

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 384

SPONSOR: Natural Resources Committee

SUBJECT: Public Lands

DATE: April 11, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Gee	Voigt	NR	Favorable/CS
2.			FP	
3.				
4.				
5.				

I. Summary:

This bill creates the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council (council) within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The council will adopt categories for agencies to uniformly account for land management costs. The bill also revises the manner in which agencies present their needs for land management funding. A report is required.

This bill amends ss. 259.032, and creates s. 259.037 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

During the interim prior to the 2000 Regular Session, staff completed Interim Project Report 2000-61, entitled "Review of Funding Needs For Proper Management of Conservation and Recreation Lands and the Management Practices For All State-Owned Lands." To determine the amounts needed for present and future land management, the land managing agencies were asked to provide their FY 1998-1999 expenditures and the amounts needed to fully implement their adopted management plans. A common format was provided for reporting costs, with the understanding that the agencies might have to alter the format somewhat due to differences in their missions.

Drawing conclusions from the reported information was difficult. Although the agencies generally used the requested format as the basis for presenting information, the information, included in each category varied among the agencies. In some instances, this was due to differences in accounting for expenditures and in others, differences in how various activities were defined. Providing the requested information in the format used was difficult in many instances, as only one agency was recording its costs in the format used.

Although the agencies provided the required information, staff found it extremely difficult to analyze. While there was a format generally used by the agencies, because there was no commonality, in many cases, as to what activities were reported under the various categories of

activity, it was difficult to determine exactly what was being accomplished and at what cost. Because the issue of appropriate funding is so important at this time, staff recommended that a task force be created under the leadership of the DEP to determine the appropriate categories of management activities and those functions to be assigned to the individual categories. With expenditures accounted for in a common system, future funding decisions could be based on a common record of past experience. Staff recommended that legislation include initial categories, to be refined by the task force. This bill implements the recommendations in the report.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Section 259.032, F.S., is amended to require that certain elements of individual land management plans be based on categories adopted by the council. These include:

- A priority schedule for conducting management activities.
- A cost estimate for conducting priority management activities.
- A cost estimate for conducting other management activities that would enhance the natural resource value or public recreation value for which the lands were acquired.

The bill provides that, due to limited resources for management of state owned lands and the need to provide for visitor access, recreational opportunities, the preservation of cultural resources, and the protection and enhancement of natural resources as well as to prevent the possible deterioration to the natural resource values and capital investments on state lands through inadequate management, in requesting management funds state agencies must prioritize for immediate, intermediate, and long-term management of all acquisitions pursuant to ch. 259, F.S., and for associated contractual services. When prioritizing management activities, the bill requires agencies to consider routine and special one-time management needs. In requesting management funds agencies must recognize land management needs necessary to prevent the threat of significant loss of natural resource values and significant increases in repair costs to capital facilities. Managing agencies must also consider, at a minimum, needs for visitor access, the preservation of cultural resources, recreational opportunities, and the preservation and enhancement of natural resources. These needs must be recognized over the immediate (0-2 years) term, intermediate (3-4 years) term, or long-term (5-6 years).

The bill also requires that managing agencies demonstrate how management activities contribute to meeting performance measures developed pursuant to s. 259.0345(7)(c).

The bill deletes existing provision requiring agencies, in requesting management funds, to recognize lands which are low-need, moderate-need, and high-need tracts.

Section 2. This bill creates the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council (council), to be comprised of the director of the Division of State Lands, the director of the DRP, the director of the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, and the director of the Office of Greenways and Trails of the DEP; the director of the DOF, the Executive Director of the FWCC, and the director of the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State, or their respective designees. Each state agency represented on the council will have one vote. The chair of the council will rotate annually in the foregoing order of state agencies. The agency of the representative serving as chairperson of the council shall provide staff support for the council. The

Division of State Lands shall serve as the recipient of and repository for the council's documents. The council must initially meet by June 1, 2000, and thereafter at the request of the chairperson.

The Auditor General and the Director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability or their designees will advise the council to ensure that appropriate accounting procedures are utilized and that a uniform method of collecting and reporting accurate costs of land management activities is created and can be used by all agencies.

The council must, by January 1, 2001, review current land management practices and group closely related land management activities and needs into categories. All land management activities and costs must be assigned to a specific category and no activity or costs may be assigned to more than one category. Administrative costs such as planning or training must be segregated. Specific management activities and costs must be grouped, at a minimum, within the following categories:

- (a) Resource Management;
- (b) Administration;
- (c) Capital Improvements; and
- (d) Visitor Services and Recreation

Upon adoption of a complete list of land management categories by the council, agencies assigned to manage conservation or recreation lands must, by January 1, 2001, begin to account for land management costs in accordance with the category to which an expense is assigned.

The council must provide its adopted list of land management categories to the Governor, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2001.

If the council determines that revisions to the categories are needed, the council will meet at the call of the chairman.

Section 3. This act takes effect upon becoming 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:

The agencies represented on the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council are not expected to incur significant costs in carrying out the duties of the council..

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
