

**STORAGE NAME:** h1159.ei  
**DATE:** March 28, 1997

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION INNOVATION  
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**BILL #:** HB 1159  
**RELATING TO:** Education/Mathematics & Science Residential Academy Commission  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Meek  
**STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:** None  
**COMPANION BILL(S):** SB 1994 (Identical)  
**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**  
(1) EDUCATION INNOVATION  
(2)  
(3)  
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(5)

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**I. SUMMARY:**

HB 1159 establishes a Mathematics and Sciences Study Commission to determine the need for creating a statewide residential mathematics and sciences academy for students in grades 9 through 12. The Commission is expressly charged with studying the possibility of creating such an academy in connection with the State University System and Enterprise Florida, Inc. Additionally, the recommendations are to include a proposed location for the academy.

In 1989-1990, the Legislature established a Council to study the same issue with the intention of building a residential mathematics and sciences school. After the study was submitted in March 1990, no further action was taken, and the law authorizing the school and establishing the Council was repealed.

In HB 1159, the twelve Commission members will be appointed by the Governor, leaders of the Legislature, and the Commissioner of Education and will elect an executive director to serve at the request of the full Commission. Representation will be from Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, principals or administrators of Florida public schools, the Board of Regents, both political parties, Florida School Board Administrators' Association and the National Science Program. Regular meetings will be held twice a month and more often if necessary.

The Commission is charged with presenting its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 1998. At that time, the Commission will be terminated.

The estimated negative fiscal impact of this bill on General Revenue is \$135,000.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 233.65, F.S., which was created in Section 56, Chapter 89-300, LOF, and subsequently repealed in Section 49, Chapter 94-232, LOF, provided for the establishment of a residential mathematics and science high school. Additionally, it created a Council on Residential Mathematics and Science Honors High Schools to study sites for a school, enrollment and application process, curriculum, and the level of funding sufficient to fund such a school.

The Council was composed of the Commissioner of Education and ten other members appointed by the Commissioner and the Governor. They were charged with studying and presenting to the Legislature a report on the level of funding sufficient to fund residential schools. On March 1, 1990, the Florida Department of Education received a final report on *The Level of Funding for Four Alternative Models of Residential Mathematics and Science High Schools in Florida*. The report was submitted by MGT of America, Inc. and was the result of the extended study undertaken by the advisory council created by Chapter 89-300, LOF. The report explored the possibility of establishing a specialized residential mathematics and science high school in Florida.

Additionally, the report team examined models of residential schools in six other states. The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy were visited by team members and detail information was obtained regarding operating and facility costs on these two schools. These two schools were selected primarily because their respective state's demographics were similar to Florida's and the schools are the most fully developed and operational. Additionally, MGT conducted telephone interviews with officials at the residential schools in the other four study states: Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas.

The report gives detailed estimates of the costs of establishing a residential school. It defines different types of math and science schools in operational terms and campus development status. In operational terms, a school can be independent, loosely affiliated, or closely affiliated with an existing traditional school. In campus development status, schools can use existing buildings, make modifications and additions to buildings, or construct a completely new campus.

The cost estimates identified in the report are \$10.6 million for a 200 student school and \$28.3 for a 600 student school. Annual estimated operational costs range from \$8.6 million to \$10.3 million. Development costs can be reduced by using existing facilities.

Further action for building a residential math and science school was not taken after the report was presented to the Legislature. Subsequently, Chapter 94-232, Section 49, LOF, repealed s. 233.65, F.S.

**Other Commissions**

The Legislature has established Commissions in the past to study specific areas of interest. One such Commission was the Florida Sesquicentennial Commission formed in 1994. The Commission consisted of 18 members and met approximately 4 times a year. Members were reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the provisions

of s. 112.061, F.S. The Commission employed an executive director. The bill creating the Sesquicentennial Commission provided \$250,000 to fund the Commission.

**B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

HB 1159 establishes a Mathematics and Sciences Study Commission to determine the need for creating a statewide residential mathematics and sciences academy for students in grades 9 through 12. The Commission is expressly charged with studying the possibility of creating such an academy in connection with the State University System and Enterprise Florida, Inc. Additionally, the recommendations are to include a proposed location for the academy. The twelve members will be appointed as follows:

- Four by the Governor, including a member of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, a principal or administrator of a Florida public school, and a member of the Board of Regents
- Two by the President of the Senate, one from each political party
- Two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one from each political party
- Four by the Commissioner of Education, including a member of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, a member of the National Science Program, and a member of the Florida School Board Administrators Association

The Commission members will elect an executive director to serve at the request of the full Commission. Regular meetings will be held twice a month and more often if necessary.

The Commission is charged with presenting its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 1998. At that time, the Commission will be terminated.

**C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:**

1. Less Government:

- a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

No.

- (2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

The Commission members will attend meetings and be responsible for conducting the study. Four of these members are legislators, two are directors of the Enterprise Florida Board, and one is a member of the Florida School Board Administrators Association. If they accept the positions, they will have increased responsibilities and obligations.

- (3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

Members of Commissions are usually entitled to travel expenses, although these are not outlined in the bill.

- b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

Not applicable.

- (1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

- (2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

- (3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

2. Lower Taxes:

- a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

- b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No.

- c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

No.

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

No.

4. Individual Freedom:

a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

No.

b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

No.

5. Family Empowerment:

a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

Not applicable.

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

(2) Who makes the decisions?

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

(1) parents and guardians?

(2) service providers?

(3) government employees/agencies?

**D. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:**

**Section 1** Establishes a Mathematics and Sciences Study Commission to determine need for and possibility of creating a statewide residential mathematics and sciences academy for grades 9 through 12 and in connection with State University System and Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Provides for four Governor appointed members, which will include a member of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, a principal or administrator of a Florida public school, and a member of the Board of Regents; four members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who each appoint one from the majority party and one from the minority party of the respective legislative bodies; four members appointed by the Commissioner of Education, including a member of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, a member of the National Science

Program, and a member of the Florida School Board Administrators Association.

Provides for the election of an executive director and regular meetings to be held two days each month and at other times as deemed necessary.

Requires that the commission present findings and recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education by January 1, 1998, at which time the commission will be terminated. Recommendation for the creation of a residential academy must include the proposed location.

**Section 2** Provides for an effective date upon becoming law.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None

2. Recurring Effects:

Preliminary cost are indeterminate but estimated to be over \$135,000. This figure does not include travel to residential schools in other states and sites which are being considered in Florida. The average salary of an executive director is \$35,000. An assistant's salary would be approximately \$20,000. Travel to residential schools in other states and travel to sites under consideration in Florida are indeterminate at this time. The cost will be dependent upon how many trips are made. Travel to and from meetings is estimated at approximately \$5,000 per meeting; with two meetings per month for 8 months, this will total approximately \$80,000.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

If the Commission recommends a residential school, the cost of either construction or renovation would require a substantial appropriation in the initial phase. Cost estimates in 1990 ranged from \$10.6 million to \$28.3 million for start-up. Annual estimated operational costs ranged from \$8.6 million to \$10.3 million.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

The estimated negative fiscal impact of this bill on General Revenue is \$135,000.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

None.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

None.

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority of counties or municipalities to raise revenue

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties and municipalities.



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V. COMMENTS:

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION INNOVATION:

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