

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1349 Residential Mathematics, Science, and Technology High School
SPONSOR(S): Representative(s) Arza
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1274

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) General Education (Sub)		Britton	Bohannon
2) Education K-20			
3) Education Apps. (Sub)			
4) Appropriations			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1349 creates a task force to plan for a Columbia Residential Mathematics, Science, and Technology High School, a residential high school proposed to be located in close proximity to Kennedy Space Center. The task force would be composed of 12 members: four appointees from the Governor, four appointees from the Speaker of the House, and four appointees from the Senate President. The task force will assign subcommittees to work on facilities issues, program development, and teacher training. The Technological Research and Development Authority will administer the program, hiring an administrative team to manage the school and teachers to conduct a 9 week summer pilot program that will begin in June, 2004.

The bill provides for a \$100,000 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund for the planning task force to cover the cost of planning for the high school and conducting the summer pilot program.

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STORAGE NAME: h1349.edk.doc
DATE: March 19, 2003

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | 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. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 1349 establishes a task force to plan for a residential math and science magnet high school near Kennedy Space Center, provides for a pilot program for the school, and provides that the Technological Research and Development Authority (TRDA) will administer the program, hiring teachers and administration by March 1, 2004 and beginning a pilot program in June, 2004.

Florida currently does not have any public residential high schools, although such schools exist in other states. HB 1349 does not authorize development of the high school beyond the establishment of a task force and the commencement of the pilot program, although it does authorize administrative personnel and teachers to be hired in advance of the pilot program.

The task force (12 members) established by the bill will be appointed in equal parts by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate. The task force will appoint three subcommittees to look at facilities issues, program issues and teacher training. The bill does not contain any requirement for the task force to report its findings or progress to the Governor or any legislative governmental entity. The facilities subcommittee would look at facilities to house and teach the students, focusing in part on the existing space camp facilities. The program subcommittee would determine curriculum, length of the program, and the number of students to be admitted, as well as investigating distance learning, internships, mentoring and alternative K-12 educational opportunities for children of Kennedy Space Center employees. The teacher training subcommittee will look at the school's role in providing teacher training in conjunction with Endeavor Academy and other ways in which the school can contribute to the preparation of public school teachers in the areas of mathematics, science, and technology. The task force is a planning task force, not merely investigative, and the bill as drafted would mandate that the TRDA still hire staff and administer the pilot program in June, 2004, notwithstanding the progress of the task force or any findings it may develop concerning the high school.

An association with Kennedy Space Center and the space industry in Florida would almost certainly offer more in-depth exposure to the space industry and related scientific and mathematic courses of study than are currently available to Florida's public high school students. Existing facilities at Florida's former Space Camp may be sufficient to house initial students, although facilities issues are one of the topics to be addressed by the task force. These existing facilities will likely have to be renovated to some degree to accommodate the year-round residence of high school students. At some point in the future, if the high school flourished, additional facilities would likely be built.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates a new section of Florida Statutes, relating to the creation of a Planning Task Force and pilot program for the Columbia Residential Mathematics, Science, and Technology High School.

Section 2: States that a \$100,000 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund will fund the work of the task force and pilot program.

Section 3: Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill contains a \$100,000 appropriation from the General Revenue Fund for the work of the task force and the pilot program. If the program continues past the pilot stage, money will have to be appropriated yearly for the school's operation. Annual costs for similar schools in other states in 1998-1999 ranged from approximately \$1.3 million to \$13 million, with most schools falling in the range of \$3 million to \$7 million.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES