

# **THE FLORIDA SENATE**



## **INTERIM WORK PLAN 2000 SESSION**

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# **Agriculture and Consumer Services**

## **INTERIM PROJECTS**

### **PROJECT TITLE:**

*The Impact on Farmers of the Federal Quota System Volume Reduction*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-01

### **BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Tobacco has been a stable and predictably profitable crop for north Florida farmers for many years. The stability has been due to the federal quota system that regulates the volume of production and to the producer-owned and operated Flue-Cured Stabilization Corporation. Because of the state's lawsuit against, and resulting settlement with tobacco companies, there is a potential for Florida's tobacco producers and allotment holders to suffer potential adverse economic effects.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project is to investigate the status of Florida's tobacco growers, study the laws that have been passed or are under consideration by other states which address the adverse economic effects to tobacco growers, and consider the possibility of providing options to such growers, such as training in the production of alternative agricultural fruits, vegetables, livestock, or value added agricultural products. Also, the efforts of the other states involved in the Phase II Tobacco Settlement Agreement will be reviewed in order to coordinate with those states where appropriate.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

Interviews will be conducted with staff of the agencies involved as well as interested parties in the private sector. Teleconference meetings are anticipated for obtaining information from other states for the purpose of determining the possibility of receiving monies from multi-state agreements, or federal funds. Inasmuch as public hearings and meetings are being conducted, they will be attended to the extent possible, to obtain information through those forums.

### **COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

### **MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Thomas and Mitchell

### **PROJECT TITLE:**

*Florida Consumer Information Service Website*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-02

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

As today's marketplace continues to grow and become more complex, an ever greater need exists for consumers to obtain up-to-date information for dealing with problems. Over the years, Senate committees, in conjunction with state agencies, have produced a consumer handbook. In 1997, it was decided to create the Florida Consumer Information Service website in order to reach a greater number of people and to make updating the information faster and easier. The Internet is the first global library and anyone can find information at any time because it never closes. The World Wide Web consists of a great many web servers scattered all around the Internet. These web servers can respond to requests for information organized into "pages." A web page can contain links to other web pages on an entirely different computer. Many of the links in the Florida Consumer Information Service website are out of date or have never been completed.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project is to provide a source of information which will direct Florida consumers to the appropriate agency or individual who can provide assistance and information. The committee also intends to designate responsibility for updating the web site information as needed.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will coordinate with the various groups that have links to the Florida Consumer Information Service website to update and complete the project.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead) and the Office of the Secretary of the Senate

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Meek and Grant

**MONITOR PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Wildfire Mitigation*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-85

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Through the summer of 1998, Florida experienced some of its worst wildfires in recent history. In an effort to prevent a similar occurrence, the legislature appropriated \$20.4 million to equip the Division of Forestry to fight future wildfires and help prevent wildfires through increased prescribed burning and urban wildfire mitigation strategies.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project is to monitor implementation of the provisions of CS/HB 1535, concerning Wildfires. This legislation provides for the increased use of prescribed burning to mitigate wildfire damage, and the establishment of the Florida Center for Wildfire and Forest Resources Management Training.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interviews will be held in person and through telecommuting with agency staff and interested parties in the private sector. Public hearings and meetings will be attended to the extent possible to obtain information through those forums.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Citrus Canker Eradication*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-86

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Florida is currently engaged in an effort to eradicate Asian strain citrus canker in Dade, Broward, Manatee, Collier and Hendry counties. All infected trees must be destroyed, as no cure exists for the disease. Provision is made in CS/HB 1855 for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to create a citrus canker host free buffer area to retard the spread of the plant disease.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project is to monitor implementation of the provisions of CS/HB 1855 regarding the creation of a citrus canker host-free buffer area to retard the spread of citrus canker from known infected areas, and the development of a compensation plan by the department for trees that are removed.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interviews will be held in person and through teleconference with agency staff and interested parties in the private sector. Public hearings and meetings will be attended to the extent possible to obtain information through those forums.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Aquaculture Industry Development*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-87

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Over the past decade, the remarkable growth of aquaculture has greatly impacted the seafood industry. One out of five fish eaten in the United States is now produced in aquaculture. During this period, the Florida aquaculture industry has faced significant growth problems due to such factors as failing to be recognized as an agriculture industry and complying with unnecessarily complex and duplicative state regulations. In recent years, these problems have been addressed and aquaculture in Florida is beginning to make steady gains, earning \$102 million in 1997, up from \$35 million in 1987. In 1998, the Legislature transferred regulatory authority for aquaculture to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, with the exception of those areas required by federal law, rule or cooperative agreement to be regulated by another agency. CS/HB 1143, which passed in the 1999 Legislative Session, will facilitate further growth for the industry by clarifying that it is not appropriate for aquaculture products to be governed by laws and rules designed to protect wild stocks and by allowing reasonable quantities of brood stock to be taken for aquacultural purposes. The bill also allows for sturgeon, which have been highly valued in world markets for meat and roe, to be farm-raised.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project is to monitor the implementation of CS/HB 1143, to observe whether this legislation is successful in removing unnecessary obstacles to the development of aquaculture, and to determine if further changes need to be made to the law to assist the aquaculture industry in Florida.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will monitor the actions of the agencies involved in aquaculture regulation as the provisions of CS/HB 1143 are implemented. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is planning a tour of aquaculture facilities that will be attended by staff.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Agriculture (Lead) and Consumer Services

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# **Banking and Insurance**

## **INTERIM PROJECTS**

### **PROJECT TITLE:**

*Availability and Cost of Residential Hurricane Coverage*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-03

### **BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The problems of availability and cost of hurricane coverage, though lessened in most areas of the state, continue to be severe in coastal areas, particularly in south Florida, as evidenced by the 500,000 policies and \$100 billion in property value written by the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association (FWUA) policies, the vast majority of which is concentrated in Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties. The state's other residual market insurer, the Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association (RPCJUA) has been reduced to below 200,000 policies and proposals are pending by three insurers to write all of the RPCJUA policies in exchange for significant financial incentives.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project objective would be to examine the impact of the current law and determine whether additional legislation is needed to address problems of availability and cost of hurricane coverage in such a manner as will fairly and equitably balance the interests of all policyholders in the state.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The project will analyze the impact of the laws affecting availability and cost of hurricane coverage, including eligibility for residual market coverage, coverage options, funding of residual market losses, and incentives for insurers to write policies out of the residual market. Research will include an historical analysis of the policies and exposure written in the residual and voluntary market, terms and conditions for insurers taking policies out of the residual market, and a comparison of the rates and coverages of residual market policies compared to the voluntary market, including the surplus lines market, based primarily on forms and rates filed with the Department of Insurance.

### **COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Banking and Insurance

### **MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Geller and Childers

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review of Florida's Health Insurance Laws Relating to Rates and Access to Coverage*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-04

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Different types of health insurance (individual, group, small group, out-of-state group, conversion, etc.) are subject to different rating laws and requirements for guaranteeing access to coverage, which creates confusion for both insurers and consumers and apparent inconsistency in public policy objectives. Three bills (Senate Bills 1294, 1556, 1576) were considered during the 1999 session that would have made major changes to the health insurance laws relating to rates and access to coverage, which are likely to be addressed again next session.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The goal of the project would be to identify options for reasonable and consistent regulation of rates of health insurance and access to coverage, to provide a viable private health insurance market and to maximize the number of persons obtaining and maintaining coverage.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Research will include a comprehensive review of the current laws relating to rates and issuance of health insurance coverage, and identification of the key differences in the requirements for different types of health insurance and the public policy considerations that led to such differences. This will include a historical analysis of the number of persons insured in Florida and the rates for coverage, a comparison of other state laws and the rates and coverage levels in those states.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Banking and Insurance (Lead) and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Scott, King, and Sebesta

## **MONITOR PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Insurance Sales by Financial Institutions*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-88

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Legislation was enacted in 1999 (CS/SB 2402) repealing the Florida law prohibiting the sale of insurance by persons employed by, or associated with banks and other financial institutions, subject to certain exceptions. The new law allows agents employed by, or associated with, financial institutions to engage in insurance agency activities, including the negotiation or sale of insurance products, subject to certain consumer safeguards, including anti-coercion provisions, disclosure requirements, and applicable agent licensure laws. At the federal level, legislation is under consideration (H.R. 10) which would similarly permit the sale of insurance by federally-chartered financial institutions, subject to state regulation of insurance and consumer protections which served as the basis for the new Florida law.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will monitor the implementation of the Florida law allowing financial institutions to sell insurance and track the status of the similar federal legislation.

## METHODOLOGY:

Staff will monitor Department of Insurance rules and other department activities related to the sale of insurance in financial institutions and interview personnel at the department, insurance companies, financial institutions, and agent associations, to attempt to gauge the impact of the new law. Staff will also track the status of the similar federal legislation, H.R. 10.

## COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Banking and Insurance

## MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

## PROJECT TITLE:

*Oversight of the Division of Workers' Compensation*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-89

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 1999 Session, the Banking and Insurance Committee considered a committee bill that would have authorized the Division of Workers' Compensation to contract for certain functions and, contingent upon entering into a contract, eliminated a specified number of positions at the division. The committee bill would have also transferred certain functions to other agencies, including the Bureau of Compliance, which would have been transferred to the Department of Insurance. At the time of considering this legislation, a new administration had recently taken office and a new division director was appointed who stated to the committee that privatization of certain functions could be accomplished under current law and that other administrative changes would improve the administration of the workers' compensation law.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This project will monitor the administrative changes made by the Division of Workers' Compensation and the results obtained or expected. The objective would be to determine whether such changes are making the administration of the workers' compensation law more effective and efficient.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will interview personnel at the division and representatives of carriers and injured workers, review and analyze budget documents and personnel and contract decisions made by the Division of Workers' Compensation, and track the results of the division in achieving statutory requirements and legislatively approved standards under performance-based budgeting.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Banking and Insurance (Lead) and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Reauthorization of the Division of Safety Functions*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-179

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

As part of the legislation reorganizing the Department of Labor and Employment Security (CS/CS/SB 230, Enrolled), the Legislature directed the department to submit to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2000, a report on a proposed reauthorization of the Division of Safety and the provisions of chapter 442, Florida Statutes, based on specific criterion, including the necessity of a state agency to provide employment safety services. The legislation also repealed the Division of Safety, effective July 1, 2000.

The Division of Safety is responsible for performing inspections of public-sector work sites, educating employers, employees, and the public regarding workplace safety issues, and providing safety consultation services to private sector employers (through a contract funded primarily by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor meetings by the department relating to the reauthorization of the Division of Safety and evaluate the department's report on reauthorization in order to identify potential regulatory and policy issues which may require legislative action.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend public meeting of the department relating to the reauthorization of the Division of Safety and interview staff of the division to assess the necessity or efficacy of retaining certain functions of the division.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Banking and Insurance (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Budget

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*State Government Debt Analysis*

DATE DUE: November 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-05

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

A significant portion of the State's recurring revenues are required for various bonded debt obligations. In addition, there are other entities which are not state agencies, such as the water management districts and direct support organizations, which have debt obligations not met by state revenues.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project has two major objectives. First, catalogue all State debt obligations, and all debt held by quasi-state governmental entities. Second, conduct an analysis to determine whether state debt parameters can be established to ensure an optimal financial position in the event of an economic downturn, and possible short-term and long-term savings which could accrue to the state if appropriations were made to reduce or eliminate specific debts.

