

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: SB 2346

SPONSOR: Senator Carlton

SUBJECT: Florida Oceans Study Committee

DATE: April 16, 1999 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Voigt</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Fav/1 amendment</u>
2.	<u>Hendon</u>	<u>Hadi</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill statutorily creates the Florida Oceans Study Committee as a re-creation of the existing Florida Governor’s Ocean Committee. Specifies the duties of the committee. Provides that the Governor shall appoint a 24-member Florida Ocean Commission no later than September 30, 2000, and specifies the appointments. The commission will exist through June 30, 2005, and is subject to renewal by the Legislature. Annual reports must be provided by the commission to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Provides for an appropriation of \$80,000 from General Revenue.

II. Present Situation:

Florida is the only state in the contiguous United States that is bordered on three sides by the sea, with 8,426 miles of coastline. Off the southern tip of Florida lie the largest coral reefs in North America. The Florida Keys are the third largest coral reef system in the world. Coastal and ocean resources are vital to Florida’s quality of life and economic vitality.

In 1998, the United Nations declared 1998 as the “International Year of the Ocean.” This proclamation has spurred many efforts and activities aimed at raising awareness of the ocean’s value. In addition, it has encouraged individuals, organizations, and governments to look for ways to make changes needed to sustain the world’s ocean resources.

As a result of the United Nations proclamation, the late Governor Lawton Chiles issued Executive Order 98-13 which declared 1998 as the Year of the Ocean for Florida. The Executive Order also created the Florida Governor’s Ocean Committee. The committee is composed of 24 members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The committee includes representatives of the Departments of Community Affairs, Environmental Protection, State, and Agriculture and Consumer Services; the Executive Office of the Governor; the Marine Fisheries Commission; and local government. Membership also includes no less than two citizens’ representatives and representatives from the following interests: conservation, education, science,

law, recreation and business. Finally, there are six ex-officio members representing the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The chairperson and vice chair are designated by the Governor, and the committee meets upon the call of the chairperson.

The committee's charge is to establish goals and recommend ocean policies and strategies for the public benefit and promote their efficient implementation. The policies and strategies are to include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying ocean resource management opportunities and conflicts;
- Developing policies and strategies that address identified conflicts in a comprehensive and coordinated manner;
- Providing for increased public awareness of ocean issues; and
- Improving coordination and eliminating duplication among governments, agencies, task forces and organizations that implement ocean policy.

The committee was administered in the Department of Community Affairs in cooperation with the Executive Office of the Governor.

The committee is required to issue a final report by June 30, 1999. On January 19, 1999, the committee issued a Draft Final Report. The committee is scheduled to meet in Spring 1999 to review comments and make necessary adjustments to the Draft Final Report before finalizing the report and delivering it to Governor Bush on June 30, 1999.

The Draft Final Report contained the following overarching recommendation:

The Florida Legislature should create a Florida Ocean Council to provide leadership and policy direction on ocean issues, and to coordinate ocean resource management and identify priorities for research, education, and information needs on Florida's ocean resources. The Council should follow a long-term adaptive approach that builds on existing efforts to collect information and integrate it across political, ecological, and physical boundaries, and across multiple uses.

As an interim step, the existing Florida Governor's Ocean Committee should be reappointed for a one-year term as the Florida Ocean Study Commission.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill re-creates the Florida Governor's Ocean Committee as the Florida Oceans Study Committee through June 30, 2000. The final report of the study committee will be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than February 2000. The report will address specific priorities for a coordinated management policy for Florida's oceans, including effective public outreach and education. The committee will

also recommend priority research and scientific monitoring needs and a funding mechanism for a comprehensive scientific assessment of the present status and future vitality and health of Florida's oceans. The committee is to consult with members of the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories. Those members include:

- Eckerd College
- Florida Institute of Oceanography
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida Marine Research Institute
- Florida State University
- Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc.
- Mote Marine Laboratory
- Nova Southeastern University
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of South Florida
- Florida Seagrass Program

The committee will explore taking advantage of any cost-sharing avenues by the federal government and appropriate equitable-funding responsibilities of U.S. agencies to benefit the state.

Following the submission of the Florida Oceans Study Committee's report in February 2000, the Governor shall appoint a 24-member Florida Ocean Commission no later than September 30, 2000. The Florida Ocean Commission would consist of:

- Representatives from the following agencies: Department of Community Affairs; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of State; Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Department of Education; the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and the Executive Office of the Governor.
- Local representatives from conservation, education, science, law, recreation, and business interests.
- Six ex-officio members to be appointed to represent the federal government, from the Department of Defense, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Coast Guard.

The commission's responsibility will be to implement the Florida Oceans Study Committee recommendations and provide ongoing coordination and oversight of ocean policy issues.

The Florida Ocean Commission will exist through June 30, 2005, and is subject to renewal by the Legislature. Annual reports with recommendations on significant ocean policy issues are to be provided by the commission to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill appropriates \$80,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Oceans Study Committee to carry out the provisions of this act for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. Of the appropriated funds, \$30,000 may be used for workshops and activities related to developing priority research and scientific monitoring needs for Florida's waters. No remuneration will be provided to study committee members or workshop participants. Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with s. 112.061, F.S.

The Florida Oceans Study Committee and the ensuing Florida Ocean Commission will be staffed by the Coastal Zone Management Section of the Department of Community Affairs.

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:

The bill appropriates a total of \$80,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Oceans Study Committee. Of that amount, \$30,000 may be used for workshops and activities related to developing priority research and scientific monitoring needs for Florida's waters. According to information received from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the remaining \$50,000 will be used to provide for meetings of the Florida Oceans Study Committee. The DCA has indicated that their experience with the Governor's Ocean Committee has shown that each meeting costs roughly \$10,000. This is mostly in travel and per diem for "non-governmental" members who need assistance, with a small amount for meeting rooms. It is anticipated that the Florida Oceans Study Committee will meet four or five times.

The committee will have no staff of its own. The bill provides that the Coastal Zone Management Section of the Department of Community Affairs will staff the committee and the ensuing Florida Ocean Commission. According to the DCA, staffing costs for these activities have been, up to this point, picked up under a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant provided to the Coastal Zone Trust Fund. This current year can be managed with existing staff. If there is a Florida Ocean Commission beginning July 1, 2000, the DCA has indicated that there will be a need for additional staff, an FTE at the Planning Manager level.

Each of the agencies represented on the committee could incur some expense associated with their representative; however, such expenses would be insignificant and likely borne within the agency's existing financial resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

#1 by Natural Resources:

Technical amendment. Deletes "recreation" and inserts "recreational boating."