

# 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.)

BILL: CS/SB 1142

SPONSOR: Natural Resources Committee and Senator Bronson

SUBJECT: Solid and hazardous waste management

DATE: March 16, 1999 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Voigt</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to make available to the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc. an annual appropriation from Solid Waste Management Trust Fund to assist Florida's public and private sectors with solid and hazardous waste management.

## II. Present Situation:

The Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc., (SWIX), is a nonprofit Florida 501(c)(3) organization formed through a cooperative partnership by Florida State University, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The SWIX assists industrial and commercial waste generators with the management of solid and hazardous waste and serves as a clearinghouse and repository for industry concerning information on:

- Market development;
- Recycled products;
- Solid and hazardous waste management;
- Current regulations and legislation;
- Alternative and emerging waste management technologies;
- Trade journals and associations;
- The availability of and demand for waste materials; and
- Waste management services and products.

Since its inception in 1981, the emphasis of the SWIX has been on encouraging and facilitating sound environmental and cost-effective alternatives to the landfilling, incineration or treatment of solid waste through direct interaction with waste generators in both the public and private sectors.

The SWIX produces a catalog that is designed to assist industry in the area of solid and hazardous waste management. The catalog provides up-to-date information concerning the availability of and demand for waste materials as well as providing information related to waste management

services and products. The catalog, published three times a year, is distributed to government agencies and private firms in the southeastern United States.

The SWIX is currently funded from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund in the amount of \$300,000 for FY 1998-1999. The Governor's 1999-2000 Legislative Budget Request proposes to use \$300,000 from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund for FY 1999-2000 to fund the SWIX.

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

This bill provides that the Legislature recognizes the need for statewide solid and hazardous waste management assistance to Florida's private businesses, industries, and the public sector including local units of government. In order to assist the department in providing solid and hazardous waste management assistance to Florida's public and private sectors on a continuing basis, the Legislature recognizes the need for a waste exchange as part of the state's comprehensive solid and hazardous waste management programs, and designates the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc. (SWIX) to provide this service to Florida's private and public sectors.

The Department of Environmental Protection shall make available to the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc., an annual appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund. These funds shall be used by the SWIX to maintain and expand a waste exchange service and other solid and hazardous waste management assistance as requested by the private sector, the department, and local governments.

### **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:**

According to the June 30, 1998, Final Report from SWIX, approximately 281,004 tons of waste materials (with an estimated cost-savings in reduced disposal costs to waste generators or \$13,596,711) were successfully recycled, used or reused. This amounted to a cost/benefit ratio of \$1:\$30. This means that for every state dollar invested in the operation of the SWIX program, \$30 was avoided in disposal costs to waste generators. The bill would provide funding to the SWIX to assist the private sector in their efforts to keep waste out of Florida's landfills, and would statutorily recognize the SWIX and its role in assisting the private sector, particularly small businesses, in their waste reduction and management practices.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Currently, the SWIX is a joint project of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Chamber of Commerce. The DEP has included the SWIX in their budget requests and for FY 1998-1999 the SWIX was funded by a separate appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund. The SWIX is intended to supplement the DEP's waste reduction and pollution prevention activities by engaging the public sector.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.