



Friday Facts

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AIA Florida News

Sales Tax Exemptions

Last Friday, former state Senate president John McKay presented a plan regarding the repeal sales-tax exemptions to the finance committee of Florida's Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. The commission decided unanimously that the Legislature should have to review hundreds of sales-tax exemptions and exclusions, and revamp Florida's sales-tax system.



The plan by McKay calls for property taxes to be slashed by 40 percent, and replaced by about \$9 billion worth of repealed sales-tax exemptions and exclusions that have allowed hundreds of materials and services to go untaxed for years. However, "necessities of life" items such as food, prescription drugs and health services would remain exempt from sales tax.

The elimination of these exemptions and exclusions could mean businesses have to pay tax on raw materials for production, which can lead to pyramiding, where the tax is passed along to each buyer and items end up being taxed more than once.

The next few months of committee meetings will tell what is to come of the exemptions. AIA Florida will continue to participate with like-minded coalitions to ensure our voice is heard in opposition to a sales tax on services.

Safety by Design

Boca Raton will soon be the home of Palm Beach County's first medical center to have all private rooms - a new requirement of all Florida hospitals. The goal is to reduce the spread of infection and improve patient comfort through better hospital design and layout.

The design will include: Bathrooms on the same side of the room as beds to reduce falls; electronic mechanisms in rooms that trigger a red light if health care providers don't