

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: SB 674

SPONSOR: Senator Saunders

SUBJECT: Volunteer and Community Services

DATE: March 5, 2001

REVISED: 3/08/01

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Wilson	Wilson	GO	Fav/1 amendment
2.			CA	
3.			AGG	
4.			AP	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

The bill creates the "Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act" to permit the gubernatorial establishment of programs and policies which foster the use of volunteer activities that complement the achievement of state goals.

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law and amends s. 14.29, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

On October 11, 1993, Governor Lawton Chiles signed an Executive Order creating the Florida Commission on Community Service (commission). The following year that order was codified as s. 14.29, F.S. The commission is the designated state agency for receipt of federal funds under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 through its Corporation for National Service. The commission's fiscal agent is Tallahassee Community College.

The commission received \$625,000 in state appropriations as part of its \$14.7 million budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. About seventy percent of its total budget comes from AmeriCorps. As of March 16, 2000, one or more funded commission programs were located in 26 Florida counties. The commission's principal service operations are *AmeriCorps*, *Learn & Serve America*, and the *National Senior Service Corps*.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. The bill authorizes the State of Florida to develop policies that encourage the use of volunteer activities among public and private agencies and individuals. That office is further authorized to establish specific policies in the areas of volunteer resources, the use of volunteer activities within public agencies, and the support and recognition of volunteers and their activities.

Section 2. The bill amends s. 14.29, F.S., to provide for the issuance of an annual report on the state of volunteerism in Florida. The commission may also apply for such grants as may assist its statutory mission and assist state agencies in implementing volunteerism objectives. The commission may secure such assistance as it needs from its direct-support organization, Volunteer Florida, Incorporated.

Section 3. The bill is effective upon becoming a law.

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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Use of the phrase “(t)he state may establish policies and procedures which provide for the expenditure of funds. . .” provides no clarity for the location of this decision. The context appears

to suggest that it is any agency but that the actual decision will be affected by actions taken by the Executive Office of the Governor.

VII. Related Issues:

Volunteer service is recognized in various sections of the Florida Statutes. Among the most notable are those providing immunity in ch. 768, F.S.; the use of volunteers in mental health assistance programs in ch. 394, F.S.; and the use of volunteers in state agency programs, under the general authority provided the Department of Management Services in ch. 110, F.S.

VIII. Amendments:

#1 by Governmental Oversight and Productivity:

Provides that volunteer policies shall be established by the Executive Office of the Governor rather than “the state.”

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