**DATE**: April 4, 1997

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**BILL #**: CS/HB 1707

**RELATING TO**: The Florida American's With Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act

**SPONSOR(S)**: Committee on Community Affairs and Representative Culp

**STATUTE(S) AFFECTED**: Sections 553.502; 553.503; 553.504; 553.505; 553.507; 553.509;

553.510; 553.511; 553.512; 316.1955, and 318.18, Florida Statutes.

**COMPANION BILL(S)**: SB 2074 (s)

# ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

(1) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS YEAS 5 NAYS 0

(2)

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(5)

#### I. SUMMARY:

This bill revises provisions of the "Florida Americans With Disabilities Implementation Act" by raising non-complying aspects of Florida law to the minimum provisions of the federal American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). The stated legislative intent is to obtain and maintain federal certification of the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction as equivalent to federal standards. The bill provides for all state laws, rules, standards, and codes for facilities covered by the guidelines to be maintained to assure certification of the state's construction standards and codes.

The bill lowers some of Florida's more stringent requirements to the federal level, and exempts churches from Florida's accessibility requirements. Florida's vertical accessibility standard, which remains more stringent than federal standards, is revised to create several exceptions to the Florida specific standard. The following facilities, structures, or buildings are exempted:

- (1) Elevator pits, elevator penthouses, mechanical rooms, piping or equipment catwalks, and automobile lubrication and maintenance pits and platforms;
- (2) Unoccupiable spaces, such as rooms, enclosed spaces, and storage spaces that are not designed for human occupancy, for public accommodations, or for work areas; and
- (3) Occupiable spaces and rooms that are not open to the public and that house no more than five persons, including, but not limited to, equipment control rooms and projection booths.

The bill also adopts the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as a baseline for Florida's parking statute, and lowers some of Florida's more stringent parking requirements to the federal level.

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The Board of Building Codes and Standards is required to adopt by rule the 1997 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction. This process will entail an indeterminate, nonrecurring cost.

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# II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

#### A. PRESENT SITUATION:

## **FEDERAL LAW**

In 1990, President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The federal ADA is designed to provide increased accessibility to disabled Americans and to send the message that they are entitled to equal opportunity and access to employment, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation and local and state governmental services. This act extends civil rights protection to all disabled persons in much the same way that individuals are protected against discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, and religion.

To assist with the implementation of the federal ADA, the American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) were adopted by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) also was formed to provide technical assistance to the DOJ on disability issues and accessibility standards. However, enforcement of the federal ADA is within the exclusive province of the DOJ and takes place through the federal court system.

These federal laws and regulations establish the MINIMUM criteria for accessibility to places of public accommodation and commercial facilities for individuals with disabilities.

# **SECTIONS 553.501 - 553.513, F.S.**

By 1990, Florida had an accessibility law that dated back to 1974, and included many Florida-specific requirements that were more stringent than the requirements of the newly signed federal ADA. In 1993, the Florida Legislature adopted the federal ADA by reference into its accessibility code, which is titled the "Florida Americans With Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act." In addition to adopting the federal ADA, the Florida Legislature retained many provisions from its existing accessibility code. These provisions are more stringent than the provisions of the federal ADA.

**Section 554.501, F.S.,** provides a short title for sections 554.501-554.512, F.S., these statutes are referred to as the "Florida Americans With Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act."

**Section 554.502, F.S.,** states that the purpose of the act is to incorporate the federal ADA requirements into Florida law.

**Section 554.503**, **F.S.**, adopts the federal ADAAG guidelines and incorporates them into Florida law.

**Section 553.504, F.S.,** includes several Florida-specific standards which exceed federal standards, including provisions relating to:

- → bathroom doorways in private residences (applies to one bathroom only);
- → door widths in buildings other than single-family homes;

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- → clearance space for ramp landings;
- → vertical accessibility;
- → spacing, handrails, slopes, and width of curb ramps;
- → seating & aisle space for public food service establishments; and,
- → restroom access.

Florida's accessibility code is applicable to "all new or altered buildings and facilities subject to ss. 553.501-553.513 which may be frequented in, lived in, or worked in by the public," including churches and private clubs.

**Section 553.505**, **F.S.**, applies Florida's accessibility code to churches and private clubs, and states that parking spaces shall be governed by section 316.1956, F.S.

**Section 553.506, F.S.**, authorizes the Board of Building Codes and standards to adopt revised and updated versions of the federal ADAAG in accordance with chapter 120, F.S.

**Section 553.507, F.S.,** creates exceptions to the "Florida American's With Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act" for buildings or facilities in existence on October 1, 1993 *unless*:

- → the building or facility is being converted from residential to non-residential or mixed use;
- → a proposed alteration or renovation of a building or facility invokes federal law because it substantially affects the usability or accessibility of routes of travel or primary functions; or
- → the original construction or a renovation of a structure was carried out in violation of the applicable permitting law.

**Section 553.508**, **F.S.**, provides for removal of architectural barriers under certain circumstances, and requires such removal to be in compliance with Florida law.

**Section 553.509**, **F.S.**, requires vertical accessibility to all levels above and below the habitable grade level.

**Section 553.510**, **F.S.**, adopts the American National Standard for Buildings and Facilities (ANSI A117.1-1986) as modified by Florida law.

**Section 553.511, F.S.,** provides height clearance requirements for nonresidential structures using primarily underground parking.

**Section 553.512, F.S.,** allows for waivers of Florida law for individual modifications when there is a determination of extreme hardship. The waivers must be in compliance with federal accessibility laws.

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# **SECTION 316.1955, F.S.**

Section 316.1955, F.S., addresses requirements for parking spaces for persons with disabilities. The statute combines the parking space requirements for the public sector and commercial establishments. A minimum number of parking spaces are required for persons with disabilities in parking lots that are intended for public use.

Under Florida law, parking spaces for persons with disabilities must meet the specific requirements set forth by this statute. Many of the Florida-specific requirements exceed the requirements under the federal ADA, including the requirements that:

- (a) accessible routes to a building must be at least 44 inches wide;
- (b) access aisles must be striped diagonally to designate them as no parking areas;
- (c) parking spaces must be at least 12 feet wide.

However, Florida's parking statute does not incorporate minimum federal standards into the law as a baseline.

#### **CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

Title III of the federal ADA allows any state or local jurisdiction to submit its accessibility code to the DOJ for a determination of whether its code meets or exceeds the federal accessibility standards for new and altered commercial facilities and places of public accommodation.

The DOJ has a formal certification process that determines whether a state law or code is equivalent to the ADAAG. This process includes three separate evaluations, including:

- ♦ A technical review by DOJ to determine what areas of the code are deficient with respect to ADAAG;
- ♦ A technical review by the Access Board; and
- ♦ A legal and policy review by DOJ.

Currently, Florida is attempting to obtain certification of its laws implementing the federal ADA from the DOJ. The DOJ will certify the implementing statutes of states who are in compliance with the federal ADA. For example, if a state's laws are equivalent to or more stringent than federal standards, that state will be certified. A state who does not maintain the minimum federal standards will not be certified. Certification is desired because it creates a rebuttable presumption in court that the state law meets federal ADA standards. This evidentiary presumption puts building owners at less risk for future liability.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has been working with the DOJ since February, 1994 in order to address any inconsistencies between Florida's law and the

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federal ADA. The DOJ has reviewed and approved some, but not all of the provisions of the current bill.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill revises provisions of the "Florida Americans With Disabilities Implementation Act" by raising non-complying aspects of Florida law to the minimum provisions of the federal American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). The stated legislative intent is to obtain and maintain federal certification of the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction as equivalent to federal standards. The bill provides for all state laws, rules, standards, and codes for facilities covered by the guidelines to be maintained to assure certification of the state's construction standards and codes.

The bill lowers some of Florida's more stringent requirements to the federal level, and exempts churches from Florida's accessibility requirements. Florida's vertical accessibility standard, which remains more stringent than federal standards, is revised to create several exceptions to the Florida specific standard. The following facilities, structures, or buildings are exempted:

- (1) Elevator pits, elevator penthouses, mechanical rooms, piping or equipment catwalks, and automobile lubrication and maintenance pits and platforms;
- (2) Unoccupiable spaces, such as rooms, enclosed spaces, and storage spaces that are not designed for human occupancy, for public accommodations, or for work areas: and
- (3) Occupiable spaces and rooms that are not open to the public and that house no more than five persons, including, but not limited to, equipment control rooms and projection booths.

The bill also adopts the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) as a baseline for Florida's parking statute, and lowers some of Florida's more stringent parking requirements to the federal level.

