

STORAGE NAME: h0921a.ccc

DATE: March 10, 1999

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

BILL #: House Bill 921

RELATING TO: Career Education

SPONSOR(S): Representative Bush

COMPANION BILL(S):

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

- (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND CAREER PREP YEAS 10 NAYS 0
 - (2) EDUCATION INNOVATION
 - (3) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

Section 229.601, Florida Statutes establishes a career education program in the state education system, to be administered by the Commissioner of Education and designated staff. The focus of the program is intended to promote positive career opportunities for all Florida students. Statute also provides for coordination among various programs or disciplines in different educational sectors.

Currently, statute does not require that state high schools provide a four-year career plan for each student. Many schools do have some form of a four-year career plan, but implementation and on-going maintenance is varied due to lack of resources.

This bill would require the Commissioner of Education to develop procedures and resources that may be used by school districts to provide four-year plans which outline the courses necessary (in grades 9 through 12) to prepare students for related entry-level employment or postsecondary education. The Commissioner would also be responsible for developing a model for statewide implementation. This would be accomplished through the creation and implementation of pilot projects in Florida counties with populations in excess of 2 million people.

Fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 229.601, Florida Statutes establishes a career education program in the state education system, to be administered by the Commissioner of Education and designated staff. The focus of the program is intended to promote positive career opportunities for all Florida students. Statute also provides for coordination among various programs or disciplines in different educational sectors.

The Blueprint for Career Preparation, in 1988, was the first major effort by the Florida Department of Education to develop a comprehensive career development emphasis across all school levels. This blueprint led to the development of other initiatives such as the successful Tech Prep program. Florida Education & Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) data indicate that Tech Prep students are more likely to go on to postsecondary education and begin at a community college than other high school students. These students are also found working or continuing their education more often than non Tech Prep students.

Four-year career plans are recommended as part of the grant requirements for the Blueprint for Career Preparation and School-to-Work. The Career Development Section of the Division of Workforce Development also promotes the usage of four-year career plans as a counseling strategy and this is incorporated into their comprehensive guidance programs. The Student Development Program, the state guidance model, also recommends career plans. However, there is no current law that requires state high schools to have a four-year career plan for each student.

Florida's System of School Improvement and Accountability listed career plans as a key data element, but this requirement was dropped for the 1996-97 school year. Although there are no longer state requirements, most districts continue to include four-year career plans in their School Improvement Plans. The State, as part of the Blueprint for Career Preparation, provided a model for school districts to use. This model provided guidelines on how career plans should be maintained. Many districts utilize a modified version of the state model and use a simplified version of many of the actual forms. Schools have reported difficulty in maintaining four-year career plans due to the lack of career specialists or counselors to assist with career planning, high student/counselor ratios, lack of financial resources, and current procedures that do not address implementation problems. Also, many schools develop four-year plans during the 8th grade and the transition of the planners from the 8th to the 9th grade seems to be problematic.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill would require the Commissioner of Education to develop procedures and resources that may be used by school districts to provide four-year plans which outline the courses necessary (in grades 9 through 12) to prepare students for related entry-level employment or postsecondary education. The Commissioner would also be responsible for developing a model for statewide implementation. This would be accomplished through the creation and implementation of pilot projects in Florida counties with populations in excess of 2 million people.

This bill does not address some of the concerns mentioned in the Present Situation section above (i.e. the difficult transition from 8th to 9th grade, lack of career specialists or counselors, high student/counselor ratios). The bill also does not specify that statewide implementation would actually occur.

The provision that pilot projects must be created and implemented in Florida counties with populations in excess of 2 million people effectively means that Dade county will be the only county that will have a pilot project. Dade County is the only county with a population in excess of two million people. Broward County and Palm Beach County are the next largest counties with populations between 1 and 2 million people.

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?

The Commissioner of Education is authorized to develop procedures and resources relating to four-year career plans.

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

The Commissioner of Education is responsible for the development of procedures and resources for use by all school districts in providing four-year career plans. The Commissioner is also responsible for creating and implementing pilot projects.

The pilot school district will also have the responsibility of developing the career plans.

(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?

The career education program is administered by the Commissioner of Education and designated staff using state dollars.

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?

No.

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:

Section 229.601, Florida Statutes.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1. Provides for procedures to be developed for four-year career plans for grades 9 through 12. Requires the creation and implementation of a pilot project for the development of a statewide implementation model.

Section 2. Provides that the act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

Indeterminate. The bill would require travel and meeting costs for Department of Education staff to design the model and procedures. Development, production, and printing of the model and procedures as well as a training package for different audiences will add to costs.

2. Recurring Effects:

Indeterminate. The cost per student of the four-year plan is not specified.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

Indeterminate.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

Indeterminate. The bill would require local staff development activities as well as the designation of staff responsible for coordination of the four-year career plans.

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.

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 an 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 state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

On March 10, 1999 the Committee on Community Colleges and Career Prep considered the bill and passed it with one amendment that would eliminate the requirement for the creation and implementation of a pilot program. The amendment adds language specifying that each school district, utilizing existing resources, will be required to develop and implement a 4-year career plan for students. The plans must be submitted to the Commissioner of Education by October 1, 1999. Since the school districts will develop plans using existing resources, the fiscal impact is reduced. However, there could still be an indeterminate fiscal impact due to the requirement that the Commissioner develop procedures and resources for use by all school districts.

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VII. SIGNATURES:

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