

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 1764

INTRODUCER: Senator Sebesta

SUBJECT: Heller Hall/Curran Center/USF

DATE: March 8, 2006

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	deMarsh-Mathues	Matthews	ED	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	GO	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill designates Coquina Hall on the campus of the University of South Florida (USF) St. Petersburg as the "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 USF campus as the "John S. Curran, M.D., Children's Health Center." The bill directs USF to erect suitable markers making the respective building designations.

This bill creates undesignated sections of Florida law. The Division of Statutory Revision will determine whether it is included in the Florida Statutes.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law or upon the effective date of the retirement or resignation of Dr. Heller and Dr. Curran from, or the termination of their employment with, the university.

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, PhD.

Dr. H. William Heller is the former Vice President of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Dr. Heller joined the staff of the University of South Florida in 1992 and has served the university over the past 12 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. As Principal Investigator, he is currently responsible for directing projects funded for approximately \$800,000.

Dr. Heller 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 or 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.

Dr. Heller 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.

John S. Curran, M.D.

Dr. John S. Curran graduated from the University of Pennsylvania College of Medicine. He was trained at the College of Medicine and at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in internal medicine and pediatrics. Dr. Curran began his medical career as a neonatologist. He has served as a teacher and mentor to medical students interested in becoming pediatricians and neonatologists. As a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, he served in Desert Storm as a member of the Air Force Flight Surgeons.

As the founding neonatologist at Tampa General Hospital, Dr. Curran was actively engaged in clinical practice. He was Chief of Pediatrics and participated in community and state activities related 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.

Dr. Curran is a charter member of the USF College of Medicine faculty in Tampa. He is also a Professor of Pediatrics. His administrative experience includes service as USF's Vice Dean and Associate Dean. He is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the USF College of Medicine.

Dr. Curran served on numerous boards and committees relating to children's health care, including the Gulf Coast Lung Association. For six years, he served as Vice Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for District X. Dr. Curran was the president of the AAP's Florida Chapter. He was recently elected Chair of the AAP for District X. He was appointed to the AAP Committee on Child Health Financing and to advisory committees to the Board of Directors. He is the Chair of the Committee on Medical Schools, a delegate, and a member of the Council on Medical Education of the Florida Medical Association. He is also a member of the Medical School Section of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Curran 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 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. Dr. Curran 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.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill designates Coquina Hall on the USF St. Petersburg campus as "H. William Heller Hall." The bill also designates the building on the USF campus that will house the Children's Medical Services of the Department of Health as the "John S. Curran, M.D., Children's Health Center." The bill directs USF to erect suitable markers making the respective building designations.

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 will incur the cost of erecting a suitable marker for the newly designated building. According to the Board of Governors, the cost for a marker can vary from \$500 to \$1,500, depending on the number of markers and the size, type, and materials used to construct the marker.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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