

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7017 PCB SSC 07-04 Operating Trust Fund in the Department of Legal Affairs
SPONSOR(S): Safety & Security Council and Dean
TIED BILLS: _____ **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** _____

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
Orig. Comm.: Safety & Security Council	13 Y, 0 N	Miller	Havlicak
1) Policy & Budget Council		Leznoff	Hansen
2) _____			
3) _____			
4) _____			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Section 215.32(b), F. S., governs the segregation of trust funds. In order to meet accounting standards established by the Government Accounting Standards Board, this section was amended in 2004 to require that, to the extent possible, each agency shall use certain trust funds as a depository for funds to be used for day-to-day operations for uniform specified purposes. These include the following trust funds:

- Operating trust fund—for program operations funded by program revenues.
- Operations and maintenance trust fund –client services funded by third-party payors.
- Administrative trust fund –for management activities that are departmental by nature and funded by indirect cost earnings and assessments against trust funds.
- Grants and donations trust fund – for allowable grant or donor agreement activities funded by restricted contractual revenue from private and public non-federal sources.
- Agency working capital trust fund – for the operation of data processing centers.
- Clearing funds trust fund – for collections pending distribution to lawful recipients.
- Federal grant trust fund – for allowable grant activities funded by restricted program revenues from federal sources.

The bill creates the Operating Trust Fund within the Department of Legal Affairs effective July 1, 2007. The fund is established as a depository for funds to be used for supporting the programs and other appropriate purposes of the department.

Funds that will be credited to the Operating Trust Fund include fees, revenues, and transfers for the purpose of supporting operations of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the Office of Statewide Prosecution and such other purposes as directed by the Legislature. Funds from the Operating Trust Fund shall be expended only pursuant to legislative appropriations.

The bill creates a new trust fund; therefore, it must pass with a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature.

The bill has no fiscal impact.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

The bill does not appear to implicate any of the house principles.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

The creation, recreation and termination of trust funds are governed by provisions in both the Florida Constitution and the Florida Statutes (F.S.).

Section 19(f), Article III of the Florida Constitution governs the creation of trust funds. It provides that no trust fund of the state or other public body may be created without a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.

The Florida Constitution also specifies that state trust funds shall terminate not more than 4 years after the effective date of the act authorizing the initial creation of the trust fund, unless the Legislature by law sets forth a shorter time period. Specified trust funds are exempted from this provision.¹

Section 215.3206, F.S., requires agencies to recommend to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate whether the trust fund should be terminated or re-created in the year prior to the scheduled termination date of any existing trust fund.

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The 2004 revision to s. 215.32, F.S., further required any agencies that did not have the trust funds specified above, but used other trust funds for the specified purposes of the above referenced trust fund, to request the creation of the trust fund during the next scheduled review of the agency's trust funds, pursuant to s.215.3206, F.S.

¹ Exempt are trust funds required by federal programs or mandates; trust funds established for bond covenants, indentures, or resolutions, whose revenues are legally pledged by the state or public body to meet debt service or other financial requirements of any debt obligations of the state or any public body; the state transportation trust fund; the trust fund containing the net annual proceeds from the Florida Education Lotteries; the Florida retirement trust fund; trust funds for institutions under the management of the Board of Governors, where such trust funds are for auxiliary enterprises and contracts, grants, and donations, as those terms are defined by general law; trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the chief financial officer or state agencies; trust funds that account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity as an agent or fiduciary for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units; and other trust funds authorized by the Florida Constitution.

As a result agencies have been requesting the creation of the above noted trust funds as needed at the time of their required recommendation regarding trust fund recreations or terminations.

Currently, revenues received through Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor are deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund.

Pursuant to the revisions to section 215.32 an operating trust fund should be used as a depository for program revenues that are used to support that program.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill creates the Operating Trust Fund within the Department of Legal Affairs. The bill specifies its funding sources to include fees and other revenues to be used by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor or such other purposes as determined by the Legislature.

The bill further provides that the Operating Trust Fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2011 unless recreated prior to that date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

N/A

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES