

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 295

Food Service Inspections of Domestic Violence Centers

SPONSOR(S): Hukill

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 532

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Health Care Regulation Policy Committee		Guy	Calamas
2)	Health Care Appropriations Committee			
3)	Health & Family Services Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

House Bill 295 requires the Florida Department of Health to conduct food service inspections for all certified domestic violence centers as facilities having five or fewer residents without regard to the actual number of residents.

Current law provides for a tiered system of food services inspection, the requirements of which increase in proportion to the number of residents. The bill provides an exemption for certified domestic violence centers from the definition of "food service establishment" for which the most stringent level of food service inspection applies.

The bill has an insignificant positive fiscal impact to the Department of Health (see Fiscal Comments).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Certified Domestic Violence Centers

There are 42 certified domestic violence centers ("Centers") in Florida which serve all 67 counties.¹ In 2008-2009, these Centers provided emergency shelter to 14,667 individuals, the majority of which were women and children.² The Centers combined have a capacity of 1,818 beds and range in size from 16-bed to 102-bed facilities.³ The average capacity is 41 beds.⁴

Domestic violence centers are annually certified and regulated by the Florida Department of Children and Families ("DCF") under Chapter 39, F.S. Certified centers must, at a minimum, provide: temporary emergency shelter for more than 24 hours; counseling; and information and referral services.⁵ The Centers "...strive to offer a homelike setting where [domestic violence] survivors may seek refuge and feel safe."⁶

For certification purposes, the DCF requires Centers to have a satisfactory environmental health inspection report completed by the local county health department.⁷ Most Centers have kitchen areas which are equipped with basic supplies and tools, but do not provide prepared meals to residents. One of the 42 certified centers provides meal service to residents.⁸

Florida Department of Health Food Service Protection

The Florida Department of Health ("DOH") regulates food services for group-care-facilities under Section 381.006(16), F.S. Certified domestic violence centers are not specifically referenced in this section, but DOH treats the Centers as group-care-facilities for inspection purposes.⁹ Generally, DOH

¹ Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, see <http://www.fcadv.org/about.php> (last visited January 26, 2010).

² Florida Coalition of Against Domestic Violence, *Domestic Violence Annual Report 7/1/2008 – 6/30/2009*, see <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/domesticviolence/publications/dv0809.pdf> (last visited January 26, 2010).

³ Florida Department of Children & Families, *Domestic Violence Annual Report 2007-2008*, see <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/domesticviolence/publications/dvff0708.pdf> (last visited January 26, 2010).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ S. 39.905(1)(c), F.S.

⁶ Florida Department of Children & Families, *Domestic Violence Annual Report 2007-2008*, see <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/domesticviolence/publications/dvff0708.pdf> (last visited January 26, 2010).

⁷ Rule 65H-1.102, F.A.C.

⁸ Department of Children and Family Services Staff Analysis and Economic Impact, House Bill 295 (November 5, 2009).

⁹ Department of Children and Family Services Staff Analysis and Economic Impact, House Bill 295 (November 5, 2009).

food services and facilities regulation is authorized under Section 381.0072, F.S. All residential facilities are subject to annual physical plant inspections.¹⁰

DOH uses a tier system based on number of residents to determine the level of regulation and inspection required for any community-based residential facility that provides food preparation facilities to its residents.¹¹ Tier One applies to facilities with 1-5 residents; Tier Two applies to facilities with 6-10 residents; and Tier Three applies to facilities with 11 or more residents.¹² The Tier system is designed to apprehend the risk of food-borne illness that increases as the number of residents in a facility increases.¹³ The Tier system is predicated upon number of residents in a facility, not whether those residents prepare their own meals or meals are prepared for them by others. The tier system is based on the number of residents, not whether the facility provides prepared meals or whether the kitchen is merely made available for resident use.

Regulations for Tiers One and Two are less stringent than Tier Three and, according to DOH, "...allow smaller operations to maintain a home-like environment in their kitchens...."¹⁴ Tier Three facilities, with larger numbers of residents, are subject to the more rigorous requirements of Rule 64E-11, F.A.C.¹⁵ Typically, Tier Three facilities provide meal service to residents and these facilities have a professional kitchen and food preparation staff.¹⁶ Tier Three facilities are subject to quarterly inspections by DOH¹⁷ and are inspected according to the following risk factors: types of food served; amount of preparation required; population served; and, quantity of food prepared.¹⁸ Currently, most certified domestic violence centers house over 11 residents and thus are inspected as Tier 3 facilities.

Effect of Proposed Changes

House Bill 295 requires food inspection services and regulation performed by DOH to treat all certified domestic violence centers as having five or fewer residents notwithstanding the actual number of residents in each Center. The effect of this requirement is to subject certified domestic violence centers to the lowest threshold of food service regulation and inspection requirements – Tier One.

House Bill 295 requires DOH to inspect all certified domestic violence centers as facilities having five or fewer residents, without regard to the actual number of residents in each center. Any Center with six or more residents would be excepted from DOH food inspection regulations and would be subject to lower inspection regulations than other types of facilities with six or more residents. Currently, no Center has a residential capacity lower than 16 beds.

House Bill 295 provides an exemption for certified domestic violence centers from the definition of "food service establishment" in Section 381.0072(1)(b), F.S. This exemption clarifies that certified domestic violence centers are not subject to the food service regulatory scheme in Rule 64E-12.004, F.A.C., which requires facilities to be inspected according to the number of residents housed.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 381.006, F.S., relating to environmental health.

Section 2: Amends s. 381.0072, F.S., relating to food service protection.

Section 3: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

¹⁰ According to DOH staff, annual inspections are required by DOH procedures as outlined in the Environmental Health Program Manual 150-4.

¹¹ Rule 64E-12.004, F.A.C.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Department of Health Bill Analysis, Economic Statement and Fiscal Note, House Bill 295 (November 18, 2009).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Rule 64E-11.001, F.A.C., prescribes the sanitary practices for food service establishments that serve food or drink to the public.

¹⁶ Department of Health Bill Analysis, Economic Statement and Fiscal Note, House Bill 295 (November 18, 2009).

¹⁷ According to DOH staff, quarterly inspections are required by DOH procedures as outlined in the Environmental Health Program Manual 150-4.

¹⁸ <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/community/food/index.html>

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

See Fiscal Comments.

2. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the Department of Health, some certified domestic violence centers would no longer be subject to quarterly inspection or sanitation certification resulting in a \$4,125 savings to DOH.

	<i>1st Year</i>	<i>2nd Year</i>
Estimated Revenue		
Estimated savings in reduced inspection requirements	\$7,500	\$7,500
Estimated reduction in sanitation certificate revenues (inspections would have to be paid out of unallocated general revenue)	(\$3,375)	(\$3,375)
Total Estimated Revenue	\$4,125	\$4,125

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

C. The Department of Health has sufficient rule-making authority to implement provisions of the bill 295.

D. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES