

**STORAGE NAME:** h0847.hcl

**DATE:** March 10, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 847

**RELATING TO:** Florida International University

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Manuel Prieguez

**TIED BILL(S):** None

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

- (1) COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES YEAS 8 NAYS 0
  - (2) HEALTH CARE LICENSING & REGULATION
  - (3) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

Current law authorizes the Board of Regents (BOR) to approve new degree programs for state universities but prohibits the establishment of any new college, school, or functional equivalent of any program leading to a degree which is offered as a credential for a specific license granted under the Florida Statutes or State Constitution without specific approval of the Legislature.

The bill creates a master of science degree program in speech-language pathology within the College of Health Sciences at Florida International University (FIU). A master's or doctoral degree with a major emphasis in speech-language pathology from an institution of higher learning is necessary to become a licensed speech-language pathologist in Florida.

According to figures in the degree program proposal, the estimated cost to initiate the program for Year 1 is \$204,159. The estimated cost for the program by Year 5 is \$440,153.

A new Health & Life Sciences building (in which the new degree program would be housed) with approximately 70,000 square feet has been planned. Staff of the Board of Regents report that to date, two PECO appropriations have been provided for Phase I of this project (1998-99 and 1999-2000) for a total of \$17.9 million. The SUS 2000-2001/2002-2003 PECO Project Priority List includes an additional \$13.2 million for the second and final phase for the new building (\$12.4 million for 2000-2001 and \$800,000 for 2001-2002).

The act takes effect upon becoming 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 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:

**Board of Regent's Review of Florida International University Proposal:**

Current law authorizes the BOR to approve new degree programs for all state universities. In approving a new degree program, the BOR considers 25 criteria in the evaluation process: strategic plan; program duplication; planning process; appropriate timetable; needs assessment; headcount/FTE estimates; appropriate course of study; appropriate credit hours; common prerequisites; institutional strengths; recent program review follow-up; exploration of distance learning; faculty availability; faculty experience; commitment to hire new faculty; library resources; facilities; equipment; scholarships and assistantships; clinical and internship sites identified; impact of institutional resource shifting; budget; community college articulation; accreditation; and faculty productivity. In addition to BOR approval, current law requires approval of the Legislature to implement new colleges, schools, or functional equivalents that offer a degree that is a credential for specific licensure.

Florida International University has submitted a proposal to the BOR to offer a master of science degree in speech-language pathology. The proposed program is included in the 1998-2003 Strategic Plan of the SUS. The proposed program has been designed by personnel from FIU, Miami-Dade schools, and various health care agencies in order to address critical shortages of speech-language pathologists in South Florida. Unique to the SUS, FIU's program will focus on cultural/racial/linguistic diversity and gerontological issues.

Of the 25 criteria the BOR considers for program approval, FIU's proposed program in speech-language pathology has met all of the criteria. (The BOR did note that one of the 25 criteria was met with strength and one of the 25 criteria was met with weakness.) Aspects of the program worthy of note, as reviewed by the BOR include:

(1) Of the 230 speech-language pathology programs nationwide, only 20 emphasize cultural/racial/linguistic diversity and gerontological issues. None of these 20 programs currently exist in Florida.

(2) With the increase of applicants to the Miami-Dade school system, there is a shortage of licensed speech-language pathologists. Twenty-eight bachelor's-level

practitioners in the district who provide speech-language services will face termination if they do not matriculate into a master's-level program. FIU has worked with the Florida Department of Education (DOE) in the planning of this proposed master's program and has received \$75,000 from the DOE for this purpose.

The 1999 Final Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Regulations, s.300.401 of Subpart D (Responsibility of state educational agency) states that any child with a disability who is placed in or referred to a private school or facility by a public agency shall be provided special education and related services (including an Individualized Education Plan or IEP) at no cost to the parents. For a child with a speech, language, or hearing impairment, services must be provided by a speech-language pathologist or audiologist who meets the state's requirements for certification and employment. Support personnel must hold the highest level degree required for entry-level licensure. In the case of speech-language pathologists, this would be a master's degree.

(3) The program will comprise 50-60 semester hours of graduate-level coursework and is designed to meet the educational and clinical standards of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). Students may choose the thesis option (in which they will complete original research), or students may choose the non-thesis option (in which they will select one of three specialization tracks: cultural/racial/linguistic diversity, gerontology, or communicology and education).

(4) The BOR cited concern of a possible shortage of faculty available to supervise the clinical practica located off-campus. There is a commitment to hire five faculty by the fifth year of the program. In addition, according to the authors of the program's proposal, supervision of practica will be provided collaboratively by faculty and practitioners in community agencies who are licensed by and/or hold a current ASHA certificate. Practica will occur in public schools, local hospitals, clinics, health agencies, and long-term care facilities.

(5) The program has been provided office and teaching space from the College of Health Sciences. A new Health & Life Sciences building with approximately 70,000 square feet has been planned.

At its July 1999 meeting, the Board of Regents granted FIU planning authorization for its proposed master of science degree in speech-language pathology. Two doctoral-level faculty have been hired to initiate the program, and clinical agreements have been made within the tri-county area of the Miami-Dade school system. At its February 2000 meeting, the BOR granted FIU implementation authorization for the degree.

FIU's proposed master of science degree program in speech-language pathology is a program in which the degree awarded is a credential for professional licensure. Although the BOR has authorized FIU to develop and implement a master of science degree program in speech-language pathology, this program must be approved by the Legislature as well.

### **Requirements for Florida Licensure as a Speech-Language Pathologist:**

Section 468.1185, F.S., sets forth the licensure requirements for speech-language pathologists and audiologists. A person wishing to practice in Florida may apply to the Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for licensure by examination

or licensure by endorsement. An applicant for licensure by examination will be certified for licensure if the applicant has:

- (1) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical clock hour requirements of s. 468.1155, F.S. That section provides that a candidate for licensure must have received a master's or doctoral degree in speech-language pathology from an institution of higher learning including 24 semester hours of speech-language pathology coursework and have completed 300 supervised clinical clock hours with 200 of those hours in the area of speech-language pathology; and
- (2) Satisfied the professional experience requirement of s. 468.1165, F.S. That section requires every applicant for licensure as a speech-language pathologist to have been employed full-time within the profession for nine months or the equivalent in part-time professional employment; and
- (3) Passed the licensure examination required by s. 468.1175, F.S.; and
- (4) Paid the initial licensure fee; and
- (5) Not have been found guilty of or be under investigation for any act that would be a violation of chapter 455 or part I of chapter 468, F.S.

An applicant for licensure by endorsement will be certified for licensure as a speech-language pathologist if the applicant:

- (1) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state or territory of the United States to practice the profession, if the criteria for issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this state at the time the license was issued, or
- (2) Has received the certificate of clinical competence of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

**C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

The bill creates a master of science degree program in speech-language pathology within the College of Health Sciences at Florida International University.

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

Section 1: Authorizes FIU to develop a master of science degree program in speech-language pathology.

Section 2: Establishes that this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

**III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:**

**A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

It is unknown how many graduates of this program would apply for licensure in Florida. The state could receive additional revenues of up to \$200 per applicant and up to \$500 per initial licensee.

2. Expenditures:

According to figures in the degree program proposal, the estimated cost to initiate the program for Year 1 is \$204,159. The estimated cost for the program by Year 5 is \$440,153.

Depending on the number of graduates who apply for licensure, there may be an increase in workload in the future for the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to consider applications, examine candidates, and regulate new licensees.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local expenditures.

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

The 28 speech-language pathology practitioners in the South Florida area who do not hold at least a master's degree may face termination if they do not enroll in a graduate-level speech-language pathology program and become licensed in Florida. The graduates of this program will have to pay application and licensure fees to become licensed.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

A new Health & Life Sciences building (in which the new degree program would be housed) with approximately 70,000 square feet has been planned. Staff of the Board of Regents report that to date, two PECO appropriations have been provided for Phase I of this project (1998-99 and 1999-2000) for a total of \$17.9 million. The SUS 2000-2001/2002-2003 PECO Project Priority List includes an additional \$13.2 million for the second and final phase for the new building (\$12.4 million for 2000-2001 and \$800,000 for 2001-2002).

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds or to take action which requires the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

The bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

None

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

None

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

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