

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 296

SPONSOR: Senator Pruitt

SUBJECT: Authorize New Programs at Universities

DATE: November 29, 2001 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	White	O'Farrell	ED	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	AED	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes the University of West Florida to conduct a bachelor of science in nursing degree program and authorizes the Florida Atlantic University to conduct a master's in social work degree program.

The bill creates two sections of law; the Division of Statutory Revision will determine whether they will become statutes or remain in the 2002 Laws of Florida.

II. Present Situation:

Current law requires the Legislature to approve any new program leading to a degree that is required as a condition for a license granted under the Florida Statutes.

The Board of Nursing requires proof of graduation from an approved nursing program as a condition of licensure to practice as a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse.

The University of West Florida currently has a 2-year nursing program to allow registered nurses to earn the bachelor of science in nursing degree. In November 2000, the Board of Regents approved a full 4-year (124-credit hour) generic bachelor of science in nursing degree program at the University of West Florida. The estimated enrollment is 60 students, or 45 full-time-equivalent students.

Section 491.005, F.S., requires graduation from an accredited graduate school of social work as a condition of licensure as a clinical social worker. For programs in the United States, accreditation must be by the Council on Social Work Education.

In July 2000, the Board of Regents approved the request of Florida Atlantic University to implement a master's in social work degree program. The university projects 40 students to enroll in the first year, or 20 full-time-equivalent students. Under full implementation in 5 years, the estimated enrollment is 160 students (100 FTE). The university has faculty in place and will need to commit only five new faculty lines to the program

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration authorizes the University of West Florida to conduct a bachelor of science in nursing degree program. It authorizes the Florida Atlantic University to conduct a master's in social work degree program.

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:

Residents of the service area of UWF and FAU will have access to degree programs in nursing and social work without having to travel out of the area. Graduates will be available to meet the needs of the region for nursing and clinical social work.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The new programs are included in the university enrollment plans and will not affect current budgets.

The University of West Florida is prepared to make the financial commitment by internal reallocation. Area hospitals have pledged \$300,000 to initiate the program and are willing to provide additional support in the form of tuition reimbursement for hospital employees, clinical experiences for students, use of hospital classrooms and other in-kind contributions.

The Florida Atlantic University has employed three new faculty to start up the new 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.
