that will guarantee accountability, transparency and reasonableness in that process.

*CS/HB 437 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-7; CS/SB 712 was laid on the table.*

### **HB 689 Relating to Negligence/Slip on Foreign Substance by Rep. Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral)** **PRIORITY**

This legislation clarifies that a plaintiff bears the burden of proving that a business owner had constructive or actual knowledge of a hazardous condition on its premises when the plaintiff sues for damages from a slip and fall injury. This bill was desperately needed following a 2001 Florida Supreme Court decision that opened the floodgates of "slip and fall" litigation throughout the state, rendering the summary judgment mechanism meaningless since the Court placed the burden of disproving an injury allegation on the business owner. Since the plaintiff initiates the lawsuit, it is reasonable for the plaintiff to bear the burden of proving their case. This bill restores that important requirement.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that corrects this situation and creates a level playing field, providing stability and fairness in litigated cases.

*HB 689 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-8; CS/SB 1224 was laid on the table.*

### **SB 2060 Relating to Sovereign Immunity by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Sarasota)** **PRIORITY**

This legislation increases the amount of damages a local government can pay without requiring a claims bill before the Legislature. SB 2060 increases the current cap of \$100,000 per person and \$200,000 per incident to \$200,000 and \$300,000, respectively. Prior to the increase, it is important to note that these amounts had not been raised since 1981.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that provides a more efficient and equitable process for resolving legal disputes with local governments.

*CS/SB 2060 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-26; CS/CS/HB 1107 was laid on the table.*

### **SB 2440 Relating to Liability Releases by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)** **PRIORITY**

This legislation will clarify a Florida Supreme Court ruling relating to a parent's ability to sign waivers for their children to participate in certain recreational activities. SB 2440 was very important for many AIF members in the tourism and recreation industries. This bill provides more clarity for the use of waivers, and should generate more predictability in these types of cases.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that begins to address this important situation for Florida's tourist and recreational businesses by providing parents the ability to sign waivers so that their children can participate in recreational activities.

*CS/SB 2440 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-27; CS/CS/HB 285 was laid on the table.*

## SEAPORTS

### **HB 821 Relating to International Commercial Arbitration by Rep. Perry Thurston (D-Ft. Lauderdale)** **PRIORITY**

This legislation allows Florida companies engaged in international commerce to conduct arbitrations on a more regular basis in Florida. By design, this will decrease their costs while simultaneously boosting Florida's reputation as an interna-



**David Rancourt**

Founding Partner of Southern Strategy Group with more than 23 years legislative experience ... formerly served as Director of the Florida Division of Elections, as Deputy Secretary of State, and Deputy Chief of Staff under Governor Jeb Bush ... serves a strong client base with varied interests in both executive and legislative branches of government ... holds a B.S. in Economics from Florida State University and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Florida.

**Issues:** Executive Branch

Members of AIF's Governmental Affairs team with Sen. John Thrasher (R-Jacksonville), Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando), and Attorney General Bill McCollum at the bill signing for HB 437 – the Transparency in Private Attorney Contracting, or "TPAC" bill.



tional leader in commercial arbitration. The bill will bring additional arbitration business to the state, as well as business that is currently lost to other countries. Additionally, this measure will further strengthen Florida's position as a global leader for international trade and commerce.

**AIF SUPPORTS** this legislation because of its ability to make Florida a more attractive location for international business. Businesses look for the familiar, and the acceptance of the Model Law in so many jurisdictions around the world would prove to be a positive consideration in deciding where to locate international companies and conduct business transactions.

*CS/HB 821 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-60; CS/SB 1114 was laid on the table.*

**👍 HB 963 Relating to Florida's Seaports by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY**

This legislation authorizes seaports to receive or solicit proposals from and enter into public-private infrastructure project agreements with private entities to build, operate, maintain, or finance port-related public infrastructure projects. HB 963 will also allow any of Florida's 14 deepwater ports to apply to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a port conceptual permit, including applicable authorization to use sovereign submerged lands, either under a joint coastal permit or the environmental resource permit for all or a portion of the port.



**Jim Rathbun**

President of Rathbun & Associates ... more than 21 years experience representing individuals and entities before the Legislature, state agencies, Governor, and Cabinet ... formerly worked with the Florida House of Representatives and served as Staff Director of the House Republican Office ... B.S. from Florida State University.

**Issues:** Energy & Utilities, Florida Energy Council

**AIF SUPPORTS** this legislation that will help Florida's port businesses expand Florida's position as an international commerce leader.

*CS/CS/CS/HB 963 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-201; CS/CS/CS/CS/SB 2000 was laid on the table.*

**👍 HB 1169 Relating to Florida Ports Investments by Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville) PRIORITY**

As a top priority of the AIF Florida Maritime Council (FMC), this bill creates a new section of law entitled the "Florida Ports Investment Act." The bill identifies a new funding source for Florida port projects through incentivizing insurance companies to make investments in exchange of future insurance premium tax credits. Such investments are desperately needed to expand the role Florida's ports play in moving goods into Florida directly, rather than utilizing other state's facilities and businesses to facilitate our state's commerce.

**AIF SUPPORTS** this legislation that will help Florida's port businesses expand Florida's position as an international commerce leader.

*CS/CS/HB 1169 died in Senate messages; CS/CS/SB 1992 died in the Senate Finance & Tax Committee.*

**👍 HB 7129 Relating to Military Support by Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)**

Perhaps the most significant element of this bill for AIF is the requirement that Florida seaport security standards be linked to the federal seaport security standards. This has been a top priority of the AIF Florida Maritime Council for three years and we have made great strides in achieving the total transition. Despite being met with strong resistance by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Governor's Office of Drug Control, AIF was successful in implementing its passage last session.

**AIF strongly SUPPORTS** legislation that significantly reduces the costs to employers conducting business at Florida's public seaports.

*CS/HB 7129 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-182; CS/SB 274 died in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.*

**👍** Bill supported by AIF

**👎** Bill opposed by AIF

**PRIORITY** = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

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

– Frank DiBello, President, Space Florida

## SPACE

### **HB 451 Relating to Space Florida by Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) PRIORITY**

This legislation will streamline the board of Space Florida, by reducing the number of Space Florida Board members from 19 to 15, and make it a more industry-credible body with the ability to recruit and retain aerospace businesses throughout Florida.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation to reorganize the board structure of Space Florida — the state's aerospace development organization.

*CS/HB 451 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-105; CS/CS/SB 2606 was laid on the table.*

### **SM 944 Relating to Space Shuttle Orbiter Retirement by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY**

This memorial urges Congress to permanently house one of the retiring Space Shuttles at Kennedy Space Center, thus creating a compelling draw for tourists and honoring the contributions Florida has made to the Space Shuttle Program throughout its history.

AIF is extraordinarily appreciative of the contributions that the space program has provided to our state. Furthermore, we commend the Legislature for promoting efforts to honor their achievements in Florida.

*SM 944 was signed by Officers and filed with Secretary of State; CS/HM 253 was laid on the table.*

### **HB 969 Relating to Space & Aerospace Infrastructure by Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) PRIORITY**

This bill provides Space Florida with the needed flexibility to spend approximately \$10 million of funds allocated in 2008 to make improvements at existing launch complexes in Florida. This legislation is vitally critical to keep Florida as the leader in space and will allow our state to leverage the existing infrastructure to lure commercial space projects to Florida.

AIF SUPPORTS giving Space Florida the flexibility to allocate any of the un-obligated Launch Complex (LC) 36 funds for any purpose determined to have the greatest benefit to the commercial space industry in Florida. Furthermore, we would like to thank all members of the House for their unilateral support on this bill.

*CS/HB 969 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-222; CS/CS/SB 1776 was laid on the table.*

### **SB 1188 Relating to Commercial Launch Zone Tax Incentives by Sen. Thad Altman (R-Melbourne) PRIORITY**

This legislation aims to provide corporate income tax credits for commercial space flight projects. Specifically, SB 1188 creates three corporate income tax credits for certified commercial spaceflight businesses that meet specified job-creation and investment levels and participate in a successful launch within the 3 previous years. The business must purchase at least \$500,000 in machinery and equipment to qualify for a claim against 50 percent of its tax liability in a given year.

AIF strongly SUPPORTS the creation of a Commercial Launch Zone or CLZ. Florida's space industry is a \$2 billion economic driver that employs 30,000 Floridians in 47 of Florida's 67 counties; therefore, we must do everything in our power to maintain our prominence in space.

*CS/CS/SB 1188 died in the Senate Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee; HB 133 died in the House Economic Development Policy Committee.*



**Stephen W. Shiver**

Director of Governmental Affairs for the Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners ... over 11 years legislative and campaign experience ... former aide to House Speaker Tom Feeney and Majority Office Liaison to House Majority Leader Mike Fasano ... former Executive Director for the Republican Party of Florida ... has represented some of Florida's largest corporate and governmental agencies before the Florida Legislature ... graduate of Florida State University.

**Issues:** Economic Development

 **HB 1389 Relating to Space & Aerospace infrastructure by Rep. Steve Crisafulli (R-Merritt Island) PRIORITY**

This bill designates the “Space Transition & Revitalization (STAR) Act” which allows the use of 20 percent of the Quick Action Closing Fund to be used for attracting and retaining aerospace and high-tech jobs. Additionally, the language provides Space Florida with flexibility in using funds appropriated for Launch Complex 36 for other launch complexes or related uses.

**AIF SUPPORTS** giving Space Florida the flexibility to allocate any of the un-obligated Launch Complex (LC) 36 funds for any purpose determined to have the greatest benefit to the commercial space industry in Florida. AIF also **SUPPORTS** this legislation as it will establish a number of incentives for luring new commercial space projects to Florida.

*CS/CS/HB 1389 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter No. 2010-226; CS/CS/SB 2500 was laid on the table.*

 **SB 1539 Relating to Aerospace Tax Credits by Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Oviedo) PRIORITY**

This measure seeks to address, in part, job-losses associated with discontinuance of the Space Shuttle program by creating two corporate income tax credits related to aerospace jobs created after January 1, 2011. The Aerospace-Sector Jobs Tax Credit provides a maximum annual credit of up to \$12,500 per qualified employee based on wages subject to the unemployment tax. The second incentive creates a Tuition Reimbursement Tax Credit that provides a credit equal to 50 percent of the tuition reimbursements paid to a qualified employee in a single tax year. The credit may only be claimed if the qualified employee was awarded an undergraduate or graduate degree, a technical certification, or a certification from a training program offered by Workforce Florida, Inc., within 1 year after being hired by the aerospace business.

**AIF SUPPORTS** legislation that diminishes the consequences of the Space Shuttle’s retirement. With thousands of jobs forecasted to be lost, it is imperative that we provide the aerospace industry with incentives that will induce employment and stimulate associated commerce in Florida.

*HB 1539 died in the House Finance & Tax Council; CS/SB 2572 died in the Senate Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means.*

## TAXATION

 **SB 167 Relating to Sales Tax Exemption/Drinking Water in Containers by Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee)**

Provisions in this legislation include an “environmental surcharge” of 6% on each bottle of water sold by retailers in the state. The funds generated by this surcharge would be deposited into the Ecosystem Management & Restoration Trust Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Presently, companies that bottle water in the state already pay a hefty fee to the local water utilities for the water they use. In addition, water companies in the state have excellent recycling rates and should not have to bear this fee.

**AIF OPPOSES** any tax that further encumbers businesses in Florida, especially when assessments are proposed in addition to existing taxes. AIF will continue to fight this legislation so that companies have reasonable access to the state’s water supply.

*HB 167 died in the House Finance and Tax Council; SB 152 died in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.*

 **SB 346 Relating to Working Waterfront Property by Sen. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) PRIORITY**

This piece of legislation addresses the implementation language of Amendment 6, the constitutional amendment that deals with how working waterfront properties are appraised. This measure would ensure that these properties, which are defined as Working Waterfront Properties, will be assessed at current use and not highest & best use, as done previously.

**AIF SUPPORTS** efforts to pass implementing legislation from Amendment 6; however, AIF has worked adamantly to stay within the spirit of the language approved by voters in 2008.

*CS/CS/SB 346 died in House messages; HB 73 died in the House Finance & Tax Council.*

 **HB 483 Relating to Tax on Sales, Use, and Other Transactions by Rep. David Rivera (R-Miami) PRIORITY**

This legislation effectively creates a three-day sales tax holiday in Florida. The bill does away with sales tax on books, clothing, wallets, or bags — including handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags, but excludes briefcases, suitcases, and other garment bags — having a sales price of \$50 or



**Stacey Webb**

Joined Southern Strategy Group after serving as Assistant Chancellor for Community Colleges at the Florida Department of Education leading the division’s legislative efforts on issues relating to economic and workforce development ... also served as Staff Director and Majority Office Senior Analyst with the House of Representatives ... 15 years legislative experience ... received a B.A. from Stetson University and a M.P.A. from the University of Central Florida.

**Issues:** Education, Florida Council on Education & Workforce Development

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF’s 2010 Session Priorities.

less. The same sales tax exemption would apply to school supplies valued under \$10. The proposed sales tax holiday would take place August 13-15, 2010.

AIF SUPPORTS the enactment of a sales tax holiday for school supplies. Research has shown that customers increase their spending during these tax-free periods; therefore, stimulating economic activity in our state.

*CS/HB 483 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-93; CS/SB 514 was laid on the table.*

#### **HB 711 Relating to Sales & Use Tax/Boat Sales by Rep. Tom Grady (R-Naples)**

Known as the "Florida Maritime Full Employment Act," this legislation is designed to reinvigorate our state's boating industry. Florida's marine industry has gone from an \$18 billion economic impact to our state to \$16 billion in just a few years. HB 711 would assist Florida's ailing industry by imposing an \$18,000 cap on the amount of tax due on each sale or use of a boat.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to strengthen Florida's marine industry. AIF recognizes its importance and believes that businesses will benefit from the increased expenditures on the purchase and use of boats in Florida.

*HB 711 died in Senate messages; SB 2454 died in Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means.*

#### **HB 981 Relating to Agriculture by Rep. Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring)**

This legislation would clarify in state law that land classified as "agricultural" retains that classification when offered for sale. AIF supports HB 981 by Rep. Grimsley as it will allow owners of property formerly classified as agricultural, but being offered for sale, to retain their agricultural assessments. Additionally, owners of agricultural improvements, structures, or equipment on agricultural land used as a natural conservation or to implement best management practices may be subject to lower property taxes.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that reduces the burden on Florida's agricultural industry. As the second largest industry in the state, it is important that AIF take the appropriate measures to reduce assessments on Florida's farmers.

*CS/CS/CS/HB 981 was vetoed by the Governor; CS/CS/CS/SB 2182 was laid on the table.*

#### **SB 1884 Relating to Property Taxation by Rep. Ellyn Bogdanoff (R-Fort Lauderdale)**

This bill makes changes to several areas dealing with property taxation. Under current law, non-homestead property that has benefited from the 10 percent annual assessment increase limitation must be reassessed when there is a change of ownership or control. The bill provides that, for a publicly traded company, a change of ownership or control does not occur when the cumulative transfer of 50 percent of the ownership of the entity occurs through the buying and selling of shares of the company on a public exchange. This exception does not apply to transfers made through a merger or acquisition.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation because without this needed change, publicly traded companies will no longer be eligible for the 10% assessment cap that they are entitled to. A change in cumulative ownership due to a change in stock holder control is not a feasible method for encumbering businesses with additional assessments.

*CS/SB 1884 was laid on the table; CS/HB 7215 died in Senate messages.*

#### **HB 7219 Relating to Corporate Income Tax by Rep. Joe Abruzzo (D-Wellington) PRIORITY**

Known as the "corporate piggyback bill," this bill updates the Florida Income Tax Code to reflect changes in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code enacted by Congress and in effect beginning January 1, 2010. This definition provides for "piggybacking" each change made to the Internal Revenue Code during 2009.

AIF SUPPORTS legislation that adopts the latest changes of the Federal IRS code so businesses only have to maintain one set of books for Florida. Failure to pass this bill would result in increased bookkeeping burdens for Florida's businesses.

*HB 7129 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-142; CS/SB 1912 was laid on the table.*

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

#### **HB 281 Relating to Communications Services Tax by Rep. Ron Schultz (R-Inverness)**

This legislation provides an administrative procedure for handling the proper crediting of the tax which was never paid by the consumer to the state and appropriate local jurisdiction. The bill allows dealers to use a proportionate



**Gerald Wester**

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

**Issues:** Insurance, Financial Services Council

AIF's Vice President of Governmental Affairs, Jose L. Gonzalez and General Counsel, Tamela Perdue share a moment with Attorney General Bill McCollum.



allocation method to determine the amount of bad debt credit attributable to the state or local jurisdiction. Rather than requiring dealers to identify a specific time period in which the sales occurred that eventually became worthless accounts, a proportionate allocation method will be based upon current gross taxes due.

AIF SUPPORTS this bill because it makes collecting and remitting the Communications Services Tax more efficient and accurate. The state should try to make collecting taxes as efficient as possible for business, and this bill helps do that.

