

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LOCAL BILL STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 655 w/CS Brevard County Clam Licenses
SPONSOR(S): Needelman
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>Finance & Tax</u>	<u>20 Y, 0 N w/CS</u>	<u>Levin</u>	<u>Diez-Arguelles</u>
2) _____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill reduces from three to one the number of years a clam license is valid, and it reduces the license fees accordingly. CS/HB 655 also reduces the penalty for late purchase of a license. It reduces the number of clam harvesting licenses which may be issued from 500 to 400. It also directs the Fish and Wildlife Commission to remit license proceeds, less reasonable costs, to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Finally, the bill extends the expiration date of the Special Act from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2008.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. DOES THE BILL:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Under current law in Brevard County, all clam licenses are issued for a three year period. Licenses for residents cost \$300 and licenses for non-residents costs \$1,200. There is an additional \$1,200 late fee if the license is purchased after the annual 61 day license issuance period. The maximum number of licenses which may be active and renewed is 500 licenses.

Under the proposed changes, licenses will be purchased annually. The current 3 year \$300 resident license is changed to a 1 year, \$100 license and the 3 year \$1200 non-resident license is changed to a \$400 annual license. The penalty for purchasing a late license is changed from \$1200 to \$400. Also, there is a prohibition upon the issuance of new clam licenses until the total number of active and renewed licenses falls below 400 licenses for the previous year. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is allowed to retain reasonable costs associated with issuing the licenses and assessing the late fees. The remaining licensing funds are transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The expiration of this Special Law is extended from July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2008.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends subsections (1), (3), (4) and (7) of section 2 and sections 5 and 12 of section 1 of Chapter 2000-451, Laws of Florida, relating to the costs of clam licenses and late fees in Brevard County, and directing these proceeds, less reasonable costs of issuance, to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Section 2. Extends the expiration of the Special Act to July 1, 2008.

II. NOTICE/REFERENDUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

A. NOTICE PUBLISHED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN? January 30, 2003

WHERE? *Florida Today*, a daily newspaper published in Brevard County, Florida.

B. REFERENDUM(S) REQUIRED? Yes No

IF YES, WHEN?

C. LOCAL BILL CERTIFICATION FILED? Yes, attached No

D. ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FILED? Yes, attached No

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

No apparent issues

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

No additional rule making authority appears to be necessary.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENT/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Changes resulting from the amendment of HB 655 in the Finance & Tax Committee are incorporated in the body of this analysis.