

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/SB 1870

SPONSOR: Committee on Agriculture and Senator Crist

SUBJECT: Lowry Park Zoo

DATE: March 25, 2004

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Akhavein</u>	<u>Poole</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>NR</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	<u>AGG</u>	_____
5.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The 41-acre Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, Florida, has been serving as a center for conservation and preservation of endangered wildlife since opening in 1988. This bill designates the zoo as the state center for Florida species conservation and biodiversity, including captive breeding, animal husbandry, conservation education, and veterinary care and rescue, rehabilitation, research, and release of Florida's endangered and threatened species consisting of the Florida manatee, panther, red wolf, Key deer, Key Largo wood rat, and whooping crane. This recognition shall not be construed as exempting the Lowry Park Zoo from the regulatory purview of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The Lowry Park Zoo has indicated that this designation would attract national funding that would enable it to provide care for Florida's endangered species, further develop its conservation and research programs and develop stronger partnerships and other professional collaborations with local, national and international conservation groups.

This bill creates an as yet undesignated section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Lowry Park Zoo is located in Tampa, Florida, and is ranked as one of the top three mid-sized zoos in the United States. It is the best attended not-for-profit attraction in Florida with 766,422 attendees last year and 80 percent local visitation. Approximately half of the zoo's animal inventory of 1600 animals is comprised of Florida native species.

Lowry Park Zoo currently maintains a leadership role in the conservation of Florida's endangered species. The designation by the State of Florida will allow Lowry Park Zoo to

continue to expand its reach nationally and internationally by demonstrating that the work of Lowry Park Zoo on the State's endangered species is recognized as of statewide significance. It will also help to attract additional private funding from individuals, corporations, and foundations regionally and nationally for capital developments, program support, and endowments in support of conservation and education programs conducted in the State of Florida.

With additional funding, Lowry Park Zoo will be able to:

- Continue to provide excellent care for Florida's endangered species;
- Further develop Lowry Park Zoo's conservation and research programs;
- Ensure that the most appropriate and beneficial veterinary technology is in place to care for sick and injured wildlife;
- Attract resources to the State of Florida from a more diverse nationwide group of funders, who will support specific conservation projects;
- Ensure higher visibility for Lowry Park Zoo's conservation education programming to attract broader participation; and
- Develop stronger partnerships and other professional collaboration with local, national, and international conservation organizations.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Designates the Lowry Park Zoo, a not-for-profit corporation located in the city of Tampa, as the state center for Florida species conservation and biodiversity. Specifies that such recognition shall not be construed as exempting the Lowry Park Zoo from the regulatory purview of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Section 2. Provides that this act shall take effect 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:

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.
