

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: CS/CS/SB 1562

SPONSOR: Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee, Home Defense, Public Security and Ports Committee, and Senator Dockery

SUBJECT: Florida Institute for Nuclear Security

DATE: April 13, 2004 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Dodson</u>	<u>Skelton</u>	<u>HP</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Rhea</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>ACJ</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
5.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Creates the Florida Institute for Nuclear Security within the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences at the University of Florida to conduct research and perform other activities to identify and develop technologies to improve nuclear security and promote nuclear nonproliferation. Establishes a governing board and provides authority to appoint a director.

Authorizes the Florida Institute for Nuclear Security to accept funds and grant allocations from federal, state, and local government and private entities to conduct research and development in the area of nuclear security technology.

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The mission of the proposed Florida Institute for Nuclear Security is to serve as a design-basis center for research, development, testing, and engineering projects that directly satisfy critical nuclear detection problems. The institute will engage in design and testing of interrogation, detection, and assessment devices for monitoring nuclear substances. The institute will explore development of devices for identification of isotopes and materials in structural, agricultural, and biological systems of various types. The purpose of the institute is to improve the safety and economy for the public and provide a unique environment in which to educate and train qualified engineers who are familiar with advanced nuclear detection and nondestructive testing.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Creates the Florida Institute for Nuclear Security within the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences at the University of Florida. The institute is created as a design-basis center for research, development, testing and engineering projects that directly address and satisfy critical nuclear detection and security needs facing Florida and the nation. The institute consists of faculty, support and other staff. The institute is to be funded by state, federal and private funds collected for the purpose of the institute.

The institute is to be headed by a director who has a national reputation in the field of nuclear sciences. The director is appointed by the Dean of the University of Florida College of Engineering. The director serves at the pleasure of the Dean.

The bill authorizes the institute to accept funds and grant allocations from federal, state, and local government and private entities for the purpose of conducting research and development in the area of nuclear security technology. The board is required to ensure that the institute maintains accurate records of any funds received by the institute.

Activities of the institute include design and testing of innovative interrogation, detection, and assessment devices for monitoring nuclear material; development of devices for identification of isotopes and materials in structural, agricultural, and biological systems of various types; and training of high quality scientists and engineers.

The activities of the institute are to be directed by a board of eight advisors with expertise in nuclear science and industry. These board members serve without compensation but are authorized per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, F.S.

The institute must file an annual report on its progress with recommendations on nuclear security and detection to the Governor, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report also must include financial statements that include an accounting of all funds received and expended. The financial statement must also be filed with the Auditor General.

The bill is effective upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

It is not clear whether the Institute would benefit from any current exemptions for public records or meetings created for the University of Florida. Without applicable exemptions, the work of the Institute and its meetings could be open under the requirements of Article I, s. 24 of the State Constitution.

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:

This bill does not contain an appropriation to fund the Institute.

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.