### METHODOLOGY:

Define the project, determine information to be collected, and establish time frames for data collection. Compile and review the information and analyze the data. Develop consensus on key data elements and principles to be used to conduct analysis. Integrate components of analysis into a coordinated report, discuss findings and analysis, and develop debt parameter recommendations and priorities for potential debt reduction with surplus funds.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget (Lead), Fiscal Resource, Fiscal Policy, and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Burt and Sullivan

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of Chapter 216, Florida Statutes*

DATE DUE: December 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-06

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Chapter 216, Florida Statutes, was created in 1969 concomitant with major reorganizations of Florida government. It was originally crafted as a way to manage the new agency structures of divisions and bureaus. During the 30 years since creation of Chapter 216, modifications have been enacted in at least 18 of those years. As a result, the chapter now reflects a somewhat disjointed mixture of financial management and budgeting provisions.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project will be to develop proposed legislation which better organizes the sequence of budgeting and management provisions and eliminates inadvertent conflicts between the older and newer provisions.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Convene series of meetings of project participants to: establish scope of and strategy for the project; develop consensus on what budgeting and expenditure control mechanisms are needed; develop consensus on major organization of the chapter; identify conflicting provisions and current provisions which should be modified, moved to another chapter, or eliminated for clarity or managerial improvement.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead), Fiscal Policy, Fiscal Resources, and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Burt and Webster

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Survey of Welfare to Work and Welfare Prevention Programs*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-07

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Due to the drop in the welfare caseload 1996, the WAGES program has contracted to a level increasingly closer to the required Maintenance Of Effort (state funds), and, at the same time, the state has found it increasingly difficult to spend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant. Since other states are experiencing similar problems, the time has come to explore what programs are being undertaken by other states in order to make maximum use of the federal funds.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this study is to explore innovative ways to use the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant allocated to the State of Florida for welfare reform. The project will identify and report programs undertaken by other states to accomplish similar goals.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The process for carrying out this project will include contact with national organizations whose mission is to track and evaluate welfare reform activities to obtain data and contact with agencies in other states to create a catalogue of welfare-to-work programs.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Commerce and Economic Opportunities

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Kurth and Kirkpatrick

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Ten Year History of the FEFP*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-08

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Changes are made annually in the school funding formula to respond to current issues and priorities. Each year there are perceived “winners” and “losers.” This project would describe and summarize the annual changes; more importantly, it would identify the cumulative effect of funding changes for districts. Legislation considered during this Session would have sunset the Florida Educational Finance Program; this project would identify the long term benefits that have accrued to various districts.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To evaluate the need for fundamental change to the current method of funding public schools, it is important to know how the current method has changed over time and who it has most and least helped. For example, how have small, medium and large districts fared? Have formula changes over time differentially affected urban and predominantly rural districts? Is the formula truly more complicated than it was ten years ago? If so, how and why?

**METHODOLOGY:**

This project requires an analysis of FEFP funding policies and methods for the past ten years. For this purpose, the point of comparison will be each year’s initial calculation of the formula, because that most closely reveals legislative policy.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on Education (Lead) and Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Sullivan and Horne

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Evaluate Reimbursement Rate Policies for Teaching and Specialty Hospitals*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-09

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

This project is mandated by Section 17 of the Implementing Bill for Fiscal Year 1999-00 and is a cooperative effort of the House and Senate. The purpose is to evaluate and analyze the short-term and long-term public policy and cost implications of the removal of these Medicaid rate caps for teaching and specialty hospitals. A report to the President and Speaker is required by September 1, 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Evaluate the implications of removing Medicaid county ceiling and target reimbursement rate caps to determine the cost and policy implications of making changes to these plans.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This project will be conducted jointly with other legislative committees and several House committees. The study will involve a series of meetings to determine required data elements and research to identify policy implications, possibly a survey of selected hospitals, reviews of federal regulations, and development of pros and cons statements regarding potential policy changes.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Silver and Myers

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Study of Methods to Ensure the Availability of Graduate Medical Education Opportunities*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-10

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Continues Senate Interim Project 98-60; Study of Medical Education in the State of Florida with a 12-member task force, deans of the 4 medical schools and 2 appointees each of the Governor, the SUS Chancellor, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Director of the Agency for Health Care Administration with a reporting deadline of November 1, 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The task force is to address: 1) the role of residents and medical faculty in the provision of health care; 2) the relationship of graduate medical education to the state's physician workforce; 3) the cost of training medical residents; 4) the availability and adequacy of revenues to support graduate medical education. This project follows the task force activities, but also includes an independent review of the issues.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor the task force work, analyze Federal activities, perform pertinent analyses. Attend public meetings of the task force. Meet with deans of the medical schools, BOR staff, and representatives of the teaching hospitals to discuss funding issues. Review BOR April 1999 GME study, collect additional data identified from last year's study.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on Education (Lead), Budget Subcommittee on Health & Human Services, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Sullivan and Holzendorf

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Library Needs*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-11

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Currently, the state provides funding for libraries through three primary programs: Library Cooperatives, Library Grants, and Library Construction. Funding levels for FY 1999-2000 are: \$1.2 million for Library Cooperatives, \$31.4 million for Library Grants, and \$2.9 million for Library Construction.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This project will provide a look at the total needs of libraries versus the actual funding provided. A potential outcome of this review would be a recommendation for funding policy changes to ensure

an equitable distribution plan and funding level for libraries statewide.

**METHODOLOGY:**

- 1) Meet with Director of Division of Library and Information Services to discuss scope of project and request historical data and any other relevant information.
- 2) Undertake a thorough review of statutes and rules pertaining to libraries and their funding.
- 3) Conduct field research as needed to achieve an understanding of statewide library needs .
- 4) Prepare a preliminary report in August and final report by September 1, 1999.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead) and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Hargrett and Webster

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Child Labor Law Enforcement*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER : 2000-12

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Labor and Employment (Division of Jobs and Benefits) is charged with the responsibility for enforcing the child labor law. The activities of this program are carried out by ten FTE, which includes seven child labor investigators, two support staff and one coordinator. The current budget is \$1.4 million.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

A review will be done to make an assessment of the overall operations of this program. Staff will look at the effectiveness of the program, the current resources, and future needs.

**METHODOLOGY:**

- 1) Meet with staff from the Division of Jobs and Benefits and the Department of Labor's internal auditors to discuss this project and make an information request.
- 2) Contact OPPAGA and find out about previous reports and studies.
- 3) Review the statutes and rules pertaining to this program.
- 4) Prepare a preliminary report in August for discussion with selected committee members.
- 5) Finalize the report by September 1, 1999.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Commerce and Economic Opportunities

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:  
Senators Hargrett and Webster

## MONITOR PROJECTS

PROJECT TITLE:  
*800 MHz Law Enforcement Radio System*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-90

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The third phase of the 800 MHz Law Enforcement Radio System was authorized for 1999-2000 with a \$34.8 million appropriation to partially fund that phase of the tower construction and operations. During the final weeks of the 1999 Legislative Session, the Department of Management Services (DMS) and the chairman of the Joint Task Force indicated that it was still too soon to determine whether a privatization strategy for the infrastructure development and operation would yield the best results in terms of cost and future control of the system. Proviso language associated with Specific Appropriation 1959 requires the Task Force and DMS to submit a study of potential strategies before the funds for 1999-2000 may be released.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To ensure that actions taken by the Department of Management Services in expending appropriated funds represent the best use of state funds and are consistent with legislative intent.

### METHODOLOGY:

This project will monitor this issue by reviewing the study submitted and working with staff of the House and the Executive Office of the Governor to analyze the options available to the state.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:  
N/A

PROJECT TITLE:  
*Trust Fund Deficits*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-91

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Several General Government agencies' trust funds are projected to be in a deficit posture after the 1999-2000 fiscal year (e.g., the State Game Trust Fund, Water Quality Assurance Trust Fund, Save the Manatee Trust Fund, and Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund).

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

These selected trust funds need to be monitored during the next fiscal year so that staff can develop timely recommendations on options to resolve the deficits during the 2000 legislative session. If needed, recommendations for changes to substantive law will be developed in cooperation with Senate substantive committee staff.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Contact agency staff periodically to obtain current data on receipts and revisions to annual estimates. Meet with staff of the House fiscal committees and the Governor's office of Planning and Budgeting to develop consensus estimates for each trust fund and to develop a range of proposals for mitigating deficits. Meet with Senate Natural Resources Committee staff to discuss options for law changes that could mitigate deficits.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Natural Resources

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Utilization of Construction Funds by Public School Districts*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-92

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The need for new instructional facilities in public school districts was deemed to be so great that the Legislature held a special session in November, 1997 to provide additional construction funds. Since that time additional construction funds have been appropriated by the Legislature. During the 1999 Session, members of the Legislature began to express concern over the districts failure to "draw down" these construction funds.

If the delay in encumbering the funds is the result of unnecessary state level requirements, then the Legislature may want to address the problems.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Determine if there are obstacles at the state level which are delaying the school district's ability to encumber and draw-down funds for construction of new instructional facilities.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Working with the Department of Education and districts, monitor the cash flow of construction funds to determine if there are problems which the Legislature should address. Track the flow of funds during the next three months to determine the pattern of disbursement and, if the encumbrance of funds is significantly below the current DOE projections, determine the reasons for such delays.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead) and Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Juvenile Justice Management Information Systems Development & Implementation*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-93

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

This project will monitor ongoing management information systems development and implementation. Over \$5.5 million in new funding was provided for SFY 1999-2000.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

A monitoring report/progress update presented to the Chairman and members of the Budget Subcommittee for Public Safety & Judiciary will be presented during interim committee meetings describing project implementation progress. The primary objective of this monitoring will be to ensure that appropriated funding is meeting the Department of Juvenile Justice management information systems design, development, and operational needs.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Meetings with Department representatives as well as with the Governor's Technology Review Workgroup and contract consultants.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety and Judiciary (Lead) and Criminal Justice

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Juvenile Justice Performance-Based Per Diem Increase*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-94

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

This project will monitor implementation of the performance-based per diem increase provided for SFY 1999-2000 for contracted commitment service providers who receive high satisfactory and above quality assurance ratings.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

A monitoring report/progress update will be presented to the Chairman and members of the Budget Subcommittee for Public Safety & Judiciary during interim committee meetings describing agency implementation progress and methodology for awarding performance-based per diem increases. The primary objective of this monitoring will be to provide assurance of legislative intent to subcommittee members regarding this new initiative.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Meetings with Department representatives and telephone interviews with representatives of the contracted service provider community.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety and Judiciary (Lead) and Criminal Justice

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitoring of Medicaid Task Forces and Studies*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-95

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 Legislature initiated several studies and reviews related to the Medicaid program. The HHS Subcommittee proposes to closely monitor three of these projects. The following projects will be monitored and may require some data collection or coordination on the part of the subcommittee:

- Medicaid Formulary Study Panel - Report Due 1/1/99
- Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund Task Force - Report Due 12/1/99
- Graduate Medical Education Study Committee - Report Due 11/1/99

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

These three areas of study will be the most sensitive in budget development process during the 2000 Legislature because of the potential loss of state match, in the case of the Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund, or the additional costs associated with pharmacy and graduate medical education programs.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Progress will be monitored through attending meetings and review of reports and studies.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Vision Screening Program Descriptions*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-96

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 General Appropriations Act contained at least two specific appropriations for vision screening programs. There is a significant amount of confusion about the operations of the various screening programs and their effectiveness.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To clarify the services and benefits of the various vision screening programs.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This monitoring project will consist of a review of the programs, development of program descriptions and a summary assessment of the cost effectiveness of the various projects.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead) and Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Implementation of the Expansion of the Developmentally Disabled Program*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-97

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In response to an increasing waiting list for services in Developmental Services and a number of lawsuits concerning ICF/DD funding the 1999 Legislature increased funding in this area by \$200 million to address the service needs of individuals who are developmentally disabled. Increased funding is provided in the Department of Children and Families for the restructuring of the service delivery system to meet the needs of clients of the Developmental Services program . The proposed re-design outlines several initiatives as part of a total system re-design. The new changes will provide an opportunity to reshape the residential services and Medicaid waiver services for people with developmental disabilities.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Analyze the effectiveness on how the Department of Children and Families's Developmental Services program is assuring the health and safety of individuals who are developmentally disabled in the State of Florida.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This project will provide a detailed analysis on how the Department of Children and Families will implement the re-design of the Developmental Services program to ensure that legislative objectives are achieved.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget (Lead) and Children and Families

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Teacher Professional Development Programs*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-98

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

This interim project is a continuation of a discussion that occurred during the 1999 Session regarding the need to achieve a greater focus for teacher professional development programs. The Legislature required individual professional development plans for all instructional employees and created teaching academies. This project will further examine the scope and depth of existing professional development activities.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To raise the level of quality training for teachers, administrators, superintendents, and education policy makers; to determine whether additional funding or substantive law changes should be made to achieve a greater focus for districts' professional development plans.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Gather data for selected districts, the Technological Research and Development Authority, and the Florida Humanities Council

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on Education (Lead) and Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Creation*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-99

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

With the passage of CS/CS/SB 864, which implements the amendment to the State Constitution known as Revision 5, the Executive Office of the Governor is required to prepare and execute the necessary transfers of funds and positions to the new entity in consultation with the House and Senate fiscal committees.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To ensure that Legislative intent is followed with the technical calculations of funds and positions to be transferred to the newly created commission.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Senate staff will need to work closely with staff of the House and Governor's office to develop the budget amendments which are consistent with the substantive law. In addition, the substantive bill establishes a transition advisory working group to resolve issues relating to the use of facilities and equipment and to determine appropriate general administrative personnel to be moved to the new commission. Senate staff will need to attend and participate in these meetings to ensure that decisions of the working group are consistent with legislative intent and with the letter of the law.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Natural Resources

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:  
N/A

# Children and Families

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Domestic Violence Initiatives in Florida*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-15

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

There are a number of laws and programs to assist victims of domestic violence currently on the books in Florida. Trained domestic violence counselors will work with victims in crafting a comprehensive safety plan for the victim and her family by looking to available supports and services. In the course of this study staff will review the various domestic violence initiatives in current law, as well as failed initiatives from 1999, to determine if Florida is most cohesively and effectively aiding in the protection of victims of domestic violence.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this study will be to explore development of a safety plan, catalogue current efforts in one report, and assess the comprehensiveness of Florida's programs. More specifically, staff will:

1. Catalogue and list current domestic violence prevention and protection efforts;
2. Review effectiveness data that exists for these programs;
3. Review and document state policy and procedure for monitoring shelters;
4. Assess and report on funding for such shelters;
5. Evaluate what more, if anything, we can do in our laws to ensure the safety and protection of victims of domestic violence and their families; and
6. Compare our programs to those in other states.

### METHODOLOGY:

In completing this project, it is intended that staff will meet with local domestic violence safety plan coordinators, the Family Law Division at the Office of State Courts Administrator, as well as the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Florida Task Force on Domestic Violence Fatality Prevention (formerly the Governor's Task Force on Domestic Violence), the Attorney General's office (particularly regarding Florida's Address Confidentiality program), the Department of Children and Family Services, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and WAGES staff. As a basis for comparison and as necessary, staff will assess domestic violence prevention and protection strategies in other states.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead), Criminal Justice, Commerce and Economic Opportunities, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Diaz-Balart and Jones

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Enhanced Family Foster Home Recruitment and Retention*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-16

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The provision of family foster care is one of the critical elements in Florida's protective services system. Although children who enter the child protection system as a result of abuse or neglect allegations may remain in their own homes or be placed with relatives or in other out-of-home placements, foster care provided in licensed family foster homes is a critical strategy in meeting the needs of dependent children.

The foster care system experiences a variety of problems, one of which is effective recruitment and retention of family foster homes. In the 4 month period between October, 1998, and February, 1999, the number of licensed foster homes statewide dropped from 3,890 to 3,541, a net loss of 349, homes with an annual turnover rate in some areas of the state as high as 50 percent. As a result, foster homes are more likely to be overcrowded and to have an inappropriate mix of children placed in them which puts foster children at risk of harm and creates added stress for foster parents. The Department of Children and Family Services is currently in litigation in District 10 (Broward County) as a result of overcrowded foster homes.

Passage of the Kayla McKean Child Protection Act by the 1999 Legislature is likely to place even more demand on the foster care system. The new law will result in additional investigations and in an increased number of children being taken into custody by the department. The passage of this law combined with the existing decline in the number of placements, makes a review of current strategies to recruit and retain foster homes particularly timely.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objectives of this project are to review and assess current strategies to recruit and retain family foster homes, to compare those strategies with ones utilized in other states and recommended by child welfare experts, and to suggest improvements, particularly ones that the Legislature can assist in making. Proposed legislation is anticipated.

**METHODOLOGY:**

In carrying out this project, staff plans to conduct (or utilize the findings of recent) surveys of current and former family foster home providers, interview department and community agency staff, talk with national child welfare experts, conduct a literature review, and survey other states. The need for travel or public hearings is not anticipated.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Cowin and Forman

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Defining the Publicly Funded Mental Health and Substance Abuse Comprehensive Services System and the Priority Population Groups*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-17

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Section 394.675, F.S., provides general direction to the mental health and substance abuse delivery system regarding statutorily required mental health and substance abuse services by broadly defining “primary care services,” “rehabilitative services,” and “preventive services.” The more traditional services (e.g., inpatient, residential, outpatient, case management, day treatment) are listed. The law makes no reference to: the support services (supported housing or supported employment) needed to help maintain the functioning of a mental health client in the community, acute care services such as mobile crisis teams or crisis support services that help prevent expensive inpatient hospitalization, or in-home and therapeutic over-lay services for children and adolescents with a serious emotional disturbance.

Neither the substance abuse law (ch. 397, F.S.) nor the mental health law (ch. 394, F.S.) contains any clinical criteria that define who is eligible to receive public mental health and substance abuse services. Both laws specify that any person in need of services is eligible without regard to ability to pay. It is current policy that providers who contract with the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Program may serve any person who presents himself as needing services. Section 394.75(4), F.S., provides general guidance to the districts (within the Department of Children and Family Services) in their planning efforts by stating that district mental health and substance abuse plans must provide the means by which the needs of certain priority groups will be met. Those groups listed in the statute are broad and general and include obsolete terms for substance abuse impaired persons (e.g., chronic public inebriates, marginally functional alcoholics, etc.).

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To update the statutorily defined components of the publicly funded comprehensive mental health and substance abuse service delivery system and the priority client population groups contained in part IV of ch. 394, F.S.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings within the Department of Children and Family Services and with other interested groups on this issue and request pertinent data from the department.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:  
Senators McKay and Mitchell

## MONITOR PROJECTS

PROJECT TITLE:

*Licensed Foster Homes of the Department of Children and Family Services Awaiting Results of the Federal Criminal Records Check*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-106

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 39.508, F.S., was amended in CS/CS/SB 1666 permitting the Department of Children and Family Services to place a child in a foster home that meets licensing requirements and complies with state and local criminal records checks but for which the department is awaiting the results of the federal criminal records check. The department advocated for this authority on the basis that delays caused by waiting for the results of a federal criminal records check contributes to foster home overcrowding which, in turn, creates a greater liability than will be experienced by placing children in homes that have not been completely cleared.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the provision in section 31 of CS/CS/SB 1666 permitting the Department of Children and Family Services to place a child in a foster home that meets licensure requirements but awaiting the result of the federal criminal records check to assess the impact on foster home overcrowding and to assess any increase in danger to foster children.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend meetings within the Department of Children and Family Services on this issue and request pertinent data during FY 99-00 from the Office of Family Safety and Preservation that will show the impact of this policy change.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Developmental Services*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-107

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Specific Appropriation 381 of the General Appropriations Act for 1999-2000 requires that the Department of Children and Family Services submit a redesign plan to the Legislature intended to improve services to persons with developmental disabilities and to provide a consumer-directed, choice-based system. The plan must address the transition of clients who request a transfer from Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD) institutional placements into Home and Community Based Waiver residential placements and must address the needs of identified under-served participants in the Home and Community Based Waiver Services after accurately assessing the actual costs of each person's support plan. In order for the \$54.7 million to be released to the Department of Children and Family Services, a budget amendment must be submitted that accurately reports to the Legislature the needs of those persons who are under-served waiver participants.