*HB 281 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-83; SB 344 was laid on the table.*

## TRANSPORTATION

### **HB 1271 Relating to Transportation by Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee)** PRIORITY

Known as the 2010 omnibus Transportation package, this legislation contains provisions that look to create the Osceola County Expressway Authority; authorize a weight increase or "scale tolerance" for commercial motor vehicle; authorize regional transportation or transit authorities to levy up to a 1% discretionary sales surtax for transportation systems by a vote of the county electorate; and clarify the notification requirements for issuance of a toll violation, and clarifies the land uses associated with outdoor advertising. HB 1271 also includes language dealing with the regulation of Harbor

Pilots who work in Florida's 14 deep-water ports. This consensus language calls for a study of this rate-making board and requires the appointment of new representatives to their boards.

AIF SUPPORTS raising the weight limit on commercial trucks using state and local roadways to weight limits that are equal to those of our surrounding states. Furthermore, we believe that increased truck weight limits will have a positive effect for the Florida business community by reducing the shipping costs for moving goods, and aligning Florida's current weight limits with those of our surrounding southern states.

*CS/CS/CS/HB 1271 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-225; CS/CS/CS/SB 2362 was laid on the table.*

### **SB 1842 Relating to Transportation Projects by Sen. Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)**

This bill requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to notify local governments prior to certain projects which will divide a highway, erect a median barrier, or close or modify an access connection to an abutting property owner. The local government is required to seek public input on how the change in access will impact access to business and the economic impact to the business community. FDOT is required to consider the local government's comments in the final design of the project.

AIF SUPPORTS this legislation as a way to strike a balance between public safety and free commerce.

*CS/CS/SB 1842 was vetoed by the Governor; CS/HB 1331 was laid on the table.*

### **SB 2036 Relating to Motor Vehicle Operation Fees by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Niceville)** PRIORITY

This legislation would reduce fees related to motor vehicle licensing and registration, the issuance of driver's licenses, identification cards and driver's license reinstatements that were increased during the 2009 legislative session. A provision of the bill would also credit taxpayers who paid the higher fee this past year.

AIF SUPPORTS efforts to reduce last year's increase on tag and title fees and will work to return all the tag and title fee

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



Bill supported by AIF

Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

increases from the 2009 session to the State Transportation Trust Fund.

*CS/SB 2036 died in the on Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee.*

 **HB 5503 Relating to Transportation Revenue by Rep. Rich Glorioso (R-Plant City)** PRIORITY

This budget conforming bill includes a proposal that would raid the state's Transportation Trust Fund of over \$430 million dollars. During a year in which job creation is the primary focus, this proposed raid would do just the opposite. Spending on transportation projects is one of the most proven ways to create jobs immediately.

AIF **OPPOSES** the use of transportation trust fund dollars on anything other than transportation projects. This proposed million-dollar sweep of the transportation trust fund will cost the state thousands of jobs and will endanger countless road projects.

*CS/HB 5503 died in Conference Committee.*

 **HB 7213 Relating to Capital Formation for Infrastructure Projects by Rep. Dave Murzin (R-Pensacola)**

This bill creates the Florida Infrastructure Fund Partnership, a contingent tax credit program designed to leverage investment and private funding for state infrastructure projects. The Partnership is authorized to raise \$350 million in private funds for direct investment in infrastructure projects, including water or wastewater systems, communication systems, power systems, transportation systems, renewable energy systems, ancillary or support systems, or other strategic infrastructure needs.

AIF **SUPPORTS** legislation that seeks to increase investments in infrastructure. These kinds of investments will lead to job creation at a time when over 1 million Floridians are unemployed.

*CS/HB 7213 died in Senate messages.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

 **SB 1736 Relating to Unemployment Compensation by Sen. Rudy Garcia (R-Hialeah)** PRIORITY

This bill contains the administrative changes that the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) needs to comply with the ever changing federal requirements of the unemployment compensation system. Additionally, this legislation contains provisions that will better allocate the calculations of unemployment taxes for all Florida companies. Additionally, SB 1736 enacts the required statutory language for unemployed Floridians to receive extended unemployment compensation benefits permitted by Congress.

AIF **SUPPORTS** this innovative legislation which will reduce costs for Florida employers and streamline the admin-

**When Florida employers faced unprecedented unemployment compensation tax hikes, AIF worked diligently with our legislative leaders and developed a way to alleviate and mitigate this year's tax burden which, in turn, freed up capital that could be used to expand businesses and create new jobs — the real key to unlocking our state's economic recovery.**

– Jay Ryan, Enterprise Rent-A-Car

istrative process of the state's unemployment compensation system.

*CS/CS/SB 1736 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-90.*

 **HB 7033 Relating to Unemployment Compensation by Rep. Dave Murzin (R-Ocala)** PRIORITY

This very important measure provides Florida employers with immediate relief from unprecedented unemployment compensation tax increases that they were facing this year. Without this legislation, most Florida employers would be forced to pay unemployment taxes at levels higher than 1200% over last year's amounts. In addition, the full payments would have been due at the end of the first quarter. Many Florida businesses simply could not pay these unexpected, exorbitant taxes without terminating more workers, cutting benefits or possibly closing their doors altogether.

AIF would like to commend each and every member of the Florida Legislature for their work in passing this vital legislation. They have listened to the outcry of thousands of Florida businesses and have responded by providing them immediate tax relief when they needed it the most.

*CS/HB 7033 was approved by the Governor and assigned Chapter Number 2010-1; CS/CS/SB 1666 was laid on the table.*

 Bill supported by AIF

 Bill opposed by AIF

PRIORITY = included in AIF's 2010 Session Priorities.

# 2 0 1 0 *Champions for Business*



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

For 35 years, Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) has published *Voting Records*, an analysis of every vote cast by every legislator on every major business issue. The votes provide tangible evidence of whether or not that legislator upholds the ability of Florida companies to operate free of overly burdensome state regulation and taxation. It is a valuable tool used by AIF and the business community to determine which legislators running for re-election deserve our support. Yet, voting records only tell part of the story.

