

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 6-E

SPONSOR: Senator Sullivan

SUBJECT: Dale Hickam Excellent Teaching Program

DATE: April 29, 2002

REVISED: _____

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

I. Summary:

This bill names the Excellent Teaching Program and trust fund for the late R. Dale Hickam, who was Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1010.72 and 1012.72.

It repeals the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 236.08106 and 236.08107.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

II. Present Situation:

On the morning of April 4, 2002, members and staff of the Legislature were stunned and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Dale Hickam, who served the Senate for 22 years as an analyst of education budget issues. Mr. Hickam was a dutiful staffer who assisted many of Florida's education leaders to implement programs of their own imagination, but he was also a man of ideas who sometimes handed education leaders the spark that ignited change.

The Excellent Teaching Program was such a change. During the Legislative Session of 1998, Mr. Hickam worked with leaders of the House as well as the Senate to approve and fund a program to motivate teachers to undergo rigorous preparation for recognition by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, and to reward those who earn the prestigious certificate.

Under this program the state pays 90 percent of the application fee and rewards successful applicants with an annual bonus of 10 percent of the statewide average teacher's salary. An additional annual 10 percent bonus is provided to teachers who hold NBPTS certification, have a satisfactory annual performance appraisal, and provide the equivalent of 12 workdays of mentoring services outside the 196 regular service days.

In 1998, only 22 teachers in Florida held national board certification. Since the initiation of the Excellent Teaching Program, that number has increased to 2,260 in 2001-2002.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The legislation under consideration names the Excellent Teaching Program and trust fund for the late Dale Hickam.

The bill uses the statute numbering convention in SB 20-E, which creates new statutes in ch. 1000, F.S., and repeals the former statutes in ch. 236, F.S. The bill also eliminates the repeal date of the trust fund, which the 2002 Legislature in regular session reenacted with a new repeal date.

The bill also contains the *in pari materia* clause to include any other change made during the 2002 Legislative Session and avoid the potential confusion of amending a repealed statute.

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:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Richard Dale Hickam was born December 14, 1947, in Kingsport, Tennessee. After high school in Kingsport, he attended New College of Florida and earned the Bachelor of Arts in sociology in 3 years' time. He attended Teachers College at Columbia University in New York and was recruited to Florida by Senator Jack Gordon in 1978. At Columbia, he had completed coursework and certification examinations required to be a candidate for a doctorate in Politics and Education.

While in New York, Mr. Hickam worked for a task force appointed to recommend changes in the state's public school funding system subsequent to a judicial finding that the existing system was unconstitutional. Prior to that assignment, he was a research assistant and consultant to the Ford Foundation's Division of Education and Research.

He came to Florida in 1980 as education budget analyst for the Florida Senate and was promoted to Deputy Director of the Appropriations Committee. In recent years, he enriched his personal and professional life by participating in a national personal growth program sponsored by Global Relationship Centers, a program for which he used his abilities as a teacher and communicator to assist people throughout the country to improve their standards for emotional health and well-being.

Mr. Hickam enjoyed physical fitness, cooking, and decorating. His new house and Christmas collections were featured in a recent edition of a local Tallahassee style magazine. His friends included many colleagues in the Legislature and Department of Education, and all of them benefited from his gracious hospitality sparked with keen observational powers and wit.

His family includes a brother, Vincent Hickam of Johnson City, Tennessee, two nieces, a nephew, and several cousins.

He died unexpectedly on April 4, 2002.

VIII. Amendments:

None.