

### SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Date: March 26, 1998 Revised: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: College-prep Class/Student Funding

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>White</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>Woodruff</u>	<u>Smith</u>	<u>WM</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

#### I. Summary:

The bill changes the date used to determine if an adopted child is fee exempt for specific postsecondary courses. Currently the date is December 31, 1997. The new date is May 5, 1997.

This legislation would increase from once to twice the number of times state funding will support a student who repeats a remedial college preparatory course.

This bill amends sections 239.117, 239.301, 240.117, 240.235, and 240.35 of the Florida Statutes.

#### II. Present Situation:

The 1997 Legislature amended laws to provide fee exempt status to children adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after December 31, 1997. The types of courses included college preparatory as well as college level courses.

The 1997 Legislature amended laws relating to student fees to impose a penalty on any student who enrolls more than once in a remedial college preparatory course. State funding may not be provided for such a student, who must pay the full cost of instruction -- four times the amount of regular matriculation fees. Students in all other types of courses at public postsecondary education institutions may take them twice without a penalty.

#### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill would amend s. 239.117, 240.235 and 240.35, Florida Statutes, to change the date used to calculate eligibility of children adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services to

receive fee exempt status on college-preparatory instruction and completion of college-level communication and computation courses.

The bill would amend s. 239.117, 239.301, and 240.117, F.S., to increase from once to twice the number of times state funding will support a student who repeats a remedial college preparatory course. On the third attempt, a student would be required to pay the full cost.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Children adopted between May 5, 1997 and December 31, 1997 would be fee exempt for specified types of courses.

Community college students who needed to take a college preparatory course twice would not have to pay a fee penalty. Full cost per credit hour for these courses (the fee penalty) averages \$131.93, compared to regular matriculation fees of \$32.98 per credit hour.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The changes in fee exemption status for children adopted between May 5 and December 31, 1997 will result in less money being paid for matriculation by the students affected. If the state pays for the matriculation fees, that would result in additional costs to the state.

The state would return to its 1996 practice of providing funding for students who repeated a college preparatory course one time. According to staff of the Division of Community

Colleges, approximately 15.2 percent of total enrollments in college preparatory classes are second attempts. In 1995-1996, almost 200,000 students were enrolled in a 3-credit hour college preparatory course. The state's share of the 15.2 percent who probably were repeating the same course was approximately \$9.0 million. This is the estimated amount that would be shifted to the students if this bill does not become a law. If this bill did become a law, that amount would continue to be paid by the state.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

The provisions on page 1, line 26, through page 2, line 14, are necessary to correct an inconsistency in the Florida Statutes. Although those lines appear to insert new language into the law, the provisions are already in statute. The 1997 Legislature twice amended subsection (7) of s. 239.117, F.S. -- in HB 1545 and SB 1688. The Division of Statutory Revision published both versions, one in the body and one in a footnote. The bill corrects the inconsistency by incorporating the text of the footnote into the body. It does not change current law.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

None.