

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: March 13, 1998 Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Crime Prevention Assistance

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Cooper	Yeatman	CA	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	WM	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Senate Bill 982 repeals the Handicapped and Elderly Security Assistance Act. The act was created to enable housing authorities that operate housing projects which serve the handicapped and the elderly to become involved in activities designed to prevent crime and reduce the criminal victimization of the handicapped and the elderly. The program is funded by fines imposed by judges in cases where a person has violated a state law or county or municipal ordinance and such crime was committed against a handicapped or elderly person. The bill also deletes references to the repealed provisions.

This bill repeals sections 426.001 - 426.009, and amends sections 775.0836 and 939.015, of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Handicapped and Elderly Security Assistance Act of 1984 was established pursuant to chapter 84-250, Laws of Florida, to provide an opportunity for public and private nonprofit housing authorities that own or operate housing projects for the handicapped or elderly to apply and receive financial assistance, on a priority basis, for the purpose of carrying out crime prevention and security programs.

The program is funded by fines imposed pursuant to s. 775.0836, F.S., and s. 939.015, F.S. These sections require judges to impose fines in cases where a person has violated a state law or county or municipal ordinance and such crime was committed against a handicapped or elderly person. The surcharge authorized in these sections must be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

The act provides definitions, directs the Bureau of Public Safety, within the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), to administer the program, and establishes the priority by which the security assistance grants are to be awarded.

According to the DCA, judges rarely impose the fines authorized in s. 775.0836(1) or s. 939.015(1), F.S., thus no significant amount of funds were ever collected in order to implement the program. The trust fund associated with this program was repealed in 1993 (s. 1, ch. 93-120, Laws of Florida), and there are no FTEs associated with this program.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

Senate Bill 982 repeals the Handicapped and Security Assistance Act in chapter 426, F.S. The bill also deletes a reference to s. 426.002, F.S., located in ss. 775.0836 and 939.015, F.S.

According to DCA, the trust fund created for the program has been repealed and there are no positions assigned to the program.

### **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:**

This bill repeals a crime prevention program at the DCA which has never been implemented.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.

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

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