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

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

This year, AIF selected those legislators who we deem are strong and forceful advocates for the business community. In our collective wisdom, these 16 legislators are the epitome of what a *Champion for Business* should be. Whether they proposed an important bill, authored a key amendment, or toiled behind the scenes, these legislators are the ones who made a difference this session. In addition, AIF is proud to present *Council Awards* to a group of policy-makers who exhibited great leadership on behalf of AIF's Council system.

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



**ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA**  
*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*

# 2 0 1 0 Champions for Business

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



**Rep. Dean Cannon**  
(R-Winter Park) is receiving his second AIF *Champion for Business* Award. As the Speaker-Designate for the House of Representatives, Rep.

**2010 CFB Winner**  
Cannon continues to be a loyal defender of the free-enterprise system. He has a clear understanding of what it takes to grow Florida's economy and protect our business climate. This year, Rep. Cannon was instrumental in developing Medicaid reform legislation that would provide Florida with significant cost-savings. Rep. Cannon's proposal would create a "Medicaid Managed Care" model which establishes the Medicaid program as a statewide, integrated managed care program for all covered services. Rep. Cannon brought forth this proposal in an effort to reign in costs and promote fiscal predictability within Florida's Medicaid program. AIF has been a long-time supporter of Medicaid reform, and we are deeply thankful for Rep. Cannon's leadership on this issue. For this we are proud to recognize Rep. Dean Cannon as a *Champion for Business*.



**Speaker Larry Cretul**  
(R-Ocala) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* award. AIF would like to recognize Speaker Cretul's leadership ethic and steadfast

**2010 CFB Winner**  
dedication to promoting the interests of Florida's employers. Speaker Cretul demonstrated his commitment to the business community by effectively working with Senate leadership to pass the much anticipated unemployment compensation tax relief legislation (**HB 7033**). Passed on the very first day of the 2010 session,

this much needed assistance alleviated the burden of excessive unemployment compensation taxation on Florida business owners. AIF is proud to call Speaker Larry Cretul a *Champion for Business*.



**2010 CFB Winner**

**Rep. Steve Crisafulli**  
(R-Merritt Island) is a first time AIF *Champion for Business* recipient and truly deserves our recognition for promoting job creation and

economic development in Florida. This year, Rep. Crisafulli demonstrated persistent leadership in bringing forth several pieces of legislation dealing with Florida's space industry. **HB 1389**, otherwise known as the "STAR" act, will allocate resources for projects to retain or create high-technology jobs, effectively developing a more diverse aerospace economy in Florida. In addition, Rep. Crisafulli introduced **HB 969**, which provides Space Florida with flexibility in spending funds for improvements to other launch complexes and space transportation facilities in order to attract new space vehicle testing and launch business to the state. Rep. Crisafulli must also be acknowledged for bringing forth a proposal that will create greater efficiency in Space Florida's governing board. **HB 451** will make the Space Florida board a more industry-credible body with the ability to recruit and retain aerospace businesses throughout Florida. AIF is pleased to report that all three of these measures passed the Legislature and have been approved by the Governor. For his strong commitment in providing relief to Florida's space industry, we are proud to distinguish Rep. Steve Crisafulli as a *Champion for Business*.



**2010 CFB Winner**

**Rep. Brad Drake**  
(R-DeFuniak Springs) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* award for sponsoring and passing one of AIF's

priority bills for the 2010 session – **HB 1563** Relating to Commercial Insurance Rates. This legislation excludes certain types of commercial insurance and risks from having to file a rate with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR). Rep. Drake is commended for bringing forth a proposal that understands to attract and retain private capital to meet Florida's insurance needs, rates must be "market based" and determined by consumers in a competitive environment, not by government. Even in a tumultuous political atmosphere, Rep. Drake worked cooperatively with leadership in both chambers and was able to pass the Senate companion, **SB 2176**. For this reason, AIF is proud to recognize Rep. Brad Drake as a *Champion for Business*.



**2010 CFB Winner**

**Rep. Adam Hasner**  
(R-Delray Beach) is receiving his third *Champion for Business* Award in recognition of his unwavering support of AIF and the business

community of Florida. As a Majority Leader, Rep. Hasner has been a force to reckon with. His leadership has been instrumental in helping major pieces of pro-business legislation pass the House of Representatives throughout his tenure as an elected official. This year, Rep. Hasner once again played a major role in passing AIF priority legislation dealing with bringing tax relief to employers paying unemployment compensation taxes.

Without his assistance, business owners in Florida could have faced tax increases of more than 1000 percent. For this and many other reasons, AIF is proud to recognize Majority Leader Adam Hasner as a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Rep. Alan Hays** (R-Umatilla) has traditionally been a pro-business advocate during his tenure in the Legislature and is receiving his second AIF *Champion for Business* award.

This year, Rep. Hays has further exhibited his support for the business community by sponsoring legislation that enacts a Workers' Compensation Drug-repackaging fix. Through his efforts, Rep. Hays included language in **HB 5603** relating to the Department of Financial Services that would save Florida employers close to \$40 million in workers' compensation costs. Furthermore, this statutory fix would prevent providers from charging exorbitant prices for repackaged medications. Despite a veto by the Governor, AIF commends Rep. Hays for his efforts and for recognizing the importance of relieving Florida's employers from excessive Workers' Compensation costs. Once again, we are pleased to recognize Rep. Alan Hays as a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Rep. Mike Horner** (R-Kissimmee) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* award for his continuing efforts to pass legislation designed to address

a Florida Supreme Court ruling which disallowed the long standing practice of parents signing legal waivers allowing their children to participate in sports and other commercial activities. **HB 285** relating to Parental Authority authorizes natural guardians, on behalf of any of their minor children, to waive and release, in advance, any claim or cause of action that would apply to any of their minor children to the same extent that any adult may do so on his or her own behalf. Opponents of this bill battled against

passage at every step of the way and Rep. Horner did a masterful job of debunking their arguments and successfully passing **HB 285**. AIF would like to recognize Rep. Horner for his courage in sponsoring this legislation and seeing its passage through both the House & Senate. For this reason, we are proud to recognize Rep. Mike Horner as a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Rep. Ralph Poppell** (R-Titusville) is receiving his first *Champion for Business* Award this year for his sponsorship of one of AIF's top economic develop-

ment priorities. Known as Dynamic Scoring or Modeling, **HB 121** establishes a process by which the Speaker and President of the Senate can ask the state's economists to analyze the cost and benefits associated with particular pieces of proposed legislation. By allowing the state to undertake this type of research, legislators will be better informed when deciding the fate of legislation that could potentially bring much-needed revenues and economic activity to the state. For his dedication to seeing this proposal become reality, AIF is proud to recognize Rep. Poppell as a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Rep. Perry Thurston** (D-Ft. Lauderdale) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* Award. Rep. Thurston has done an extraordinary job in sponsoring

and passing legislation that will make Florida a more attractive location for international business, a big priority for the business community. **HB 821** relating to International Commercial Arbitration allows Florida companies engaged in international commerce to conduct arbitrations on a more regular basis in Florida. By design, this will decrease their costs while simultaneously boosting Florida's reputation as an international leader in commercial arbitration. As one of AIF's priorities for the 2010 session, this bill will increase economic activity by bringing more international arbitration

proceedings to Florida. AIF would like to recognize Rep. Thurston's hard work and unwavering devotion to seeing this measure's passage through the Legislature that will further strengthen Florida's position as a global leader for international trade and commerce. For this reason, we are proud to call Rep. Perry Thurston a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Rep. Will Weatherford** (R-Wesley Chapel) will be receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* award for his outstanding leadership in promoting economic

development and education reform policies. Rep. Weatherford sponsored a comprehensive jobs package (**HB 1509**), which provides Florida's employers with numerous economic development incentives to promote much needed job growth. Furthermore, Rep. Weatherford's wide-ranging jobs bill will make Florida a more competitive state for commercial expansion, particularly within the film & entertainment industry. Rep. Weatherford is also to be commended as a strong champion of education reform. As the prime sponsor for the "Right Size Class Size" amendment (**HJR 7039**), Rep. Weatherford advocated for giving Floridians the opportunity to repeal constitutional class size requirements that are inflexible and too costly to implement with an ever-increasing budget gap. Rep. Weatherford's capacity to work with members on both sides of the aisle and pass these measures has demonstrated his irrefutable ability to be an effective leader. AIF is proud to recognize Rep. Will Weatherford as a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Sen. Thad Altman** (R-Melbourne) is now a two-time *Champion for Business* Award winner for his continued success in promoting the space industry's agenda.

Virtually every space-related measure in the Senate that AIF has followed this session was sponsored by Sen. Altman.

# 2 0 1 0 Champions for Business

(continued)

These priorities include measures that will provide Space Florida with the resources to retain or create high-technology jobs (SB 2500), as well as legislation that allows remaining launch complex renovation funds to be used on a variety of infrastructure projects (SB 1776). In addition, Sen. Altman sponsored a memorial (SM 944) requesting Congress to direct one of the decommissioned Space Shuttle orbiters be preserved and placed on display at the Kennedy Space Center. Sen. Altman is to be commended for his hard work and leadership on providing much needed relief to Florida's space industry. For these reasons, AIF is proud to once again call Sen. Thad Altman a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**President Jeff Atwater** (R-North Palm Beach) is receiving his third AIF *Champion for Business* Award this year. A true proponent for free enterprise, President

Atwater once again demonstrated real leadership in passing sweeping tort reform legislation that is of great significance to AIF. Expressing his commitment to get these matters resolved early in the session, President Atwater's accomplishments will ensure that Florida's employers are not unfairly targeted or burdened by frivolous claims. AIF salutes President Atwater for his unwavering commitment to handling the Legislature's business in such an efficient manner. To that end, AIF is proud to call President Jeff Atwater a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Sen. Rudy Garcia** (R-Miami) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* award for sponsoring one of AIF's most important priorities for the 2010 legisla-

tive session — unemployment compensation tax relief. Florida businesses simply could not pay these unexpected, exorbitant taxes without terminating more workers, cutting benefits or pos-

sibly closing their doors altogether. Sen. Garcia demonstrated an understanding of this issue by effectively working with leadership in both chambers to pass the much anticipated Unemployment Compensation relief legislation. Passed on the very first day of the 2010 session, this needed assistance alleviated the burden of excessive unemployment compensation taxation on Florida business owners. Because of Sen. Garcia's hard work and dedication to this issue, countless Florida businesses will be able to keep their doors open and remain a viable source of employment for our citizens. For these reasons, AIF is proud to call Sen. Rudy Garcia a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Sen. Mike Haridopolos** (R-Melbourne) is a multiple *Champion for Business* Award winner and a remarkable defender of the business commu-

nity. This year we are recognizing Sen. Haridopolos for playing a significant role in overseeing the passage of the Legislature's largest economic development initiative. As the Senate's President-designate, Sen. Haridopolos exhibited tremendous leadership ability in developing SB 1752, also known as the "Jobs for Florida" Package. This comprehensive legislation will provide Florida businesses with incentives that create jobs and promote economic development in Florida. In addition, Sen. Haridopolos deserves recognition for a proposal that provides an innovative way to assess the benefits associated with potential legislation. His "Dynamic Scoring" legislation (SB 1178) will modernize the process of evaluating the fiscal impact of proposed legislation and allow policymakers the ability to consider potential revenue enhancements, as well as costs to the state, when setting policy. For these reasons, AIF is proud to call Sen. Mike Haridopolos a *Champion for Business*.



