

# 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 1462

SPONSOR: Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee and Senator Webster

SUBJECT: Volunteer and Community Service

DATE: March 26, 2000 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CA</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

The bill creates the “Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act of 2000” to permit the establishment of program and financial policies that foster the use of those volunteer activities which complement the achievement of state goals.

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law and amends section 14.29, F.S.

**II. Present Situation:**

The Florida Commission on Community Service was created by Executive Order signed on October 11, 1993, by the late Governor Lawton Chiles and was codified in statute as s. 14.29, F.S., the following year. The Commission is the designated state agency for receipt of federal funds under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and its Corporation for National Service. The Commission’s fiscal agent is Tallahassee Community College.

The Commission received \$625,000 in state appropriations as part of its \$14.7 million budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. About 70 percent of its total budget comes from *AmeriCorps*. As of March 16, 2000 one or more funded commission programs were located in 26 Florida counties. The commission’s principal service operations are *AmeriCorps*, *Learn & Serve America*, and the *National Senior Service Corps*.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1.** The bill authorizes the development of state policies which encourage the use of volunteer activities among public and private agencies and individuals in the areas of volunteer resources, the use of volunteer activities within public agencies, and the support and recognition of volunteers in their activities. The Florida Commission on Community Service or its direct support organization, Volunteer Florida, Inc., may provide assistance to state agencies in furtherance of these objectives.

**Section 2.** Section 14.29, F.S., is amended to provide for the Commission's assessment of the state of volunteerism as part of its annual report.

**Section 3.** The bill is effective upon becoming a law.

**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:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

Use of the phrase “. . .(T)he state may establish policies and procedures . . .” does not provide specificity as to which state entity, other than the Commission, is responsible for such policy development.

Volunteer service is recognized in various section of the Florida Statutes. Among the most notable provisions are those providing immunity in ch. 768, F.S., the use of volunteers in mental health assistance programs in ch. 394, F.S., and the use of volunteers in state agency programs in ch. 110, F.S.

**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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