

**The Florida Senate**  
**PROFESSIONAL STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee

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BILL: PCS/SB 1134

INTRODUCER: Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee and Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: Youth Work Experience

DATE: March 23, 2007

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Weaver	Noble	TA	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

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## **I. Summary:**

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for Senate Bill 1134 provides eligibility criteria for participation in the Department of Transportation's (FDOT) youth work experience program. Nonprofit organizations that perform work related to the construction and maintenance of transportation-related facilities by youths enrolled in youth work experience programs must meet specific eligibility criteria in order to participate in the FDOT's youth work experience program.

This PCS substantially amends section 334.351 of the Florida Statutes.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Youth Work Experience Program**

Section 334.351, F.S., authorizes the FDOT to contract with public agencies and nonprofit organizations to perform work related to construction and maintenance of transportation-related facilities by youth enrolled in youth work experience programs. Contracts entered into under this section, are exempt from competitive bidding requirements and other contract provisions of chapters 287 and 337, F.S. The total dollar amount of contracts let by FDOT can not exceed the amount specially appropriated by the legislature each fiscal year for the youth work experience program.

The legislature created the youth work experience program with the intent of conserving state resources and providing an opportunity for disadvantaged youth to obtain training and work experience. FDOT provides contract management and oversight to ensure that the work performed by the nonprofit organizations is in compliance with the contract. Over the last year,

a series of newspapers articles focused attention on the lack of accountability, and the level of training and personal development offered by nonprofit organizations to at-risk disadvantaged youth enrolled in the youth work experience program.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** amends s. 334.351, F.S., to add eligibility criteria for participation in the youth work experience program. Nonprofit organization organizations that perform work related to the construction and maintenance of transportation-related facilities by youths enrolled in youth work experience programs under this section must meet the following criteria:

- All participating youth must be certified by the youth organization as Florida residents and must possess a valid Florida drivers license or identification card.
- In awarding contracts the Department of Transportation shall consider the following criteria in selecting the nonprofit youth organizations to perform work on transportation-related facilities:
  - the number of participants receiving life management skills training;
  - the number of participants receiving high school diplomas or GEDs;
  - the number of participants receiving scholarships;
  - the number of participants receiving bonuses;
  - the number of participants that have secured full-time jobs; and
  - Other programs or services that support the development of disadvantaged youths.
- All nonprofit youth organizations shall provide an annual report to the department by January 1, that includes, but is not limited to, applicable performance as measured by the criteria listed above for the organization's most recently completed fiscal year.
- All nonprofit youth organizations shall submit to the department annually an independent audit of their financial records. Contract provisions must include authorization for the department to inspect the organization's financial and program records.
- All nonprofit youth organizations must demonstrate participation in a peer assessment or review process, such as the National Association of Service and Conversation Corps "Excellence in Corps Operations".

**Section 2** provides an effective date of July 1, 2007.

### **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:**

Senate Proposed Bill 7106 (the General Appropriations Bill) authorizes the FDOT to contract with non-profit youth organizations in Florida to perform work on the state highway system. This bill provides eligibility criteria for participation in the youth experience work program.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.



## **VIII. Summary of Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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