

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 714

SPONSOR: Natural Resources Committee and Senator Forman

SUBJECT: Solid and hazardous waste management

DATE: February 7, 2000

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Voigt</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to include in its annual legislative budget request funding for the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc., from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund to assist Florida's public and private sectors with solid and hazardous waste management.

II. Present Situation:

In 1981, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Florida State University, began the operation of the Florida Waste Information Exchange (FWIX). In 1982, the FWIX changed its name to the Southern Waste Information Exchange and significantly expanded its service area to the southern region of the United States in order to improve the waste recycling, use, and reuse opportunities for Florida waste generators and to respond more effectively to the many inquiries about Florida's solid waste stream from potential clients outside Florida. The Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc., (SWIX), operates as a nonprofit Florida 501(c)(3) organization. The SWIX operates as a nonprofit clearinghouse for information on:

- Availability of and demand for waste materials;
- Recycling, recovery, waste use and reuse opportunities;
- Products made from recycled materials;
- Proper disposal practices;
- Waste management services and products; and
- Federal, state and local regulations that affect waste management.

Since its inception in 1981, the emphasis of the SWIX has been on encouraging and facilitating sound environmental and cost-effective alternatives to the landfilling, incineration or treatment of solid and hazardous waste through direct interaction with waste generators in both the public and private sectors.

The SWIX produces a catalog that provides a confidential listing of waste materials designed to assist industry in the area of solid and hazardous waste management. The catalog provides up-to-date information concerning the availability of and demand for waste materials as well as providing information related to waste management services and products. Published three times a year, the catalog is distributed to government agencies and private firms in the southeastern United States.

The SWIX has been receiving funding from the Department of Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Management Trust Fund (SWMTF). In FY 1998-1999 SWIX received \$300,000 from the SWMTF and is currently funded from the SWMTF in the amount of \$300,000 for FY 1999-2000. The Governor's 2000-2001 Legislative Budget Recommendations proposes to use \$300,000 from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund to fund the SWIX.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill provides that the Legislature recognizes the need for statewide solid and hazardous waste management assistance to Florida's private businesses, industries, and the public sector including local units of government. In order to assist the department in providing solid and hazardous waste management assistance to Florida's public and private sectors on a continuing basis, the Legislature recognizes the need for a waste exchange as part of the state's comprehensive solid and hazardous waste management programs, and designates the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc. (SWIX) to provide this service to Florida's private and public sectors.

The Department of Environmental Protection shall include in its annual legislative budget request pursuant to s. 216.023, F.S., funding for the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc. The amount of funding to be included in the legislative budget request shall be based on the department's evaluation of the total funding demands of the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund and of the funding needs requested by the Southern Waste Information Exchange, Inc., to operate, maintain and expand a waste exchange service and such similar related services as requested by the private sector and local governments.

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:

According to the June 30, 1999 Final Report from SWIX, approximately 93,104 tons of waste materials (with an estimated cost-savings in reduced disposal costs to waste generators of \$7,407,041) were successfully recycled, used or reused. This amounted to a cost/benefit ratio of \$1:\$40. This means that for every state dollar invested in the operation of the SWIX program, \$40 was avoided in disposal costs to waste generators. The bill would provide funding to the SWIX, through the DEP's legislative budget request, to assist the private sector in their efforts to keep waste out of Florida's landfills, and would statutorily recognize the SWIX and its role in assisting the private sector, particularly small businesses, in their waste reduction and management practices.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Currently, the SWIX is a joint project of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Chamber of Commerce. The DEP has included the SWIX in their budget requests for several years. For FY 1998-1999 and FY 1999-2000, the SWIX was funded by a separate appropriation from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund. The SWIX is intended to supplement the DEP's waste reduction and pollution prevention activities by engaging the public sector.

The bill provides that the Department of Environmental Protection is required to include in its annual legislative budget request funding for SWIX. The budget request is to be based on the total funding demands on the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.