

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 605 Travel To and Commerce With Terrorist Nations
SPONSOR(S): Rivera and others
TIED BILLS: HB 827 **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1788

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Domestic Security Committee		Garner	Newton
2) Agriculture Committee			
3) Finance & Tax Committee			
4) State Administration Council			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 605 places assessments on terrorist nation-related travel services provided in Florida, and levies a surcharge on the transshipment of cattle from Florida to terrorist nations (Terrorist nations include Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria). Specifically, the bill:

- Assesses a \$100 flat fee plus \$0.04 per aircraft pound on each instance of air charter to a designated terrorist nation, and imposes a 10 percent assessment on the contracted value of waterborne charter travel to a designated terrorist nation.
- Imposes an annual assessment on Florida travel service providers authorized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control to provide terrorist nation-related travel services in an amount sufficient to cover the costs of implementation of the program. This assessment is estimated to be between \$8,900 and \$10,700 per provider per year.
- Levies a 10 percent surcharge on the final sale price of beef or dairy cattle transshipped from a Florida airport or seaport to a designated terrorist nation.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) is required to develop a disclosure form to be filled out by persons traveling to a terrorist nation, and delivered to the department by a travel service provider. Information from the forms is used to populate a Terrorist Nations Travel Database created by DACS that must be monitored by DACS and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to determine eligibility for certain benefits.

In addition, the bill makes eligibility for certain Refugee Resettlement Grant, Food Stamp, and Medicaid program benefits contingent on otherwise eligible persons refraining from travel to a designated terrorist nation. Violation by persons not already receiving benefits results in disqualification for a period of 1 to 5 years. Violation by persons receiving benefits results in disqualification for an indefinite period. DCFS is required to develop a waiver form to be signed by benefits applicants. The waiver form must explain the disqualification provisions and be signed by an applicant indicating that he or she attests, under penalty of perjury, that no travel to a terrorist nation has occurred, and that such travel will be reported if it occurs.

State universities and public community colleges organizing educational or cultural trips to terrorist nations are required to file reports to the Department of Education describing the trips in specified detail. The bill provides a \$10,000 penalty per each violation of its requirements. The bill also provides rule making authority for the Department of Revenue to enforce the collection of the assessments provided. The bill also provides for severability if any of its provisions are held to be invalid.

The bill is expected to have a significant fiscal impact on multiple state agencies and the private sector. For details, see the FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT section of the analysis.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

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FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide Limited Government

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to enforce the collection of assessments and penalties related to travel to nations designated as terrorist nations, and to levy a surcharge on cattle exported to terrorist nations. As part of this program, the department is required to create a Terrorist Nations Travel Database populated with information submitted by persons traveling to terrorist nations. The Database is to be monitored by the Department of Children and Family Services in order to enforce disqualifications of certain persons from government benefits. DACS estimates it will be required to add 17 professional FTEs and 4 support staff FTEs to accomplish these tasks.

Ensure Lower Taxes

The bill requires security assessments against charter air and seagoing travel providers that are hired to carry passengers to designated terrorist nations. For air travel, there is a \$100 flat assessment and an additional assessment of \$0.04 per landed aircraft pound on each trip to a terrorist nation. For water travel, there is an assessment of 10 percent of the value paid for each charter to a terrorist nation. In addition, each Florida travel service provider that is authorized by the federal government to provide travel services to terrorist nations is required to pay an estimated annual assessment of between \$8,900 and \$10,700. The bill also imposes a 10 percent surcharge on the final sale price of any beef or dairy cattle exported from any Florida airport or seaport for sale to any terrorist nation.

Safeguard Individual Liberty

The bill requires travel service providers to collect personal information from persons who travel to a terrorist nation and to submit that information to DACS to be input in a database that is monitored by DACS and the Department of Children and Family Services. In addition, the bill disqualifies certain persons who travel to terrorist nations from benefits to which they are otherwise entitled.

Empower Families

The bill may impede family members from visiting one another where one family member is a refugee residing in and receiving assistance in Florida and the other remains in a place designated as a terrorist nation.

