

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: HB 0069C

SPONSOR: Representative Ball

SUBJECT: Inmate Welfare Trust Fund

DATE: December 3, 2001 REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Mannelli</u>	<u>Revell</u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## I. Summary:

This bill allows the Secretary of the Department of Corrections to set the amount of the funds that inmates can draw from their individual accounts per week, not to exceed \$100.

The department projects that increasing the amount that inmates can draw will generate additional canteen and telephone profits that can be used for inmate programs.

This bill substantially amends s. 945.215, F.S.

## II. Present Situation:

The Inmate Welfare Trust Fund is established in the Department of Corrections to benefit inmates. It is a major source of funding for inmate education and substance abuse programs in the department. The primary sources of revenue into the fund include retail sales to inmates at prison canteens and telephone commissions. Currently, inmates are limited in the amount of purchases they can make from prison canteens by the \$45 weekly cap imposed by Chapter 945.215, Florida Statutes. This language also tends to limit the profit going into the trust fund from sales to inmates.

The current House budget reduction proposal includes the use of \$750,000 from the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund which will annualize to \$3 million in FY 2002-03.

## III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill will allow the Secretary of the Department of Corrections to set the maximum amount that inmates may draw from their individual accounts, not to exceed \$100 per week.

**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 department estimates that allowing the Secretary to raise the weekly amount that inmates can draw will generate additional sales and \$3 million in profits going into the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund on an annual basis.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.