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:	CS/SB 1994				
SPONSOR:	Committee on Children and Families and Senator Clary				
SUBJECT:	T: Child Care and Early Intervention				
DATE:	April 5, 2000	REVISED:	<u> </u>		
1. <u>Dowd</u> 2 3 4 5	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR Whiddon	REFERENCE CF HC FP	ACTION Favorable/CS	

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1994 makes a number of revisions in law to improve services to children in child care.

- ♦ The extension of eligibility to subsidized child care for children who are currently in the program is modified to allow families to remain in the program until their income reaches 200 percent of the federal poverty level, instead of the current 185 percent.
- Child care resource and referral agencies are directed to develop and distribute a check-list of important health and safety qualities that parents can use to choose their summer camp program. A workgroup is to be convened by the child care resource and referral network to develop recommendations for improving the health and safety qualities of summer camp programs.
- ♦ The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program, which has been funded through proviso language in the General Appropriations Act, is established in statute.
- ♦ The Child Care Health Consultant Program is created to provide consultation and technical assistance to child care centers and parents on early assessment, immunization, health and safety of the child care settings, nutrition, and obtaining health care.
- ♦ The age of the children related to the caregiver, who are counted in the maximum number of children to be served in large family child care homes is changed from under 12 years of age to under 13 years of age.
- ♦ Procedures are established for the Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, and Department of Education relative to children referred for Level III assessments of the developmental assessment program for subsidized child care.
- ♦ Child enrichment service providers is created as a category of child care service providers who deliver enrichment activities to individual children in child care settings.
- ♦ The percentage of costs which a county assuming the licensing and inspection authority is required to bear, is reduced from a minimum of 75 percent, to no more than 50 percent.
- ♦ The prohibition against funds from the child care purchasing pool being used to supplant already existing employer child care benefit programs is deleted.

♦ The licensing standards for child care facilities is amended to include requirements for the accountability of the children being transported. Large family child care homes are also added to the entities to which the requirements for child restraints and seat belts apply.

This bill substantially amends sections 402.27, 402.3015, 402.302, 402.305, 402.315, and 409.178 of the Florida Statutes. This bill also creates sections 402.3017, 402.3019, 402.3028, and 402.3054 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

In 1997, the number of children under 5 years of age in Florida was 976,152; of these children, 345,211 were enrolled in a child care program. Child care programs are quickly replacing the school as the first opportunity to begin early intervention, health promotion, and child development activities. However, the integration and coordination between health related services and child care, if improved, could provide tremendous opportunities for early identification of potential health and developmental problems and linkage with the interventions and services that prevent or minimize long term conditions and delays.

Subsidized Child Care

Florida's subsidized child care program supports parents' opportunities to work through the provision of reduced child care fees based on the parent's income level. Approximately 132,000 children are served and over \$452 million in federal, state and local funds are expended, including the Child Care Development Block Grant, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), state general revenue, and local match. The program is administered by the Department of Children and Family Services and managed through contracts with 25 community child care coordinating agencies that contract with providers of child care services. Section 402.3015, F.S., sets forth the purpose, conditions, and requirements of the subsidized child care program. Priority for participation in the subsidized child care program is given to children who are less than 13 years of age who are: at risk of abuse or neglect; at risk of welfare dependency, (including children of participants in the WAGES program, children of migrant farm workers, and children of teen parents); and children of working families whose family income is between 100 and 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Subsection (4) of s. 402.3015, F.S., extends participation in the subsidized child care program for those children who are eligible, until the family's income reaches 185 percent of the federal poverty level.

Summer Camp Programs

Summer camp programs are not licensed by the state of Florida. Section 402.302(2), F.S., excludes summer day camps from the definition of a child care facility, and in turn, from the child care licensing requirements, if the children served are over the age of 5 years. In addition, s. 409.175(5)(j), F.S., specifically prohibits the Department of Children and Family Services from licensing summer day camps, again if the children served are over the age of 5 years. The owners and operators of summer day camp programs are required to be fingerprinted for screening purposes, but not the other personnel. As a result, summer camp programs serving children over the age of 5 years, unless they choose to be licensed as a child care facility, have no standards

relative to ratios, health, or safety, and are not required to have personnel background checks on their employees.

The identification of available summer camp programs is currently a responsibility of the statewide child care resource and referral network, established pursuant to s. 402.27, F.S. This network is comprised of at least one child care resource and referral agency in each Department and Children and Family Services district. Some of the services outlined to be provided by the child care resource and referral agencies include: identification of existing child care and early childhood education services in the community (including vacation care programs); establishment of a referral process which responds to parental need for information; provision of information to child care centers; and assistance to families and employers in applying for various services.

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program

The T.E.A.C.H. program is designed to improve the quality of child care by supporting training and career development for child care professionals. The program provides scholarships for child care center teachers, family child care providers and center directors to earn an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree in Child Development and Education, a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, a CDA equivalency, or an Administrator Credential. In 1993, the T.E.A.C.H. program was piloted in Orlando with grant funding. It was expanded to Hillsborough and Palm Beach counties in 1997. The program has been funded through proviso language since 1998 as a statewide initiative and is currently allocated \$3 million. It is administered by the Florida Children's Forum which is the state organization representing the community child care coordinating agencies that manage the subsidized child care contracts. According to the Florida Children's Forum, 458 participants have completed the program and 1,949 are currently enrolled. The scholarships provide a majority of the cost of tuition and books, a per semester travel stipend, and a bonus to those who complete the program. The T.E.A.C.H. program is also established in five other states (North Carolina, New York, Illinois, Colorado, and Georgia).

Child Care Health Consultant Program

The Child Care Health Consultant Program grew out of a national Healthy Systems Development in Child Care grant program offered by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Child Care Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families, and is now a core component of the Healthy Child Care America Campaign sponsored by these same two federal agencies. Florida, through the Florida Children's Forum, has been a recipient of these grant funds for the last 3 years. Through this grant funding, the Florida Children's Forum undertook activities to facilitate integration of health care, child care, and social support services, to ensure safe and healthy child care environments, and to begin developing a child care health consultant program in Florida that could facilitate the accomplishment of all components of the initiative. These child care health consultants, as planned by the Forum, would work with child care providers to improve the health and safety of child care settings, using national health and safety standards for out-of-home care developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association. They would also link families with health care providers and health insurance coverage.

The child care community has recognized the need for more intensive health and safety training and technical assistance for child care centers. As a result, several child care resource and referral

agencies across the state have a staff person who spends part or all of their time providing health and safety training to child care providers and responding to the policy and program activity issues presented by child care providers. These policy issues have included exclusion of ill children, supervision, and sanitation (hand washing). Three of the health consultants attended the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants at the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health and plan to share what they learned with other health consultants through regional or state forums during the year.

Large Family Child Care Homes

Family child care homes, which provide small group child care in the home of the owner or operator, meet the needs of many working families by providing child care in an atmosphere that most closely resembles the parent's own home. Family child care increases the availability of care for mixed age groups, including siblings, and is preferred by many families for very young children or children with special needs. The Department of Children and Family Services reports there are 4,854 licensed family child care providers in Florida as of February 2000.

Section 402.302(7), F.S., stipulates that the children to be served in family child care homes are limited to four infants under the age of 1 year, or six preschoolers, or a maximum of 10 children, if no more than five of the children are preschool age and no more than two of those five are under 1 year. This limit on number of children for whom the family child care home is permitted to provide care includes those children under 13 years of age who are related to the caregiver.

Large family child care homes were established by ch. 99-304, L.O.F., and allow for more children to be served in a home, but with a corresponding increase in child care personnel. Section 402.302(8), F.S., limits the number of children to be served to eight children birth to 2 years, or 12 children with no more than four children under the age of 2 years. This limit on number of children for whom the large family child care homes are permitted to provide care includes those children under 12 years of age who are related to the caregiver.

Developmental Assessment in Subsidized Child Care

Chapter 99-304, L.O.F., directed the Department of Children and Family Services to establish a system for the behavioral observation and developmental assessment of young children in subsidized child care programs. The purpose of the assessment system is to assist the subsidized child care program in identifying and monitoring normal development and possible developmental delay, to determine whether a delay can be addressed by the child care facility or special services or whether further assessments are needed, and to determine if referrals to necessary early intervention programs or specialized services are necessary. This assessment system will consist of three levels. As it is currently being piloted, the child's development is assessed every 6 months by the child care staff or parent in the areas of motor, communication, cognition, and social-emotional skills using a checklist for the level I assessment. Children with low scores in one or more areas of development will be referred for a level II assessment. Level II assessments utilize professionals associated with the community child care coordinating agencies to conduct a more formal assessment of the children identified with low scores from the level I assessment. This assessment is used to confirm potential delays identified with the check list, and then to either determine whether the child care center can assist the child or to provide the required formal entry

assessment for the early intervention programs. Children who score low in one or more areas of development in this formal assessment will be referred for a level III evaluation and early intervention services. Specialists in the appropriate early intervention programs conduct a level III diagnostic evaluation. Children found eligible based on their delays or conditions will enter existing early intervention programs.

Two statewide early intervention programs exist to serve children with disabilities, developmental delays, or children who are at risk of developmental delays, the Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention Program and the Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities. Both programs provide therapeutic and support services to children and their families to minimize the impact of the delays or disabilities and enable the children to achieve their maximum potential. Services available that are provided based on the particular needs of the child and family include hearing and vision services, occupational and physical therapies, psychological and social work services, nursing, family training, home visits and counseling, and transportation. The Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention Program serves children ages birth to 36 months of age and is administered by the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services. The program receives state and federal funds, including Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C funds, as well as local community support. Services are provided by local early intervention programs, community providers, and local school districts. The Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities is authorized and funded in part by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, which mandates services to children ages 3 to 5 with disabilities. Services are provided through all the school districts.

Child Care Providers

Licensing standards for child care centers, as delineated in s. 402.305(2), F.S., set forth minimum requirements for all child care personnel. These minimum requirements include a minimum age, minimum training, periodic health examinations, and a level II screening as provided for in ch. 435, F.S. A level II screening includes a security background investigation to ensure that the person has not been found guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to any of the offenses identified in s. 435.04(2), F.S. These requirements apply to all owners, operators, employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility, s. 402.302(3), F.S. A volunteer who assists on a intermittent basis for less than 40 hours per month is not considered a "personnel" for the purposes of meeting the screening and training requirement, as long as the volunteer is under direct and constant supervision by persons who meet the personnel requirements. The licensing standards also include minimum staff-to-child ratios which provide for a minimum number of child care personnel who have met the prescribed standards for a certain number of children, based on the age of the children.

Many individuals provide services, such as story telling, music, computer training, and art at child care centers that supplement the regular program of the centers, and may be either compensated or volunteered. These individuals enrich the experiences and learning of the children. However, these individuals, since not child care personnel who have met all of the required standards, are not permitted to offer their services without direct supervision at all times by a child care staff that meets the requirements. There are opportunities for such individuals to provide individualized services or training separate from the class room; however, under current standards, a child care center staff would be required to leave the class room and supervise the out of class service or

training. Given that certain child-to-staff ratios under supervision must also be met, shifting a child care staff from a class to supervising the out-of-class service or training may bring the center's required child to staff ratio out of compliance unless extra staff is hired, which is a significant barrier to providers of the child care centers and the children who would benefit from the enrichment services.

Child Care Licensing Agencies

Section 402.305, F.S., requires the Department of Children and Family Services to establish licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must meet, regardless of the funding they use to operate the facility or the type of children served. Any county whose licensing standards meet or exceed state minimum standards may designate a local licensing agency to license child care facilities in the county, s. 402.306(1), F.S. Section 402.315, F.S., requires the Department of Children and Family Services to bear the costs of licensing child care facilities when the department is responsible for the licensing. If the county uses a local agency to license child care facilities, that county is required to bear at least 75 percent of the costs.

Currently, ten counties license child care facilities instead of the state; Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Hillsborough, Jackson, Leon, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota. These counties are required to pay 75 percent of the cost of licensure while in the other 57 counties, the state funds the entire cost of licensure. However, the proportion actually contributed by each county ranges from 33 percent in Polk to 81 percent in Broward. The ten counties that designate local agencies to license child care facilities spend \$2,333,911 for licensure and the department contributes \$1,944,486. Counties may receive others funds to cover their share of the costs. Jackson County is returning licensing authority to the department as at least four other counties have done over the last several years.

Child Care Executive Partnership

The Child Care Executive Partnership Program is an innovative strategy that expands child care subsidies for low-income working families at a reduced cost to the state by creating incentives for employers, local government, and other partners to share the cost of child care, s. 409.178, F.S. A child care purchasing pool, with a dollar-for-dollar match from legislatively appropriated funds, is used by communities to assist low-income families with child care. This pool may also be used by employers to contribute funds which are matched for their own employees eligible for subsidized child care. Subsection (3) of s. 409.178, F.S., stipulates that the child care purchasing pool must be used to supplement existing efforts to provide child care and cannot supplant the funding provided by existing employers or other partners. Any funding provided by employers which is not initiated through this child care purchasing pool cannot be used to generate the appropriated match established to draw additional funds.

Funding of up to \$10 million was appropriated for the Child Care Executive Partnership program for FY 1999-2000. This funding has gradually increased since the first year of funding in FY 1996-1997 at \$2 million. In addition to the local governments and non-profit organizations, approximately 35 private businesses have contributed to the local child care purchasing pools. Thus far this year, 3,500 low-income children have been served through the partnership program.

Child Care Programs' Transporting of Children

Child care programs transport the children enrolled in their programs for a number of reasons, including field trips and pick-up or drop-off at school for before and after school care. The child care facility licensing requirements include meeting minimum standards relative to transportation safety. This transportation component provides for requirements for child restraints or seat belts, annual inspections of the vehicles, and limitation of the number of children in the vehicles. These standards do not include, however, any accountability for the children, such as ensuring that a child is picked up from the school, ensuring that a child is not left behind on a field trip, and ensuring that a child is not left on a vehicle after departing.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 1994 makes a number of revisions in law to improve services to children in child care.

Subsidized Child Care

Section 402.3015(1)(c), F.S., is modified to allow the Department of Children and Family Services to extend eligibility to children who are currently in the subsidized child care program until the family incomes reaches 200 percent of the federal poverty level, instead of the currently allowed 185 percent. This permits families who meet the 150 percent of the federal poverty level and receive subsidized child care services, to continue to receive this support until their income is at a level that better enables them to be self-sufficient. In addition, subsection (10) is added to s. 402.3015, F.S., which requires the department to consider families who are eligible to participate in the subsidized child care system as "needy" for the purposes of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, to the extent permitted by the appropriated funds. This provision allows TANF dollars to be used to fund child care services for families eligible for subsidized child care.

Summer Camp Programs

The services to be provided by the child care resource and referral agencies are expanded to include assistance to families in not only identifying summer recreation camps or summer day camp programs, but also in evaluating the health and safety qualities of summer camp programs. Section 402.27, F.S., is amended to also direct the child care resource and referral agencies to develop a check list of important health and safety qualities that parents can use in choosing their summer camp program and distributing this information to interested parents. The statewide child care resource and referral network is also directed to convene a workgroup for the purpose of developing recommendations for improving the health and safety qualities of summer camp programs without over regulation. The workgroup is to include representatives from summer camp program related associations, the Department of Children and Family Services, parents, and other interested individuals and organizations identified by the network. A report of the recommendations shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2001.

