

STORAGE NAME: h1835s1.go

DATE: March 23, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: CS/HB 1835

RELATING TO: Volunteer & Community Service Act

SPONSOR(S): Committee on Governmental Operations and Representative Wise

TIED BILL(S):

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

- (1) GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS YEAS 5 NAYS 0
 - (2) JUDICIARY
 - (3) TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
 - (4)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

In 1993, Governor Lawton Chiles signed an executive order to fulfill the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 by creating the Florida Commission on Community Service. The Commission was later enacted into law by the Florida Legislature, s. 14.29, F.S. The Commission is assigned to the Executive Office of Governor, but independently exercises its responsibilities under s. 14.29, F.S., and the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes that establishes the "Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act of 2000." This bill provides Legislative intent behind the act as the intent to promote the development of better communities by fostering volunteerism and community service. This bill also authorizes the state to establish policies and procedures to provide for funds to facilitate initiatives by agencies, schools, private institutions and individuals that encourage volunteerism.

This bill lists initiatives and purposes which follow the act. The list includes an increased priority in volunteerism, encouraging local community leaders to expand volunteerism, promoting corporate citizenship, fostering the alignment of community service resources with the goals of the state, and encouraging nonprofit organizations to use volunteers.

This bill also authorizes the Florida Commission on Community Service to assist agencies, institutions, and individuals by securing assistance in the form of grants, gifts, or funds from the public or private sector. In turn, the Florida Commission on Community Service may also authorize Volunteer Florida, Inc. to assist in securing training, technical assistance, and other support.

This bill also amends s. 14.29, F.S., to add a requirement to the annual report of the Florida Commission on Community Service, that the Commission include their assessment of the state of volunteerism in Florida.

This bill has no fiscal impact.

This bill is effective upon becoming a law.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

In 1993, Governor Lawton Chiles signed an executive order to fulfill the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 by creating the Florida Commission on Community Service. The Commission was later enacted into law by the Florida Legislature, s. 14.29, F.S. The Commission is assigned to the Executive Office of Governor, but independently exercises its responsibilities under s. 14.29, F.S., and the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

The mission of the Commission is to strengthen communities in Florida through volunteer service. Their mission statement states that they will accomplish their mission by, for example, coordinating and linking volunteer programs and community service programs throughout the state; providing training and technical assistance to volunteers and volunteer organizations in the state; and administering AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve programs in Florida.

The Commission works with national service organizations as well as state organizations, and is responsible for coordinating volunteers and donations in times of disaster in Florida. The Commission is one of the 50 state offices that make up Florida SERT (State Emergency Response Team). Colin Powell's America's Promise program, Governor Bush's Mentoring Initiative and Points of Light Foundation, and the Corporation for National Service are some of the programs that have joined with the Commission to encourage and support volunteerism.

The Commission is authorized to establish a direct-support organization. The direct-support organization is named Volunteer Florida, a non-profit corporation which receives, holds, invests, and administers property and funds and make expenditures to or for the benefit of the program. The members of the direct-support organization's board of directors must include members of the commission. The direct-support organization prepares an annual report that details its activities for the preceding year, compiles reports accepted on behalf of the governor, and includes specific recommendations for any necessary legislative, administrative, or regulatory reform.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes that establishes the "Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act of 2000." This bill provides Legislative intent behind the act as the intent to promote the development of better communities by fostering volunteerism and community service. This bill also authorizes the state to establish policies and procedures to provide for funds to facilitate initiatives by agencies, schools, private institutions and individuals that encourage volunteerism.

This bill enumerates initiatives and purposes which follow the act. The list includes an increased priority in volunteerism, encouraging local community leaders to expand volunteerism, promoting corporate citizenship, fostering the alignment of community service resources with the goals of the state, and encouraging nonprofit organizations to use volunteers.

This bill also authorizes the Florida Commission on Community Service to assist agencies, institutions, and individuals by securing assistance in the form of grants, gifts, or funds from the public or private sector. In turn, the Florida Commission on Community Service may also authorize Volunteer Florida, Inc. to assist in securing training, technical assistance, and other support.

This bill also amends s. 14.29, F.S., to add a requirement to the annual report of the Florida Commission on Community Service, that the Commission include their assessment of the state of volunteerism in Florida.

This bill has no fiscal impact.

This bill is effective upon becoming a law.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

See above Effect of Proposed Changes.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

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1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

This bill has no significant fiscal impact.

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 take an action requiring expenditures 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 sales tax shared with municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

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VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

On March 23, 2000, the Committee on Governmental Operations heard this bill and adopted one amendment. The Committee reported the bill as amended favorably as a committee substitute.

The amendment adds language to Section 1 of the bill so that the section is in line with the policies of General Colin Powell's America's Promise program, which encourages volunteerism as a method of helping children in America.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

Jennifer D. Krell

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