

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Community Affairs Committee

BILL: SB 292

INTRODUCER: Senator Bennett

SUBJECT: Effective Public Notices by Governmental Entities

DATE: January 4, 2011

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Anderson	Yeatman	CA	Pre-meeting
2.			JU	
3.			BC	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill defines the term “publicly accessible website,” and authorizes a local government to use its publicly accessible website for legally required advertisements and public notices. The bill provides conditions for such use, and provides for optional receipt of legally required advertisements and public notices by first-class mail or e-mail. The bill sets out the requirements for advertisements and public notices published on a publicly accessible website. The bill provides that advertisements directed by law or order or decree of court in a county in which no newspaper is published may be made by publication on a publicly accessible website.

The bill sets out specific sections of Florida Statutes where public notice must be given and adds the option for local governments or municipalities to give this notice on a publicly accessible website.

This bill creates s. 50.0311, F.S., and substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 50.011, 50.021, 50.051, 50.061, 100.342, 125.66, 129.03, 129.06, 153.79, 159.32, 162.12, 163.3184, 166.041, 170.05, 170.07, 180.24, 197.3632, 200.065, 255.0525, 380.06, 403.7049, 403.973, and 420.9075.

II. Present Situation:

Local Government Public Notices

Local governments are the governments closest to the people. They are viewed as the government where individuals can have the greatest impact on the policies of their community. A critical part of participatory democracy is that citizens know of and even participate in government. It is for this reason that Florida has such strong Sunshine Laws granting citizens

access to public records and meetings of government officials. The publication of legal notices in newspapers is a long established practice in Florida and throughout the United States. According to newspaper trade associations and independent analysts, “it’s unclear how much newspapers collect in total from such publicly financed advertising.”¹ A report published by The Florida Senate in 2010 stated that publication costs for public notices and legal advertisements ranged considerably with the City of Center Hill reporting an annual cost of \$150 and the Miami City Clerk’s Office reporting the annual cost was \$130,000.²

Current law provides requirements for publishing legal notices and official advertisements. Publications must be in a newspaper that is printed and published at least once a week and that contains at least 25 percent of its words in the English language. In addition, the newspaper must qualify or be entered to qualify as periodicals matter at the post office in the county where published, and be generally available to the public for the purpose of publication of official or other notices. Also the newspaper must customarily contain information of a public character or of interest or of value to the residents or owners of property in the county where published, or of interest or of value to the general public.³

A range of other statutes require local governments to publish in local newspapers notice of a range of topics of interest to local residents and businesses. Such notices include:

Publication when no newspaper is in county - §50.021, F.S.

This section provides that when any law, or order or decree of court, directs advertisements to be made in any county and there be no newspaper published in the said county, the advertisement may be made by posting three copies thereof in three different places in said county, one of which shall be at the front door of the courthouse, and by publication in the nearest county in which a newspaper is published.

Proof of publication; form of uniform affidavit - §50.051, F.S.

This section establishes the printed form upon which all affidavits establishing proof of publication in a newspaper are to be executed.

Amounts chargeable for official notices and advertisements published in a newspaper - §50.061, F.S.

Subsection (4) of this section provides that all official public notices and legal advertisements published in a newspaper shall be charged and paid for on the basis of 6-point type on 6-point body, unless otherwise specified by statute.

Special election or referendum – notice - §100.342, F.S.

This section provides that in any special election or referendum not otherwise provided for there shall be at least 30 days’ notice of the election or referendum by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, district, or municipality. The publication shall be made at least

¹ Dalesio, Emery P., *Move to Online Public Notices Looms Over Papers*, USA Today, May 22, 2009, http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2009-05-22-online-notices_N.htm (last visited December 21, 2011).

² Committee on Community Affairs, Internet Notice, Interim Report 2010-106 (October 2009) (on file with the Community Affairs Staff).

³ Section 50.011, F.S.

twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week in which the election or referendum is to be held. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in the county, district, or municipality the notice shall be posted in no fewer than five places within the territorial limits of the county, district, or municipality.

County Ordinances; enactment procedure – notice - §125.66, F.S.

This section provides, in part, that the board of county commissioners at any regular or special meeting may enact or amend any ordinance if notice of intent to consider such ordinance is given at least 10 days prior to said meeting by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. In cases in which the proposed ordinance or resolution changes the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or changes the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land involving 10 contiguous acres or more, the required advertisements shall be no less than 2 columns wide by 10 inches long in a standard size or a tabloid size newspaper, and the headline in the advertisement shall be in a type no smaller than 18 point. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be placed in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county and of general interest and readership in the community pursuant to ch. 50, F.S., not one of limited subject matter.

Preparation and adoption of county budget – notice - §129.03, F.S.

This section provides, in part, that the board of county commissioners shall prepare a statement summarizing all of the adopted tentative budgets and shall cause this summary statement to be advertised one time in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county, or by posting at the courthouse door if there is no such newspaper.

Execution and amendment of county budget – notice - §129.06, F.S.

This section provides, in part, that the board of county commissioners at any time within a fiscal year may amend a budget for that year, and may within the first 60 days of a fiscal year amend the budget for the prior fiscal year, following a public hearing that must be advertised at least 2 days, but not more than 5 days, before the date of the hearing in a newspaper of paid general circulation.

Contracts for county water and sewer system district construction – notice - §153.79, F.S.

This section provides that all county water and sewer system district contracts, if the amount exceeds \$1,000, shall be awarded only after public advertisement and call for sealed bids in a newspaper published in the county circulating in the district, or, if there is no such newspaper, then in a newspaper published in the state and circulating in the district. Such advertisement must be published at least once, and the publication must occur at least 3 weeks before the date set for the receipt of such bids.

Construction contracts for Florida Industrial Development Financing Act projects – notice - §159.32, F.S.

This section provides that construction contracts for Florida Industrial Development Financing Act projects may be awarded by the local agency in such manner, as in its judgment, will best promote free and open competition, including advertisement for competitive bids in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the local agency; however, the local agency in its

discretion may award contracts for the construction of any project upon a negotiated basis as determined by the local agency.

Code enforcement board notices - §162.12, F.S.

This section provides that, at the option of the code enforcement board, notice may be served by publication or posting once during each week for 4 consecutive weeks (four publications being sufficient) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the code enforcement board is located. The newspaper shall meet such requirements as are prescribed under ch. 50, F.S., for legal and official advertisements.

Comprehensive plan amendment public hearing notices - §163.3184, F.S.

This section provides that the local governing body shall hold at least two advertised public hearings on proposed comprehensive plan amendments, with the first public hearing held at least 7 days after the day that the first advertisement is published, and the second public hearing held at least 5 days after the day that the second advertisement is published. Prior to its execution of a compliance agreement, the local government must approve the compliance agreement at a public hearing advertised at least 10 days before the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in accordance with specified advertisement requirements.

Municipal ordinance adoption notices - §166.041, F.S.

This section provides procedures for adoption of municipal ordinances and resolutions. A proposed ordinance, at least 10 days prior to adoption, must be noticed once in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. The notice of proposed enactment must include specified information.

In cases in which the proposed ordinance changes the actual list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category, or changes the actual zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land involving 10 contiguous acres or more, the governing body shall hold two advertised public hearings on the proposed ordinance. The first public hearing shall be held at least 7 days after the day that the first advertisement is published. The second hearing shall be held at least 10 days after the first hearing and shall be advertised at least 5 days prior to the public hearing. The size and content of the required newspaper advertisements is specified. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be placed in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the municipality and of general interest and readership in the municipality, not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to ch. 50, F.S. In lieu of publishing the advertisement set out in this paragraph, the municipality may mail a notice to each person owning real property within the area covered by the ordinance.

Municipal public improvements financed by special assessments – notice - §170.05, F.S.

This section requires a municipality to publish a resolution relating to public improvements financed by special assessments one time in a newspaper of general circulation published in said municipality, and if there be no newspaper published in said municipality, the municipality shall cause said resolution to be published once a week for a period of 2 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which said municipality is located.

Publication of preliminary assessment roll - §170.07, F.S.

This section provides that, upon the completion of a preliminary assessment roll, the municipality shall by resolution fix a time and place at which the owners of the property to be assessed or any other persons interested therein may appear before the governing authority and be heard. Thirty days' notice in writing of such time and place shall be given to such property owners. Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall also be given by two publications a week apart in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality and if there be no newspaper published in said municipality, the governing authority shall cause the notice to be published in like manner in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which the municipality is located; provided that the last publication shall be at least 1 week prior to the date of the hearing.

Municipality construction contracts for utilities – notice - §180.24, F.S.

This section provides that construction contracts for construction of utilities or extensions to a previously constructed utility in excess of \$25,000 shall be advertised by the municipality in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which said municipality is located at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks, or by posting three notices in three conspicuous places in said municipality, one of which shall be on the door of the city hall; and that at least 10 days shall elapse between the date of the first publication or posting of such notice and the date of receiving bids and the execution of such contract documents. (For municipal construction projects identified in s. 255.0525, F.S., the notice provision of that section supersedes and replaces the notice provisions in this section.)