CS/SB 2114 passed by the 1999 Legislature specifies that the Department of Children and Family Services must institute at least one but not more than three differently structured pilot programs to test a payment model in which the consumer controls the money that is available for his or her care. The Department of Children and Family Services is required to report its progress to the appropriate legislative committees by December 1, 2000, and December 1, 2001.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the activities in the Developmental Services program including: the redesign plan specified in Specific Appropriation 381 of the General Appropriations Act for FY 99-00 and the implementation of the pilot programs to test consumer-directed, choice-based system.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities related to the development of the redesign plan for persons with developmental disabilities.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Diverting Persons With Mental Illness Who Commit Misdemeanors From the Criminal Justice System to the Civil Mental Health System*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-108

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

CS/HB 2003 passed by the 1999 Legislature requires that strategies and community alternatives be defined in each service district of the Department of Children and Family Services for diverting from the criminal justice system to the civil Baker Act system persons with mental illness who are arrested for a misdemeanor. The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute is directed to review strategies in Florida and other states and to recommend to the Legislature those strategies that are most effective. The legislation also directs the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Children and Family Services to jointly evaluate current training curricula and training efforts for law enforcement officers in identifying mental illness and submit a joint report by December 31, 1999, that includes findings and recommendations for improvements. The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute is directed to study the concept of increasing court jurisdiction and supervision over persons with mental illness who are arrested for or convicted of a misdemeanor to assure compliance with an approved individualized treatment or service plan and prepare a report which includes recommendations for statutory changes or departmental policy changes by December 31, 1999. The district forensic coordinators of the Department of Children and Family Services must assess the provision of in-jail mental health diagnostic and treatment services and report to the Legislature by December 31, 1999, its findings, conclusions, and recommendations including any proposed statutory revisions. The Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute must evaluate the effectiveness of the specialized mental health court established in Broward County to determine client and system outcomes and cost efficiencies and report to the Legislature the findings of the evaluation, recommendations for establishing similar special courts in other judicial circuits, and any recommendations for statutory revisions.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the activities of the Department of Children and Family Services and other designated entities to implement the provisions of CS/HB 2003 relating to improving mental health treatment services to persons with mental illness who commit misdemeanors.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Department of Children and Family Services associated with the implementation of district diversion strategies and other studies and assessments.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Reorganization of the Department of Children and Family Services*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-109

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

CS/SB 1902 passed by the 1999 Legislature waives certain provisions in s. 20.19, F.S., 1998 Supp., until July 1, 2000, so that the Department of Children and Family Services may organize programs, districts, and functions to achieve a more effective and efficient service delivery system and to improve accountability. The legislation requires that the Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services file monthly status reports and submit a comprehensive reorganization plan to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2000. The comprehensive reorganization plan must: 1) describe the organizational and program restructuring activities that have occurred since the act's effective date, including indications of the department's improved ability to carry out the statutory mission in s. 20.19, F.S., 1998 Supp., and any organizational efficiencies; 2) the strategies that proved to be ineffective or inefficient; 3) any recommendations for reorganization, including program and organizational restructuring; and 4) any proposed statutory revisions.

The Department of Children and Family Services in consultation with the Office of the State Courts Administrator must also develop a proposed plan to realign the districts of the department so that the district boundaries are consistent with the boundaries of the judicial circuits and submit its proposal to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the reorganization activities of the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to CS/SB 1902.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Department of Children and Family Services associated with the reorganization of the department and the realignment of the boundaries of the service districts.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-110

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Chapter 98-05, L.O.F., passed the 1998 Legislature as HB 1991 creating the “Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Act” in ss. 394.490-394.497, F.S., to be implemented statewide, demonstration models to test creative and flexible strategies for financing the care of children and adolescents, and a district comprehensive child and adolescent mental health information and referral network.

Section 13 of CS/HB 2003 passed by the 1999 Legislature created demonstration models for children’s substance abuse services that may enter into collaborative partnerships with the mental health demonstration models. Both mental health and substance abuse demonstration models bring together local public and private agencies through a written interagency partnership agreement to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment services to the children and adolescents who have serious emotional disturbances or substance abuse problems and multiple and complex service needs. These models will pool funds and use a care management system for the purchasing and management of the treatment services enhancing the delivery of mental health and substance abuse services by uniting local purchasers to work toward the same service goals for the defined population; assuring greater involvement of the family in service planning, the treatment process, and statewide system planning; and increasing accountability by designating the case manager as responsible for the development and implementation of a single unified service plan. Chapter 98-05, L.O.F., requires that each distinct model be evaluated as specified in the legislation by the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute. A report of their findings, conclusions, and recommendations for statewide implementation will be provided to the Legislature by December 31, 2001.

CS/HB 2003 incorporated children’s substance abuse information and referral services into the network for child and adolescent mental health by July 1, 2000. Service districts must submit a plan to the Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services no later than December 1, 1999, regarding the integration of these two systems for child and adolescent services.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the implementation of the demonstration models for child and adolescent mental health and substance abuse services and the development of district wide comprehensive children’s mental health and substance abuse information and referral networks.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities related to the implementation of child and adolescent mental health and substance abuse demonstration models and related to the development of the information and referral networks in the service districts.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Child Protection Services*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-111

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

CS\CS\SB 338 passed by the 1999 Legislature creates the Kayla McKean Child Protection Act which addresses gaps in the statutory framework of Florida's child protection system. The legislation includes provisions relating to the central abuse hotline of the Department of Children and Family Services; child protective investigations; child protection teams in the Department of Health; community-based agencies under contract with the department; and criminal penalties relating to the abuse of a child. The bill creates the State and local Child Abuse Death Review Committees.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the activities of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health to implement the provisions of the Kayla McKean Child Protection Act.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health related to the implementation of the Kayla McKean Child Protection Act.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Privatization of Foster Care and Related Services and Transfer of Protective Investigations*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-112

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Chapter 98-180, L.O.F., required that the Department of Children and Family Services submit a plan to the Legislature by July 1, 1999, to accomplish privatization of foster care and related services statewide by 2003. Privatization is to be phased in over the 3 year period, beginning January 1, 2000.

Chapter 98-180, L.O.F., also required that the sheriffs of Pasco, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties provide child protective investigative services by the end of fiscal year 1999-2000. These privatization initiatives

for the sheriffs to perform child protective investigations were funded in Specific Appropriation 359E of the General Appropriations Act for 1999-2000 and included Broward County as well as Pasco, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties.

CS/CS/SB 660 passed by the 1999 Legislature addresses several issues associated with the privatization of foster care and related services. These issues include excess federal funds earned by the community-based providers and the Department of Children and Family Services, liability insurance of community-based providers under contract with the Department of Children and Family Services to provide these services, adversely affected employees of the Department of Children and Family Services who currently provide these services, the implementation date for privatizing these services in District 5 (Pinellas and Pasco Counties), and pilot projects for testing child-welfare targeted case-management.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the activities of the Department of Children and Family Services for privatizing foster care and related services and transferring child protective investigative services to the Sheriffs of three Florida counties.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Department of Children and Family Services related to the privatization of foster care and related services and to the transfer of child protective investigations to the sheriffs of Broward, Pasco, Manatee, and Pinellas Counties.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitoring County Compliance With the Single State Disbursement Unit Requirement*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-113

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Under current law, each depository is required to participate in the State Disbursement Unit (SDU) and is to implement all statutory and contractual duties imposed on the SDU. Each depository is required to receive from and transmit to the SDU required data through the Clerk of Court Child Support Enforcement Collection System.

Previously, the Department of Revenue did contract with the Florida Association of Court Clerks and the depositories to design, establish, and operate the automation of the depositories to include the provision of on-line electronic transfer of information to the IV-D agency. Current law requires that each depository created under this section shall fully participate in the Clerk of the Court Child Support Enforcement

Collection System and transmit data in a readable format as required by the contract between the Florida Association of Court Clerks and the department.

During the 1999 session, three counties - Dade, Collier, and Seminole - requested exemption from full participation in this system. Language in Section 19 of HB 2149 was offered as a compromise in lieu of exemption and provides for a method of reimbursement for costs incurred by these three counties which are associated with full participation in the Clerk of the Court Child Support Collection System.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Staff will monitor participation in the system of these three counties, in particular, as well as general participation in the system by all 67 counties.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will work with the Department of Revenue, the Association of Court Clerks, and the Clerks of various counties, including Dade, Collier, and Seminole, to monitor progress in this area.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitoring Administrative Action on Redirection of Child Support Payments*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-114

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The court-ordered obligation of an obligor to comply with an existing child support order continues even when a caretaker relative obtains physical custody of the child for whom the support order was issued.

House Bill 2149 (1999) provides that, effective October 1, 1999, the Department of Revenue may redirect payments made pursuant to the support order for distribution and disbursement under the following circumstances:

- the child is residing with the caretaker relative and the caretaker relative receives cash assistance;  
or
- the child was formerly residing with a caretaker relative, the child support payments were redirected to the caretaker relative, and the child is now residing with the original payee.

If either of these two criteria is met, the Department of Revenue will file a petition for modification of the support order (the petition will be accompanied by a verified motion) and the court will enter a temporary order, ex parte, within 5 days to redirect child support payments pending the final hearing.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the Department of Revenue's redirection of child support payments to caretaker relatives in public assistance cases.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will work with the Office of State Courts Administrator and the Department of Revenue to assess the benefits of this undertaking. Staff will place special emphasis on any decrease in delays directly associated with this method of redirection.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Children and Families (Lead) and Judiciary

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Commerce and Economic Opportunities

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Devolution of Employment Services*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-18

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 1999 session, the Senate considered, as part of its workforce development legislation (*see, e.g., CS/CS/SB 252, 1st Eng.*), a provision that would have allowed for employment services funded through federal Wagner-Peyser dollars to be administered by the regional workforce development boards. This provision raised compliance and fiscal impact concerns by the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor and Employment Security, and the U.S. Department of Labor, and the provision ultimately was not included in the Legislature's final workforce development measure. The U.S. Department of Labor has acknowledged that certain employment service administrative functions funded by Wagner-Peyser may be delegated to the regional workforce development boards. This interim project would develop an implementation plan for the devolution of these services to the local level.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To collaboratively develop an implementation plan, for consideration by the Legislature, governing devolution to the local level of certain employment services currently provided by the Department of Labor and Employment Security, and to provide recommendations on statutory changes necessary to effectuate such a plan.

