

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 412

SPONSOR: Senator Bullard

SUBJECT: Resident Status for Tuition Purposes for Foreign Military Personnel

DATE: March 10, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Woodruff</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Krasovsky</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AED</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill would classify members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in Florida, and their spouses and dependent children, as Florida residents for tuition purposes at a Florida public community college or state university located within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed.

This bill substantially amends section 1009.21 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 1009.21, F.S., classifies active duty military personnel stationed in Florida as residents of the state for tuition purposes. Spouses and dependent children of active duty military personnel also qualify under this provision for in-state tuition.

This same section currently provides that active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in Florida under the North American Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children, are eligible to be classified as residents for tuition purposes at a Florida public community college or state university located within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. With the exception of Canadian military personnel and their families, foreign nation's military personnel, their spouses and dependent children are classified as out-of-state residents for tuition purposes at Florida's public postsecondary institutions.

A liaison officer may serve in the United States for varying lengths of time. A spokesperson with the Joint Interagency Task Force South indicated there might be some 20 foreign military liaison officers who may qualify under the bill's provisions and whose assignment length of time

might allow the pursuit of postsecondary education. Those persons are located at the Key West, Miami or Tampa bases/commands

A spokesperson from the Joint Interagency Task Force South command in Key West indicated that there are 11 liaison officers at the Key West Command. All eleven are married. He thought there would be less than five dependents that would be of college-age.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The change in the proposed legislation would provide the same residency status for tuition purposes to a foreign nation's liaison officers as is currently extended to the Canadian military personnel and their families stationed in Florida.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2004.

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:

This bill would save the affected individuals the difference in cost between in-state and out-of-state tuition at certain Florida public postsecondary institutions. Out-of-state resident undergraduate students pay 100 percent of the cost of their education. Students reclassified as in-state residents would pay approximately 20 percent of the cost of their education and the state would pay the remaining 80 percent to the educational institution. Based on the university tuition established in the 2003-2004 General Appropriations Act, an out-of-state undergraduate student pays tuition of \$328.74 per credit hour. A Florida resident undergraduate student pays tuition of \$63.41 per credit hour.

It is not known how many liaison officers and members of their families would be affected by this provision although the number should be relatively small.

C. **Government Sector Impact:**

The number of affected individuals currently or potentially taking courses at Florida community colleges and state universities is unknown. The change would result in the state paying for 75 to 80 percent of the cost of courses these individuals might take instead of that amount being paid by a student classified as an out-of-state resident.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The content of this bill is virtually identical to a provision contained in CS/SB 1622 (“Military Families”).

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill’s sponsor or the Florida Senate.
