

STORAGE NAME: h4625.cj

DATE: April 4, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS
TRUST FUND RE-CREATION BILL RESEARCH**

BILL #: HB 4625 (PCB CJ 98-28)

RELATING TO: Consumer Frauds Trust Fund

SPONSOR(S): Criminal Justice Appropriations

COMPANION BILL(S):

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

(1) Criminal Justice Appropriations YEAS 7 NAYS 0

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I. SUMMARY:

This legislation re-creates the Consumer Frauds Trust Fund without modification. The Consumer Frauds Trust Fund is administered by the Department of Legal Affairs.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

1. MAJOR STATUTES THAT CONTROL THE TRUST FUND:

Section 501.2101, F.S., creates the trust fund and provides for deposit of moneys received for attorney fees and costs of investigation or litigation.

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND'S USES OR PURPOSES:

The receipts of the Consumer Frauds Trust Fund are expended for litigation and investigative costs for proceedings resulting from the enforcement of the consumer protection laws of the state. The 1998-1999 fiscal year appropriation is \$717,450.

3. MAJOR SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE FUND:

The primary source of revenue for the Consumer Frauds Trust Fund is a civil judgment of not more than \$10,000 per violation. The enforcing authority is entitled to receive reimbursement for attorney's fees and costs of investigation or litigation incurred in enforcing the consumer protection laws of the state.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill re-creates the trust fund without modification.

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C. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

N/A

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

This legislation has no fiscal impact on state agencies or state funds, on local governments as a whole or on the private sector. It simply re-creates, without modification, an existing state trust fund and continues the current use of the fund.

IV. COMMENTS:

N/A

V. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VI. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON: CRIMINAL JUSTICE APPROPRIATIONS

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