### METHODOLOGY:

Develop an implementation plan, in collaboration and consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor and Employment Security, and the U.S. Department of Labor, for the devolution of certain employment services, including identification of the specific services that may be performed at the local level consistent with federal law. Consult with regional workforce development boards for input on means of facilitating the transition for delivery of such employment services. Review federal and state laws to ensure compliance and to identify necessary revisions.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Fiscal Policy, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Kirkpatrick and Dawson

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Distressed Urban Cores: Linking Economic Development and WAGES Strategies*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-19

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 session, the Senate adopted legislation creating the Retention Enhancing Communities Initiative (RECI). (See CS/SB 260, 2nd Eng., which died in House messages.) RECI was an attempt to leverage state, federal, and local resources for comprehensive economic development and community redevelopment activities in distressed urban cores, with the goal of benefiting participants in the Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency (WAGES) Program, as well as other Floridians, residing and holding or seeking employment in these areas. This interim project would research the feasibility of, need for, and merits of such an initiative, and would further solicit and develop ideas on how such an initiative should be structured and implemented.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To determine the feasibility of, need for, and merits of an urban economic development and community redevelopment initiative, similar to one proposed by the Senate in 1999, which leverages state, federal, and local funds. Also, to develop recommendations for legislative actions relating to the structure and implementation of such an initiative.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This project would utilize a survey to gather information relating to the feasibility, need, and merits of an urban redevelopment and economic development initiative. The survey would also be used to solicit information on how such an initiative should be structured, administered, and funded. Surveys would be completed by potential urban redevelopment partners, including community-based organizations, local governments, and statewide associations. Interviews/meetings would be conducted with appropriate governmental agencies to garner additional feedback. Applicable laws and regulations would be reviewed to identify restrictions on uses of potential funding sources. A site visit could be made to core community to assess first-hand the barriers to development. The project would identify potential linkages to implementation of the Front Porch Florida initiative.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, Fiscal Policy, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Kirkpatrick and Holzendorf

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Rural Economic Development II: Next Steps in Infrastructure and Nature-Based Tourism*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-20

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Legislature in 1999 adopted rural economic development legislation that included provisions creating a program to assist rural communities in developing transportation, utilities, and nature-based tourism infrastructure to encourage job creation. Although initial versions included a dedicated funding source for the infrastructure program, the measure ultimately adopted did not feature such a source. Once funded, the infrastructure program could leverage substantial federal matching resources for development of engines of growth, such as tourism, in economically distressed rural areas. The Legislature's 1999 economic development package also featured provisions designed to help promote rural communities as destinations for nature-based tourism through the functions of Visit Florida and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To assess potential funding mechanisms for a rural infrastructure program adopted during the 1999 session and to identify additional revisions that may be necessary in the program to ensure effective administration. In addition, to evaluate the economic development potential of nature-based and similar tourism activities for rural communities, including the creation of micro-enterprises supporting such tourism, and to develop recommendations for coordinating various state and local efforts in this arena.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review literature and similar resources in the nature-based tourism field; interview or survey businesses, organizations, and agencies involved with nature-based tourism; develop case studies of effective nature-based sites to help establish approximate costs and returns; examine existing state or federal infrastructure programs to identify potential funding models for a rural infrastructure program; and, to the extent feasible, conduct site visits to rural communities to meet with and solicit ideas from local economic development officials.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Natural Resources, Agriculture, Fiscal Policy, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators McKay and Thomas

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Enhancement of Florida's International Business Activities*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-21

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

At the May 1999 economic summit in Coral Springs, the enhancement of Florida's international business activities was identified as a vital component of the state's economic future. Florida's international trade is expected to double in the near future, and leaders in government and business have cited the need to identify new ways to increase the participation of small businesses in international trade, to increase reverse investment (which contributes to international trade), and to coordinate efforts among state agencies to promote the expansion of international trade.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To investigate ways in which Florida can coordinate the efforts of the Executive Office of the Governor, Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Department of State, and other public and private entities involved in or interested in international trade. The project would seek to identify policy options designed to help the state to present a cohesive, comprehensive strategy that promotes international activities and trade, focusing on ways in which public and private entities can work together to promote reverse investment, the expansion of international trade for small businesses, and the advantages of Florida as the current trade center of the Americas.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Evaluate the current statutory responsibilities of the Department of State, the Executive Office of the Governor, and Enterprise Florida, Inc., regarding international activities. Evaluate how these entities have implemented these duties, and make recommendations on how such entities can better coordinate efforts to provide a unified front in the promotion of various aspects of international trade. Survey states such as California, Texas, and New York, and compare methods and results to the international initiatives Florida currently utilizes. Examine ways in which other states promote reverse investment and the participation of small businesses in international trade in particular.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Transportation, Fiscal Policy, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Klein and Scott

## MONITOR PROJECTS

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Omnibus Economic Development and Workforce Development Initiatives*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-115

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 session, the Legislature enacted an omnibus commerce bill (CS/CS/SB 1566, Enrolled) that contained numerous domestic and international economic development provisions, as well as substantial revisions to Florida's workforce development system. Among other elements, the legislation envisions significant restructuring of Enterprise Florida, Inc.; development of new initiatives in the areas of entertainment and sports industry promotion, digital broadcasting, and rural and urban economic development; and implementation by the state of the federal Workforce Investment Act. In addition, as part of the General Appropriations Act, the Legislature provided authority for a portion of economic development funds to be held back and released based on performance review.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the implementation of the domestic economic development (including tourism, sports, and entertainment), international business, and workforce development provisions of CS/CS/SB 1566, with particular emphasis on implementation of new initiatives and restructuring of existing organizations and programs, to identify potential problems requiring legislative attention and to ensure compliance with legislative intent. In addition, to monitor the relationship between this legislation and the hold-back provisions contained in the economic improvement program of the fiscal year 1999-2000 budget.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Conduct meetings/interviews with staff of affected agencies or organizations; attend meetings of such organizations; and review implementation documents or similar materials prepared by administering organizations.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Space Industry Development*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-116

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 session, the Legislature enacted a variety of provisions designed to facilitate the economic development of the space industry in Florida, including commercial space development (CS/SB 2540, Enrolled). Among other elements, the legislation envisions creation of a Commission on the Future of Aeronautics and Space in Florida, formation of a Florida Commercial Space Financing Corporation, and establishment of a space research institute, as well as provision of several economic development incentives for space-related activities. In addition, as part of the fiscal year 1999-2000 budget, the Legislature provided funding for Florida's efforts to secure location of a major reusable launch vehicle (RLV) project.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the implementation of the provisions of CS/SB 2540, with particular emphasis on implementation of new initiatives, in order to identify potential problems requiring legislative attention and to ensure compliance with legislative intent. In addition, to monitor Florida's ongoing efforts to secure location of a major RLV project.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Conduct meetings/interviews with staff of affected agencies or organizations, such as the Spaceport Florida Authority; attend meetings called by such organizations; and review implementation documents or similar materials prepared by administering organizations.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Transportation, Fiscal Policy, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Occupational Access and Opportunity Commission (Vocational Rehabilitation Activities)*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-117

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

As part of legislation reorganizing the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security (department) (CS/CS/SB 230, Enrolled), the Legislature authorized creation of an Occupational Access and Opportunity Commission (commission) within the Department of Education that is charged with developing and implementing a five-year plan to address vocational rehabilitation strategies and activities for Floridians with disabilities. Under the plan, the commission must enter into cooperative agreements with community-based rehabilitation programs to be the service providers for vocational rehabilitation services, except that

state career service employees shall provide services mandated by federal law. The commission is also authorized to contract with an administrative entity, which, if approved by the federal Department of Education, may be a direct-support organization.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor formation of the commission, its initial meeting(s), and preliminary work on development of the five-year plan that is due by July 1, 2000, in order to identify potential issues requiring legislative attention.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Conduct meetings/interviews with staff of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at the department and the Division of Workforce Development at the Department of Education to assess progress on transition issues; track appointment of members to the newly created commission and gather biographical information on such members; and attend meetings of the commission to the extent feasible.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Funding for the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-22

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida law requires that at least \$10 million be appropriated annually from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (Cat Fund) for purposes related, generally, to reducing potential hurricane losses and hurricane preparedness [s. 215.555(7)(c), F.S.] In 1999, the Legislature enacted HB 975, which imposes additional conditions on the expenditures of these funds.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Describe the appropriations made from the Cat Fund for hurricane mitigation and analyze various options and policy considerations for future expenditure of these fund. This project would update Report Number 97- P-10 completed by the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance in October, 1997, identify projects (and evaluations of such projects) on which Cat Funds were spent, and identify how appropriations of Cat Fund moneys may affect the tax status of the fund.

### METHODOLOGY:

Review the appropriations from FYs 97-98 through 99-00, research the various related options and policy considerations, and interview State Board of Administration staff.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead), Fiscal Policy, Budget, and Banking and Insurance.

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Clary and Kurth

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Options for Meeting Florida's Public Shelter Needs*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-23

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida is frequently confronted with major hurricanes impacting its citizens and visitors. Of the approximately 5.5 million people who are vulnerable to the affects of a hurricane, many will have to evacuate to public shelters. In the wake of Hurricane Andrew, the 1993 Legislature declared in s. 252.385, F.S., its intent to not have a deficit of safe public shelter space in any region of the state by 1998 and thereafter. The Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) was required to survey existing schools, community colleges, universities, and other public buildings, and prepare a list of facilities recommended to be retrofitted using state funds.

The division reports that the survey findings have not been encouraging. Aside from the general deficit in space, the report indicates that many of the buildings listed appear to be unsuitable as public hurricane evacuation shelters, or indicate greater shelter capacities than actually exist.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Offer strategies for overcoming our State's deficit of safe shelter space.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Interview or survey staff of DCA, County Emergency Management Agencies, the Department of Education (DOE), the Board of Regents, the Division of Community Colleges of DOE, and local governments.

#### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead), Budget, and Education.

#### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Clary and Geller

#### PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of Legislative Staff Guidelines For Screening Bills For Mandates on Florida Counties and Municipalities*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-24

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In November of 1990, the voters approved a constitutional amendment concerning the imposition of mandates by the Florida Legislature on counties and municipalities. These provisions are contained in Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution. In 1991, the Legislature passed implementing legislation, which was vetoed by the Governor. Since the 1991 Session, legislative staff have relied upon a joint memorandum from then President of the Senate Gwen Margolis and Speaker of the House T.K. Wetherell to guide them in screening pending legislation for mandates. These screening guidelines have not been updated since then.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Offer options for revising staff mandate screening guidelines.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review the constitutional provision, the history of the issue, and current mandate screening guidelines, and interview relevant legislative staff.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Fiscal Resource.

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Carlton and Myers

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Streamlining of Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-25

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Examine the relationship between the review of local government comprehensive plan amendments by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and permits issued by other state and regional agencies including, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Health (DOH) and the five water management districts, to determine whether there is duplication and whether there are opportunities for streamlining DCA's review of comprehensive plan amendments.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Determine whether legislation is needed to streamline state review of comprehensive plan amendments and to clarify the relationship between development permit approvals and land use review.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interview individuals involved in the review of comprehensive plan amendments including: staff of DCA, local government planning officials, developers, and interest groups. In addition, interview selected staff of DEP, DOT, DOH and the water management districts regarding the issue of whether there is duplication between comprehensive plan amendment review and specific permit review.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Natural Resources

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:  
Senators Lee and Kurth

## MANDATORY REVIEW

PROJECT TITLE:  
*Florida Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning Act*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-76

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 252.934, F.S., creates the "Florida Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Planning Act," which grants the Department of Community Affairs the authority to seek delegation from the United States Environmental Protection Agency to implement the Accidental Release Prevention Program under s. 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act. Operators of a specified stationary source who must submit a Risk Management Plan to the EPA must pay an annual registration fee to the Department. The Department was required to establish a technical assistance and outreach program by January 31, 1999 with the input of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials. Section 2, ch. 98-193, Laws of Florida, requires the appropriate substantive committees of the House and Senate to review the program and make recommendations regarding whether to continue the program, and whether any statutory provisions should be modified to improve the program.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review the program and make recommendations regarding whether to continue the program, and whether any statutory provisions should be modified to improve the program.

### METHODOLOGY:

Prepare a written survey to the staff of DCA regarding the implementation of the program and interview staff of DCA and members of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Natural Resources

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Myers and Forman

## MONITOR

PROJECT TITLE:

*Performance-Based Budgeting by the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-119

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Departments of Community Affairs and Veterans Affairs are scheduled to participate in Performance Based Program Budgeting in FY 2001-02 (s. 216.0172, F.S.). Programs and performance measures must be submitted to the Executive Office of the Governor for review by October 15, 1999 (s. 216.0166(1), F.S.).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the development of the program and performance measures.

METHODOLOGY:

Review information submitted to the Governor's Offices and attend related department workshops and meetings.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Florida Wireless Emergency Communications Act*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-120

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1999, the Legislature created the Florida Wireless Emergency Communications Act (HB 621). The Act establishes a 50-cent monthly fee on each wireless service subscriber in this state. Fee proceeds will be used to fund the capital and operating costs incurred by wireless providers and county 911 systems in developing and maintaining an Enhanced 911 system for wireless phones. The bill also creates the Florida Wireless 911 Advisory Board to administer the fee and oversee the Wireless Emergency Telephone System Trust Fund. The board is required to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature that outlines trust fund expenditures and the availability and status of implementation of E911 service in the state.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the progress and actions of the Board.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend meetings of the Board and review Board actions and materials related to their responsibilities.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Regulated Industries

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Florida School Construction Financing Commission*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-121

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Section 17 of CS/SB 172 requires that a 15-member commission be appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to study alternative methods of funding school construction and the pros and cons of each method of funding. The commission must formulate revenue policies that consider construction revenue needs, the availability of alternative funding mechanisms, and other accepted policy goals, including fairness and ease of administration. The commission must issue a report by February 1, 2000, summarizing its findings, stating its conclusions, and presenting its recommendations.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the progress of the Commission and its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend Commission meetings and public hearings and review material related to the development of their recommendations and report.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead), Fiscal Resources, and Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Development of the Statewide Unified Building Code*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-122

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In 1998, the Legislature passed a law requiring the development of a statewide unified building code. The newly created Florida Building Commission is required to submit to the Legislature, before the 2000 regular session, for review and approval or rejection, the Florida Building Code adopted by the commission. In addition, the commission is required to prepare a list of recommendations of revisions to the Florida Statutes necessitated by adoption of the Florida Building Code, if the code is approved by the Legislature.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the issues related to the development of the statewide unified building code.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend Commission meetings and public hearings.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Regulated Industries

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Eminent Domain*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-123

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Sections 57-65 of House Bill 591 created s. 73.015, F.S., to establish eminent domain pre-suit negotiation procedures.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Committee staff will monitor implementation of the pre-suit negotiation process in eminent domain proceedings and monitor the fiscal impact of lowering the threshold for the period of time in which a business must have been operating to be entitled to business damages from 5 years to four years.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interview attorneys for condemning authorities and businesses regarding the effectiveness of the pre-suit negotiation process.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Transportation

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*One-Stop Permitting System*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PRIORITY RANK:** 2000-124

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Senate Bill 662 authorizes the Department of Management Service (DMS) to create a One-Stop Permitting Internet System to provide individuals and businesses with a central source of development permit information. The bill also creates a Quick Permitting Counties Program where counties who certify that they employ certain permitting “best management practices” must be designated as Quick Permitting Counties by DMS and become eligible for grant money of up to \$50,000 per county to connect to the One-Stop permitting Internet System.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor implementation of the One Stop Permitting System and designation of Quick Permitting Counties.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interview staff of DMS and permitting agencies and counties which connect to the One-Stop permitting system as well as Enterprise Florida and local economic development councils regarding the use of the system.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, and Natural Resources

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Growth Policy Act (Front Porch Florida)*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-125

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Growth Policy Act establishes the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Grant Program and creates the State Housing Tax Credit Program, among other provisions. In addition, the bill requires state agencies to report to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2000 regarding methods of targeting state infrastructure spending to urban infill and redevelopment areas.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the implementation of these programs.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interview staff of the Department Community Affairs and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation regarding the implementation of the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Grant Program and the State Housing Tax Credit Program.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Commerce

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Department of Community Affairs's Review of the Florida Growth Management System*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-126

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is undertaking a comprehensive review of Florida's Growth Management System, including State, Regional and Local Government Comprehensive Planning, Areas of Critical State Concern, and the Development of Regional Impact Program. DCA is planning on issuing a report on June 1, 1999 which identifies issues and proposed revisions to the growth management system. In addition, DCA may hold a series of workshops to solicit public and stakeholder comment on their proposals. DCA plans on submitting a legislative package with these revisions for the 2000 legislative session.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The committee staff will monitor DCA's review of Florida's growth management system.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend public workshop meetings DCA is holding to solicit input on proposed changes to Florida's growth management system.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*State Comprehensive Plan Review Committee*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-127

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Chapter 98-176, Laws of Florida, requires the Governor to appoint a committee to review and make recommendations of appropriate revisions to the State Comprehensive Plan, chapter 186, F.S., by October 1, 1999. The membership of the committee is to represent both public and private sector interests and state, regional and local government representatives. While the Governor's office has compiled suggestions on proposed changes to the State Comprehensive Plan from state agencies, regional planning councils, and stakeholder groups, the review committee has not yet been appointed. It is anticipated that the committee will be appointed and convene this summer.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the actions of the State Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, including whether any legislative changes are proposed.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend meetings of the State Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

## **Criminal Justice**

### **INTERIM PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*A Review of Florida's Pawnbroking Law*

**DATE DUE:** December 15, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-26

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Florida's pawnbroking law was recently spotlighted in the national media. Reports suggested that Florida's law was too lax and provided criminals with an easy method for selling stolen goods. It was also suggested that the law places unfair burdens on the victims of stolen property. Chairman Brown-Waite was concerned by these reports and requested staff research the issue. Chapter 539, F.S., is the Florida Pawnbrokers Act. The Act contains various provisions regulating the pawnbroking industry, including licensure and reporting requirements. The Act also contains various administrative, civil and criminal penalties for violation of its provisions.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This project is designed to survey other states' pawnbroking laws and provide a comparison with Florida's law. Staff will produce a report and make a presentation to the Committee.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will conduct legal research on the pawnbroking laws in other states and review relevant literature. Staff will also interview interested parties including law enforcement and representatives of the pawnbroking industry.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice (Lead), Banking and Insurance, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Brown-Waite and Campbell

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Money Laundering in Florida*

**DATE DUE:** October 15, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-27

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have identified interception of proceeds from illicit drug sales as perhaps the best means by which drug trafficking operations can be damaged. It is far easier for drug traffickers to replace seized drugs than seized proceeds.

Many seaboard states such as California, New York, and New Jersey have recently proposed changes to their laws and other measures to counteract continually evolving money laundering processes. Florida, like those states, is increasingly susceptible to money laundering, particularly the laundering of illicit drug proceeds. Florida is one of the main entry points for illicit drugs into the United States. Miami has been identified as one of the leading money laundering centers in the country. Florida is particularly attractive to drug traffickers because of its strategic geographical location; its extensive airport and ports system, transportation/distribution network, international commerce, and banking and other financial services; and its cosmopolitan identity.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Define the severity and extent of money laundering in Florida, particularly as it relates to the laundering of proceeds from the illicit drug trade, and develop legislative and funding recommendations to aid law enforcement in their efforts to reduce money laundering in Florida.

## METHODOLOGY:

This interim project will operate in tandem with the Illicit Money Laundering Task Force, a joint legislative task force, to provide substantive information to the Task Force members through public testimony by money laundering experts and other affected parties, supplemented with information obtained by staff through site visits, research and interviews. The report will contain the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

## COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead), Banking and Insurance, Commerce and Economic Opportunities, Judiciary, and Transportation

## MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Brown-Waite (Task Force Chairmen), Senators Burt, Silver and Rossin (Task Force Members)

## PROJECT TITLE:

*Evaluate the Department Juvenile Justice's District Boundaries and the Sufficiency of Authority Provided to District Managers*

DATE DUE: January 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-28

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Pursuant to current statute, the 15 district boundaries of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) are the same. During the 1999 Session, the Senate passed legislation which would have required both the DCF and the DJJ to develop a proposed plan by December

15, 1999, for the realignment of its districts such that the districts would be consistent with the judicial circuit boundaries. The House, however, removed this requirement from the DJJ, and the bill passed with the district boundary provision affecting only the DCF. Thus, the DJJ's district boundaries in the future will likely be inconsistent with the DCF's boundaries.

Additionally, under the DJJ's current administrative structure, the authority of district level managers to operate and manage local juvenile justice programs is limited to the extent that certain management decisions must first be approved by DJJ state administration located in Tallahassee. As a result, delay in implementing management decisions has occurred, and there has been some question concerning the sufficiency of district managers' authority to effectively operate and manage.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The committee will examine the DCF's plan for district realignment, and will evaluate the feasibility of geographically aligning the DJJ's district boundaries in this same manner. The project will also examine the sufficiency of DJJ district level managers' authority.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Staff will work with the committee staff in Children and Families who will monitor the DCF's development of the district realignment plan, and will work with interested parties, including DJJ administrators, law enforcement, and the circuit courts, to determine the feasibility of aligning the DJJ's boundaries in this same manner. Staff will also interview the DJJ's state administration in Tallahassee, and the DJJ's district level managers in order to evaluate the sufficiency of current district manager authority.

#### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Children and Families

#### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Silver and Bronson

#### PROJECT TITLE:

*The Effectiveness of the Department of Corrections' Community Control Program*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-29

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Community control is a form of intensive probation supervision that is administered by the Department of Corrections. This form of community supervision is imposed by the sentencing court and is statutorily required to carry an adjudication of guilt for the offense conviction. Community control supervision can be enhanced by electronic monitoring and it can also be "specialized" for sex offenders.

As of November 1998, Florida had a total of 13,172 convicted felons on active Community Control supervision. An additional 905 felons were on Community Control II, which is with electronic monitoring. An additional 11 felons were on Sex Offender Community Control. Including felons who are being

supervised on community control, the Department of Corrections supervises approximately 144,000 felons in the community.

Although the Department of Corrections has had control over the supervision of offenders in the community since 1975, the Department of Corrections has been questioned lately by the public as to the efficacy of its Community Control Program in adequately supervising the more serious felons in the community. This public questioning included an investigative piece done by a Tampa Bay television station that aired a series on the Community Control Program. That multi-part story triggered a public response that is questioning the types of felons that are being placed on community supervision by courts as well as the Department's ability to protect public safety in appropriately supervising such felons.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This project would allow staff to examine what types of offenders are being placed on community control and whether community control sentences adequately protect public safety. It will also examine how the Department of Corrections is supervising offenders who are placed on community control supervision by the courts.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Profiles of offenders who receive a sentence of community control will be examined. The placement of offenders in Community Control Programs where former community supervision has been unsuccessful would also be studied. Alleged violations as well as findings of violations of supervision would be relevant to this aspect of the study.

