

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: SB 1892

INTRODUCER: Senator Margolis

SUBJECT: Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program

DATE: April 2, 2006

REVISED: 04/04/06

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Herrin	Yeatman	CA	Fav/1 amendment
2.			EP	
3.			GA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

Please see last section for Summary of Amendments

- Technical amendments were recommended
- Amendments were recommended
- Significant amendments were recommended

I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (department) to adopt rules for an additional program that will provide funding for boundless playgrounds, providing play components and equipment that are accessible to children with various motor impairments.

This bill amends section 375.075 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The department is authorized under s. 375.075, F.S., to establish the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) for the purpose of providing grants to qualified local governmental entities for the acquisition and development of land for public outdoor recreation. The program is funded through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund¹ and the Florida Forever Trust Fund.² Under FRDAP, grants are awarded only to those projects with the sole purpose of providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the public. An applicant must either own the project site or lease the site for a sufficient period of time to satisfy the required dedication period.

¹ Section 201.15(2) and (3), F.S.

² Section 259.105(3)(c), F.S.

The department administers the program which includes a competitive project selection process designed to maximize the outdoor recreation benefit to the public. The selection criteria, at a

minimum, rank:

- (1) The extent to which the project would implement the outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and priorities specified in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan; and
- (2) The extent to which the project would provide for priority resource or facility needs in the region as specified in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

A local government may submit up to two grant applications during each application period with the maximum grant for each project application not to exceed \$200,000. However, a local government may not have more than three active projects expending grant funds during any state fiscal year. In three of the last 5 years (excluding 2006), all projects on the priority list were funded.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 375.075, F.S., to require the department to adopt rules for an additional program that will provide funding for boundless playgrounds.³ It defines “boundless playgrounds” as a playground that is a barrier-free environment designed for children of all abilities to experience self-directed play. The playground must include play components and equipment that are accessible to children with various motor impairments.

Section 2 provides the act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

³ Currently, there is no prohibition against using FRDAP grant funding to construct a boundless playground.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

This bill requires the department to establish a separate program to provide funding for boundless playgrounds. This bill does not provide additional funding for the program. The department estimates that the cost for a boundless playground is \$300,000.

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:

Barcode 235294 by the Community Affairs Committee:

The amendment requires the Department of Environmental Protection to provide, by rule, an incentive for “inclusive playgrounds,” rather than creating a new program. It also renames “boundless playgrounds” as “inclusive playgrounds.”

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