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****AS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE****
CHAPTER #: 2002-229, Laws of Florida

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH REGULATION
FINAL ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 1345 (Passed as CS/SB 1808)

RELATING TO: Florida Center for Nursing

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Green and Fasano

TIED BILL(S): HB 1347 (Passed as CS/SB 1806)

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

- (1) HEALTH REGULATION YEAS 7 NAYS 0
- (2) FISCAL POLICY & RESOURCES (W/D)
- (3) COUNCIL FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (W/D)
- (4)
- (5)

I. SUMMARY:

THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUING STATUTES, OR TO BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING, DEFINING, LIMITING, CONTROLLING, SPECIFYING, CLARIFYING, OR MODIFYING ANY LEGISLATION OR STATUTE.

In 2001, the Legislature adopted CS/SB 1558 (ch. 2001-277, L.O.F.) creating the Florida Center for Nursing for the purpose of addressing issues of supply and demand for nursing, including issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurse workforce resources. The legislation provided Legislative intent with regard to funding, stating "that the center will repay the state's investment by providing an ongoing strategy for the allocation of the state's resources directed towards nursing." The legislation further provided that it was "imperative that the state protect its investment and progress made in nursing efforts to date. The Legislature finds that the Florida Center for Nursing is the appropriate means to do so. The center shall have state budget support for its operations so that it may have adequate resources for the tasks the Legislature has set out in s. 464.0195." The 2001 legislation, however, did not dedicate any specific funding mechanism for the Center for Nursing.

This bill authorizes the Florida Board of Nursing to include on its initial and renewal application forms a question asking the nurse to voluntarily contribute to funding the Florida Center for Nursing. Revenues collected shall be deposited in the Florida Center for Nursing Trust Fund (created in CS/SB 1806, ch. 2002-228, L.O.F.) and shall be used solely to support and maintain the goals and functions of the center.

There are approximately 230,000 licensed nurses in Florida. It is virtually impossible to determine how many will voluntarily contribute to the operation of the center.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2002.

On February 12, 2002, the Committee on Health Regulation adopted one amendment to the original bill. The amendment eliminated the \$5 fee and allowed nurses to voluntarily contribute any amount to this trust fund at the time of initial licensure and licensure renewal.

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:

In 2001, the Legislature created the Florida Center for Nursing for the purpose of addressing issues of supply and demand for nursing, including issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of nurse workforce resources. The legislation provided Legislative intent with regard to funding, stating "that the center will repay the state's investment by providing an ongoing strategy for the allocation of the state's resources directed towards nursing." The legislation further provided that it was "imperative that the state protect its investment and progress made in nursing efforts to date. The Legislature finds that the Florida Center for Nursing is the appropriate means to do so. The center shall have state budget support for its operations so that it may have adequate resources for the tasks the Legislature has set out in s. 464.0195." The 2001 legislation, however, did not dedicate any specific funding mechanism for the Center for Nursing.

According to the Department of Health, nurses currently pay \$75 for an initial nursing license and pay \$55 every two years at the time of licensure renewal, except for advanced registered nurse practitioners who pay \$105. In addition, nurses pay \$5 at initial licensure and licensure renewal, like all health care practitioners, which is used by the Department of Health to investigate and prosecute the unlicensed practice of nursing. Furthermore, nurses pay another \$5 which is used to fund the Florida Student Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program. Thus, registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) currently pay \$85 every two years, and advanced registered nurse practitioners pay \$115 every two years. These are the lowest fees of all health care practitioner licensure fees. In contrast to the relatively small fees that nurses pay, the following health care practitioners pay licensure renewal fees of \$200 or more: acupuncturists, chiropractic physicians, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, dentists, hearing aid specialists, allopathic physicians, midwives, naturopaths, nursing home administrators, opticians, optometrists, orthotists, and prosthetists.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill authorizes the Florida Board of Nursing to include on its initial and renewal application forms a question asking the nurse to voluntarily contribute to funding the Florida Center for Nursing. Revenues collected shall be deposited in the Florida Center for Nursing Trust Fund (created in CS/SB 1806, ch. 2002-228, L.O.F.) and shall be used solely to support and maintain the goals and functions of the center.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2002.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Please see Effect of Proposed Changes section above.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

Indeterminate.

2. Expenditures:

Indeterminate.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Nurses will be asked to voluntarily contribute to the operation of the Florida Nursing Center at the time of initial licensure and licensure renewal.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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 action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that counties or municipalities 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 state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

No new rulemaking authority is provided in this bill.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

According to the Department of Health, the center should provide assistance in addressing the supply and demand for nursing, including issues of recruitment, retention, and utilization of the nurse workforce. These efforts may relieve the shortages that are plaguing those entities that must employ nurses.

The sponsor of the bill indicated that the annual cost to operate the Florida Center for Nursing is estimated to be approximately \$500,000. The Center will be housed at the University of Central Florida.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

On February 12, 2002, the Committee on Health Regulation adopted one amendment to the original bill. The amendment eliminated the \$5 fee and allowed nurses to voluntarily contribute any amount to this trust fund at the time of initial licensure and licensure renewal.

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH REGULATION:

Prepared by:

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FINAL ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH REGULATION:

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