

STORAGE NAME: h1819.ccc

DATE: March 22, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
Community Colleges and Career Prep
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: House Bill 1819

RELATING TO: Community College Enrollment

SPONSOR(S): Representative Melvin

COMPANION BILL(S): CS/SB 768 (Senator Clary)

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

- (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND CAREER PREP
 - (2) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

In an era of increased accountability and performance funding, the way in which community college enrollment is defined is somewhat ambiguous. Since many community college students enter postsecondary education without a serious intent to complete a degree, the inclusion of these students in enrollment calculations can be detrimental to community colleges because these students are likely to lower the completion and retention rates. Completion and retention rates are used as a primary measure of accountability for community colleges.

Beginning with the accountability report in 1991, the definition of "accountably enrolled" students for accountability purposes has been tacitly understood to mean only those students who have declared an intent to earn a degree and have completed 18 credit hours toward that degree. Under this definition, students who have difficulty with remediation and those students who are not working toward a degree are excluded from the cohort used to track performance for accountability purposes.

The bill would require community colleges to report the enrollment of all students who have been classified as "matriculated and degree-seeking" for accountability purposes. Before students can be classified as matriculated and degree-seeking, they must meet the testing requirements of section 240.117, Florida Statutes. Students who are enrolled in an advanced placement (dual enrollment) or early admission programs would not be included in the enrollment calculation.

The bill specifies that this classification would only be used for the purposes of accountability reporting (required by s. 240.324, F.S.). "Degree-seeking" status may be maintained separately for financial aid purposes, even if the college has not classified a student as matriculated and degree-seeking for accountability purposes. This would allow remedial students to continue to receive financial aid.

Since community colleges would still be responsible for classifying students as matriculated and degree-seeking, the bill would not change current practice. The status quo would be maintained, but the parameters for establishing a cohort of students for determining graduation and retention rates (used for the accountability report) would be specified in statute.

This bill has no fiscal impact.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

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B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

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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?

Community colleges will be responsible for determining the number of students enrolled at the community college as matriculated, degree-seeking students for accountability purposes.

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

No.

- b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

An agency or program is not 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?

N/A

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:

The bill does not purport 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?

No.

- 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:

The bill does not create or change a program providing services to families or children.

- (1) parents and guardians?

N/A

- (2) service providers?

N/A

- (3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Creates an unspecified section of the Florida Statutes.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Provides requirements for classifying a student as matriculated and degree-seeking for accountability purposes.

Section 2. Provides that the act will take effect upon becoming law.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

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:

None.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

None.

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

None.

STORAGE NAME: h1819.ccc

DATE: March 22, 1999

PAGE 6

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take 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 Community Colleges and Career Prep:

Prepared by:

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