The Board of Building Codes and Standards is required to adopt by rule the 1997 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction. This process will entail an indeterminate, nonrecurring cost.

#### 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?

The Board of Building Codes and Standards is required to adopt the 1997 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction in accordance with chapter 120, F.S.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

- b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:
  - (1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

# 2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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# 3. Personal Responsibility:

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

Not applicable.

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?

Churches will no longer be required to be accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities may experience reduced accessibility as a result of the lowering of some Florida specific standards.

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

Not applicable.

# 5. Family Empowerment:

- a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:
  - (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

Not applicable.

(2) Who makes the decisions?

Not applicable.

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

- 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?

Not applicable.

(2) service providers?

Not applicable.

(3) government employees/agencies?

Not applicable.

# D. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

**Section 1.** Section 503.502, F.S., relating to legislative intent, is amended to provide that it is the intent of the Legislature to obtain and maintain federal certification of the Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction as equivalent to federal standards All state laws, rules, standards, and codes for facilities covered by the guidelines must be maintained to assure certification of the state's construction standards and codes.

The section is further amended to state that nothing in the "Florida American's With Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act" is intended to expand or diminish the defenses available to a place of public accommodation under the federal ADA and the federal ADA Guidelines, including, but not limited to, the readily achievable standard, and the standards applicable to alterations to places of public accommodation.

**Section 2.** Section 553.503, F.S., relating to adoption of guidelines, is amended to declare that the federal Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) are the minimum standards for the accessibility of buildings and facilities built or altered in Florida. This section also requires the 1997 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction to be approved by the Board of Building Codes and Standards in accordance with chapter 120, F.S.

**Section 3.** Section 553.504, F.S., relating to exceptions to the applicability of the federal ADAAG, is amended to clarify that all buildings, structures, and facilities must meet the requirements of this section when they provide increased accessibility.

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Subsections (5), (7), (9), (12), (13), and (15) are amended to provide equivalence with the ADAAG.

Subsection (5) is amended to defer the location of curb ramps or curb cuts to the federal ADAAG.

Subsection (7) is amended to provide accessible and usable spaces in all public food service establishments must be provided as follows:

Capacity of Seating In Assembly Areas	Number of Required Wheelchair Locations
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 100	4

Subsection (9) is amended to clarify in motels and hotels a number of rooms equaling at least 5 percent of the guest rooms minus the number of accessible rooms required by the guidelines must provide grab rails in bathrooms and toilet rooms that comply with s. 4.16.4 of the federal ADAAG. Specific dimensions are deleted so that the grab rail requirement will be guided by the ADAAG specifications. The subsection is further amended to include a statement that nothing in subsection (9) relieves the owner of the responsibility of providing accessible rooms equivalent with the minimum requirements of the ADAAG, relating to transient lodging.

Subsection (12) addresses restrooms and toilet rooms in new construction. Paragraph (a) is deleted so that passageways must meet the federal ADAAG requirements that require wider passage ways for certain approaches to stall doors. Paragraph (b) is renumbered (a) and amended to delete the dimensions of accessible restroom stalls and defer to the federal ADAAG clear floor space criteria for both the federal ADAAG standard accessible restroom stalls and for the lavatory within the stall required by the state. The lavatory must be mounted so that it will not overlap the clear floor space areas required in the federal ADAAG. The subsection is further amended to provide that such lavatories shall be counted as part of the required fixture count for the building.

The provisions regarding stall door criteria in paragraph (c) are deleted in order to defer to the federal ADAAG specifications. However, the provision in paragraph (c) that requires the accessible stall door be self-closing, which is more restrictive than the federal ADAAG, is retained. Provisions relating to lavatories, water closets, grab rails, and restroom vestibules in paragraphs (e)-(h) are deleted so that the requirements relating to these facilities are governed by the federal ADAAG.

Subsection (13), relating to use of a building, structure, or facility that is changed or altered, is deleted. This has the effect of deleting Florida-specific requirements for toilet seats and grab rails in accessible restroom stalls when a building or facility is changed or altered, thereby deferring to the federal ADAAG standards.

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Existing subsection (15) relating to turnstiles, is renumbered (14) and amended to clarify that turnstiles may be used in occupancies which serve at least 100 persons if there is an unlocked alternate passageway on an accessible route.

