SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Date:	April 14, 1997	Revised:		
Subject: Distribution of Surplus Food				
	Analyst	Staff Director	<u>Reference</u>	Action
1. Sch 2.	meling	Austin	CM JU	Favorable Withdrawn

I. Summary:

This bill encourages the donation, collection and delivery of surplus food to charitable or nonprofit organizations for distribution to persons who are in need of food.

This bill amends section 768.136, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 768.136, F.S., delineates the statutory framework which governs the liability for canned or perishable food distributed free of charge. In general, the framework exempts a donor, a gleaner [a person who harvests for free distribution an agricultural crop that has been donated by the owner], or a charitable or nonprofit organization distributing food from criminal penalty or civil damages arising from the condition of the food collected, delivered, or distributed unless an injury is caused by the gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of the donor of the food, gleaner or a charitable or nonprofit organization.

Congress recently passed HR 2428, the "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Law" [Public Law No: 104-210] protecting donors for good faith donations of food for free distribution by charitable organizations. The act was signed by the President on October 1, 1996. The act does not supersede state or local health regulations.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill encourages the donation of surplus food to charitable or nonprofit organizations by:

- Requiring potential donors, to the greatest extent possible and practical, to make available to charitable or nonprofit organizations, representatives or volunteers acting on behalf of such organization, an uncompensated person acting in a philanthropic manner, or a transporter, any surplus or excess canned or perishable food for use by such organizations or person to feed homeless persons or any other persons who are in need of food and are otherwise unable to provide food for themselves;
- Requiring a donor of surplus or excess canned or perishable food to make every reasonable effort to contact charitable or nonprofit organizations in the community to allow those organizations to collect the surplus food; and,
- Requiring charitable or nonprofit organizations which provide food for persons who are in need of food to make every reasonable effort to contact any donors for the purpose of collecting any surplus or excess canned food or perishable food.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The costs associated with the private sector are indeterminate. These costs depend on the extent of voluntary participation as a donor, gleaner, transporter, or distributor of food.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The intent of this bill relating to transporters is unclear. Current law provides that a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization, or any representative or volunteer acting on behalf of such organization, or an uncompensated person acting in a philanthropic manner providing services similar to those of such an organization, which accepts, collects, *transports* or distributes any canned or perishable food, apparently fit for human consumption, from a donor for free distribution, is not subject to criminal penalty or civil damages arising from the condition of the food.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.