

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: CS/SB 1094

SPONSOR: Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and Senator Meek

SUBJECT: Health Education

DATE: March 11, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Gordon</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Bryant</u>	<u>Hickam</u>	<u>AED</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes the Department of Education to award incentive grants to public school districts that intend to offer an acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) education incentive program.

This bill amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 233.0672.

The effective date is July 1, 2002.

II. Present Situation:

Since the identification of AIDS in the early 1980's, the number of reported cases in Florida per 100,000 people has consistently surpassed the national average. According to a 2001 report by Florida's Department of Health, there were 79,155 AIDS cases reported and 19,329 cases of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The Florida AIDS Education Center reported in a July 2001 article that Florida ranked second in the nation in the number of AIDS cases.

The numbers vary significantly by county. For instance, in 2000, the following represents the number of cases per 100,000 tested in sample counties:

County	Cases
Broward	51.20
Dade	52.85
Duval	34.79
Hillsborough	23.72
Palm Beach	48.18
Martin	7.89
Walton	4.93

Each district school board may provide instruction in AIDS education as a specific area of health education. The law suggests the following topics of instruction: the known modes of transmission, signs and symptoms, risk factors, and means used to control the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and its prevention.

If a school chooses to include instruction in human sexuality it must include the following:

- Teach abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage.
- Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity is a certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, and other associated health problems.
- Teach that each student has the power to control personal behavior and encourage students to base actions on reasoning, self-esteem, and respect for others.
- Provide instruction and material that is appropriate for the grade and age of the student.¹

The 1999 Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for competitive grants for AIDS education in public school grades 6-12. Areas with high rates of HIV/AIDS received priority for the grants funds.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration authorizes a program within the Department of Education for competitive grants to public school districts that wish to implement an acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) education program.

School districts will apply by August 1 of each year. The bill requires the grant proposal to include:

- A description of the program to be implemented.
- Assurance that parents and guardians will be involved in the development and implementation of the program.
- A detailed program budget and measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program, including outcomes.

A school district that wins a grant will submit an annual report documenting the achievement of program objectives.

In awarding the grants, the DOE must consider:

- Rates of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), sexually transmitted disease, and teenage pregnancy within the geographic area; priority will be given to geographic areas with high rates.
- Qualifications and training of personnel responsible for program administration and classroom implementation.
- Extent to which the program will be coordinated with the existing school comprehensive health education program.
- Potential for outcome effectiveness.
- Degree to which the program's objectives and activities are consistent with the goals of this bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2002.

¹ Section 233.0672, F.S.

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:

If the program is successful, some families might save the emotional and financial burdens of teenage pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Legislature will need to consider this program for funding within the appropriations process.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.