**Section 4.** Section 553.505, F.S., 1996 Supplement, relating to exceptions to the applicability of the federal ADA, is amended to delete a provision which requires churches to comply with the state accessibility law. In addition, the bill clarifies that parking spaces, parking lots, and other parking facilities must be governed by the requirements of s. 316.1955, F.S., 1996 Supplement, when that section provides increased accessibility.

**Section 5.** Section 553.507, F.S., related to exemptions from the state accessibility law, is amended to reflect the effective date of the bill, October 1, 1997. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) is amended to clarify that buildings, structures, or facilities in existence on October 1, 1997 are exempt from the state accessibility law unless the proposed alternative or renovation will affect the usability or accessibility of the building, structure, or facility to a degree that invokes the provisions of s. 303(a) of the federal ADA, or the original construction or alteration or renovation was carried out in violation of applicable permitting law.

The section is further amended to delete a provision relating to the definition of disproportionate cost. The term "disproportionate cost" will be defined as provided in the federal ADAAG.

**Section 6.** Section 553.509, F.S., relating to vertical accessibility, is amended to provide that noting in sections 553.501-553.513, F.S., shall relieve the owner of any building, structure, or facility from the duty to provide vertical accessibility to all levels above and below the <u>occupiable</u>, rather than habitable grade level. The term "occupiable" is equivalent with terminology used in the federal ADAAG. Although the provision is more restrictive than the federal ADAAG, the committee substitute provides that the following facilities, structures, or buildings are exceptions to the vertical accessibility requirement:

- (1) Elevator pits, elevator penthouses, mechanical rooms, piping or equipment catwalks, and automobile lubrication and maintenance pits and platforms;
- (2) Unoccupiable spaces, such as rooms, enclosed spaces, and storage spaces that are not designed for human occupancy, for public accommodations, or for work areas: and
- (3) Occupiable spaces and rooms that are not open to the public and that house no more than five persons, including, but not limited to, equipment control rooms and projection booths.

The section is further amended to clarify that buildings, structures, and facilities must, as a minimum, comply with the requirements in the federal ADAAG.

**Section 7.** Section 553.511, F.S., is amended to clarify the provisions relating to minimum height clearance of parking facilities and to conform these provisions with the federal ADAAG. The section requires a minimum height over covered or underground van-accessible parking spaces, and deletes language requiring that any facility

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complying with the height requirement is required to provide 100% of the handicapped parking spaces which are otherwise required by law.

**Section 8.** Section 316.1955, F.S., 1996 Supplement, relating to parking spaces for persons who have disabilities, is amended.

A new subsection (1) is created to state this section is not intended to expand or diminish the defenses available to a place of public accommodation under the federal ADA and the federal ADAAG, including, but not limited to, the readily achievable standard, and the standards applicable to alterations to places of public accommodation.

Subsection (1) also provides that subject to exceptions described in subsections (2), (4), (5), and (6), when the parking and loading zone requirements of the federal ADAAG provide increased accessibility, those requirements are adopted and incorporated by reference as state law.

Existing subsections (1) and (2) are renumbered (2) and (3), and renumbered subsection (3) is amended to provide that when parking spaces are provided for self-parking by employees or visitors, or both, accessible spaces must be provided in each such parking area. The subsection is further amended to delete language relating to state agencies and political subdivisions with jurisdiction over street parking or parking facilities.

Existing subsection (3) is renumbered (4) and amended to delete the table listing the number of accessible parking spaces required in parking facilities. The number of accessible parking spaces must comply with the requirements in federal ADAAG section 4.1.

Existing subsection (4) is renumbered (5) and amended to provide that accessible perpendicular and diagonal accessible parking spaces and loading zones must be designed and located in conformance with the guidelines set in federal ADAAG ss. 4.1.2. and 4.6. and Appendix section A4.6.3. "Universal Parking Design." The requirement that all spaces must have a curb ramp or curb cut when necessary to allow access to the building served is deleted. By deleting this language, the provisions relating to accessible routes and location of accessible parking or accessible routes will be governed by the federal ADAAG.

This subsection is further amended to provide that on-street parallel parking must be designed based on federal ADAAG sections 4.6.2. - 4.6.5. A provision is added providing that the subsection does not relieve the owner of the responsibility to comply with the parking requirements of federal ADAAG ss 4.1 and 4.6. Language is deleted relating to perpendicular and diagonal parking spaces and access aisles. The slopes for parking spaces and access aisles will be governed by the federal ADAAG.

