

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.)

Prepared By: Community Affairs Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1542

SPONSOR: Environmental Preservation Committee and Senator Dockery

SUBJECT: Reuse and Recycling of Campaign Signs

DATE: April 22, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Kiger</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Herrin</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>GA</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This committee substitute (CS) requires the Department of Environmental Protection to design a pilot project for implementation in 2006, to encourage the reuse or recycling of campaign signs. The department is required to submit details for the program along with a budget request for use of funds from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund prior to the start of the 2006 Regular Session.

II. Present Situation:

During any election – local, state, or federal – campaign signs are posted throughout the candidate's affected district. Many of those signs are posted in yards of private citizens. These signs are often made of materials that could be reused or recycled if the mechanism to do so existed. Most signs are made of either polyethylene-coated cardboard or corrugated polypropylene. Schools often use old corrugated polypropylene campaign signs and sign stakes for crafts and other such projects. Generally, there appears to be a low market value for such material.

At the present time, there is no mechanism to collect, store, or transport old campaign signs to a recycling facility. The vast majority of the old campaign signs currently end up in the landfill as solid waste. Local ordinances generally require the collection of campaign signs from the public right-of-way within a certain number of days after an election.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This CS requires the Department of Environmental Protection to design a pilot project for implementation in 2006, to encourage the reuse or recycling of campaign signs. At a minimum,

the department shall identify two large counties and two small counties to establish a central depository for used campaign signs and to make such signs available, at no cost to the receiving entity, to schools and other entities that may have a use for them and to companies that can recycle the materials from which the signs are made into new materials or products. As part of the pilot project, the department is required to submit details for the program along with a budget request for use of funds from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund prior to the start of the 2006 Regular Session

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:

Schools and others in the pilot project counties who may have a use for used campaign signs would have a central location in which to pick up these signs. Such materials would be made available to them at no cost. They may experience a cost savings if they are able to use these signs in lieu of otherwise purchasing similar materials.

For those signs made of a recyclable plastic, the recycler would have a central location in which to pick up this material for recycling, thereby saving transportation and other such costs associated with collecting such materials.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Any campaign sign materials than can be diverted from the solid waste stream for reuse and recycling saves landfill space.

The proposed program would use funding from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund. The department is required to submit details for the program and a budget request for use of funds from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund prior to the 2006 session. The program will not begin until 2006.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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