

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 1050

SPONSOR: Appropriations Subcommittee on Article V Implementation and Judiciary and Senator Smith

SUBJECT: Consumer Frauds Trust Fund

DATE: February 11, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Hendon</u>	<u>Martin</u>	<u>AAV</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This legislation terminates the Consumer Frauds Trust Fund within the State Attorneys (FLAIR #212127) effective July 1, 2004. The Consumer Frauds Trust Fund receives funds from civil judgments to pay for the State Attorneys costs associated with prosecuting consumer fraud cases. Such revenue is redirected to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund. This fund was last re-created by Chapter 98-353, Laws of Florida.

II. Present Situation:

The Consumer Frauds Trust Fund is available for State Attorneys to deposit reimbursements for attorney fees and costs of investigation incurred in enforcing the consumer protection laws of the state. Only the State Attorney of the 18th Circuit currently receives an appropriation (\$1,028) from the trust fund. Three state attorneys will have a balance remaining in the Consumer Frauds Trust Fund at the end of the current fiscal year for a combined total of \$44, 432.

If the Legislature takes no action, this trust fund will expire November 4, 2004.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill terminates the trust fund and redirects future revenues to be deposited in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Justice Administrative Commission.

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:

This legislation has no fiscal impact on state agencies or state funds, on local governments as a whole or on the private sector. Funds that would otherwise be deposited in the Consumer Frauds Trust Fund will instead be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.