

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 19 University Building Designation
SPONSOR(S): Justice
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS:

Table with 4 columns: REFERENCE, ACTION, ANALYST, STAFF DIRECTOR. Row 1: 1) Colleges & Universities Committee, 10 Y, 0 N, Davis, Tilton. Row 2: 2) Education Appropriations Committee, Hamon, Hamon. Row 3: 3) Education Council. Row 4: 4). Row 5: 5).

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Current law does not permit a state building, road, bridge, park, recreation complex, or similar facility to be named after a living person unless the name designation is approved by law. Pursuant to this requirement, if a university wishes to name a particular building or facility after a living person, the designation must be approved by the Legislature.

The bill permits the University of South Florida St. Petersburg in Pinellas County to designate the building known as Coquina Hall as "H. William Heller Hall" and to erect suitable markers and signs acknowledging this designation. The bill takes effect upon the effective date of the retirement or resignation of H. William Heller from, or the termination of H. William Heller's employment with, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Section 267.062, F.S., provides that no state building, road, bridge, park, recreational complex, or similar facility can be named after a living person unless approved by law. Therefore, if a university wishes to name a particular building or facility after a living person, the designation must be approved by the Legislature.

A section-by-section analysis of the bill follows. The biographical information was provided by the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Section 1: The bill designates the building known as Coquina Hall at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg in Pinellas County as "H. William Heller Hall." Coquina Hall currently houses the College of Education. The bill directs the University of South Florida St. Petersburg to erect suitable markers and signs acknowledging the designation.

H. William Heller is a professor at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. A former Vice President of the St. Petersburg campus, Dr. Heller joined the staff of the University of South Florida in 1992. Since that time, he has been awarded more than \$18 million in grants and contracts and is currently responsible for directing, as principle investigator, projects funded in excess of \$1 million.

Dr. Heller has been awarded the Presidential Citation for Exemplary Performance as Vice-Chairman of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals as well as the Teacher Educator of the Year Award, Teaching Education Division by the Council of Exceptional Children and the Merrill Publishing Company. He was also the recipient of the 1991 E. Wallace Wallin Award by the Council for Exceptional Children. This award, the highest honor bestowed by the Council, is predicated on excellence in leadership, service, and accomplishments in the education of children with exceptionalities. He has 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 of the Council for Exceptional Children. In 2002, Dr. Heller was honored by the City of St. Petersburg for a "Decade of Excellence," and August 21, 2002, was proclaimed Bill Heller Day by the City of St. Petersburg. He was recently nominated for the Outstanding Leadership Award in Special Education by the Council for Exceptional Children; the recipient will be announced in April 2006. In addition, Dr. Heller was selected by faculty to become the first recipient of the Excellence in Professional Service Award from the University of South Florida 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 for Colleges for Teacher Education, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. He served two terms as the head of the Faculty Council for the St. Petersburg campus and was selected by the administration to chair the committee to revise the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Strategic Plan. His professional contributions include more than 350 presentations and publications.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of retirement or resignation of H. William Heller from, or the termination of H. William Heller's employment with, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

This bill does not create, repeal, or amend any statutory sections. Please refer to Effect of Proposed Changes for a section by section analysis of the bill.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state revenues.

2. Expenditures:

Please see FISCAL COMMENTS.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a direct economic impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

There will be an insignificant impact associated with the university erecting suitable markers for this name designation.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require a city or county to spend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

This bill does not appear to raise constitutional issues.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES