

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Fiscal Policy

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BILL: SB 7022

INTRODUCER: Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senator Galvano

SUBJECT: Individuals With Disabilities

DATE: March 18, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
	Peacock	McVaney		<b>GO SPB 7022 as introduced</b>
1.	Davis	DeLoach	AGG	<b>Recommend: Fav/CS</b>
2.	Pace	Hrdlicka	FP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

SB 7022 modifies the State of Florida's employment policy to provide enhanced executive branch employment opportunities for individuals with a disability. Specifically, the bill requires each executive agency to:

- Establish annual goals in its affirmative action plan that ensures full utilization of underrepresented groups in agency's workforce to include individuals who have a disability;
- Annually report its progress toward increasing employment of individuals who have a disability; and
- By January 1, 2016, develop an agency-specific plan on promoting employment opportunities for individuals who have a disability.

Additionally, the bill directs the Department of Management Services to:

- Develop and implement programs geared toward individuals who have a disability in consultation with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Executive Office of the Governor;
- Develop mandatory training programs for human resources personnel and hiring managers of executive agencies that support the employment of individuals who have a disability;
- Assist executive agencies with implementing the agency-specific plans and strategies for retaining employees who have a disability;
- Compile data on hiring practices of executive agencies regarding hiring of individuals who have a disability and post this information on the department's website; and

- Adopt rules relating to forms providing for voluntary self-identification of individuals who have a disability who are employed by an executive agency.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 110.112, F.S., declares that the policy of the state is to afford equal employment opportunities through programs of affirmative and positive action allowing for the full utilization of women and minorities. Each executive agency is required to develop and implement an affirmative action plan;<sup>1</sup> establish annual goals in its affirmative action plan for ensuring full utilization of groups underrepresented in the agency's workforce as compared to the relevant labor market;<sup>2</sup> and appoint an affirmative action-equal employment opportunity officer.<sup>3</sup>

The Department of Management Services (DMS) is required to issue an annual workforce report<sup>4</sup> and provide training to all supervisory personnel of executive agencies.<sup>5</sup>

Presently, s. 110.112, F.S., does not contain a definition of the term "individual who has a disability" and does not specifically address equal employment opportunity and affirmative action for this group.

Federal law prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.<sup>6</sup> Specifically, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits private and public employers from discriminating against individuals with disabilities in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training, and other privileges of employment.<sup>7</sup>

## III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1** reorders, amends, and revises definitions contained in s. 110.107, F. S., and defines the term "individual who has a disability."

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<sup>1</sup> Section 110.112(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 110.112(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 110.112(2)(c), F.S., provides that the duties of the affirmative action-equal employment opportunity officer include "determining annual goals, monitoring agency compliance, and providing consultation to managers regarding progress, deficiencies, and appropriate corrective action."

<sup>4</sup> Section 110.112(2)(d), F.S., provides that the DMS annual workforce report shall include information relating to implementation, continuance, and updating the results of each executive agency's affirmative action plan for the previous fiscal year.

<sup>5</sup> Section 110.112(2)(e), F.S., provides that the training will be in "the principals of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action, the development and implementation of affirmative action plans, and establishment of annual affirmative action goals."

<sup>6</sup> Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 110-325).

<sup>7</sup> 42 U.S.C. s. 12112.

The definition of “individual who has a disability” mirrors the federal definition of “disability” contained in the ADA,<sup>8</sup> with the exception of the following:

- The federal term “mental impairment” is replaced with “intellectual impairment”; and
- The federal phrase “being regarded” is replaced with “who is perceived by others.”

**Section 2** amends s. 110.112, F.S., to revise and broaden the state’s equal employment opportunity policy to include individuals who have a disability.

Each executive agency is required to:

- Establish annual goals in its affirmative action plan to ensure the full utilization of underrepresented groups in the agency’s workforce, to specifically include individuals who have a disability as compared to the relevant labor market;
- Report annually to the DMS on the agency’s progress toward increasing employment of women, minorities, and individuals who have a disability; and
- Develop an agency-specific plan by January 1, 2016, addressing how to promote employment opportunities for individuals who have a disability.

The DMS is required to:

- Include data for each executive agency related to employment levels among women, minorities, and individuals who have a disability in its annual workforce report;
- Develop and implement programs specifically geared toward individuals who have a disability in consultation with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the Department of Education, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Executive Office of the Governor;<sup>9</sup>
- Develop mandatory training programs by January 1, 2016, for human resources personnel and hiring managers of executive agencies that support the employment of individuals who have a disability;
- Assist executive agencies in implementing agency-specific plans, and identifying and implementing strategies for retaining employees who have a disability;<sup>10</sup>
- Biannually report on the progress of executive agencies in implementing their plans to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- Compile data regarding the hiring practices of executive agencies in regards to individuals who have a disability and make this data available on its website; and
- Adopt rules regarding forms that provide for voluntary self-identification of individuals who have a disability who are employed by an executive agency.

The bill specifies that no substantive or procedural right or benefit enforceable at law or in equity against the state is created by this legislation.

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<sup>8</sup> 42 U.S.C. s. 12102, defines “disability,” with respect to an individual, as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities of such individual; a record of such impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

<sup>9</sup> These programs may incorporate internships, mentoring, on-the-job training, unpaid work experience, situational assessments, and other innovative strategies.

<sup>10</sup> Some of these strategies include training programs, funding reasonable accommodations, increasing access to technologies, and ensuring accessibility of physical and virtual workplaces.

**Section 3** provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

This bill does not contain a mandate because the bill does not affect counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Indeterminate.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill is applicable to all executive agencies.

The DMS staff estimates the implementation of the bill will require two additional full-time positions. In addition, the People First system, the state's human resource information system, will need to be modified to add an "individual who has a disability" indicator to fully implement the reporting requirements of this bill.<sup>11</sup>

The fiscal impact to executive branch agencies to implement the requirements of the bill are indeterminate, but may be absorbed within existing resources.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

The bill authorizes the DMS to adopt rules relating to forms for voluntary self-identification of individuals who have a disability who are employed by an executive agency.

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<sup>11</sup> See the DMS, *2015 Legislative Analysis on SB 7022*, (Feb. 13, 2015) (on file with the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee).

Pursuant to federal law employers, including executive agencies, may not ask an individual disability-related questions. The present situation does not promote self-disclosure and individuals may self-identify as having a disability when in fact the individuals do not. The Department of Economic Opportunity notes that this could result in executive agency reports over or under-reporting hiring of individuals who have a disability.<sup>12</sup>

The DMS uses data from the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Tabulation that is published by the U.S. Census Bureau for information on women and minorities. The EEO Tabulation provides detailed occupational statistics by race, ethnicity, and sex in the labor market by location-based geography. The Department of Economic Opportunity, the state agency responsible for maintaining employment data, has informed the DMS that data for individuals who have a disability is not available at the occupational level. Data is only available in broad categories (employed/unemployed, full-time/less than full-time). Accordingly, it might be difficult for agencies to establish numerical goals on such limited data.<sup>13</sup>

#### **VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends sections 110.107 and 110.112 of the Florida Statutes.

#### **IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**See PCS 692948 by Fiscal Policy (Recommended by Appropriations Subcommittee of General Government) on March 5, 2015.**

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>12</sup> See the DEO, *2015 Legislative Analysis on SB 7022*, (Feb. 12, 2015) (on file with the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee).

<sup>13</sup> See the DMS, *2015 Legislative Analysis on SB 7022*, (Feb. 13, 2015) (on file with the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee).