

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 873 CS
SPONSOR(S): Brandenburg
TIED BILLS:

Building Designations

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1636

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Colleges & Universities Committee	10 Y, 0 N, w/CS	Davis	Tilton
2) Education Appropriations Committee			
3) Education Council			
4) _____			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Current law does not permit a state building, road, bridge, park, recreation complex, or similar facility to be named after a living person unless the name designation is approved by law. Pursuant to this requirement, if a university wishes to name a particular building or facility after a living person, the designation must be approved by the Legislature.

The bill designates the new alumni center at Florida Atlantic University as the "Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center" and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University-Florida State University College of Engineering building as the "Herbert F. Morgan Building." Florida Atlantic University, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Florida State University are directed to erect suitable markers to reflect these designations.

The bill provides an effective date of upon becoming law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Section 267.062, F.S., provides that no state building, road, bridge, park, recreational complex, or similar facility can be named after a living person unless approved by law. Therefore, if a university wishes to name a particular building or facility after a living person, the designation must be approved by the Legislature.

A section-by-section analysis of the bill follows. The biographical information was provided by the sponsors of the proposed designations.

Section 1: The bill designates the new alumni center at Florida Atlantic University as the “Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center” and directs Florida Atlantic University to erect suitable markers.

Marleen Forkas was the first woman to graduate from the Fashion Institute of Technology’s Management Engineering Division. She went on to build a 40-year career as a designer and manufacturer for leading fashion houses.

Harold Forkas began his career working in the office supply business before moving on to sales and management for the Coca-Cola Company. He later had the opportunity to explore entrepreneurship as a Midas Muffler franchisee; by 1988, he owned eight Midas Muffler dealerships.

Marleen and Harold Forkas have a strong philanthropic background. They are involved in several charitable organizations including the Boca Raton Community Hospital Foundation and the Boca Raton Museum of Art. Their involvement with Florida Atlantic University began in 1997 when the couple began attending performances at Florida Atlantic University’s University Center. They became members of the University’s Inner Circle of Football Founders, and were behind the university’s efforts to establish a football team.

More recently, the couple has turned their philanthropic interests to the efforts of the Florida Atlantic University National Alumni Association, donating \$1 million for the construction of a permanent facility to house the association.

Section 2: The bill designates the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University-Florida State University College of Engineering Building as the “Herbert F. Morgan Building” and directs Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and Florida State University to erect suitable markers.

Herbert F. Morgan earned a business degree from Florida State University in 1966. While there, he received the James D. Westcott Distinguished Service Medal. In 2003, Mr. Morgan received an honorary doctoral degree from Florida State University. Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College have established a joint scholarship in Mr. Morgan’s name.

Mr. Morgan was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1974 and served until 1986. As a state representative, he served for eight years as Chairman of the Appropriation Committee and also served as Chair of the Rules and Calendar Committee. Mr. Morgan was a key player in the revision of Florida’s Budgeting system. He was dedicated to improving Florida’s educational system and improving care for disabled and mentally ill Floridians. Mr. Morgan is a two-time recipient of the Allen Morris Award for the most effective member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Morgan was instrumental in the creation and funding of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University-Florida State University Engineering Program.

Section 3: This bill will take effect upon becoming law.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

This bill does not create, repeal, or amend any statutory sections. Please refer to EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES for a section-by-section analysis of the bill.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state revenues.

2. Expenditures:

Please see FISCAL COMMENTS.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local revenues.

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on local expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to have a direct economic impact on the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

There will be an insignificant cost associated with the universities erecting suitable markers for the name designation.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require a city or county to spend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds.

2. Other:

This bill does not appear to raise constitutional issues.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 7, 2006, the colleges and Universities Committee adopted an amendment to HB 873. The bill was reported favorable with a Committee Substitute (CS). The CS adds the designation of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University-Florida State University College of Engineering building as the "Herbert F. Morgan Building."