2010 CFB Winner

**Sen. Garrett Richter** (R-Naples) is receiving his second AIF *Champion for Business* Award for his sponsorship of AIF priority legislation, SB 2044, dealing

with property insurance in Florida. Sen. Richter was instrumental in helping pass legislation that places a three-year cap on filing claims, effectively shutting the door to more abuse by some public adjusters. In addition, AIF commends Sen. Richter for including priorities that are designed to improve the property insurance market by increasing solvency requirements for new domestic property insurers. Despite overseeing its passage by the Legislature, Sen. Richter's efforts were thwarted by the Governor's veto pen. Nevertheless, AIF is proud to once again call Sen. Garrett Richter a *Champion for Business*, and we look forward to working with him on this measure in the coming year.



2010 CFB Winner

**Sen. John Thrasher** (R-Jacksonville) is receiving his first AIF *Champion for Business* award after his first year in the Florida Senate. Senator

Thrasher demonstrated exemplary leadership and persistence in sponsoring bold education reform legislation. SB 6 Relating to Education Personnel provides that school districts must adopt performance appraisals for instructional personnel. By implementing a system in which an employee's compensation is based upon student gains, Sen. Thrasher's proposal creates a more business-like approach to teacher pay and builds a system that allows the best teachers to have a career in the classroom. In addition, Sen. Thrasher's leadership demonstrated Florida's commitment to education reform and our desire to prevail in the federal "Race to the Top" competition. Despite massive opposition from the unions and a subsequent veto from the Governor, Sen. John Thrasher's efforts have earned him the recognition of a true *Champion for Business*.

# Council Awards

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

## Financial Services Council



### Sen. Durell Peaden

(R-Crestview) was pivotal in sponsoring and passing legislation that the FSC has identified as a top priority this year. **SB 2176** will

allow specified types of commercial lines insurance to be exempt from rate filing and review requirements. Through his leadership, Sen. Peaden's "Commercial Insurance Rate Deregulation" legislation acknowledges the importance of insurance rates being "market based" and regulated by consumers in a competitive environment, not by government. His commitment to support free market values is why AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to designate Sen. Durell Peaden as Senate *Legislator of the Year*.



### Rep. Bill Proctor

(R-St. Augustine) faced an uphill battle this session in the area of property insurance reform. As the prime sponsor of **HB 447**,

Rep. Proctor diligently defended the merits of providing consumers with more choices and more options for purchasing their homeowners' insurance. In addition, Rep. Proctor handled much of the debate and passage of AIF's top property insurance reform bill, **SB 2044**. Rep. Proctor is to be commended for his continued perseverance to implement property insurance reform in Florida. AIF's Financial Services Council is proud to designate Rep. Bill Proctor as *Legislator of the Year*.

## Florida Maritime Council



### Sen. Jeremy Ring

(D-Margate) demonstrated true leadership in the Senate this year by sponsoring legislation that aims to develop Florida's

14 deepwater ports. As a top priority

for AIF's Florida Maritime Council, Sen. Ring's proposal authorizes Florida's seaports to receive or solicit proposals from and enter into public-private infrastructure project agreements with private entities to build, operate, maintain, or finance port-related public infrastructure projects. With a tremendous impact on jobs and economic value to Florida, AIF applauds Sen. Ring's vision and leadership in developing this legislation to help Florida's port businesses expand Florida's position as an international commerce leader. AIF's FMC would like to honor Sen. Jeremy Ring as its Senate *Legislator of the Year*.



### Rep. Lake Ray

(R-Jacksonville) is a broad supporter of the business agenda and has exhibited extensive knowledge of issues important to the mari-

time industry. Alongside Sen. Ring, he has played a fundamental role in passing legislation (**HB 963**) to help Florida's port businesses expand through public-private infrastructure projects. In addition, Rep. Ray also sponsored a proposal that would incentivize insurance companies to invest in Florida's ports as a new funding source. Although the measure did not pass the Senate, Rep. Ray is to be commended for his hard work and understanding that Florida's ports play a significant role in economic development and job growth. AIF's Florida Maritime Council would like to honor Rep. Lake Ray as their *Legislator of the Year*.

## Florida Education, Economic & Workforce Development Council



**Rep. John Legg** (R-Port Richey), as Chair of the House PreK-12 Policy Committee, has played a pivotal role this year in sponsoring major reform legislation for

Florida's public education system. In an

effort to address graduation standards, Rep. Legg sponsored the Council's top priority, **HB 7053**, which implements more stringent requirements to ensure that our students are prepared for the needs of employers and able to compete in a global workforce. In addition, he was a major player in the **SB 6** battle, perhaps the most controversial bill of the 2010 session. This bill would have implemented a merit-based pay system that is contingent upon student gains, effectively ensuring that the best teachers remain in the classroom. After 3 days and over 22 hours of debate on the floor, Rep. Legg succeeded in garnering support to pass the measure. Unfortunately, the bill was vetoed by the Governor due to pressure from the teachers' unions. AIF's Education, Economic, & Workforce Development Council is proud to designate Rep. John Legg as *Legislator of the Year*.



### Sen. Nancy Detert

(R-Venice) is a staunch supporter of education reform for Florida's students. As a traditionally pro-business legislator, Sen. Detert understands

the importance of preparing our workforce of tomorrow to sufficiently meet the needs of our workforce. By sponsoring **SB 4** (the Council's top education priority), students are exposed to a more stringent coursework prior to graduation from high school. This legislation specifies Geometry and Algebra II as two of the four mathematics credits needed for graduation and Biology I and Chemistry or Physics as two of the three science credits needed for graduation. Sen. Detert was effective in seeing this legislation through its passage and approval by the Governor. By championing legislation that will prepare our students for the ever-growing global marketplace, AIF's Education, Economic, & Workforce Development Council is proud to designate Sen. Nancy Detert as *Legislator of the Year*.

# 2 0 1 0 Council Awards *(continued)*

## Information Technology Council



**Rep. Marlene O'Toole** (R-The Villages) is a true champion of Florida's IT industry and has demonstrated true devotion through her support of AIF's

IT Council. This year, the IT community encountered **SB 1706**, a rehash of a proposal from last year that would place an inordinate amount of restrictions on businesses contracting with the state. Particularly, this measure contained language that would grant the state power to terminate contracts, prevent agencies from entering into certain contracts without legislative approval, and protect the state from paying interest and contract termination obligations. AIF was successful in defeating this legislation last year and was successful once again this session under the leadership of Rep. O'Toole. It is without hesitation that AIF's Information Technology Council designates Sen. Marlene O'Toole as *Legislator of the Year*.