Paragraph (g) of renumbered subsection (5), which requires each parking space to conform with requirements of this section no later than October 1, 1997, is deleted.

Renumbered paragraph (h) of renumbered subsection (5), relating to the removal of architectural barriers, is amended to allow a facility to provide parking spaces at alternative locations, rather than alternative parking spaces, if compliance would cause the barrier removal not to be readily achievable. Paragraph (h) is further amended to

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provide that a facility making alterations under section 553.507(2)(b), F.S., may provide parking spaces at alternative locations, rather than alternative parking spaces, if compliance with parking location requirements is not feasible.

Existing subsection (5) is renumbered (6) and amended to provide that the international symbol of accessibility must meet the requirements of ADAAG s. 4.30.7, and the owner must comply with the requirements of ADAAG s. 4.30.

**Section 9.** Subsection (6) of section 318.18, F.S., is amended to allow a person with a valid parking permit or license plate an alternative to the \$100 fine. To avoid the fine, a person must provide proof to the clerk of the circuit court that the person committing the violation has a valid parking permit or license plate issued pursuant to sections 320.082, 320.0843, 320.0845, or 320.0848, and a signed affidavit that the driver of the disabled parking permit was present at the time the violation occurred. The parking permit or license plate must have been valid at the time the violation occurred. Upon provision of such proof and payment of a \$5 dismissal fee to the clerk of the circuit court, the clerk must dismiss the citation.

**Section 10.** Section 553.512, F.S., is amended to require the Board of Building Codes and Standards to consider unnecessary, <u>unreasonable</u>, or extreme hardship when granting modifications of, or exceptions from, the requirements of the Act.

**Section 11.** Section 553.510, F.S., relating to the national standard for accessibility and usability of private property features, is repealed.

### III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

#### A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

# 1. Non-recurring Effects:

The Board of Building Codes and Standards is required to adopt the 1997 Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction in accordance with chapter 120, F.S. This process will entail an indeterminate, nonrecurring cost.

#### 2. Recurring Effects:

This bill has the potential to lower construction costs due to a decrease in accessibility standards from the current level.

# 3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

# 4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

Indeterminate.

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# B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

# 1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

# 2. Recurring Effects:

This bill has the potential to lower construction costs due to a decrease in accessibility standards from the current level.

## 3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

Not applicable.

# C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

#### 1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

The fiscal impact on businesses cannot be determined at this time.

# 2. <u>Direct Private Sector Benefits:</u>

This bill has the potential to lower construction costs due to a decrease in accessibility standards from the current level. To the extent that the requirements of the federal and state laws are adopted and enforced, persons with disabilities will benefit.

Churches will no longer be required to be accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

None.

# D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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

# A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require expenditures by counties and municipalities.

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# B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the revenue raising authority of counties and municipalities.

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

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

# V. <u>COMMENTS</u>:

None.

# VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

The original filed HB 1707 amends section 316.1955, F.S., to delete many of the Floridaspecific guidelines relating to parking for persons with disabilities. HB 1707 eliminates provisions for increased accessibility and brings these more stringent standards down to the federal level.

Commenting on HB 1707, the Department of Community Affairs noted that the bill could jeopardize Florida's attempt to certify its laws relating to accessibility for disabled persons with the Department of Justice as being in compliance with the federal American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), because our parking law does not adopt the federal standards set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

CS/HB 1707 also lowers some of Florida's more stringent parking requirements to the federal level. CS/HB 1707 also adopts the federal ADAAG as a baseline for Florida's parking statute. The original HB 1707 did not adopt the federal standards set forth in the federal ADAAG.

CS/HB 1707 also revises provisions of the "Florida Americans With Disabilities Implementation Act" by raising non-complying aspects of Florida law to the minimum provisions of the federal ADA. CS/HB 1707 also lowers some of Florida's more stringent requirements to the federal level, and exempts churches from Florida's accessibility requirements. Florida's vertical accessibility standard, which remains more stringent than federal standards, also is revised to create several exceptions to the Florida specific standard. None of these provisions were included in HB 1707.

CS/HB 1707 also allows a person with a valid parking permit or license plate an alternative to the statutorily prescribed fine. This provision is not included in HB 1707

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VII. <u>SIGNATURES</u> :	
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS: Prepared by:	Legislative Research Director:
Thomas L. Hamby, Jr.	Jenny Underwood Dietzel