

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: SB 402

INTRODUCER: Senator Joyner

SUBJECT: Homelessness

DATE: February 14, 2013 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Hendon	Hendon	CF	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	TR	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

SB 402 allows for a voluntary contribution to support grants to assist the homeless. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV or department) to collect a voluntary contribution of \$1 through motor vehicle registration and driver license fees, both initial and renewal fees, to aid the homeless;
- Exempts the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF or department) and/or the State Office on Homelessness from the required \$10,000 to process the application;
- Replaces the current emergency assistance program with a newly-created homeless prevention grant program; and
- Limits the amount a lead agency may spend on administrative costs under a Challenge Grant.

The bill has an insignificant fiscal impact on the state and has an effective date of July 1, 2013.

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 320.02, 322.08, 322.18, 420.622, and 420.625. This bill creates section 414.161 and repeals section 414.16, of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Council on Homelessness and the State Office on Homelessness

The Council on Homelessness (council) and the State Office on Homelessness (office) were created in 2001 within the Department of Children and Families.¹ The 17-member council is comprised of representatives of state agencies, counties, homeless advocacy organizations, and volunteers.² The council is to develop policy and advise the office.³

The office coordinates state agency responses to homelessness, serves as a single point of contact on homeless issues in the state, and administers state-funded grant programs that support the activities of the 27 local homeless coalitions.⁴ The office administers all homelessness grants through lead agencies. The lead agency has the responsibility for continuum of care plans that help communities or regions envision, plan, and implement comprehensive and long-term solutions to the problem of homelessness.⁵ Lead agencies are also authorized applicants for the Challenge Grant and the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant.

Emergency Financial Assistance Program

This state grant program provides support to families, with at least one minor child, who are currently without shelter or face the loss of shelter because of the following:⁶

- Nonpayment of rent or mortgage resulting in eviction or notice of eviction;
- Household disaster that renders the home uninhabitable; or
- Other emergency situations defined in rule.

Families may receive up to \$400 during one period of 30 consecutive days in any 12 consecutive months.⁷ DCF serves approximately 2,000 families a year under this program and utilizes OPS staff to assess eligibility and process payments.⁸

Homeless Housing Assistance Grants

This state grant program provides homeless housing assistance grants up to \$750,000 annually to lead agencies to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate transitional or permanent housing units for homeless persons.⁹ Administrative costs are capped at 5 percent of the funds awarded.¹⁰

¹ Chapter 2001-98, Laws of Fla.

² Section 420.622, F.S.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Section 420.642, F.S.

⁶ Section 414.16, F.S.

⁷ Rule 65A-33.011, F.A.C.

⁸ Department of Children and Family Services, *Staff Analysis and Economic Impact. SB 1130.*(Nov. 2, 2011.) (On file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.)

⁹ Section 420.622, F.S.

¹⁰ *Id.*

Challenge Grant

This program provides grants of up to \$500,000 to lead agencies who have developed and implemented a local homeless assistance continuum of care plan. The plan must detail how outreach, emergency shelter, support services, and permanent shelter will be provided in the area.¹¹ The state currently has 28 local homeless continuum of care planning areas that receive state grants. Currently, state law does not provide for a limit on or use of grant funds for administrative costs incurred by lead agencies.

Voluntary Contributions

The voluntary contributions process provides the opportunity for citizens to make a donation by checking a box on a form when registering a vehicle or renewing a registration, as well as applying for a new replacement or driver license.¹²

An organization that desires to receive a voluntary contribution must be specifically authorized by Florida Statutes. Section 320.023, F.S., establishes requirements for organizations seeking to establish a voluntary contribution on motor vehicle registration application forms, and s. 322.081, F.S., establishes similar requirements for driver license applications. Both sections require the following:

- A request for the voluntary contribution being sought, describing the voluntary contribution in general terms;
- An application fee, not to exceed \$10,000 to defray the department's cost for reviewing the application and developing the voluntary contribution check off, if authorized. State funds may not be used to pay the application fee; and
- A marketing strategy outlining short-term and long-term marketing plans for the contribution and a financial analysis outlining the anticipated revenues and the planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the contributions.

This information must be submitted to DHSMV at least 90 days before the convening of the next regular session of the Legislature.

Chapter 2010-223, L.O.F., provides that DHSMV may not establish any new voluntary contributions on the motor vehicle registration application form under s. 320.023, F.S., or the driver license application form under s. 322.081, F.S., between July 1, 2010, and July 1, 2013. However, DHSMV may establish a voluntary contribution for an organization that has:

- Submitted a request to the department before May 1, 2010, to establish a voluntary contribution on a motor vehicle registration application under s. 320.023, F.S., or a driver license application under s. 322.081, F.S.; and

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Currently, Section 320.02(8)(14) and (15), F.S.; Section 320.08047, F.S., and Section 328.72(11) and (16), F.S., provide motor vehicle registration applicants with 20 options for voluntary contributions. Section 322.08(7), F.S., provides driver license applicants with 15 options for voluntary contributions.

- Submitted a valid financial analysis, marketing strategy, and application fee before September 1, 2010; or
- Filed a bill during the 2010 Legislative Session to establish a voluntary contribution and have met the requirements of s. 320.023 or s. 322.081, F.S.¹³

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Voluntary Contributions

Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the bill authorize the collection of voluntary contributions in the amount of \$1.00 to be added to the motor vehicle and driver license fees — initial and renewal fees — to aid the homeless. The bill does not require that the voluntary contributions be subject to the procedures and limitations of ss. 320.023, F.S., and 322.081, F.S., including payment of the application fee. Funds will be placed in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund within the Department of Children and Families for use by the office to supplement Challenge Grants and Homeless Housing Assistance Grants and to provide information on homelessness to the public.

There is currently a moratorium on the establishment of any new voluntary contributions on motor vehicle registration application and driver license application forms until July 1, 2013.¹⁴ According to the DHSMV, neither the Department of Children and Family Services nor the State Office of Homelessness has met the moratorium requirements set above.¹⁵

Grant Programs

Sections 4 through 7 of the bill repeal provisions relating to the Emergency Assistance Program and replace it with a Homelessness Prevention Grant Program. The new program will be administered by the Office on Homelessness at DCF, with the concurrence of the Council on Homelessness. The office may provide prevention grants through contracts with local lead agencies for homeless assistance continuums of care. The bill specifies the grant application process and certain preferences for applicants who can leverage additional funds and demonstrate effective programs. Eligibility for the grant program is limited to lead agencies who have implemented a local homeless assistance plan for their area. The grants are capped at \$300,000 and may be used to assist families facing the loss of their current home in paying past due rent and mortgage payments, past due utility bills, and case management. Program administrative costs are capped at 3 percent of the grant award.

The bill caps administrative costs for lead agencies administering Challenge Grants at 8 percent. Challenge Grant awards may be up to \$500,000 per lead agency.

Section 8 provides for an effective date of July 1, 2013.

¹³ Chapter 2010-223, Laws of Fla.

¹⁴ This bill, however, circumvents the moratorium requirements in Sections 320.023 and 322.081, F.S.

¹⁵ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. *Agency Bill Analysis. SB 1130*. (November 15, 2011). (On file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.)

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:

According to the Department of Children and Families, the voluntary contributions from motor vehicle registrations and renewals, and original or renewal driver licenses could provide an estimated \$20,000 in trust funds.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Fiscal Impact	Fiscal Year 2013-14		
Department Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	GR	Trust	Total
Redesign forms	\$0	\$65,600	\$65,600
Review application	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$0	\$75,600	\$75,600

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.

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