

HB 65-E — Constitution/Amendments/Initiatives

by Reps. Goodlette, Pickens, and others (CS/SB 68-E by Ethics and Elections Committee and Senators Pruitt and Sanderson)

The bill requires a fiscal-impact statement to be placed on the ballot for all proposed amendments to the State Constitution, with exceptions for certain joint resolutions and citizen-sponsored initiatives for the 2002 election. The State Revenue Estimating Conference is charged with drafting a short, clear, and unambiguous fiscal-impact statement for each proposed constitutional amendment. A majority of the conference must agree on the fiscal-impact statement. If a majority of the conference cannot agree, the following statement is placed on the ballot: “The fiscal impact of this measure, if any, cannot be reasonably determined at this time.” Beginning in July 2003, the Florida Supreme Court is vested with original jurisdiction to review all fiscal-impact statements. If the Court strikes down the statement, it must remand to the Revenue Estimating Conference for re-drafting within 15 days.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law, except as otherwise noted.

Vote: Senate 26-12; House 75-39