Maintain Public Security

The bill places barriers before certain benefit recipients wishing to travel to terrorist nations, and creates a database of personal information regarding persons who travel to terrorist nations.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Terrorist Nations

The United States Department of State maintains a list of countries determined to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism. The countries are designated "terrorist nations" under the requirements of three laws: section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act; section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act; and section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act. Sanctions resulting from designation under these acts include:

- A ban on arms-related exports and sales.
- Controls over exports of dual-use items, requiring a 30-day Congressional notification for goods or services that could significantly enhance the terrorist-list country's military capability or ability to support terrorism.
- Prohibitions on economic assistance.
- Imposition of miscellaneous financial and other restrictions, including:
 - Requiring the United States to oppose loans by the World Bank and other international financial institutions;
 - Lifting the diplomatic immunity to allow families of terrorist victims to file civil lawsuits in U.S. courts;
 - Denying companies and individuals tax credits for income earned in terrorist-list countries;
 - Denial of duty-free treatment for goods exported to the United States;
 - Authority to prohibit any U.S. person from engaging in a financial transaction with a terrorism-list government without a Treasury Department License;
 - Prohibition of Defense Department contracts above \$100,000 with companies controlled by terrorist-list states.

Currently, the State Department designates six countries under these authorities: Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. Cuba is the only designated country in the Western Hemisphere.

Charter Travel to Terrorist Nations

Title 31 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter V, prescribes the ability and legal method to travel to and do business with countries such as Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. The ability to travel to these countries varies as do the requirements for and the ability to be authorized or licensed by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) within the United States Department of the Treasury for such travel.

Because of its proximity to Florida and the demographic makeup of the state, Cuba is likely the only listed terrorist nation receiving regular charter air and vessel travelers from Florida. According to OFAC, there are currently approximately 148 entities in Florida that are licensed under the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (31 C.F.R. Part 515) to provide travel, carrier, or remittance forwarding services to persons under the jurisdictional control of the United States. OFAC administers the regulatory program that permits certain transactions involving property in which Cuba has an interest with respect to the provision of travel services, carrier services, and the forwarding of remittances.

The Service Provider Program of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations prohibit all unlicensed transactions by persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States involving property in which Cuba or a Cuban national has any interest whatsoever, direct or indirect, unless exempt or otherwise authorized. Such property includes, but is not limited to: Cuban passports; Cuban visas; food, lodging, and ground transportation in Cuba; remittances where the beneficiary is a Cuban national; and any Cuba travel-related services. Consistent with OFAC's enforcement functions, civil and criminal fines and penalties and the loss of operating authority may be imposed for violations of, or activity inconsistent with, the Service Provider Program. Criminal penalties for violation of the Regulations range up to 10 years in prison, and \$1 million in corporate and \$250,000 in individual fines. OFAC may impose civil penalties up to \$55,000 per violation.

Cultural and Educational Travel to Cuba

Under the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, OFAC may issue specific licenses to accredited United States academic institutions to authorize travel-related transactions related to certain educational activities by students or employees affiliated with the institution. Such licenses are valid for multiple trips over a two-year period. Specific licenses may also be issued (in some instances with extended validity permitting multiple trips) for educational activities that do not take place under the auspices of accredited United States academic institutions. Religious organizations are also eligible for multiple-trip two-year specific licenses authorizing travel-related transactions by their representatives in connection with a program of religious activities in Cuba.

Other travel categories for which specific licenses may be issued include, but are not limited to: free-lance journalism; activities of recognized human rights organizations and other humanitarian projects that directly benefit the Cuban people; certain public performances, clinics, workshops, exhibitions and athletic and other competitions; certain non-commercial activities of private foundations or research or educational institutions; and travel-related transactions involving informational materials, donations of food or exportations of goods licensed by the Department of Commerce.

The Refugee Resettlement Program

The following description of the Refugee Resettlement Program is excerpted from the United States Department of Health and Human Services website. For more information, see that site at: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/refrp.htm>

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has responsibility for the domestic program of refugee resettlement services which includes cash and medical assistance to arriving refugees and a broad range of social services for refugees who have been present in the United States for less than five years. The Office of Refugee Resettlement at HHS provides funding for refugee services programs through state governments as well as through non-governmental organizations.