## Florida Development & Infrastructure Council



**Rep. Dorothy Hukill** (R-Port Orange), as Chair of the House Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee, sponsored legislation this year of great significance

to the FDIC. Commonly referred to as the "bridge bill," **HB 7099** provides

a safety net for developers who have relied on certain provisions of last year's landmark growth management bill, which is currently being challenged in state courts. Known as the "Community Renewal Act," last year's legislation offered larger developments the option of avoiding the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) process in certain densely populated areas. Although her bill did not pass this year, Rep. Hukill was successful in including this language in the landmark "Jobs for Florida" package (**SB 1752**) which did pass and was signed by the Governor. For this reason, the Florida Development & Infrastructure Council would like to honor Rep. Dorothy Hukill as *Legislator of the Year*.

## Environmental Sustainability Council



**Sen. Lee Constantine** (R-Altamonte Springs) is considered one of the most knowledgeable Senators in the arena of environmental policy. As chairman

of both the Senate Select Committee on Florida's Inland Waters & the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee, Senator Constantine was instrumental in developing a proposal from the ground up that will place a new emphasis on recycling. Without hindering economic development, his efforts will guide businesses in marketing recycled materials, establishing new markets for recycled products and institut-

ing incentives for recycling. In addition, Senator Constantine is to be commended for his leadership in overhauling the state's water policy (**SB 550**), effectively providing a more efficient management and administration of water law for Florida's employers. For these reasons, AIF's Environmental Sustainability Council is proud to call Sen. Lee Constantine its *Senate Legislator of the Year*.



**Rep. Trudi Williams** (R-Ft. Myers) has traditionally been a strong advocate for Florida's business community. This year her efforts were

exemplary in assuring that AIF's top recycling measure was passed by the Legislature. As the prime sponsor of **HB 7243**, Rep. Williams established the Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) to coordinate between state agencies and the private sector on the policy and overall strategic planning for developing new markets and expanding and enhancing existing markets for recyclable materials. Furthermore, Rep. Williams played a leading role in passage of the landmark water bill (**SB 550**), which contains a number of provisions that establish sound water policies for our state. For her hard work and steadfast leadership, AIF's Environmental Sustainability Council is proud to call Rep. Trudi Williams its *Legislator of the Year*.

## CELEBRATING 90 YEARS IN 2010.



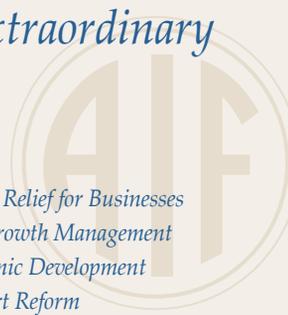
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# Past Champions for Business & Council Award Winners

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



## 2009 Champions for Business

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

## 2009 Council "Legislator of the Year"

### Financial Services Council

Sen. Mike Bennett – *Surplus Lines*  
*Insurance/Taxation*  
Rep. Bryan Nelson – *Property Insurance*  
Rep. Pat Patterson – *Surplus Lines Insurance*

### Florida Energy Council

Rep. Charles Van Zant – *Energy Legislation*  
Rep. Seth McKeel – *Oil & Gas Exploration*

### Florida Maritime Council

Sen. Dave Aronberg – *Seaport Security*

### Florida Education, Economic, & Workforce Development Council

Rep. Erik Fresen – *High School Graduation*  
*Requirements*

## 2008 Champions for Business

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

## 2008 Council "Legislator of the Year"

### Financial Services Council

Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance*  
Sen. Al Lawson – *Property Insurance*  
CFO Alex Sink – *CatFund Reduction*

### Florida Energy Council

Rep. Paige Kreegel – *Energy Legislation*

### Florida Maritime Council

Rep. Kevin Ambler – *Seaport Security*

## 2007 Champions for Business

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

## 2007 Council "Legislator of the Year"

### Governmental Outsourcing Council

Rep. Aaron Bean – *Contracting Legislation*

### Information Technology Council

Rep. Will Weatherford – *Enterprise*  
*Information Technology*  
Sen. Al Lawson – *Enterprise Information*  
*Technology*

## 2006 Champions for Business

Gov. Jeb Bush – *Support of Business Agenda*  
Speaker Allan Bense – *Tort Reform/Repeal of*  
*Joint & Several*  
Senate President Tom Lee – *Tort Reform/*  
*Repeal of Joint & Several*  
Rep. Marty Bowen – *Agriculture*  
Rep. Don Brown – *Tort Reform/Repeal of*  
*Joint & Several*  
Rep. Fred Brummer – *Tax Reform*  
Rep. Mike Davis – *Affordable Housing*  
Rep. Adam Hasner – *Energy Legislation*  
Rep. Matt Meadows – *Tax Incentives for*  
*Manufacturing*  
Rep. Dennis Ross – *Property Insurance*  
*Reform*  
Rep. Marco Rubio – *Private Property Rights*  
Rep. Trey Traviesa – *Telecommunications*

Sen. Jeff Atwater – *Tax Relief for Businesses*  
Sen. Mike Bennett – *Growth Management*  
Sen. Jim King – *Economic Development*  
Sen. Dan Webster – *Tort Reform*

## 2005 Champions for Business

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

## 2004 Champions for Business

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

## 2003 Champions for Business

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



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 2nd-4th

Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld

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## Conference Highlights:

- ▶ AIF Champions For Business Reception and Award Ceremony with Legislators in Attendance
  - ▶ Presentations by Leading Experts in Both State and National Politics
- ▶ Guest Speakers, Candidate Panels & Polling Results

And Much More!

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