

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 7165 PCB EDTS 11-03 Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative

SPONSOR(S): Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee, Bernard

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee	11 Y, 2 N	Kruse	Kruse
1) Economic Affairs Committee	17 Y, 0 N	Kruse	Tinker

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

In 2000, the Legislature created the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative as part of the Seaport Employment Training Grant Program (STEP). STEP was required to establish and administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative for the purpose of assisting small and medium-sized businesses to become involved in international activities and helping them to identify markets with product demand, identify strategic alliances in those markets, and obtain the financing to effectuate trade opportunities in the Caribbean Basin. Funding was appropriated for that year only and the program has been inactive since that time.

The bill repeals the section of law that created the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.

The bill has no fiscal impact.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

In 2000, the Legislature created the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative as part of the Seaport Employment Training Grant Program (STEP). STEP was required to establish and administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative for the purpose of assisting small and medium-sized businesses to become involved in international activities and helping them to identify markets with product demand, identify strategic alliances in those markets, and obtain the financing to effectuate trade opportunities in the Caribbean Basin. The initiative was designed to focus assistance to businesses located in urban communities and offer export readiness, assistance and referral services, internships, seminars, workshops, conferences, and e-commerce plus mentoring and matchmaking services, but not duplicate Enterprise Florida services. STEP was required to administer the Initiative pursuant to a performance-based contract with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

The Legislature allocated \$300,000 to be administered by STEP for establishing the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative, but no additional funding has been appropriated since that time. In addition, Enterprise Florida staff state that the program has been inactive since it was created in 2000.

Changes made by the bill

The bill repeals s. 288.386, F.S., which created the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.

The bill has no fiscal impact.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2011.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Repeals s. 288.386, F.S.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2011.

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:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to: require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.