

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 Committee on Commerce and Tourism

BILL: SB 1700

INTRODUCER: Senator Latvala

SUBJECT: Agricultural Lands

DATE: March 29, 2013 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Weidenbenner</u>	<u>Halley</u>	<u>AG</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Malcolm</u>	<u>Hrdlicka</u>	<u>CM</u>	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1700 repeals the requirement that the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) map and monitor the state’s agricultural land base as neither DEO, nor its predecessor agency, ever implemented the program and it is not considered necessary due to other mapping programs.

The bill repeals s. 604.006, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

The Legislature first passed a law in 1984 requiring that the state’s agricultural land base be mapped and monitored to determine whether there was a net decline in the amount of available agricultural land.¹ That duty was initially assigned to the Department of Community Affairs and transferred to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) as part of a governmental reorganization in 2011.² DEO has not performed that function and reports that it was never implemented by the prior responsible agency.³ There appears to be no need for this mapping program as the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services indicates that the following mapping programs provide updated information about the state’s land base:

- Florida Forever program project mapping;
- Florida Forest Service additions and inholdings mapping;

¹ Chapter 84-225, L.O.F.

² Chapter 2011-142, L.O.F.

³ Department of Economic Opportunity, *Bill Analysis SB 1700* (March 8, 2013) (on file with the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism).

- Mapping for leases, easements, and other land uses on state owned land;
- Mapping for state management purposes to include roads, trails, improvement, plantings, etc.;
- Mapping for Rural and Family Land easements;
- Mapping for Forest Legacy project proposals;
- Mapping for Federal Real Property Profile project proposals;
- Mapping for Board of Trustees agenda items and Acquisition Restoration Council items;
- GPS drawings of state lands management boundaries, etc.;
- Mapping Burn Bans;
- Mapping Fire Danger Index;
- Mapping Keetch-Byram Drought Index; and
- Mapping Fires.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 repeals s. 604.006, F.S., which required DEO to create a program for mapping and monitoring the agricultural lands in the state to establish whether a net decline in the amount of available agricultural land was occurring.

Section 2 provides that the bill will take effect on July 1, 2013.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

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:

None.

⁴ E-mail from Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (March 14, 2013) (on file with the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism).

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

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.