

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1219

Florida Youth Summer Jobs Program

SPONSOR(S): Smith

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

REFERENCE

ACTION

ANALYST

STAFF DIRECTOR

1) Economic Development, Trade & Banking Committee		Carlson	Carlson
2) Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Committee			
3) Commerce Council			
4)			
5)			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill creates the Florida Youth Summer Program, which will provide summer jobs to at-risk and disadvantaged youth between the ages of 14 and 18. The bill requires the allowance of educational enrichment and life skills training as part of the program. It also establishes the program within the Agency for Workforce Innovation and Workforce Florida, Inc.

The bill requires the match of appropriated or allocated funds by a community, if that community chooses to participate in the program. It does not have a specific appropriation from general revenue however.

It shall become effective on October 1, 2005.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Limited Government – The bill creates a new employment program funded by state dollars for the benefit of at-risk and disadvantaged youth.

Empower Families – The bill provides for the employment of at-risk and disadvantaged youth during the summer.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), created by the Workforce Innovation Act of 2000, acts as administrator for Florida's workforce development and school readiness programs. AWI's responsibility includes administrative oversight, implementation and financial management of the state's workforce development, welfare transition, unemployment compensation, labor-market information initiatives and other related programs. The agency's authority for workforce development is contained in the Workforce Investment Act, Public Law 105-220 and chapter 445, F.S.

Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI), is the state's chief workforce policy organization. Its mission is to develop and retain a highly competitive workforce that is responsive to the needs of Florida's employers. WFI is organized as a non-profit public/private partnership and provides policy and oversight to Florida's 24 Regional Workforce Boards. WFI also administers two statewide training incentive programs: Quick Response Training and Incumbent Worker Training. WFI is governed by a 45-member state board of directors appointed by the Governor and contracts with AWI to administer workforce programs, funding and to provide staff and administrative oversight. WFI is created in s. 445.004, F.S.

Effect of Proposes Changes

The bill creates the Florida Youth Summer Jobs Program, which will provide summer jobs for at-risk and disadvantaged youth in partnership with local communities and private or public employers. The program is intended to foster improved work and academic skills and performance.

Program participants must be at least 14 but not older than 18 years of age and must be one of the following:

- Children at risk of welfare dependency, including economically disadvantaged children, children of participants in the welfare transition program, children of migrant farmworkers, and children of teen parents;
- Children of working families whose family income does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level;
- Juvenile offenders;
- Children in foster care; or
- Children with disabilities.

For purposes of eligibility, the definition of "economically disadvantaged children" is defined to mean those children whose family income is below 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

An employer is eligible to participate in the program if it:

- Enters into an individual service plan with the program participant and the local community on a form prescribed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation that must be approved by the regional workforce board;
- Pays the state minimum wage to the program participant;
- Limits the maximum working hours for the program participant to 30 hours per week; and
- Complies with state and federal child labor and antidiscrimination laws.

Each program participant shall have an individual service plan agreement between him or her and the employer and local community. The program shall:

- Provide the program participant with a work experience that teaches personal responsibility and reinforces the obligations and rewards of holding a job;
- Allow for an academic enrichment component that will assist the program participant in remaining in or returning to school;
- Provide documented learning experiences relevant to the type of work performed and tailored to the needs of the program participant; and
- Allow for the provision of life skills training by the local community of a third-party provider contracted by the local community if such training takes up no more than 10 percent of the program participant's work time.

The bill provides for program governance by the Agency for Workforce Innovation through its contract with Workforce Florida, Inc. and through the 24 regional workforce boards that exist in the state. It authorizes AWI to renegotiate that contract in order to implement the program. The bill requires each regional workforce board to report to Workforce Florida, Inc., on the number of children who enter the program, the types of work activities they participated in and the number of those children who returned to school, went on to postsecondary school or entered the workforce full-time at the end of the program. Workforce Florida, Inc., must report to the Legislature by November 1 of each year on the performance of the program.

The bill requires AWI to establish by rule a funding formula for allocating appropriated funds to each regional workforce board and requires it to allocate any state and federal funds to each regional workforce board pursuant to the formula. Each regional workforce board must reserve these funds for participating employers and local communities on a pro rata basis based on the number of program participants who have approved individual service plans.

It authorizes AWI, Workforce Florida, Inc., the regional workforce boards or local communities to obtain private or state and federal grants or other sources of funds in addition to any appropriated funds.

The bill requires that 85 percent of the funds be used for youth wage payments or educational enrichment activities, and requires that these funds be matched on a one-to-one basis by each local community that participates in the program. It allows for a maximum of five percent of the funds to be used for administrative purposes. The remainder of the funds may be used for transportation assistance, childcare assistance or other assistance to enable a program participant to enter or remain in the program.

Each employer participating in the program shall receive a payment by the regional workforce board of one-half of the wages paid to the program participant. These payments shall be made monthly for the duration that the program participant is employed as documented by the employer and confirmed by the regional workforce board.

The bill provides rulemaking authority to AWI to adopt a form for the individual service plan and the funding formula.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates the Florida Youth Summer Jobs Program; provides eligibility requirements; provides program requirements; provides governance requirements; and provides for funding.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of October 1, 2005.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The bill appears not to have any impact on state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

There will be an expense associated with rulemaking by the Agency for Workforce Innovation and expenses associated with the oversight of the program by the Agency, Workforce Florida and the regional workforce boards. These expenses have not to date been estimated.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

The bill appears not to have an impact on local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill will require a local government to provide matching funds if that government decides to participate in the program. The bill does not require use of specific funds, and these funds may be raised through grant, private donation, or other means as well as through local government expenditure.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill will allow employers to hire summer employees at half the effective hourly wage required by the Florida Constitution.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill does not appropriate any funds for the program. It is unclear what funds exactly will be made available for the program.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill requires the matching of program funds with funds provided by a local community, but only if that community chooses to participate in the program. It does not require a municipality or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the

authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill requires rulemaking by the Agency for Workforce Innovation with regard to the individual service plan form and the funding formula required by the program.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

It is unclear whether employers will take advantage of the program if it includes the educational and life skills components.

In addition, the bill does not provide budget authority to AWI for implementation and it does not provide for an appropriation to fund the program. It is unclear how the program will be funded.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES