

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 Regulated Industries

BILL: SB 286

INTRODUCER: Senator Richter and others

SUBJECT: Concrete Masonry Education

DATE: February 12, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Niles</u>	<u>Imhof</u>	<u>RI</u>	Pre-meeting
3.	_____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 286 creates the “Concrete Masonry Education Act.” The bill creates the Florida Concrete Masonry Council, Inc., as a non-profit corporation operating as a direct-support organization of the Florida Department of Education. Administrative powers and duties of the council include the power to plan, implement, and conduct educational programs related to the field of concrete masonry, particularly for individuals seeking employment. The bill provides for the appointment of a 15 member governing board.

This bill allows the council to accept grants, donations, contributions, gifts, and to collect self-imposed voluntary assessments on concrete masonry units¹ produced and sold by concrete masonry manufacturers in the state. Manufacturers that choose to pay the assessment must commit to paying the assessment for at least one year. Thereafter, the manufacturer may remit the assessment or recommit for the next year.

II. Present Situation:

Concrete Masonry Education

Educational programs to train individuals in the field of concrete masonry are currently offered by school districts, colleges and apprenticeship programs throughout Florida.² The Florida Department of Education develops Career and Technical Education programs in ‘Concrete Masonry’ as well as ‘Brick and Block Masonry.’ These programs are provided through a network of service providers, which include District Technical Centers, Adult Education Providers and Florida colleges.³

¹ A Concrete Masonry Unit is a building unit or block larger in size than 12 inches by 4 inches by 4 inches (305 mm by 102 mm by 102 mm) made of cement and suitable aggregates. *See* s. 2103.1 Florida Building Code (2010).

² 2014 Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 286, Department of Education (Oct. 23, 2013).

³ Florida Department of Education, Career and Adult Education, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/> (last visited Jan. 21, 2013).

The Florida Department of Education's (DOE) Career and Technical Education programs are reviewed on a three-year cycle with business and industry as required by s. 1004.92(2)(b)4., F.S. The 'Brick and Block Masonry' program was last reviewed in 2011 for the 2012-2013 school year, and will be reviewed again in 2014 for the 2015-2016 school year. According to DOE, the 2012 review of the 'Concrete Masonry' program recommended deletion of the program due to low enrollment.⁴ The program will be removed from inventory in the 2014-2015 school year.⁵ These reviews are conducted by programmatic review committees with at least 50% of the membership from the industry.⁶

The Masonry Association of Florida, Inc. along with the Florida Concrete & Products Association, formed the Florida Masonry Apprentice and Education Foundation, Inc. (foundation) in 2002 to add to and expand masonry apprentice programs.⁷ The foundation is a nonprofit organization providing apprenticeship education of the masonry trade.⁸

Demand for Skilled Labor

According to the foundation, it is estimated that 300-500 new masons per year are needed to support demand and address attrition.⁹ There are only 300 apprentices enrolled in the current apprenticeship programs currently available.¹⁰

According to a recent survey by the trade group Associated General Contractors, twenty-seven percent of Florida construction firms claim to have trouble finding cement masons.¹¹ The Florida construction industry lost half of its employment during the recession, and with an increase in building projects the demand for skilled labor is not being met.¹² A growing shortage of labor and rising cost of building materials could affect the completion of some projects.¹³

Examples of Industry Assessment Structures

The Florida Beef Council, created by the Beef Market Development Act,¹⁴ is a not-for-profit corporation operating as a direct-support organization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.¹⁵ According to the Florida Cattlemen's Association website, this council is a wholly-owned corporation of the Florida Cattlemen's Association and functions as the promotional and educational arm of the beef industry in Florida, supporting the ability of

⁴ Conversation with Florida Department of Education representative by Community Affairs Committee Staff (Dec. 11, 2013).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ The committees may include directors for the Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council, as described in the bill.

⁷ <http://www.masonryeducation.org/about.html>

⁸ Florida Masonry Apprentice & Educational Foundation, available at www.masonryeducation.org (select About tab) (last visited Jan. 21 2013).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Marcia Heroux Pounds, *As projects ramp up, skilled construction workers in short supply*, Sun Sentinel, Nov. 24, 2013, available at <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/careers/fl-tradesmen-shortage-20131124,0,4371525.story> (last visited Jan. 21 2014).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ See s. 570.9135(4), F.S.

¹⁵ See s. 570.9135(4)(a), F.S.

cattlemen members to produce and market their products.¹⁶ As a direct-support organization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,¹⁷ this council is authorized to impose an assessment of not more than \$1 on each head of cattle sold to fund the purposes of the council.¹⁸ This follows the federally mandated check-off program, where half of the funds collected in Florida are designated for national promotion, research, consumer information and industry information programs; half the funds are used in Florida to disseminate nutritional and product information to the media, food service and retail industries, school educators, health professionals, consumers and producers.¹⁹

The Florida Building Commission, created under s. 553.74(1), F.S., is within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Section 553.721 F.S. creates a surcharge to be assessed at the rate of 1.5% of the permit fees associated with the enforcement of the Florida Building Code (code), which is partly allocated to the Florida Building Commission. The Commission is responsible for adopting and enforcing the code as a single, unified state building code used to provide effective and reasonable protection for the public safety, health and welfare.²⁰ The code is required to be updated every three years by the Florida Building Commission.²¹ Pursuant to s. 553.73, F.S., the Commission is authorized to adopt administrative rules, impose fees for binding code interpretations, and use the rule adoption procedures listed under ch. 120, F.S., to approve amendments to the code.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 provides for an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes, entitled the “Concrete Masonry Education Act.” The bill creates the Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council, Inc. (council) as a nonprofit corporation operating as a direct-support organization of the Florida Department of Education.

The council is required to do the following:

- Plan, implement, and conduct programs of education for the purpose of training individuals in the field of concrete masonry.
- Develop and improve educational access to individuals seeking employment in the field of concrete masonry.
- Develop and implement outreach programs to ensure diversity among those trained in the field of concrete masonry.
- Coordinate educational programs with other state or national programs.

¹⁶ Florida Cattlemen’s Associations, About, *Beef Council*, available at <http://www.floridacattlemen.org/fbc.html> (last visited Feb. 11, 2014).

¹⁷ See s. 570.903 F.S., requirements of a Direct Support Organization under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

¹⁸ See s. 570.9135(4) F.S.

¹⁹ Florida Cattlemen’s Associations, About, *Beef Council*, available at <http://www.floridacattlemen.org/fbc.html> (last visited Feb. 11, 2014).

²⁰ See s. 553.73 and 553.74, F.S.

²¹ See s. 553.73(7)(a), F.S. See also Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, Florida Building Commission, available at http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/information/building_commission.htm (last visited December 9, 2013).

- Inform and educate the public concerning the sustainability and economic benefits of concrete masonry products in order to increase employment opportunities in the field of concrete masonry.
- Develop, implement, and monitor a system for collection of a self-imposed voluntary assessment on each concrete masonry unit produced and sold by concrete masonry manufacturers in this state.
- Do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and achievement of the purposes of the council.

The council may:

- Upon request, provide governmental bodies with information relating to the concrete masonry industry.
- Sue and be sued as a council.
- Maintain a financial reserve for emergency use.
- Employ subordinate officers and employees.
- Cooperate with other organizations and agencies engaged in activities related to concrete masonry education.
- Meet with concrete masonry manufacturers in this state to coordinate collection of the self-imposed voluntary assessments on concrete masonry units.

The council is prohibited from:

- Participating in a political campaign, or state or local ballot initiatives.
- Using receipts to benefit directors, officers, or other private persons, not including reasonable compensation for services.
- Participating in activities prohibited for non-profit corporations under federal tax law.

Governing Board

The Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council, Inc., shall be governed by a board of directors serving without compensation, except for reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses incurred in carrying out the intent and purposes of this section. Fifteen members will occupy the board, as follows:

- Nine members representing concrete masonry manufacturers:
 - Each must represent a different manufacturer.
 - Each must have been employed by a manufacturer engaging in manufacturing of the concrete masonry products for at least 5 years prior to starting service on the board.
 - At least five must be members of the Masonry Association of Florida (MAF).
- One member representing a major building industry association in the state.
- One member having expertise in apprenticeship or workforce education training.
- Two members who are masonry contractors and members of the MAF.
- One member who is not a masonry contractor but who is otherwise a stakeholder in the masonry industry.

The initial board shall be appointed by the Governor after soliciting recommendations from the Masonry Association of Florida, with five members serving 1-year terms, five members serving

2-year terms, and five members serving 3-year terms. Thereafter, members shall be appointed to serve 3-year terms and may be reappointed to serve one additional consecutive term.

Acceptance of Grants and Gifts

The bill authorizes the council to receive grants and donations provided that there are no restrictions that the council considers to be inconsistent with the objectives of the program.

Payments to Organizations

The bill authorizes the council to make payments to other organizations for services rendered through a written agreement which is consistent with the objectives of this section. Before making such payments:

- The council must secure a written agreement that the organization will furnish reports of program activity, including financial data relative to the council's funding of such activities. These must be furnished at annually or, on the request of the council, more frequently.
- The council may require proof of security on the payments.

Collection of Moneys

The bill requires manufacturers electing to pay the voluntary assessment to collect money for each masonry unit produced and sold by the manufacturer, and forward these moneys to the council on a quarterly basis. Participating manufacturers must commit to pay the assessment for at least one year before electing to terminate payment or continue payment for the next year. The council must maintain a separate accounting of all moneys received and provide for an annual financial audit.

Bylaws

The bill requires the council to adopt bylaws by September 30, 2014 to carry out the purposes of this section, which must conform to this section but may also address any matter not in conflict with the general law of this state.

Section 2 provides for an effective date of July 1, 2014.

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 the Department of Education, there may be concern with creating direct support organizations for specific educational programs, with non-binding taxing power, that could be handled by industry on its own.²² There may be implication that this is a state sponsored assessment/tax.²³

B. Private Sector Impact:

Proposed payments by concrete masonry manufacturers to Florida Concrete Masonry Council, Inc., are self-imposed voluntary assessments on concrete masonry units produced and sold in the state. Additionally, the council may accept grants, donations, contributions, or gifts.

The fiscal impact cannot be determined because of the voluntary nature of the anticipated revenue.²⁴

C. Government Sector Impact:

The council may provide governmental bodies with requested information relating to subjects of concern to the industry. The council may act jointly or in cooperation with the state or federal government and their agencies in the development or administration of programs that the council considers to be consistent with this act.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

²² 2014 Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 286, Department of Education (Oct. 23, 2013).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

B. Amendments:

None.

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