The U.S. resettlement program is designed to function as a public-private partnership, with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) playing a key role. NGOs participate in every step of the process, working in partnership with the federal and state agencies as well as with each other to provide effective and coordinated services to refugees. Some of the NGOs seek church groups and volunteers from local communities to provide a variety of services, and to contribute clothing and household furnishings to meet the needs of arriving refugees. In addition, they often become mentors and friends of refugees, providing orientation to community services, and providing supportive services such as tutoring children after school, and teaching families how to shop, among other things. Volunteers come from the local community and may be citizens or refugees and immigrants who arrived earlier.

Other private non-profit agencies in the partnership are refugee organizations, known as Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs), many of which have national networks in place. These organizations are an important source of emotional support to refugees as well as services, and they provide a place for refugees to connect with their ethnic culture through holiday and religious celebrations, and a way to meet their countrymen who now live in the United States.

The U.S. program operates according to a worldwide processing priority system established to provide orderly management and processing of refugee applications. UNCHR-referred cases and those identified by United States Embassies are designated Priority One. Priority Two is reserved for groups of special concern identified by the U.S. Department of State, and selection is based on individual circumstances. Priority Three provides access to close family members (spouses, unmarried children, and parents) of persons residing permanently in the United States.

Resettlement benefits for refugees arriving in the United States are provided through a combination of public and private funding. Public funding is largely coming from the federal government; however,

some states provide additional funds. The private non-profit NGOs that place refugees in communities raise considerable funding privately, and recruit volunteers, contributing generously to the cost of resettlement.

Ongoing benefits for the newly arrived refugees include transitional cash assistance, health benefits, and a wide variety of social services, provided through Office of Refugee Resettlement grants. Transitional cash assistance benefits are provided to refugees on the basis of family composition. Single adults and childless couples are eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance for up to eight months after arrival. They are expected to be employed by that time. However, families with children under 18 years of age are eligible for the mainstream welfare program that assists unemployed families for a longer time period of two years. The amount of cash assistance depends on family composition, and is established by the individual states.

Health benefits follow similar rules. Singles and childless couples are eligible for Refugee Medical Assistance for their first eight months in the United States. However, families with minor children are eligible for the Medicaid program which is the mainstream health benefits program for unemployed and low-income families in the United States. While there are certain federal requirements that state welfare programs must follow, states also have flexibility and options in designing their programs. Therefore, the cash and medical benefits available in each state vary in terms of time limits and benefits.

Social services provided through a refugee services system are available for the first five years after arrival in the United States, although the program of services is structured to promote employment and self-sufficiency much earlier than five years. Services are also provided following job placement to ensure continued employment, and to enhance opportunities for advancement. There are continuing services beyond five years on a limited basis for those refugees who are identified as difficult to employ. They are assisted in overcoming barriers and learning new skills that will improve their chances for employment.

However, the range of social services goes far beyond employment services. The resettlement process, as observed by service providers, has created awareness of many other social needs of refugees during their early years in the United States that need to be addressed. English language training is, of course, a basic service offered to all refugees. Other important services are targeted at community and family strengthening, cultural orientation, ethnic community development, family counseling, and social adjustment.

Refugees who are elderly or disabled receive benefits from the Social Security Administration, the same as U.S. citizens. However, recent changes by Congress limit the eligibility of non-citizens to their first seven years in the United States. Time limits for non-citizens do not apply once they become U.S. citizens. The refugee program offers citizenship classes to assist refugees who wish to study for the citizenship test.

Over the years, the United States has accepted a number of unaccompanied refugee minors. These children are placed in special foster care programs in certain states, and are provided the regular foster care services of that state, as well as supplemental services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate. As the children near adulthood, they are assisted in the transition to independent living and with career choices. The primary focus of the Unaccompanied Minors Program has always been to work toward reuniting these children with relatives whenever possible.

Another special services program was established to provide a comprehensive program of support for domestic centers and programs for victims of torture. This ORR program provides direct services to victims of torture, including treatment and rehabilitation, social and legal services, and research and training for health care providers to enable them to treat the physical and psychological effects of torture. Currently the ORR is funding 17 separate programs for victims of torture in the United States.

Two factors have added significantly to the effectiveness of refugee services. One is the use of case managers by refugee services programs who track the progress of each case and refer refugees to the services they need, when they need them. The use of case managers has been a strong factor in increased self-sufficiency. Secondly, ORR regulations were revised five years ago to require services be provided by bi-lingual, bi-cultural service providers. This has had a great impact on easing the integration of refugees into American society.

Currently, there are no state-imposed restrictions on eligibility for the Refugee Resettlement, Refugee Cash Assistance, Refugee Medical Assistance, Medicaid, or Food Stamps benefits programs for anyone who travels to a designated terrorist nation.

Effects of HB 605

Assessments on Charters Providing Travel to Terrorist Nations

HB 605 creates s. 288.857, F.S., the "Commerce with Terrorist Nations Act," which provides for a security assessment against every person or entity that directly transports persons via a charter aircraft or charter vessel that originates in Florida and arrives in an identified terrorist state. The assessment levied against charter aircraft on each takeoff is \$100 regardless of the size of the aircraft, and an additional \$0.04 per thousand pounds of landed aircraft weight. The assessment levied against a charter vessel is 10 percent of the total consideration due for the chartered travel. The assessment is in addition to any other taxes or assessments required by law. Persons operating under contract with a federal or state authority, performing duties of employment for the federal government, or performing active military duty are exempt from the provisions of the bill.

The bill defines a terrorist nation as any state, country, or nation presently deemed a state sponsor of terrorism by the United States Department of State (State Department). The bill requires the Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) to document states or nations identified as terrorist states by the State Department, specify those states in rule, and annually update the list contained in the rule.

Persons or entities subject to the charter travel security assessment are required by the bill to remit the assessment to DOR in a manner prescribed by that department. DOR is required to transfer the assessment amounts, less administrative costs, to a State Homeland Security Trust Fund to be created by the linked HB 827. The bill limits the amount deducted by DOR for administrative costs to 3 percent of the total revenues collected. The deducted amounts may only include those costs reasonably attributable to the collection of the assessment. The amount that is transferred to the Trust Fund must include all accrued interest and delinquency penalties. The bill requires DOR to administer, collect, and enforce the security assessment using the same procedures that are provided for the administration, collection, and enforcement of the general sales tax pursuant to ch. 212, F.S., unless otherwise provided in the bill. DOR is granted the authority to adopt the rules necessary to administer the provisions of the bill, and to adopt emergency rules. Emergency rules adopted under the bill's provisions remain effective for 6 months after the date of adoption and may be renewed while full rulemaking procedures are pending.

Mandatory Submission of Travel Information

HB 605 requires that any of Florida's state universities or state community colleges organizing or directing the organization of a cultural or educational trip to a terrorist nation utilizing charter transportation must provide certain documents to the Florida Department of Education (DOE). These documents include:

- A report specifying the number of students (both degree seeking and non-degree seeking), employees, and non-employees participating in the trip;

- A detailed itinerary of the trip, including hotel and restaurant accommodations, planned excursions, and scheduled meetings with governmental authorities or individuals or organizations not affiliated with the terrorist nation;
- A complete accounting of all costs associated with the trip and a complete accounting of the use or deposit of all moneys received in payment for the trip;
- The certificates of incorporation of any entity or entities contracted to organize or facilitate the trip; and
- A statement confirming adherence to all provisions of the federal government's Cuban Assets Control Regulations provided in 31 C.F.R. s. 515.536.

The university or community college must provide the information to DOE no later than 30 days after the completion of the trip. The bill authorizes DOE to promulgate rules necessary to administer these provisions.

Eligibility for Federal Refugee Resettlement Grant Benefits

HB 605 provides that, effective January 1, 2006, any person aged 18 to 65 who has been a permanent Florida resident for less than 5 years, and who has not been determined by the Florida Medicaid program to be either disabled or pregnant, is ineligible to participate in certain refugee benefit programs if it is determined by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) that the person has traveled to a designated terrorist nation. The disqualification applies to the Refugee Resettlement Program, the Refugee Cash Assistance Program, the Refugee Medical Assistance Program, and the Food Stamp and Welfare Programs, and is for a minimum period of 1 year, or until the 5-year residency requirement has been met, whichever period is greatest. This travel restriction does not apply to persons traveling as part of active military duty, federal employment, or under federal contract or state authority.

Terrorist Travel Disclosure Forms and the Terrorist Nations Travel Database

HB 605 requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to develop a "Terrorist Travel Disclosure Form" that will inform a Florida resident seeking travel to an identified terrorist nation that such travel could result in ineligibility for the Refugee Resettlement, Refugee Cash Assistance, Refugee Medical Assistance, Medicaid and Food Stamp programs. The form must include the name, mailing address, social security number or alien resident number, date of birth, place of birth, date on which Florida residency was established, telephone number and signature of the person requesting travel services to a terrorist nation. The form must also contain a sworn statement attesting to the validity of an "application." It is unclear from the text of the bill what application is referred to in this sworn attestation.

Travel service providers in Florida authorized by OFAC to provide terrorist nation-related travel services must submit disclosure forms completed by their customers to DACS no later than 15 days after travel has commenced. DACS is required to enforce an annual assessment against the travel service providers authorized by OFAC, in an amount sufficient to fulfill the costs associated with administering the regulation. Currently, there are approximately 147 such providers in Florida. The assessment is to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

DACS is also required, by January 1, 2006, to create a "Terrorist Nations Travel Database" to handle all of the information contained in the terrorist travel disclosure forms submitted by the affected authorized travel service providers. The database must be made available to any state agency responsible for determining initial or continuing eligibility for Refugee Resettlement, Refugee Cash Assistance, Refugee Medical Assistance, Medicaid or Food Stamp program benefits, and for informing program recipients that have had eligibility for these benefits terminated. DCFS is required to monitor the database on a monthly basis to ensure that benefit recipients are in compliance with the act.

Utilization of Funds Available After Disqualification for Benefits

HB 605 requires that, effective January 1, 2006, all state funds derived as a result of the denial or discontinuance of benefits caused by the provisions of this bill must be redirected to the Department of Elderly Affairs for elderly nutrition programs. The bill prohibits using any of the redirected funds to replace existing funding for elderly nutrition programs. The bill specifies that all funds redirected to elderly nutrition programs are intended to expand funding and access to those programs.

Terrorist Travel Waiver Form and Penalties for Noncompliance

The bill requires DCFS, no later than January 1, 2006, to include a terrorist travel waiver form in all "request for assistance" application packets that include Temporary Cash Assistance, Food Stamps, and Medicaid for all applicants under the Refugee Resettlement Program. The waiver form must inform applicants of the disqualification from eligibility for such programs and the penalties for noncompliance that will result from travel to terrorist countries. The waiver form must contain a sworn statement and agreement, signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury, that he or she will inform DCFS of any travel or intention to travel to a terrorist nation while receiving any benefits provided under the Refugee Resettlement, Food Stamp, and Medicaid programs.

Any benefit recipients aged 18 to 65 who have been residents of Florida for less than five years who are found to be in violation of "the eligibility requirements associated with travel to terrorist nations, will be ineligible for the Refugee Cash Assistance, Refugee Medical Assistance, Medicaid and Food Stamp programs for an indefinite period.

Terrorist Commerce Surcharge

The bill requires DACS, no later than January 1, 2006, to begin levying a 10 percent terrorist commerce surcharge on the final sale price of any beef or dairy cattle transshipped from any Florida airport or seaport for sale to any terrorist nation. The collections from this surcharge must be used by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to fund its Citrus Canker Genome Project and its Citrus Abscission and Mechanical Harvest Project.

Implementation, Penalties, and Severability

The bill requires the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to submit a report to the Legislature describing the actions necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. The report must include written comments from the agencies' federal counterparts concerning any requirements necessary to implement the provisions of the bill, including needed waivers, and it must contain the recommended actions that need to be taken by the respective agencies, and fiscal notes.

Travel services providers that violate any provision of the bill are subject to a \$10,000 fine imposed by DACS. The bill provides for severability of any of its provisions that are held to be invalid.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 288.857, F.S., creating the "Travel To and Commerce With Terrorist Nations Act"; providing for assessments against certain activities related to travel to terrorist nations; providing for disqualification of certain people who travel to terrorist nations for certain benefit programs; providing penalties for violation of the Act.

