

**STORAGE NAME:** h9315a.ltc

**DATE:** March 18, 1998

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
ELDER AFFAIRS & LONG TERM CARE  
BILL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**BILL #:** HR 9315

**RELATING TO:** RESPECT

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative K. Pruitt & others

**COMPANION BILL(S):** SB 2130 (S)

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

- (1) ELDER AFFAIRS & LONG TERM CARE YEAS 6 NAYS 0
  - (2) RULES, RESOLUTIONS, & ETHICS
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

This House Resolution recognizes RESPECT of Florida as a necessary, viable, and valuable means of carrying out its policy of promoting gainful employment for Florida citizens with severe disabilities.

II. SUBSTANTIVE RESEARCH:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

The 1974 Florida Legislature created in Sections 413.032-413.037, F.S., a program

“to encourage and assist blind and other severely handicapped individuals to achieve maximum personal independence through useful, productive, and gainful employment by assuring an expanded and constant market for their products and services, thereby enhancing their dignity and capacity for self-support and minimizing their dependence on welfare and need for costly institutionalization.”

The Commission for Purchase from the Blind or Other Severely Handicapped is created within the Department of Management Services. Among its many duties and powers, this seven member commission authorizes a central nonprofit agency to facilitate the allocation of orders among qualified nonprofit agencies for the blind and a central nonprofit agency to facilitate the allocation of orders among qualified nonprofit agencies for other severely handicapped. Since 1976 RESPECT of Florida, a program of Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, has been the designated Central Nonprofit Agency. According to the agency, in 1996 fifty community organizations including Goodwill Industries, Lighthouses for the Blind, local Associations for Retarded Citizens, Easter Seal Societies, and others participated in employing almost 1600 persons with disabilities statewide. A 1996 study showed that RESPECT saved government \$1,090,000 through reduced government support based on a reduction in the number of persons receiving support and payments related to their disability. The study estimates that taxpayers save approximately \$1 for every \$18 spent by government agencies on products and services produced by citizens with disabilities through the RESPECT of Florida program.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The House Resolution recognizes RESPECT of Florida as a necessary, viable, and valuable means of carrying out its policy of promoting gainful employment for Florida citizens with severe disabilities.

C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

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(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

3. Personal Responsibility:

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

N/A

- b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

N/A

4. Individual Freedom:

- a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

N/A

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

N/A

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:

N/A

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION RESEARCH:

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

III. FISCAL RESEARCH & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

N/A

2. Recurring Effects:

N/A

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

N/A

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:

N/A

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

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

N/A

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

N/A

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

N/A

V. COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON ELDER AFFAIRS & LONG TERM CARE:

Prepared by:

Legislative Research Director:

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Melanie Meyer

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Tom Batchelor, Ph.D.