

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: Education Committee

BILL: SB 2398

SPONSOR: Senator Sebesta

SUBJECT: Designation/Heller Hall/Curran Center

DATE: April 7, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Woodruff	O'Farrell	ED	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	GO	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

SB 2398 designates Coquina Hall on the campus of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg as the "H. William Heller Hall." The bill directs the University of South Florida St. Petersburg to erect markers and signs designating the building as H. William Heller Hall.

The bill also designates the building which will house the Children's Medical Services of the Department of Health on the campus of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg as the "John S. Curran, M.D., Children's Health Center." The bill directs the University of South Florida St. Petersburg to erect markers and signs designating the building as the John S. Curran, M.D., Children's Health Center.

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law. The Division of Statutory Revision will determine whether it is included in the Florida Statutes or remains as a law.

II. Present Situation:

Section 267.062, F.S., requires approval in law before naming a state building or other facility for a living person. Pursuant to this requirement, if a university wishes to name a building or facility after a living person, the designation must be approved by the Legislature.

H. William Heller is the former Vice President of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus. Dr. Heller, joined the staff of the University of South Florida in 1992 and has served the university with great distinction over the past twelve years. Dr. Heller has worked as a Professor of Special Education, Dean, Chief Executive Officer, and Vice President. Since 1992, he has been awarded more than \$8 million in grants and contracts and is currently responsible for Directing, as Principal Investigator, projects funded in excess of \$1 million.

Dr. Heller is well known and respected locally and nationally for his dedication to his profession and community. He has served as a significant role model, mentor and friend to countless students and staff. His work is evidenced by the many honors and awards that have been bestowed upon him. He has been awarded the Presidential Citation for Exemplary Performance as Vice-Chairman of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the Teacher Educator of the Year Award, Teacher Education Division by the Council of Exceptional Children, and the Merrill Publishing Company. This is the highest award given in special education for exemplary accomplishment as a teacher/educator. He has also been the recipient of the 1991 E. Wallace Wallin Award by the Council for Exceptional Children. This is the highest honor bestowed by the Council and is predicated on excellence in leadership, service, and accomplishments in the education of children with exceptionalities. He has also been awarded the United Way Alex de Tocqueville Society Volunteer Service Award, the Outstanding Service Award by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Department of Defense, and the Romaine Mackie Leadership Award In Special Education by the Pioneer Division, Council for Exceptional Children, among others. In 2002, Dr. Heller was honored by the City of St. Petersburg for a "Decade of Excellence" with August 21, being proclaimed Bill Heller Day by the City of St. Petersburg.

Nationally, Dr. Heller is an active and visible leader in professional association work. He has served in Leadership roles with the Council for Exceptional Children, the American Association for Mental Retardation, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. His professional contributions include more than 350 presentations and publications and the authoring of the Code of Ethics for the Council for Exceptional Children. Across his professional career, he has written and received grants in excess of \$150 million.

Dr. Heller has worked in the field of special education for over 40 years as a public school teacher, professor, university and mental hospital administrator, and an advocate for children and adults with disabilities. His professional excellence, leadership and dedication have brought much growth, honor and distinction to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

John S. Curran, M.D., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania College of Medicine. He trained there and at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in internal medicine and pediatrics.

Dr. John Curran began his medical career as a neonatologist. He has served as a teacher and mentor to medical students who desired to be pediatricians and neonatologists. He was a Colonel in the US Air Force, serving in Desert Storm as a member of the Air Force Flight Surgeons.

He is a charter member of the University of South Florida College of Medicine faculty in Tampa. Until recently, he was actively engaged in clinical practice as the founding neonatologist at Tampa General Hospital. He was Chief of Pediatrics, and participated in community and state activities relevant to children and public health. Dr. Curran is currently Medical Director for the Tampa Bay Region Children's Medical Services, a program for children with special health care needs. Administrative experience includes service as Vice Dean and Associate Dean at the University. He is a Professor of Pediatrics.

Dr. Curran is past president of the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). He has served for six years as District Vice Chair for District X of AAP. Dr. Curran was appointed to the AAP Committee on Child Health Financing and to advisory committees to the Board of Directors. He is Chair of the Committee on Medical Schools, a delegate, and member of the Council on Medical Education of the Florida Medical Association and a member of the Medical School Section of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Curran has received the Spencer Morris Prize in Medicine, the Augustus Trask Ashton Award and citations for his leadership in pediatrics through the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Curran has served on numerous boards and committees devoted to children's health care in Hillsborough County and at the state level, including the Florida Pediatric Society, and the Gulf Coast Lung Association.

Dr. Curran has served as the Medical Director for Children's Medical Services for over twenty years and has devoted his career to providing a system of care for very vulnerable children who have chronic illnesses. He was instrumental in developing the statewide Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center Program and served as president of the Florida Pediatric Society when the KidCare program was created. Dr. Curran was instrumental in garnering support from Florida's pediatricians for the KidCare program and has identified solutions to physician access problems for children who have special health care needs.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 267.062, F.S., requires approval in law before naming a state building or other facility for a living person. This bill will grant the necessary approval for two buildings on the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus to be named for persons who are living.

The bill designates Coquina Hall on the campus of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg as the "H. William Heller Hall." The University of South Florida St. Petersburg is directed to erect markers and signs designating the building as H. William Heller Hall.

Also, the building which will house the Children's Medical Services of the Department of Health on the campus of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg is designated as the "John S. Curran, M.D., Children's Health Center." The University of South Florida St. Petersburg is directed to erect markers and signs designating the building as the John S. Curran, M.D., Children's Health Center.

The bill will take effect upon becoming law.

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:

The University of South Florida St. Petersburg will incur the cost of erecting a suitable marker for each of the newly designated buildings. The usual cost for these markers is approximately \$250.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

An amendment should be drawn to identify the correct location of the building proposed to be named for Dr. Curran. The building which will house the Children's Medical Services of the Department of Health is located in Hillsborough County and not on the campus of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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