

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: February 4, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Mathematics & Science Academy/Study Commission

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Chasteen</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>WM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This committee substitute establishes a Mathematics and Sciences Study Commission to determine the feasibility of creating a statewide residential mathematics and sciences academy for students in grades 11 and 12. The commission must select a private partner, a State University System partner, a location, and an estimated operating cost for the academy.

This bill creates a new section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 233.65, F.S., created in 1989 (s. 56, ch. 89-300, Laws of Florida (L.O.F.)) and subsequently repealed in 1994 (s. 49, ch. 94-232, L.O.F.), provided for the establishment of a residential mathematics and science high school. In addition, 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 ch. 89-300, L.O.F.

The report explored the possibility of establishing a specialized residential mathematics and science high school in Florida. In addition, the report team examined models of residential schools

in Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. The report defines different types of mathematics and science schools in operational terms and campus development status. A school can operate in a manner that is independent, loosely affiliated, or closely affiliated with an existing traditional school. A school can use existing buildings, make modifications and additions to buildings, or construct a completely new campus.

The report gives detailed estimates of the costs of establishing a residential school. For example, estimates 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 mathematics and science school was not taken after the report was presented to the Legislature. Subsequently, ch. 94-232, s. 49, L.O.F., repealed s. 233.65, F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The committee substitute establishes a Mathematics and Sciences Study Commission to determine the feasibility of creating a statewide residential mathematics and sciences academy for students in grades 11 and 12. The commission must select a private partner, a State University System partner, a location, and an estimated operating cost for the academy.

The fourteen commission members will be appointed as follows:

- Five by the Governor, including a mathematics or science teacher, a member of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, a principal or administrator of a state public school, a member of the Board of Regents, and a member of the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability;
- Two by the President of the Senate, including one from the majority party and one from the minority party;
- Two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including one from the majority party and one from the minority party; and
- Five by the Commissioner of Education, including a mathematics or science teacher, a member of the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, a member of the Florida School Board Administrators Association, and a member of the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission.

The Postsecondary Education Planning Commission and the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability will provide staff support for the commission. Regular meetings may be held two days each month, or at other times as deemed necessary. The bill authorizes

commission members and staff to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

The commission must present its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education by January 1, 1999. At that time, the commission will be terminated.

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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate. Travel for commission members and staff would cost approximately \$5,000 per meeting. If the commission met for two days per month for 8 months, the cost would total approximately \$80,000. Additional costs might include travel to residential schools in other states and to sites under consideration in Florida.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

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.
