

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 624

SPONSOR: Education Committee and Senator Miller

SUBJECT: Building Designations – Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

DATE: March 8, 2004

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Dormady</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>White</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	<u>GO</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Committee Substitute for SB 624 designates the School of Business and Industry building at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) as the “Sybil Collins Mobley Building” and the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication building at FAMU as the “Thelma Thurston Gorham Building.” The bill also authorizes FAMU to erect suitable markers designating the buildings as such.

This bill creates an undesignated section that will be published in the Laws of Florida, but which will not be codified in statute according to representatives of Statutory Revision.

The act will take effect upon becoming law.

II. Present Situation:

Section 267.062, F.S., requires approval in law before naming a state building or other facility for a living person. Pursuant to this requirement, if a university wishes to name a building or facility after a living person, the designation must be approved by the Legislature.

Because Thelma Thurston Gorham was deceased in 1992, FAMU is not required to receive legislative approval to name the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication Building after her. Although legislative action is not required with respect to this building designation, no legal restriction prohibits the Legislature from approving the building name.

Dr. Sybil Collins Mobley served as the Dean of FAMU School of Business and Industry for four decades. During her tenure as dean, she brought national prominence to the business

program at FAMU, which is now ranked among the best nationally. She retired in June, 2003, after 58 years of service to the university.

Dr. Mobley earned a B.A. from Bishop College, an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of Business, and a Ph.D. in Accountancy from the University of Illinois. She also holds honorary degrees from Wharton, Babson, Bishop College, Washington University, and Princeton University. She has received the Distinguished Commerce Alumni Award from the University of Illinois in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of higher education. She has been a member of the board of directors at Hershey Foods, Anheuser-Busch, and Sears Roebuck corporations. She has served on two presidential commissions, served as a special consultant to USAID in Africa, and served as the vice president of the American Accounting Association and the American Institute of CPAs. Dr. Mobley is a member of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

Thelma Thurston Gorham, born in 1913, was a pioneer in the field of journalism. She received a B.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1935 and an M.A. from the University of Minnesota in 1951. As her first job after graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1935, she took a job as a police reporter for the Kansas City Call. By 1938, just three years later, she had been named the editor of the paper's Kansas City bureau. During her 50-year career, Ms. Gorham held a variety of journalism positions, writing for newspapers and magazines, serving as an editor at an Army base during World War II, and finally becoming a professor of journalism. Ms. Gorham joined the faculty at FAMU in the 1970s. As a professor in the English department at FAMU, she was pivotal in developing FAMU's journalism school. Ms. Gorham died in Tallahassee in January, 1992.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill designates the School of Business and Industry building at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) as the "Sybil Collins Mobley Building" and the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication building at FAMU as the "Thelma Thurston Gorham Building." The bill also authorizes FAMU to erect suitable markers designating the buildings as such.

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:

FAMU will incur the cost of erecting suitable markers for the newly designated buildings. The usual cost for these markers is approximately \$250.

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.
