

STORAGE NAME: h4163.cu

DATE: April 9, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

BILL #: HB 4163 (PCB CU 98-05)

RELATING TO: Postsecondary Education

SPONSOR(S): Colleges & Universities & Representative Casey & Others

COMPANION BILL(S): none

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

(1) COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES YEAS 10 NAYS 0

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I. SUMMARY:

Following the 1997 Legislative Session, the House and Senate participated in an interim project to define, identify, and review all activities of state agencies that are required by Florida Statute or the General Appropriations Act. This bill addresses recommendations resulting from that review.

This bill revises the due date for the annual evaluation of the College Reach Out Program (CROP) by the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC). The bill also adds language wherein PEPC can determine how frequently to conduct the longitudinal cohort assessment of CROP in the program evaluation.

This bill repeals provisions relating to three programs which receive no funding from the Legislature: undergraduate enhancement grants, required course programs, and the Quality Assurance Fund.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

State Government Function/Activity Review and Prioritization Project

Following the 1997 Legislative Session, staff of the House and Senate in conjunction with staff of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting and agency staff participated in a project to identify all the tasks that have been required of the various state agencies by the Legislature, whether in statute or in the budget. Agencies were asked to review these lists and rank their priorities. Each substantive committee was directed to review the priorities of agencies within its jurisdiction, make independent decisions about the priorities of the committee, and transmit those committee priorities to the fiscal committees. Substantive committees were also provided the option to prepare PCBs that make technical, clarifying changes to, and remove obsolete language from the statutes.

The House of Representatives Committee on Colleges & Universities reviewed programs within the Department of Education including the functions and activities of the Board of Regents, the State University System, and the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC).

Evaluation of the College Reach out Program by PEPC

The College Reach-Out Program (CROP) is a competitive grant program that was established for the purpose of encouraging low-income and educationally disadvantaged students in grades 6 through 12 to successfully complete a postsecondary education. CROP provides students with academic enrichment activities, career and personal counseling, tutoring, summer activities, and community involvement through partnerships with community colleges, universities, and community agencies. CROP has an appointed advisory council that reviews and prioritizes proposals and makes recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding funding.

In 1991, at the request of the Advisory Council, PEPC conducted its first statewide evaluation of CROP. In 1993, the General Appropriations Act directed PEPC to continue evaluating the effectiveness of CROP, and, in 1994, the Commission became statutorily responsible for annually assessing the program. The report must include analyses of participant performance, review of projects, comparisons of practices and outcomes, and a longitudinal cohort assessment of participants from their entry into the program until their graduation from a post-secondary institution. PEPC must submit the report to the Legislature by January 15 of each year.

Proposals for Undergraduate Enhancement Grants

Section 240.154, F.S., establishes an undergraduate enhancement grant in order to enhance the quality of the undergraduate experience in public community colleges and state universities. This statute sets forth the guidelines for submitting proposals and for funding proposals. This section also requires the SBCC and BOR to include requests for funding proposals in their legislative budget requests.

According to the BOR staff, the last appropriation to the SUS for this program was in 1990-91.

Required Course Program; Quality Assurance Fund

Section 240.278, F.S., establishes a required course program and a Quality Assurance Fund within the State University System. The program allows universities to establish additional class sections in the summer for required courses that have been closed because they are full. The program is funded by the Quality Assurance Fund whose monies are transferred from the General Revenue Fund and administered through the Board of Regents.

According to BOR staff, the Legislature has never funded this program. Consequently, the program has never been operational.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill revises the due date for the annual evaluation of the College Reach Out Program (CROP) by the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC). The bill also creates language that allows PEPC to determine how frequently to conduct a longitudinal cohort assessment of CROP.

This bill repeals provisions relating to three programs which no longer receive funding from the Legislature: undergraduate enhancement grants, required course programs, and the Quality Assurance Fund.

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?

No.

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

No.

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?

No.

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:

- (1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

- (2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

- (3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

- 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?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Amends s. 240.61(13), F.S.

Repeals ss. 240.154 and 240.278, F.S.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

Section 1. Amends s. 240.61(13), F.S., to change the submission date of the PEPC annual evaluation of CROP; creates language that allows PEPC to determine how frequently to include a longitudinal cohort assessment in the program evaluation.

Section 2. Repeals ss. 240.154, F.S., relating to proposals for undergraduate enhancement grants and s. 240.278, F.S., relating to the required course program and Quality Assurance Fund.

Section 3. Provides for an effective date.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

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2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

None.

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:

N/A

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

N/A

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

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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

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A. **APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:**

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. **REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:**

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

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

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

V. **COMMENTS:**

None.

VI. **AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:**

None.

VII. **SIGNATURES:**

COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

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