Section 2. Providing for severability of portions held invalid.

Section 3. Providing that the act shall take effect upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

	<u>FY 05-06</u>	<u>FY 06-07</u>	<u>FY 07-08</u>
1. Revenues:			
Recurring to GR*	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate

*See FISCAL COMMENTS section, below.

2. Expenditures:

a. Non-Recurring GR

DACS

OCO – 17 prof. @ \$1,800	\$ 36,000
4 supp.@ \$2,200	\$ 8,400

Tele. sys. upgrade	\$ 16,800
Software & integration	\$ 48,300
Database upgrade	\$ 110,000
Scanners & Imagers	\$ 27,914
Sec. FTP & server upgrade	\$ 50,000

DCFS

Programming to the FLORIDA system	\$ 328,842
Waiver form	\$ 67,731

<u>Total non-recurring</u>	<u>\$ 688,587</u>
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b. Recurring GR

4 senior. Clerks (Leon)	\$ 133,776	\$ 133,789	\$ 141,923
4 tax auditors (Leon)	\$ 188,440	\$ 194,093	\$ 199,916
4 reg. consult. (Leon)	\$ 188,440	\$ 194,093	\$ 199,916
3 investig. spec. II (Leon)	\$ 141,330	\$ 145,570	\$ 149,937
1 syst. proj. analyst (Leon)	\$ 57,211	\$ 58,927	\$ 60,695
4 audit eval & rev. analyst	\$ 228,844	\$ 235,709	\$ 242,781
1 audit administrator	\$ 60,344	\$ 62,155	\$ 64,019

17 prof. expense pkg. @ 9,743	\$ 165,631	\$ 165,631	\$ 165,631
4 supp. exp. pkg. @ 8,150	\$ 32,600	\$ 32,600	\$ 32,600
HR alloc. 21 FTE	\$ 8,169	\$ 8,169	\$ 8,169
Rent	\$ 73,530	\$ 75,573	\$ 77,615

Additional PC maint.	\$ 2,625	\$ 2,625	\$ 2,625
Addtl Siemens sys. maint.	\$ 4,095	\$ 4,095	\$ 4,095
Addtl comp. sys. maint.	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300

<u>Total recurring</u>	<u>\$1,291,335</u>	<u>\$1,323,329</u>	<u>\$1,356,222</u>
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<u>Total Operating Costs</u>	<u>\$1,979,922</u>	<u>\$1,323,329</u>	<u>\$1,356,222</u>
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B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

HB 605 requires DACS to collect an assessment from travel services providers in Florida that are authorized by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control to provide travel services to designated terrorist nations. The assessment must be in an amount sufficient to cover DACS costs of implementing the provisions of the bill. This assessment is estimated to be between \$8,900 and \$10,700 annually for each such provider. In addition, charter air and water travel businesses in Florida will be required to pay a security assessment for each instance of travel to a terrorist nation that is provided to their customers. This assessment as it applies to air charters is \$100 flat plus \$0.04 per pound of landed weight. As it applies to vessel charters, the assessment is 10 percent of the value of the consideration paid for the charter. Any entity providing travel services in violation of the bill's provisions is subject to a fine of \$10,000 per violation.

Charter businesses providing travel to terrorist nations and other travel service providers, like travel agents, that provide terrorist nation-related travel services will incur administrative and recordkeeping costs and burdens in complying with the bill's requirements to process forms and account for assessments due.

In addition, beneficiaries of certain resettlement benefits programs will lose benefits if they are found to have traveled to a terrorist nation. According to the Department of Children and Family Services, "The proposed restrictions could unintentionally harm individuals who travel to terrorist nations for purely personal or humanitarian reasons. This could include a Cuban born child who returned to Cuba to visit an ailing grandparent, or an Afghani refugee who returned to Afghanistan to reunite with her child found in a refugee camp in Pakistan and attempt to obtain refugee status for that child."

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The bill requires DACS to make an annual assessment to be levied on all persons and corporations authorized by OFAC to provide terrorist nation-related travel. The bill further provides that the assessment shall be calculated by dividing the total administrative costs by the number of current/active and delinquent/active terrorist nation-related travel service providers. Such assessment is to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The list of terrorist nation-related travel providers kept by OFAC lists 147 current and 1 delinquent travel providers subject to the jurisdiction of Florida. Therefore the annual assessment is determined by dividing the estimated cost to administer the program by 148 providers. DACS estimates the cost to administer the program at \$1,583,349 in the first year, and between \$1,320,000 and \$1,360,000 in subsequent years. Given these estimates, the annual assessment levied against authorized terrorist nation-related travel providers is estimated to be between \$8,900 and \$10,700.

To implement the provisions of the bill, DACS estimates that it will need the following FTEs: 1 Audit Administrator to manage and supervise the department's responsibilities; 4 Audit Evaluation & Review Analysts and 4 Tax Auditor III positions to review books and records of travel providers to ensure compliance with the bill; 4 Regulatory Consultants to review and maintain terrorist travel disclosure

forms; 1 Systems Project Analyst to develop, design, and maintain necessary IT components for input, tracking and maintenance of information relating to terrorist nation-travel activity; 3 Investigation Specialist II positions to investigate violations of the new law and identify non-compliant entities and individuals; and 4 Senior Clerks to handle the clerical responsibilities of receiving, coordinating, imaging, scanning, processing and preparing correspondence and documentation associated with the program.

The bill also levies a 10 percent surcharge on beef and dairy cattle exports to terrorist nations. Because the value of total cattle exports to terrorist nations in the future is unknown, the revenue generated by the surcharge is indeterminate. According to DACS, its Division of Animal Industry will be able to administer the surcharge with existing staff that is currently responsible for handling cattle exportation.

Department of Children and Family Services

Under the provisions of the bill, persons who are otherwise eligible for Refugee Resettlement Grant and Food Stamp and Medicaid benefits become ineligible for those benefits upon traveling to a designated terrorist nation. The bill requires that the funds made available because of such disqualifications be redirected to the Department of Elderly Affairs for elderly nutrition programs. According to DCFS, it is doubtful that the number of individuals on assistance under the designated programs who would become ineligible is high enough to result in a benefit to the Department of Elder Affairs elderly nutrition programs great enough to offset the costs to DCFS in implementing the provisions of the bill.

DCFS comments that implementation of the bill's provisions could complicate the work of the department in modernizing and redesigning its Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Office to improve efficiency and effectiveness. DCFS projects that it will require \$396,573 in programming changes to its FLORIDA system, and to create the Terrorist Travel Waiver Form required by the bill. According to DCFS, the bill requires modifications to the FLORIDA system to collect and process information, and create a new data exchange with the Terrorist Nations Travel Database created by DACS. In order to have the ability to determine the amount of benefits saved for diversion to the Department of Elder Affairs, DCFS would be required to modify the programming of its system. In addition, new programming will be required to enable DCFS to track the persons who are disqualified from receiving benefits pursuant to the bill.

According to DCFS, it would require a federal waiver before benefit money remaining after disqualification of the recipient could be redirected to elderly nutrition programs. Refugee assistance and Food Stamps are 100 percent federally funded, while Medicaid benefits are 60 percent federally funded. According to DCFS, "It is unlikely that the federal agencies would allow their savings to be redirected in this manner. Further, the benefit costs are drawn down entitlements that, if not utilized for the intended purposes, are simply not received by the state." According to the department, the affected grants cannot be reassigned by state law.

Department of Revenue

The Department of Revenue has not yet determined its costs for administering the programs created by the bill.

Department of Education

The Department of Education anticipates that there will be an impact on the state university and community college systems; however, the department has been unable to quantify the impacts.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because this bill does not appear to: require the counties or cities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

Congressional Foreign Commerce Power and the Commerce Clause

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to “regulate Commerce with foreign Nations[.]” This power is Congress’s exclusive domain, in which states have even less freedom to act than with respect to the regulation of interstate commerce.¹ Courts hold state or local laws to be unconstitutionally in conflict with the Congressional foreign commerce power if they impair the federal government’s ability to speak with “one voice” internationally.² In those cases where state or local laws with international effect have been found valid, this has usually been because Congress had an opportunity to examine the specific issue and either acquiesced in, or affirmatively granted, the states’ authority to do so.³

A tax cannot prevent the federal government from “speaking with one voice” when regulating commercial relations with foreign governments (cannot “impair federal uniformity in an area where federal uniformity is essential) – in determining this factor, international agreements regulating trade are relevant. The U.S. does not maintain international agreements with any of the listed terrorist states. Although both Cuba and the U.S. are members of the World Trade Organization and have both agreed to abide by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), GATT does not include trade between the U.S. and Cuba in its provisions. In addition, in light of the Helms-Burton Act, this bill does not have an effect contrary to the “one voice” of the U.S. However, Congress has not taken the opportunity to examine the issues presented in this bill and has not expressed acquiescence in the imposition by states of security assessments on travel to terrorist nations or the levying of surcharges on exported cattle. Neither has Congress affirmatively granted states the authority to impose such assessments and surcharges.

If a court finds that the taxable activities addressed in the bill or the provision of benefits disqualified in the bill are subject to the protection of the Commerce Clause and that the taxes and ineligibility for benefits are discriminatory, the State will have to show a compelling justification for discrimination and the unavailability of non-discriminatory alternatives adequate to preserve the state’s interest.

Preemption

States are generally free to legislate in areas not controlled by federal regulation. Federal regulation of a particular subject, however, preempts state regulation related to the same subject. In Barnett Bank of Marion County v. Nelson, 517 U.S. 25 (1996), for instance, the United States Supreme Court held that a federal statute which granted small-town banks the authority to sell insurance preempted a Florida Statute which prohibited such sales. Even where a state law does not directly conflict with a federal regulation, courts may still invalidate the law if they find that Congress has intended to occupy the entire field.⁴ This is true even where the state law seems to reinforce or compliment the federal regulation. Courts tend to look at whether the scheme of federal regulation is

¹ See Michelin Tire Corp. v. Wages, 423 U.S. 276 (1976).

² Barclays Bank PLC v. Franchise Tax Board, 512 U.S. 298, 328 (1994).

³ See id.; Wardair Canada v. Florida Dept. of Revenue, 477 U.S. 1 (1986); Gerling Global Reinsurance, *supra*.

⁴ Campbell v. Hussey, 368 U.S. 297 (1961).

comprehensive.⁵ They may also consider whether a federal agency has been created to administer the law in a particular field. If a federal agency has been established, courts will likely deem preempted all matters within the jurisdiction of the agency.

The United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control regulates the travel to, and provision of travel-related services for travel to, designated terrorist nations in general, and Cuba in particular. If a court found that Congress had preempted the regulation of travel to terrorist nations, portions of this bill governing such travel could be held preempted to the federal government and declared invalid.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill provides rulemaking authority for the Departments of Education and Revenue for the purposes of implementing the provisions of the bill. The bill also grants emergency rulemaking authority to the Department of Revenue.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Throughout the bill, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is referred to as the "Department of Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services."

The Department of Revenue suggests that the bill should provide a more specific reference to the United States Department of State document used by DOR as the source for compiling and maintaining the list of terrorist states. The list appears annually in a document titled *Patterns of Global Terrorism*, which is compiled and submitted to Congress in compliance with 22 U.S.C. section 2656f(a). The Department of Revenue also recommends that the bill language be amended to allow DOR to publish the listing of identified terrorist states via the Florida Administrative Weekly, as opposed to providing the listing within an administrative rule. This would allow for immediate updates of the listing by avoiding the required administrative procedures for amending a rule.

The disqualification periods provided in the bill for refugee resettlement benefits and Food Stamp and Medicaid benefits is unclear. In subsection (10) of the Act, refugee resettlement program recipients who travel to terrorist nations are barred indefinitely from Medicaid, Food Stamp, Refugee Cash Assistance, and Refugee Medical Assistance, while in subsection (6) of the Act, persons who have been residents of Florida for less than five years and travel to a terrorist nation are disqualified from the benefits for a period of one year or until the five year threshold is reached, whichever period is longer. It is also unclear from the language of the bill how establishment of residency is to be determined for the purposes of enforcing the Act.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

⁵ Pennsylvania v. Nelson, 350 U.S. 497 (1956).