

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

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

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

On May 25, 1935, the Legislature adopted "The Swanee River (Old Folks at Home)" as the official state song, replacing "Florida, My Florida," which had been adopted as the State Song in 1913. "Swanee River (Old Folks at Home)" was approved as the new state song in House Concurrent Resolution No. 22.

"Swanee River (Old Folks at Home)" was written and composed by Stephen C. Foster in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was written for E. P. Christy and his performing troupe, Christy's Minstrels¹.

Chapter 15, F.S., designates 34 official state symbols including designations for an official state animal, butterfly and reptile². Chapter 15 does not contain a designation for an official state song.

Proposed Changes

The bill designates the song "Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky" as the official state song. The song was written and composed by Jan Hinton, a music teacher from Pompano Beach, Florida and was selected through a state wide search.

The search was conducted by the Florida Music Educators Association and garnered 243 entries. The search known as "Just Sing, Florida" was open to anyone wishing to enter. Entries were narrowed to 3 finalists by judges from the Florida Music Educators Association. These finalists were then posted online to the search's website, justsingflorida.org. Once on the website listeners were able to hear the song candidates and were able to record their vote for which song they believed should win. "Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky" received the most votes.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2008.

"Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky"

*Florida, where the sawgrass meets the sky,
Sitting proud in the ocean like a sentinel true,
Always shielding your own yet giving welcome.*

¹ http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/song/fl_swanee_river.htm

² These are: the state motto, seal, flag, fruit, tree, beverage, citrus archive, shell, stone, gem, wildflower, play, animal, freshwater fish, saltwater fish, marine mammal, saltwater mammal, butterfly, reptile, air fair, rodeo, festival, moving image center and archive, litter control symbol, pageant, opera program, renaissance festival, railroad museums, transportation museum, soil, fiddle contest, band, Sports Hall of Fame, pie, and maritime museum.

*Florida, land of flowers, land of light,
Florida, where our dreams can all take flight,
Whether youth's vibrant morning or the twilight of years,
There are treasures for all who venture here - in Florida.*

*Mocking birds cry and 'gators lie out in the sun
Bridges span southward to the Keys
and rockets skyward run,
The orange blossoms' sweet perfume
and fireworks fill the air,
and cultures rich, our native people share.*

*Florida, where the sawgrass meets the sky,
Florida, where our hearts will ever lie,
Sitting proud in the ocean like a sentinel true,
Always shielding your own yet giving welcome.*

*Florida, land of flowers, land of light,
Florida, where our dreams can all take flight,
Whether youth's vibrant morning or the twilight of years,
There are treasures for all who venture here
in Florida, Florida.
Florida, where our hearts will ever lie,*

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 15.0326 F.S., designating the song "Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky" as the official state song.

Section 2: Provides the bill will take effect July 1, 2008.

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:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

None provided

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES