

# 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 1314

SPONSOR: Education Committee and Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Children's Summer Nutrition Act

DATE: February 25, 2002      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	deMarsh-Mathues	O'Farrell	ED	Favorable/CS
2.	_____	_____	AED	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

The bill creates the Children’s Summer Nutrition Act. The Food and Nutrition Management Section of the Department of Education must develop a plan to ensure access (by the summer of 2003) to the federal Summer Food Service Program for all children who live near elementary schools with 50 percent or more of the enrolled students eligible for free or reduced price school meals. A school is exempt from the program if an alternate provider runs the summer food program within a five-mile radius of the school or if the school participates in the National School Lunch Program during the summer months.

This bill creates s. 228.197, F.S., and provides an effective date of July 1, 2002.

**II. Present Situation:**

The federally funded Summer Food Service Program for Children is operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program is administered by the Florida Department of Education and provides meals during the summer for children 18 and under living in low income areas. Programs are approved for geographical areas of need where 50 percent or more of the children qualify for free and reduced price meals during the school year. The program is often offered in conjunction with summer enrichment activities or recreation programs. Program sponsors can be schools, private non-profit organizations, local governments, or camps. Sponsors are reimbursed for operating and administrative costs by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with funds distributed through the Department of Education.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nearly 14 million low-income children do not have access to summer meals, even though they depend on free and reduced price meals and snacks served at school during most of the year. Only about 2 million children receive the free

meals provided by the Summer Food Service Program during the summer months. In Florida, 1,098,140 children received free or reduced lunches in the fall of 2001, according to the Florida Department of Education. The department notes that three counties (Volusia, Dixie, and DeSoto) received federal waivers of paperwork and administrative requirements to operate the summer food program. The department indicated that the following counties do not participate in the program: Baker, Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Franklin, Gilchrist, Gulf, Holmes, Jefferson, Lafayette, Liberty, and Union.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates s. 228.197, F.S., the Children's Summer Nutrition Act, that requires the Food and Nutrition Management Section of the Florida Department of Education to develop a plan to ensure access to the federal Summer Food Service Program for children who live near elementary schools in which 50 percent or more of the students enrolled are eligible for free or reduced price school meals. The plan must ensure that access to the program is provided by the summer of 2003 for at least 40 days during the summer months. The department must provide technical assistance by designating a member of the agency's administrative staff to coordinate required activities and by notifying district school superintendents (no later than November 30 of each year) about the district schools that are eligible to participate.

District superintendents must implement the plan for the program and notify the department (by February 28 of each year) of the district's intent to participate. They must indicate whether participation will occur in all eligible schools or alternative sites within 5 miles of eligible schools. Upon request of the district, the department may waive the requirements for a school if the district can show that:

- an existing alternative provider sponsors the program within a 5-mile radius of the school for at least 40 days; or
- the school participates in the National School Lunch Program during the summer months.

### **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:**

The Summer Food Service Program generally provides up to two meals or a meal and a snack for children up to age 18 who live in low income areas. Under the bill, children will realize nutritional benefit and their families may experience budget relief by having some of their children's meals provided through the program

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The federal government reimburses approved sponsors based on the number of meals served and the documented operating and administrative costs associated with the Summer Food Service Program. According to proponents, a well run local program should be budget neutral in terms of state and local dollars.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.