Local government intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments – notice - §197.3632, F.S.

This section requires a local government which is authorized to impose a non-ad valorem assessment and which elects to use the uniform method of collecting such assessment for the first time to adopt a resolution at a public hearing prior to January 1 or, if the property appraiser, tax collector, and local government agree, March 1. The local government shall publish notice of its intent to use the uniform method for collecting such assessment weekly in a newspaper of general circulation within each county contained in the boundaries of the local government for 4 consecutive weeks preceding the hearing.

Taxing authority's intent to adopt millage rate and budget – notice - §200.065, F.S.

This section provides that no taxing authority's millage shall be levied until a resolution or ordinance has been approved by the governing board of the taxing authority. Within 15 days after the meeting adopting the tentative budget, the taxing authority shall advertise in a newspaper of general circulation in the county its intent to finally adopt a millage rate and budget. A public hearing to finalize the budget and adopt a millage rate shall be held not less than 2 days nor more than 5 days after the day that the advertisement is first published. The advertisement shall not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement shall be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county or in a geographically limited insert of such newspaper. The geographic boundaries in which such insert is circulated shall include the geographic boundaries of the taxing authority. In the event that the mailing of the notice of proposed property taxes is delayed beyond September 3 in a county, any multicounty taxing authority which levies ad valorem taxes within that county shall advertise its intention to adopt a tentative budget and

millage rate in a newspaper of paid general circulation within that county, and shall hold a public hearing not less than 2 days or more than 5 days thereafter, and not later than September 18. If the notice of proposed property taxes mailed to taxpayers under this section contains an error, and the error involves only the date and time of the public hearings required by this section, the property appraiser, with the permission of the taxing authority affected by the error, may correct the error by advertising the corrected information in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

Local government solicitation of bids for construction projects – notice - §255.0525, F.S.

This section provides that the solicitation of competitive bids or proposals for any county, municipality, or other political subdivision construction project that is projected to cost more than \$200,000 shall be publicly advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the project is located at least 21 days prior to the established bid opening and at least 5 days prior to any scheduled prebid conference. The solicitation of competitive bids or proposals for any county, municipality, or other political subdivision construction project that is projected to cost more than \$500,000 shall be publicly advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the project is located at least 30 days prior to the established bid opening and at least 5 days prior to any scheduled prebid conference. Bids or proposals shall be received and opened at the location, date, and time established in the bid or proposal advertisement.

Local government development of regional impact public hearing notices - §380.06, F.S.

This section requires a local government to schedule a public hearing within 60 days after receipt of a petition from a developer for authorization to submit a proposed areawide development of regional impact for a defined planning area. The public hearing shall be advertised at least 30 days prior to the hearing. In addition to the public hearing notice by the local government, the petitioner, except when the petitioner is a local government, shall provide actual notice to each person owning land within the proposed areawide development plan at least 30 days prior to the hearing. If the petitioner is a local government, or local governments pursuant to an interlocal agreement, notice of the public hearing shall be provided by the publication of an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation. The advertisement shall not be published in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The advertisement must be published in a newspaper of general paid circulation in the county and of general interest and readership in the community, not one of limited subject matter, pursuant to ch. 50, F.S.

Whenever possible, the advertisement must appear in a newspaper that is published at least 5 days a week, unless the only newspaper in the community is published less than 5 days a week. The advertisement must be in substantially the form used to advertise amendments to comprehensive plans pursuant to s. 163.3184, F.S. If more than one local government has jurisdiction over the defined planning area in an areawide development plan, the local governments shall hold a joint public hearing. The local government holding the joint hearing shall publish notice of the hearing at least 60 days in advance of the hearing and shall specify where the petition may be reviewed.

County and municipal solid waste management cost disclosure - §403.7049, F.S.

This section requires each municipality to establish a system to inform, no less than once a year, residential and nonresidential users of solid waste management services within the municipality's service area of the user's share, on an average or individual basis, of the full cost

for solid waste management. Counties shall provide the information required of municipalities only to residential and nonresidential users of solid waste management services within the county's service area that are not served by a municipality.

Expedited permitting and amendments to comprehensive plans – “duly noticed” - §403.973, F.S.

This section requires local governments to hold a duly noticed public workshop to review and explain to the public the expedited permitting process and the terms and conditions of the memorandum of agreement with the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection for economic development projects. The local government shall also hold a duly noticed public hearing to execute a memorandum of agreement for each qualified project, and at the option of the local government, the workshop may be conducted on the same date as the public hearing to execute the memorandum of agreement.

The term “duly noticed” is defined to mean publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or county with jurisdiction. The notice shall appear on at least 2 separate days, one of which shall be at least 7 days before a meeting. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting scheduled to discuss or enact the memorandum of agreement, and the places within the municipality or county where such proposed memorandum of agreement may be inspected by the public. The notice must be published in a portion of the paper other than the legal notices section. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard with respect to the memorandum of agreement.

State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program - local housing assistance plans - notice of funding availability - §420.9075, F.S.

This section requires each county or eligible municipality or its administrative representative to advertise the notice of funding availability for local housing assistance plans under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Act in a newspaper of general circulation and periodicals serving ethnic and diverse neighborhoods, at least 30 days before the beginning of the application period. If no funding is available due to a waiting list, no notice of funding availability is required.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates s. 50.0311, F.S., providing a definition, authorizing a local government to use its publicly accessible website for legally required advertisements and public notices, and providing an optional receipt of legally required advertisements and public notices by first-class mail or e-mail.

Section 2 amends s. 50.011, F.S., providing that a notice, advertisement, or publication on a publicly accessible website of a local government constitutes legal notice.

Section 3 amends s. 50.021, F.S., providing that advertisements directed by law or order or decree of court to be made in a county without a published newspaper may be made by publication on a publicly accessible website.

Section 4 amends s. 50.051, F.S., clarifying provisions.

Section 5 amends s. 50.061, F.S., clarifying provisions.

Section 6 amends s. 100.342, F.S., providing that special election or referendum notices may be published on a publicly accessible website daily during the 5 weeks immediately preceding the election or referendum.

Section 7 amends s. 125.66, F.S., providing that notices of consideration of a county ordinance by the board of county commissioners may be published on a publicly accessible website and the advertisement shall be published daily during the 10 days immediately preceding the meeting.

Section 8 amends s. 129.03, F.S., providing that a summary statement of adopted tentative county budgets may be published on a publicly accessible website.

Section 9 amends s. 129.06, F.S., providing that advertisement of a public hearing relating to the amendment of a county budget may be published on a publicly accessible website.

Section 10 amends s. 153.79, F.S., providing that advertisement by a county water and sewer system district regarding a project to construct, reconstruct, acquire, or improve a water system or a sewer system, and of a call for sealed bids for such projects, may be published on a publicly accessible website, and that such advertisement shall be published daily during the 3 weeks immediately preceding the date set for the receipt of such bids.

Section 11 amends s. 159.32, F.S., providing that the advertisement for competitive bids to contract construction projects under the Florida Industrial Development Financing Act may be published on a publicly accessible website.

Section 12 amends s. 162.12, F.S., providing that code enforcement boards may notice violation of a county or municipal code on a publicly accessible website daily during the 4 weeks immediately preceding the hearing.

Section 13 amends s. 163.3184, F.S., providing that notice of public hearings on the adoption of a local government comprehensive plan or plan amendment or the approval of a compliance agreement under the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act may be published on a publicly accessible website.

Section 14 amends s. 166.041, F.S., providing that notice of adoption of a municipal ordinance may be published on a publicly accessible website daily during the 10 days immediately preceding the adoption; providing clarifying provisions.

Section 15 amends s. 170.05, F.S., providing that resolutions relating to municipal public improvements financed by special assessments may be published on a publicly accessible website.

Section 16 amends s. 170.07, F.S., providing that notice relating to hearings on municipal public improvements financed by special assessments may be noticed on a publicly accessible website daily for 2 weeks.

Section 17 amends s. 180.24, F.S., providing that specified construction contracts for utilities or extensions to a previously constructed utility may be advertised on a publicly accessible website daily for 2 weeks.

Section 18 amends s. 197.3632, F.S., providing that notices of intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem assessments may be published on a publicly accessible website daily during the 4 consecutive weeks immediately preceding the hearing.

Section 19 amends s. 200.065, F.S., providing that a taxing authority's notice of intent to adopt a millage rate and budget, a specified multicounty taxing authority's notice of intent to adopt a tentative budget and millage rate, and correction of a specified error contained in a notice of proposed property taxes mailed to taxpayers may be advertised on a publicly accessible website.

Section 20 amends s. 255.0525, F.S., providing that for the solicitation of specified competitive bids or proposals for construction projects, a county, municipality, or other political subdivision may be advertised on a publicly accessible website.

Section 21 amends s. 380.06, F.S., providing that a public hearing by a local government on an areawide development of regional impact under the Florida Environmental Land and Water Management Act of 1972 may be advertised on a publicly accessible website.

