

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 629

School Food Service Programs

**SPONSOR(S):** Zapata

**TIED BILLS:**

**IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 2414

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REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) PreK-12 Committee	9 Y, 0 N	Allan	Mizereck
2) Health Care General Committee			
3) Education Appropriations Committee			
4) Education Council			
5) _____			

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### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

House Bill 629 requires that school districts develop and implement a plan to eliminate high-fructose corn syrup products from their food service programs and on school grounds. The bill assigns the Department of Education (DOE) the responsibility of monitoring the planning and implementation of the removal of high-fructose corn syrup products and reporting on implementation efforts to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, annually, beginning on January 1, 2008.

There would be a fiscal impact at both the local and state level. Please see FISCAL COMMENTS.

The bill sets an effective date upon becoming a law.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

**Empower Families** – The bill would provide students a school meal without using high-fructose corn syrup products and remove high-fructose corn syrup products from school grounds.

**Government Regulation** – The bill requires the DOE to monitor the high-fructose corn syrup content of products on school grounds and served through food service programs.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

School food service programs are designed to meet the nutritional needs of students for the purpose of helping students develop and learn. Currently, the National School Lunch Act, the State Board of Education, and federal law regulate school food service programs. District school boards are responsible for adopting policies, based on the recommendations of the district school superintendent, to provide for an appropriate food and nutrition program consistent with law.<sup>1</sup>

High-fructose corn syrup is an ingredient in cereals, meat products, condiments, dairy products, sauces, dressings, beverages, crackers and other foods. Because of its low cost, compatibility with other ingredients and preservation ability, it is used often by large-scale food manufacturers.<sup>2</sup>

High-fructose corn syrup is absorbed and metabolized similarly to sucrose and is classified by the US Food and Drug Administration as “Generally Recognized as Safe.”<sup>3</sup> Corn syrup consumption has been positively associated with type 2 diabetes, but there has been no causal relationship established between the two. Type 2 diabetes has also been linked to obesity. Currently it is difficult to determine the amount of high-fructose corn syrup in the food supply; therefore it is difficult to determine how high-fructose corn syrup has contributed to obesity.<sup>4</sup>

The bill requires districts to establish a plan to eliminate high-fructose corn syrup products from school food service programs and school grounds by July 1, 2007. Changing the requirements of foods currently used in school food service programs would require additional research and evaluation for accepting appropriate products. Reformulating products could cause additional expenses and be a time-consuming process for school food services. School district bid processes currently examine products based on the following: the eight nutrient guidelines cited by Federal Regulations; student acceptability/popularity; and labor intensity of the product. A change in the law would require the bid process to find products that meet all of the current requirements in addition to the high-fructose corn syrup elimination policy.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> S. 1006.06, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Florida Department of Education Bill Analysis, HB 629.

<sup>3</sup> “Nutrition Today”, Volume 40, No. 6, p.248

<sup>4</sup> “Nutrition Today”, Volume 40, No. 6, p. 255

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Education Bill Analysis, HB 629.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Requires development and implementation of a plan; requires DOE to monitor and report on the plan.

Section 2: Establishes an effective date.

**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 government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

The bill would require additional DOE staff to monitor implementation. Based upon the calculations of the DOE, three staff positions would be needed with combined annual salaries totaling \$191, 259, and annual travel costs of \$38,880.<sup>6</sup>

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

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

2. Expenditures:

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

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

There would likely be a decrease in sales for suppliers of products containing high fructose corn syrup.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The overall fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. There would be short term impacts to eliminate and replace food products. There could be long term savings in health costs if obesity and diabetes were reduced.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require local governments to take any action because there is no requirement to use local funding.

2. Other:

None.

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<sup>6</sup> Florida Department of Education Bill Analysis, HB 629.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES**