

**STORAGE NAME:** h0825.bdt

**DATE:** February 9, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 825

**RELATING TO:** Postsecondary Linkage Institutes

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Hart and others

**TIED BILL(S):**

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

- (1) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
  - (2) EDUCATION INNOVATION
  - (3) TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

I. SUMMARY:

The bill would transfer responsibility for linkage institutes between postsecondary institutions and foreign countries from the Department of Education to the Department of State.

The bill does not address the issue of rulemaking.

The bill would have an insignificant fiscal impact.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2000.

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 type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Established by section 288.8175, Florida Statutes, linkage institutes assist in the development of economic and social ties between this state and foreign nations. This is achieved through the promotion of expanded public and private partnerships, increased bilateral commerce, student and faculty exchange, cultural exchange, and the enhancement of language training. Linkage institutes have ties to both the Department of State and the Department of Education, which has statutory oversight over the program.

Each institute must be governed by an agreement, approved by the Department of Education, between the State University System and the Community College System with the counterpart organization of higher education in the foreign country. Linkage institutes must have a public/private sector advisory committee. The advisory committee must be representative of the international education and commercial interests of the state and may have members who are native to the foreign country partner. Six members must be appointed by the Department of Education. One of the members must be an international educator. The presidents, or their designees, of the participating university and community college must also serve on the committee. An institute must report to the department regarding its program activities, expenditures, and policies.

Currently, there are eleven linkage institutes. The institutes are:

- (1) Florida-Brazil Institute (University of Florida and Miami-Dade Community College).
- (2) Florida-Costa Rica Institute (Florida State University and Valencia Community College).
- (3) Florida Caribbean Institute (Florida International University and Daytona Beach Community College).
- (4) Florida-Canada Institute (University of Central Florida and Palm Beach Junior College).
- (5) Florida-China Institute (University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and Brevard Community College).
- (6) Florida-Japan Institute (University of South Florida, University of West Florida, and St. Petersburg Community College).

(7) Florida-France Institute (New College of the University of South Florida, Miami-Dade Community College, and Florida State University).

(8) Florida-Israel Institute (Florida Atlantic University and Broward Community College).

(9) Florida-West Africa Institute (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, University of North Florida, and Florida Community College at Jacksonville).

(10) Florida-Eastern Europe Institute (University of Central Florida and Lake Sumter Community College).

(11) Florida-Mexico Institute (Florida International University and Polk Community College).

Each linkage institute is allowed to award twenty-five out-of-state tuition waivers. These waivers allow full-time students from the respective host countries to study at any of the state universities or community colleges. Selection criteria is chosen by the individual institute directors and must be approved by the Department of Education. Linkage institutes provide Florida students with an opportunity to study abroad. Program fees are to be paid to the state university or community college.

The Secretary of State is required by statute to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in any year in which departmental funds are used to bolster linkage institutes.

**C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

The bill would transfer responsibility for linkage institutes, established in s. 288.8175, F.S., from the Department of Education to the Department of State. It clarifies that governing agreements, approved by the Department of State, are between the State University System, the Florida Community College System, and the counterpart organization in the foreign nation. Further, it requires the department to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in each year in which that entity has provided funds for a linkage institute.

**D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:**

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

**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:**

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

N/A

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

Currently, linkage institutes are funded through individual state universities. The Department of State has requested \$200,000 in the budget for FY 2000-01.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has yet to review this bill.

**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 a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

**V. COMMENTS:**

**A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

None.

**B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

None.

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C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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James Marshall Cox

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J. Paul Whitfield, Jr.