Section 22 amends s. 403.7049, F.S., providing fulfillment requirements of the public disclosure system, including the options of postal mail, newspaper publication, or publicly accessible website.

Section 23 amends s. 403.973, F.S., redefining the term "duly noticed" to include publicly accessible websites for the purpose of expedited permitting.

Section 24 amends s. 420.9075, F.S., providing that funding availability through a local housing assistance plan under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Act may be advertised on a publicly accessible website.

Section 25 provides an effective date of October 1, 2012.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

This bill does not mandate that local governments advertise on a publicly accessible website. The local governments are given this as an additional method to provide legal notices.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Corporations or other entities or individuals that publish required local government public notices and advertisements may have a loss of revenue associated with local governments moving such required advertising and noticing from newspapers to publicly accessible websites. According to a report published by the Florida Senate in 2010 the median income reported from newspapers for public notices and legal advertisements was \$108,704 with an average cost of \$173,219.⁴ Newspapers, which have served an important role in maintaining the accountability of public entities, will suffer a further decline in revenues due to the transition from newspaper publication of public notices and legal advertisements to internet publication.

The transition from newspaper notice to online notices may leave certain demographics at an informational disadvantage; specifically, African Americans, Hispanics, and the elderly have less access to the internet than other groups according to the 2009 U.S. Census study.⁵

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill may reduce local government expenditures associated with publishing required notices and advertisements in the newspaper. Local governments might have to expend funds to create, maintain and issue correspondence from a registry of persons requesting notifications by first-class mail or e-mail.

The Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) Revenue Estimating Impact Conference has not yet addressed this bill. The Florida League of Cities along with the Florida Association of Counties have stated that based on a survey of their constituents they estimate that local governments spend more than \$16 million a year to print legal notices in local newspapers.

According to a report published by the Florida Senate in 2010 the costs for the publication of public notices and legal advertisements ranges substantially; for example Wakulla County reported an annual cost of \$3,000, while Orange County reported costs of more than \$323,681. The County of Miami-Dade spent \$1,124,664 on newspaper

⁴ Committee on Community Affairs, *supra* note 2.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Computer and Internet Use in the United States: October 2009, available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/computer/publications/2009.html>.

notices. The median cost of newspaper publications reported by municipalities was \$9,550 and the average cost was \$20,222. Costs reported by the counties had a median of \$32,900 and an average of \$133,096.⁶

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The Department of Revenue (DOR) has stated in its staff analysis of the bill there are some areas of concern regarding the public notices being placed on publicly available websites.⁷ DOR states that if the intent of this legislature is to include all taxing authorities, then the phrase “or in the case of a county or municipality,” from lines 715-716 and 738-739 needs to be removed, as it may create confusion among other taxing authorities that they are not allowed to advertise their TRIM hearing on their websites.

The DOR staff analysis stated that if the intent is to be consistent with current law, the sponsor may want to consider adding language on line 738 which states “at least two days before the hearing” after “... may advertise on its publicly accessible website...” Adding the two day requirement will follow along with the requirements of advertising in the newspaper and will prevent a taxing authority from posting their TRIM hearing on the website one day and holding their meeting that night.

The DOR has made some recommendations regarding additional sections of Florida Statutes that may need to be added to this bill to conform to the changes proposed in this bill. Their report states that if the intent of the legislation is that notice on a publicly accessible website constitutes legal notice, the following statutes will need to be amended: ss. 194.037, 196.194, 197.122, 197.2301, 197.322, 197.402, 197.403, 197.512, 197.522, F.S. These sections describe newspaper advertisement requirements, and the sponsor may want to have them remain consistent if any changes are made to the underlying requirements.

Under current law, if a taxing authority has a major violation of s. 200.065, F.S., it is required to re-advertise and re-hold its TRIM hearing. These ads are required to be in a newspaper of a general paid circulation and the taxing authority is required to provide proof of publication of the re-advertise/re-hold advertisements. If a county or municipality is required to re-advertise or re-hold its TRIM hearing because of a major violation, the statutory requirements currently in place for newspaper advertisements should maintain their applicability to website advertisements.

VII. Related Issues:

In 2009, the Florida Legislature passed CS/SB 2188, 2nd Eng., requiring state agencies to provide internet notice for purposes of Chapter 120, F.S.⁸

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Department of Revenue, Staff Analysis SB 292 (2011) (on file with the Senate Committee on Community Affairs.)

⁸ Chapter 2009-87, Laws of Fla.

VIII. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

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