

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 16, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Agricultural Fairs and Facilities

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Luken</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	<u>Nebelsiek</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill creates a committee to review and make recommendations regarding funding requests for fairs, agricultural centers, pavilions, and multi-use facilities. It prescribes criteria for reviews and also provides that the committee may recommend that funding for projects not previously reviewed that do not meet the criteria be placed in reserve.

This bill is to take effect upon becoming law.

II. Present Situation:

In the past, requests for funding of agricultural fairs and facilities were submitted directly to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which would then submit each project in the department's yearly budget request as grants and aids to local governments and nonprofit organizations. The Legislature would then determine which projects to fund from General Revenue. However, in the FY 1997-98 Appropriations Act (97-152, L.O.F), the Legislature funded these projects as a group in several lump sums, and directed that a committee be established to determine how much each project should receive.

The Appropriations Act further stated that the committee will consist of the following: three members appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, two members appointed by the President of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and three members appointed by the Governor. The Florida Farm Bureau, the fruit and vegetable industry and the private marketing sector, among others are to be considered in the appointment of members.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates that approximately 20-30 projects apply for funding each year. Generally, the funding requested is for facilities repair, improvement, land acquisition, or construction.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Creates a committee to review funding requests for fairs, agricultural centers, pavilions, and multi-use facilities. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are each to appoint two members of the committee by August 15, 1998, and the seventh member is to be chosen by the other appointees by September 15, 1998. Each appointee is to serve a 2-year term, and the committee is to designate a chairperson.

The committee's duties are to annually review all funding requests for fairs, agricultural centers, pavilions, and multi-use facilities submitted for the ensuing fiscal year. The committee is to prioritize each request and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by February 1 preceding the fiscal year for which the funding is requested. In making its recommendations, the committee is to consider the following criteria: the extent of local government sponsorship and support for each project, whether the project will provide direct public educational and recreational benefits, and whether the project preserves history, culture, or heritage.

The committee is also to annually review fairs, agricultural centers, pavilions, and multi-use facilities that have previously been appropriated funds but were not previously reviewed by the committee. If the committee finds that the project meets the criteria, it is to recommend to the appropriate agency that a grant be awarded for the project up to the amount appropriated by the legislature. If the committee finds that the criteria are not met, it is to recommend that the Executive Office of the Governor place the appropriation for the project in reserve. Funds for projects reviewed in this manner must either be awarded or placed in reserve by January 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated.

Section 2. Provides that this bill will take effect upon becoming a law.

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:

Entities that apply for funding for fairs and facilities will have their requests reviewed and prioritized by the committee, which may have an impact on the amount, if any, received by these entities.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Although this committee is not specifically housed in any department on the face of the bill, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has estimated the fiscal impact of this bill as follows:

**FISCAL IMPACT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES**

	Amount Year 1 FY (98-99)	Amount Year 2 FY (99-00)	Amount Year 3 FY (00-01)
Non-Recurring Costs	3,215	-0-	-0-
Recurring Costs (position, expenses, and per diem)	67,847	68,851	69,884
Grand Total Costs	<u>\$71,062</u>	<u>\$68,851</u>	<u>\$69,884</u>

The department has indicated that the bill would require an additional position, as well as traveling and office expenses for that position. The department estimated that the per diem and expenses for seven members would be \$5,500 per meeting, and estimated five meetings a year.

It is not readily apparent that the review responsibilities associated with only some 20 projects per year would require the levels of per diem suggested by the department [almost \$800 per person/per day] or the allocation of a full-time position for staff support.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The bill creates a committee but only by implication can one determine that it is to review matters connected with the operation of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

No specific travel and per diem limitations are imposed upon the committee, such as those ordinarily provided by s. 112.061, F.S.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

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