

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.)

BILL: SB 1438

SPONSOR: Senator Diaz-Balart

SUBJECT: FIU/Speech-language Pathology Degree

DATE: March 3, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Esner</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The legislation authorizes the Board of Regents (BOR) to establish a program leading to a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Florida International University (FIU).

This bill does not amend, create, or repeal any sections of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The State University System (SUS) currently has five universities (UF, FSU, USF, FAU, & UCF) offering a master's level program in speech-language pathology. The BOR approved a master's level speech-language program for Florida International University in February, 2000 which is included in the 1998-2003 Strategic Plan of the SUS. Legislative approval is necessary to implement the program at FIU because state licensure is involved (s.240.209 F.S.).

In the past six years, there has been a total of 1049 master's level speech-language pathology graduates from the SUS system. These graduates may enter the field of education or work in health care. The following table provides the number of graduates by year since 1993-94.

**MASTERS GRADUATES IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY
State University System**

Year	Number of Graduates
98-99	229*
97-98	225*
96-97	187

95-96	147
94-95	149
93-94	112

**UF changed CIP codes from speech communication to speech pathology, which increased the #s.*

Florida International University submitted a proposal to the BOR to offer a master of science degree in speech-language pathology, which is consistent with its mission. The program was designed by personnel from FIU, Miami-Dade schools, and various health care agencies in order to address critical shortages of speech-language pathologists in South Florida. The program will consist of 50 to 60 semester hours designed to meet educational and clinical accreditation standards.

There are 230 speech-language pathology programs nationwide but only 20 emphasize cultural/racial/linguistic diversity and gerontological issues. FIU will be the first program in Florida to offer this type of program. The program submitted by FIU to the BOR met the 25 criteria that are used to evaluate programs for approval. The master of science degree in speech/language pathology to be offered at FIU will be a credential for professional licensure.

There are a limited number of slots at the universities offering master’s level speech-language pathology for persons with a bachelor’s level degree. The master’s level degree requires 300 supervised clinical clock hours with 200 clock hours in the area of speech-language pathology (s. 468.1155 F.S.) in addition to other requirements, which limits the number of students admitted to the speech-language pathology programs. Currently, there are 28 bachelor’s level practitioners in the Miami-Dade school system who provide speech-language services that will face termination if they do not matriculate into a master’s level program.

Currently, Nova Southeastern University is the only private university to offer a master’s level speech-language pathology program in the state.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The additional program will increase the number of available student slots for a master’s degree in speech-language pathology. The FIU program will focus on cultural/racial/linguistic diversity and gerontological issues.

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:

The speech-language pathology practitioners in the South Florida area who do not hold at least a master's degree may have a better opportunity to enroll in a graduate speech-language pathology program, thereby qualifying them for higher salaried positions.

C. Government Sector Impact:

A new Health & Life Sciences building (will house speech-language program) with approximately 70,000 square feet has been planned. BOR staff reported that to date, two PECO appropriations have been provided for Phase I of this project (1998-99 and 1999-2000) for a total of \$17.9 million. The SUS 2000-2001/2002-2003 PECO Project Priority List includes an additional \$13.2 million for the second and final phase for the Health & Life Sciences building (\$12.4 million for 2000-2001 and \$800,000 for 2001-2002).

Approximately \$27,000 in OCO funds have been allocated by Academic Affairs at FIU to purchase equipment for the program in Speech-Language Pathology. Equipment will be purchased for offices, a technology laboratory, and research-based speech-language-hearing-science instrumentation.

The University has Comprehensive University Presence funds (\$205,470) that will support implementation in the first few years of the program. Costs in the subsequent years will be funded through enrollments generated by the program.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
