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:	SB 292			
SPONSOR:	Senator Brown-Waite			
SUBJECT:	High School Grad	duation/Korean War		
DATE:	October 25, 2001 REVISED:			
1. White 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	IALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR O'Farrell	REFERENCE ED	ACTION Favorable

I. Summary:

The bill will authorize the Commissioner of Education to award standard high school diplomas to veterans who were inducted into the United States Armed Forces during the Korean War.

This bill amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 232.246.

II. Present Situation:

Section 232.246, F.S., authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award standard high school diplomas to veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. The authorization extends to veterans who started high school between 1937 and 1946 and were scheduled to graduate between 1941 and 1950. Their induction must have been between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946.

According to staff of the Department of Education, the program is popular and not difficult to administer. The diplomas are available to veterans or their families if the veteran has died. The request form asks for the veteran's separation papers (Form DD-214) and documentation of the high school attendance, but a notarized statement of the facts is also accepted.

As of this date, the department has issued 2,492 diplomas because of this authority. The diplomas are issued through the adult education section of the Division of Workforce Development and have the title "Florida High School Diploma." They are not specific to the veteran's high school.

BILL: SB 292 Page 2

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration will authorize the Commissioner of Education to award high school diplomas to veterans who were inducted into the United States Armed Forces during the Korean War.

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 of Education publicizes the program for World War II veterans and will experience only a slight workload increase if it is extended to Korean War veterans.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The Korean War was the first deployment of U.S. troops to a combat zone to contain communist aggression. Commemorative activities marking the 50th anniversary of the invasion of South Korea began June 25, 2000, and will continue until Nov. 11, 2003.

VIII. Amendments:

None.