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program

Section 402.3017, F.S., is created, establishing in statute the T.E.A.C.H. program. Legislative findings are presented which state that child care personnel education and training are key predictors for determining program quality. The legislative intent to fund a program that links child care personnel training and education to compensation and a commitment to early childhood education is stated. The department is authorized to contract for the administration of the T.E.A.C.H. program which provides educational scholarships to caregivers, administrators, family child care homes and large family child care homes. This program has been funded through proviso language in the General Appropriations Act for 2 years. This provision establishes the program in statute rather than solely in proviso.

Child Care Health Consultant Program

Section 402.3019, F.S., is created and establishes the Child Care Health Consultant Program. At least one child care health consultant may be established in each of the 25 community child care coordinating agencies, contingent upon the approval of the local school readiness coalitions. The child care health consultants are health related professionals who will provide consultation and technical assistance to child care centers and parents on early assessment, immunization, health and safety of the child care settings, nutrition, and obtaining health care. Flexibility is provided to each community through its local school readiness coalition to determine the specific duties of each of their consultants. However, duties provided in the bill that may be identified for a community's consultant include coordinating the screening of children in child care settings for age-appropriate development, facilitating on-site technical assistance of health and safety programs in child care settings, and coordinating and facilitating the tracking of health problems and interventions. The network of child care health consultants provided through this program is intended to create partnerships between the child care and health care communities and thus greater access to needed services for parents, assist child care providers and parents identify health problems and potential delays and access needed health care or early intervention services, and assist child care facilities provide healthy and safe child care environments.

The bill provides for the development of a comprehensive training program for child care health consultants to be offered by a university through a contract with the Florida Partnership for School Readiness. The contracting university is charged with developing and offering a training program for child care health consultants, developing and providing a child care health consultant curricula to students in public health and related fields, and conducting surveys to collect child health status data and evaluation and outcome data.

Large Family Child Care Homes

Section 402.302(8), F.S., is modified to change the age of the children related to the caregiver who are counted in the maximum number of children served in large family child care homes from under 12 years of age, to under 13 years of age. Large family child care homes were created in statute in 1999. This revision conforms the age cap for children related to the caregiver to the same age cap as is provided for regular family child care homes.

Developmental Assessment in Subsidized Child Care

The bill creates s. 402.3028, F.S., which establishes procedures for the Department of Health, Department of Children and Family Services, and Department of Education for making referrals for level III assessment of the developmental assessments in subsidized child care as delineated in 402.3027, F.S. Children who are under the age of 3 years, who are determined to need a level III assessment, are referred to the Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention Program and an assessment is to be completed within 45 days. Children who are age 3 through 5 years are referred to the appropriate program under the local school district or local service provider. The legislative intent that the assessments of these children over the age of three years be completed within 45 days is provided. If these designated programs are not provided, the children can be referred to a local community provider. This provision strengthens the linkage between the subsidized child care program developmental assessment process and the early intervention programs. It also provides an intended time frame for which the early intervention programs are to respond to the referral and conduct the assessments.

Child Care Provider

Section 402.3054, F.S., relating to child enrichment service providers is created. Child enrichment service providers are established as a category of child care service providers who deliver enrichment activities to individual children in child care settings and are compensated by the child's parent or facility. Enrichment activities include language training, music instruction, educational instruction, and other experiences that are provided to specific children outside the regular classroom program. The bill requires that parents provide written consent before a child may participate in activities conducted by a child enrichment provider. A level 2 screening as provided in ch. 435, F.S., is required of a child enrichment service provider which, once met, will eliminate the requirement for direct and constant supervision by child care personnel. This requirement for a level 2 screening requirement will provide for a security background check that will offer the same assurance of no criminal background for child enrichment service providers as is provided for child care personnel before leaving a child with the provider without supervision.

Chid Care Licensing Agencies

CS/SB 1994 amends subsection (1) of s. 402.315, F.S., to require counties assuming licensing and inspection authority (with standards that meet or exceed state standards), to bear no more than 50 percent of the costs involved in licensing. For counties that take the responsibility of licensing instead of the state performing this function, this bill reduces the level of funding that the counties are required to provide to the cost of licensing and inspecting child care facilities from at least 75 percent, to no more than 50 percent. Currently, if the state licenses child care facilities, the state funds all licensing costs. This provision will require that the state fund a higher portion of the costs for the existing counties that have assumed this function. It may also prevent counties from returning licensing authority to the state, at which time the state would be required to assume 100 percent of the costs. In addition, this may provide an incentive for other counties to designate a local licensing agency, which would reduce the state costs for those counties.

Child Care Executive Partnership

Subsection (3) of s. 409.178, F.S., is amended to delete the prohibition that funds from the child care purchasing pool, which consists of funds from employers and other local sources matched

with federal block grant funds, not supplant already existing employer child care benefit programs. This deletion allows businesses or other local contributors, which are providing child care subsidies using 100 percent of the employer or other local funding, to now use these funds to draw matching dollars. This will result in either more subsidy dollars being generated to assist more low income families or local or employer funds being freed up. These freed up funds would be available for additional employee benefits, such as health or dental coverage or other unrelated uses.

Child Care Programs Transporting of Children

Subsection (10) of s. 402.305, F.S., is amended to require that the licensing standards for child care facilities developed by the Department of Children and Family Services relative to transportation safety include requirements for the accountability of the children being transported. Large family child care homes are added to the entities to which the requirements for child restraints and seat belts in vehicles apply. This will allow the department to develop minimum standards relative to child check-in and check-out procedures during the transporting process to ensure that children being transported are accounted for.

The bill provides for an effective date of July 1, 2000.

 Constitutional issues.			

Α.	Municipal	lity/County	Mandates	Restrictions:
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В.	Public Records/C	pen Meetings	lssues:

None.

Constitutional Issues

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

According to the Department of Children and Family Services, there will be some undetermined impact on providers wishing to contract with individual parents or child care

centers to provide enrichment services in child care centers, from the cost of the required background screening by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The cost of the screen is \$32. The number of providers is unknown.

Additional revenue will be available to businesses that use their existing child care benefit program funds as match for child care purchasing pool funds. Businesses can either use the freed up funds available to provide subsidized child care for more employees, for other types of employee benefits, or other business expenditures.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Expanding Eligibility for Subsidized Child Care from 185 percent to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level: The Department of Children and Family Services has determined there will be no fiscal impact from the proposed child care eligibility extension from 185 percent to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for children already receiving subsidized child care. Families are eligible to receive subsidized child care when their income is under 150 percent of the FPL. Currently, they continue to be eligible until their income increases to 185 percent of the FPL. The proposed extension will not increase the number of families funded to receive services. Families already receiving subsidized child care will receive it longer. Because families will stay in subsidized child care longer, the waiting list should increase.

<u>Child Care Health Consultants</u>: According to the Florida Children's Forum estimate, the total additional expenditures required for one child care consultant in each of the 25 child care coordinating agencies, plus one Child Care Forum employee to coordinate and university support are \$2,598,071. The costs include:

25 Child care health consultants:	Each	Total
Salary and benefits	\$56,250	\$1,406,250
Travel and office equipment	\$23,200	\$580,000
1 Children's Forum coordinator:		
Salary and benefits	\$66,563	\$66,563
Travel and benefits	\$13,150	\$13,150
University Training Support		
Including, salaries/benefits,		
materials, postage, and travel		\$532,108
Total:		\$2,598,071

<u>Funding County Licensure of Child Care Facilities:</u> The Department of Children and Family Services estimates the additional expenditures required for the state to contribute 50 percent of the funding for the 10 counties that choose to licensure child care is \$1,121,763. This will in turn reduce the expenditures by county government for this service. Since counties would be required to pay no more than 50 percent of the cost, this level of funding could be greater and the state could be legally requested to pay the full cost.

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.

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