

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 Rules

BILL: SM 866

INTRODUCER: Senator Flores and others

SUBJECT: Diplomatic Relations with Cuba

DATE: March 9, 2015

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Cantella	Phelps	RC	Pre-meeting

I. Summary:

SM 866 expresses profound disagreement with the decision of the President to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba, opposes the opening of a consulate or any diplomatic office in this state, and urges the continuation of the embargo.

II. Present Situation:

In 1960, the U.S. imposed an embargo on exports to Cuba, and in 1961 officially severed diplomatic relations with the Cuban government.¹ The embargo included commercial, economic, and financial restrictions.

On December 17, 2014, President Obama announced diplomatic and economic changes to the relationship between the U.S. and Cuba. Some of the changes include, but are not limited to:²

- Allowing travel to Cuba for authorized purposes;
- Authorizing U.S. travelers to Cuba to import up to \$400 worth of goods for personal use;
- Raising the limits on and authorizing certain categories of remittances to Cuba;
- Allowing U.S. financial institutions to open correspondent accounts at Cuban financial institutions to facilitate the processing of authorized transactions;
- Allowing activities related to telecommunications, financial services, trade and shipping; and
- Reestablishment of an embassy in Havana in the coming months.

¹ U.S. Department of State Background Notes on Cuba, November 2011, *available at* <http://www.state.gov/outofdate/bgn/cuba/191090.htm> (last visited March 9, 2015)

² U.S. Department of the Treasury Fact Sheet on the Regulatory Amendment to the Cuba Sanctions, *available at* <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/j19740.aspx> (last visited March 9, 2015)

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SM 860 expresses profound disagreement with the decision of the President to restore full diplomatic relations with Cuba, opposes the opening of a consulate or any diplomatic office in this state, and urges the continuation of the embargo.

Copies of the memorial are to be dispatched to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

Memorials have no force of law and are not subject to the Governor's approval or veto power. They are mechanisms for formally petitioning the Federal Government to act on a particular matter.

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.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

None.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of 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.