The sufficiency of the level of supervision that is being imposed upon various offenders would also be examined. This would include looking at staff-to-offender ratios and compliance with offender-contact requirements.

Any other issues related to providing effective supervision for offenders in the community will also be examined.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Brown-Waite and Silver

**MONITOR**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor - Laws Addressing Firearm Purchase by the Mentally Ill*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-128

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 Legislative Session, Senator Diaz-Balart filed SB 1986 which amended various provisions of statute relating to the purchase of a firearm by the mentally ill. SB 1986 did not pass the Legislature, however, staff will monitor the FDLE's implementation, through its Firearms Purchase Program, of existing state and federal laws restricting firearm sales to the mentally ill.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To collect information related to the current restrictions on the purchase of a firearm by the mentally ill.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will hold meetings with interested parties to receive comments on strengths and deficiencies of current law.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Children and Families

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor -The Civil Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-129

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Many changes were made to the Act in the 1999 Regular Session to clarify and refine the civil commitment process for sexually violent predators. A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Act was also filed during the 1999 Session. This monitor will enable staff to discern whether the 1999 changes were adequate and had the intended effect as well as whether the law will withstand constitutional scrutiny.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the operations and pending litigation concerning the Jimmy Ryce Act.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will maintain close contact with the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association's (FPAA) Sex Crimes network to keep abreast of the pending civil commitment cases. Staff plans on attending a seminar in Orlando in July that is being conducted by the FPAA and the Department of Children and Family Services (Department). It will be advising prosecutors on the changes in the law and discussing cases and court decisions that will impact the civil commitment of sexually violent predators in Florida. It will also include training for civil commitment hearings and trials. Staff will also maintain close contact with the Department as it develops its program, refines procedures, begins treatment in the Martin Treatment/Commitment

Facility, and develops administrative rules and policies.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice (Lead), Budget, Fiscal Policy, Children and Families, and Judiciary

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Juvenile Detention and Risk Assessment Instrument Validation Study*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-130

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Monitor the juvenile detention and risk assessment instrument validation study. The study, along with the creation of a task force to examine the need for the current risk assessment instrument, was contained in a substantive bill that did not pass during the session (SB 2312). However, in proviso language in the budget, \$50,000 was appropriated to be used to complete a juvenile detention and risk assessment instrument validation study. Given the member's interest in and the importance of juvenile detention, staff needs to keep abreast of any changes being proposed in the area of detention.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Gather information on this monitor project.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Gather information from interested parties.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Transfer of the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board to the Department of Juvenile Justice*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-131

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Monitor the implementation of transferring the Juvenile Justice Accountability Board to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The CS/CS/SB 2426 reassigned the board and its staff from the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee to the department, effective July 1, 1999. The legislation also reduced the board's membership by three and provided for a sunset date of June 30, 2001. This monitor will help to assess whether these structural changes benefit the delivery of the juvenile justice system and whether or not the board as newly constituted should be reenacted in June, 2001.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Gather information on this monitor project.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Gather information from interested parties.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Insanity Defense Reform Trends*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-132

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 Legislative Session, Senator Sebesta filed CS/SB 2188 which codified existing insanity defense law, in part, but changed the burden of proof by placing it on the defendant. This mirrors the federal standard contained in the U.S. Code. CS/SB 2188 did not pass the Legislature, however, it is anticipated that similar legislation will be filed in the 2000 Session.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To collect information related to the insanity defense reforms in other states.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor the insanity defense reform movement by reviewing the policy trends in other states and the federal government.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Activities of the Office of Drug Control*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-133

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

CS/CS/SB 1468 created the state drug control office and advisory council and specified their respective duties.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the implementation of the legislation creating the state drug control office and statewide drug policy advisory council.

METHODOLOGY:

Interviews with personnel and status reports from the state drug control office.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Capital Collateral Representation System*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-134

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Capital Collateral Regional Counsel (CCRC) represents all death-sentenced inmates on collateral actions challenging the legality of the judgement and sentence in the state and federal courts. The 1998 Legislature created a statewide registry of private criminal defense attorneys to supplement the CCRC system and serve as a “backup” by alleviating any case backlog. In 1999, the Legislature made various

technical, clarifying, and substantive changes to the attorney registry statute in CS/CS/SB 2054.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel and attorney registry.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will monitor the implementation of the attorney registry statute and the provisions of CS/CS/SB 2054. Staff will also monitor the work of the Commission on Capital Cases (the body having oversight responsibilities over the CCRC and the attorney registry) and the work of the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Postconviction Relief in Capital Cases. This Committee is currently reviewing postconviction court rules and is expected to make recommendations to the Supreme Court.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice (Lead), Judiciary, Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Mandatory Review of Firearm Purchase Program*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-135

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 Legislature passed HB 391 which extends the sunset date on the Firearm Purchase Program from October 1, 1999 to June 1, 2000. This Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) operated program requires instant computerized checks of a potential firearm purchaser's criminal background for \$8 per transaction. HB 391 also permits FDLE to charge less than \$8 per transaction if federal funds are obtained. A provision of the federal Brady Law which became effective on November 30, 1998, creates a national computerized data base and requires instant checks of a potential firearm purchaser's criminal background. The federal program, known by its acronym "NICS," does not charge a transaction fee, but it is available only in states that do not have their own instant check programs.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To collect information from all interested parties related to this program and its termination and present it to the Committee.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will meet with interested parties to review FDLE's efforts to negotiate a funding reimbursement from the federal government for serving as a "point of contact" state under the provisions of the federal Brady Law. Staff will also review FDLE's and the Governor's plans and recommendations for the state program's termination on June 1, 2000.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor of the Reorganization of the Department of Corrections*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-178

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 Legislature passed CS/SB 1742, which provides the Department of Corrections with the authority to reorganize its administrative structure; changes certain department positions from Career Service to Select Exempt; deletes the department's authority to "plan or design" certain construction projects; and makes various other changes affecting the department.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the implementation of CS/SB 1742, which authorizes the reorganization of the Department of Corrections.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will monitor the reorganization of the Department of Corrections. Staff will meet with department officials and other interested parties to collect information on the reorganization.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Criminal Justice (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Education

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Teacher Effectiveness*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-30

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Senate Bills 896, 1704, and 2370 each proposed improvements in the state's efforts at teacher recruitment, training, placement, professional development, and rewards. Though none of them became law, their concepts deserve further investigation, especially focusing on the need for:

- Recruiting and retaining talented liberal arts students in the teaching profession and
- Improving the effectiveness of professional development programs.

This project will consider ways to improve the working relationship between colleges of education and school districts, the advantage of mentor-teachers, the role of peer teachers, the potential of expanded internships, the potential effects of salary bonuses for teachers who are assigned to failing schools, and the design of professional development programs that are content-specific and conducted with students over an extended school year.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will produce a report with recommendations including funding levels and proposed legislation for increasing Florida's potential to attract, adequately train, and make more effective use of talented teachers.

### METHODOLOGY:

Review the literature, including records of current professional development programs. On site research in colleges of education, schools of liberal arts, and school districts. Coordinate with monitoring activities for professional development academies and the commissioner's task force on teacher preparation. Identify and interview university centers and institutes on education and professional development

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead) and Budget Subcommittee on Education

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Cowin and Horne

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Middle School/High School Readiness*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-31

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Legislative attention has been focused for the last several years on programs and strategies to ensure that children are ready to begin school. Seldom mentioned, but of equal importance, is the readiness of children to make the transition from elementary school to middle school, and from middle school to high school. The challenges of : moving to a larger school at each succeeding step, the onset of puberty, changing classes, and an increasing level of individual responsibility for academic work make smooth articulation to the next school level extremely important to student success. This project will seek to identify the academic and coping skills that students need to make a successful transition to the next school level, and programs and strategies that best enable students to develop such skills.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Identify academic and personal skills students need to make a successful transition to middle school and to high school.

- Identify and catalogue current programs that reflect best practices for developing student transition-readiness skills.
- Assess the impact of school grade organization (middle school, junior high school, single grade level centers) on student transition-readiness.
- Identify state level strategies that encourage the creation and implementation of programs that develop student readiness for transition to the next school level.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review of the literature; interviews with child development specialists, teachers, and representatives from teacher preparation programs.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Cowin and Holzendorf

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Task Force on School Safety*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-32

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In the last month, national headlines have focused upon two episodes of violence on school campuses. These incidents departed from previous occurrences of violence and have resulted in policy makers, parents, schools, and other citizens asking if Florida is doing all that it can to support local strategies to promote safety in our schools.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The purpose of the project is to focus on the incidence of increased school violence, identify ways to make our schools safe for our children, identify the appropriate role of the state in preventing school violence, and determine how the state can support local school districts in implementing local strategies. A written report, including recommendations, will be developed. Draft legislation may also be developed. The project will be coordinated with the School Board Association's Commission on School Safety.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The project will involve reviewing the literature and analyzing current school safety strategies. In addition, a task force composed of Senate members will be formed to gather information from interviews and testimony at town meetings throughout the state and from a survey of school districts. Invited meeting participants will include school board members, school administrators, teachers, school guidance counselors, resource officers, law enforcement personnel, parents, PTAs, civic groups and other organizations, civic leaders, community mental health professionals, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Children and Families.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Children and Families, and Criminal Justice

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Latvala, Dyer, Meek, Campbell, Mitchell, Carlton, Cowin, and King

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*High School Grading Policies*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-33

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Florida has a fairly stringent high school grading system proscribed by a law (s. 232.2463, F.S.) that was part of a series of high school reform measures enacted in the early 1980s. The original purposes of the law included establishing uniformity in high school grading practices among the school districts and reducing grade inflation. Since its enactment the law has been criticized on a number of grounds ranging from being too strict to not having any impact on the actual awarding of grades. With a new round of initiatives underway to increase public school standards, a review of the effect of the high school grading system on

increasing academic achievement would seem in order.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Determine the effect of high school grading policies on:

- College admissions and scholarship opportunities
- Student success on standardized tests
- Teacher grading practices
- Student eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities
- Trends in letter grade distribution

**METHODOLOGY:**

Conduct a review of the literature, interview state and local education officials in Florida and other states, and elicit information through interview or survey from national education and testing organizations. A project report will be prepared containing recommendation and proposed legislation.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Cowin and Jones

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Leave and Terminal Pay Provisions for Education Employees*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-34

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Florida Statutes establish parameters within which district school boards and community college boards of trustees may pay instructional personnel, educational support employees, and other full-time staff for accumulated sick leave and annual leave when their employment terminates. Chapter 95-381, L.O.F., limited school districts' and community colleges' authority to provide terminal pay to certain employees hired after July 1, 1995. Bills introduced subsequently would have further limited terminal leave payments and/or authorized annual payments for accumulated leave through pre-tax benefits. The last comprehensive review of these terminal leave payment policies was completed in 1993-94.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Compare the current law and rules governing terminal leave payments for the education employees of school districts and community colleges with similar provisions applicable to other areas of Florida state and local governments. Summarize national trends in terminal leave payments and related alternatives. Quantify, by type of leave and employee class, the amount of terminal leave paid to education employees during 1997-1998 or the most recent year for which data is available. Examine the feasibility of providing

terminal pay for unused leave through annuities or other pre-tax compensation in lieu of straight cash payments.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

Review and summarize the legislative history relevant to education employees' terminal leave payments. Review and summarize the statutes and rules governing terminal leave payments for various segments of state government, including the State University System. Review any major case law related to these terminal leave provisions. Request and analyze, with assistance of DOE's Management Information System, data from each school district and community college to quantify the amount of terminal leave payments during 1997-1998 or the most recent year for which data is available. Request and summarize (via the FAXnet of the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and/or the Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities) the terminal leave payment policies of large, medium, and small counties and municipalities. Review documents prepared by and interview staff of the Senate Governmental Reform and Oversight Committee, the Florida Department of Management Services, and national groups that study public employee compensation issues to identify how Florida and other states deal with terminal leave payments and to evaluate how annuities or other forms of pre-tax compensation are used by public and private sector employers. Interview representatives of the major providers of these types of compensation packages.

#### **COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, and Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (to disseminate data request only)

#### **MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators McKay and Jones

## **MANDATORY REVIEW**

#### **PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review of Florida Charter Schools*

DATE DUE: November 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-77

#### **BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Legislature must review charter school operations during the 2000 regular legislative session (s. 228.056(20), F.S.). Florida's charter school law was enacted in 1996 and has been revised each subsequent year. No formal assessment of Florida charter schools has been done, but there are indicators of success and significant changes in charter school operations. The number and enrollment of charter schools increased from five charter schools serving 600 students in 1996-1997 to 75 charter schools serving almost 11,000 students in 1998-1999. In Fall 1998, municipalities began operating charter schools and the first public school converted to charter status. More municipally-operated charter schools and the first charter schools-in-the-work-place are expected in 1999-2000. Bills passed during the 1999 session permit a

municipality to operate a feeder pattern of elementary, middle and high schools under a single charter; authorize the State Board of Education to approve charter school districts; allow long-term charters; provide capital outlay funding for charter schools; and create a Charter School Review Panel to review charter school issues and recommend improvements to the Legislature, the Commissioner of Education, school districts and charter schools.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To produce a report that will assist Senators in reviewing the operations of charter schools, evaluating their performance, identifying major problem areas, and determining whether and how related statutes and funding policies should be revised.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Summarize the legislative history of Florida's charter school law . Review and summarize national trends and research. Analyze and compile findings of charter schools' financial audits to evaluate relative financial stability. Interview staff of DOE's Office of Public School Choice and Charter Schools and survey district school boards and charter schools governing boards to identify current operating practices; amounts, sources, and use of operating and capital outlay funds; and major concerns. With DOE assistance, compile descriptive data and compare and evaluate the academic performance of charter school students and similar public school students. Attend meetings of the Charter School Review Panel and regional meetings held by the Office of Public School Choice and Charter Schools.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Sullivan and Kirkpatrick

## **MONITOR**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of Workforce Development Funding Formula*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-136

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

July 1999 is the start-up date for the performance based funding formula for workforce development education required by the 1997 and 1998 Legislatures. Outstanding issues include the identification of Applied Technology Diplomas, program lengths and definition, and the potential shifting of program responsibility from school districts to community colleges.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Staff involvement in these efforts will be crucial to an understanding of issues that may be proposed for legislative action.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review of data produced for funds allocation, interviews with state and local staff. Some programmatic issues are resolved in state-level meetings held in Orlando, so occasional travel may be requested.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

***Monitor Provisions of CS/HB 751 (A+ Education Plan) That Relate to Teacher Preparation and Professional Development***

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-137

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The following provisions of the A+ Education Plan relate to teacher effectiveness and require significant changes in implementation:

- Commissioner's task force to recommend uniform core curriculum for colleges of education,
- Teachers required to demonstrate proficiency in technology and other competencies as an alternative to taking college courses,
- Department of Education to identify needed changes in rules and statutes related to teacher certification,
- Professional development academies to be started up as a statewide professional development network.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

These efforts may result in recommendations for significant changes in rule or law relating to the governance of the teaching profession.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Oversight of mandated activities by commissioner's task force and implementation teams created by Department of Education.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Pilot Projects on Tech-Prep Pathway High Schools*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-138

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

SB 1504 proposed that all Florida high schools eliminate the traditional vocational education “track” by 2004, substituting a “tech-prep pathway” that would involve substantial work-based experience and advanced-level academic courses to assure that each graduate was prepared for unconditional admission to a state community college. The bill did not pass, but 10 pilot projects were funded.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

By monitoring implementation of the pilot projects, staff may evaluate the need for reintroducing legislation similar to SB 1504, as well as investigating key elements for success of the plan to elevate the academic content of high school vocational education programs.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review process of selecting pilot project high schools and survey administrators at each site. Although this project is to monitor a program, since the program is site-specific, field research may be needed at least on one high school campus.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Financial Aid Program Implementation*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-139

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Monitor the implementation of need-based and merit-based financial aid programs.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Develop recommendations to implement findings of Postsecondary Education Planning Commission.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review data and dialog regarding the identification of needy students who are eligible for Bright Futures Scholarships. Evaluate shifting scholarship trends, such as the frequency of eligibility for the Merit Scholarship vs. the Gold Seal Scholarship. Participate in feasibility study of scholarship funding for students enrolled during summer sessions.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Budget and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Use of Truancy Petitions and Implementation of the Manatee County Truancy Pilot Project*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-140

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Provisions in CS/HBs 751,753, and 755 created “truancy petitions.” The legislation also requires Manatee County to implement a pilot project for the compulsory school attendance of students between the ages of 16 and 18, beginning July 1, 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To review the implementation of truancy petitions. The project will also review the progress of Manatee County in implementing the pilot project.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The methodology will involve discussions with personnel in the court system and school district personnel in Manatee County.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Development of Rules and a Common Battery of Assessments Related to Juvenile Justice Education Programs*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-141

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Provisions in HB 349 require the Department of Education to recommend and the State Board of Education to adopt an administrative rule that includes specific areas related to education programs for youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs. The rule must be developed by August 1, 1999. The legislation also requires the Department of Education, by January 1, 2000, to develop, or select, and implement a common battery of assessment tools for use in all juvenile justice programs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To review the progress of the Department of Education and the State Board of Education in developing and adopting the administrative rule. The project will also review the progress of the Department of Education in implementing the provisions related to assessment tools.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology would involve reviewing proposed rules during the rulemaking process, as well as reviewing pertinent preliminary materials related to the assessment tools. No site visits are anticipated.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Instructional Materials*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-142

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 legislative session, legislation was heard in the Senate and House to address concerns about district purchasing practices and the availability of current instructional materials to students. The legislation also incorporated several proposals by the Department of Education related to the selection of instructional materials. The legislation did not pass.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To research issues raised by interested parties during a study by the Department of Education in anticipation of similar legislation being filed during the 2000 legislative session. The project would also involve research on the use of laptop computers as readers.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The methodology would involve reviewing the literature on the use of laptop computers, as well as reviewing materials submitted to the department during the study and some subsequent interviews with interested parties by telephone or e-mail. No site visits are anticipated.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Performance-Based Budgeting*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-143

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Division of Public Schools in the Department of Education, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the Board of Regents have approved performance measures and standards in the General Appropriations Act and the Implementing Bill for the school and institution level programs under their jurisdiction. This is the latest step in the evolutionary process of implementing performance-based budgeting. The substantive and fiscal committees of the Senate have worked with the agencies on the process over the last several years and will continue to do so as required by s. 216.0166, F.S. Performance measures and standards for all remaining programs within the Department of Education must also be developed for the next fiscal year.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Identify and approve public education program performance measures and standards for inclusion in the 2000 General Appropriations Act and Implementing Bill.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review program performance data, consult with appropriate public education agencies and offices on revisions and additions to program performance measures and standards.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead), Fiscal Policy, Budget Subcommittee on Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of CS/HBs 751, 753, and 755--Education Accountability Provisions*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-144

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

This bill expands the statewide assessment program, requires the use of test scores in the establishment of performance grades for schools, provides scholarships to enable students in failing schools to attend a different public school or a private school, requires performance-based pay for teachers and administrators, and requires new procedures for monitoring attendance. The bill prohibits the promotion of students based on age or other factors that constitute social promotion. The State Board of Education must intervene in a school district when one or more schools in the district have failed to make adequate progress for 2 years in a 4-year period.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the education accountability provisions of CS/HBs 751, 753, and 755.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor the Department of Education's technical assistance to school districts for implementation of new reporting and assessment requirements, Opportunity Scholarships, supplemental academic instruction, and the Sarasota County pilot project for students with disabilities. Monitor the creation, revision, and repeal of state board rules to implement the accountability provisions of the bill.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Continuing Impact of 1997 Special Session Response to Public School Capital Outlay Needs*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-145

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The November 1997 Special Session addressed public school capital outlay needs by revising statutes governing educational facilities and appropriating a potential \$2.7 billion from General Revenue and School Capital Outlay Bonds backed by the pledge of lottery funds. These appropriations primarily funded three major and one minor program: the Classrooms First Program, the School Infrastructure Thrift (SIT) Program, Effort Index Grants, and the 1998-1999 SMART Schools Small County Assistance Program. Collectively, these programs provide capital outlay funding for school districts to construct new student stations and related core facilities to reduce overcrowding; to renovate, remodel, and repair existing school facilities; and to replace old relocatables. The SMART Schools Act required school districts to develop and annually update 5-year district facilities work programs and rewarded districts that build functional, frugal schools and maximize local effort. The independent SMART Schools Clearinghouse recommends frugal design and construction standards, reviews districts' 5-year capital outlay work programs; and recommends SIT Program awards. Bonds authorized and funds appropriated by the 1997 Special Session will continue to be sold and/or distributed over several years as districts encumber funds for ongoing school construction or earn SIT awards. Bills passed in 1999 substantially revised the Effort Index Grant Program and created a Florida School Construction Finance Commission to study alternative methods of funding school construction. The Committee on Intergovernmental Relations is responsible for assisting the commission.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To continue monitoring the impact of the 1997 Special Session on public school capital outlay needs and activities of the SMART Schools Clearinghouse and monitor the implementation of the revised Effort Index Grant Program and the Florida School Construction Finance Commission.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Maintain dialogue with and review documents prepared by DOE, school districts, the SMART Schools Clearinghouse, and the Division of Bond Finance. Attend meetings of the SMART Schools Clearinghouse and the Florida School Construction Finance Commission and/or maintain ongoing communications with their staff. Identify areas that may need further legislative attention.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education (Lead) and Budget Subcommittee on Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of Site-based Baccalaureate Degree Programs*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-146

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

A 1998 Senate interim project (98-19) reviewed community colleges' and 4-year institutions' joint efforts to increase access to baccalaureate degrees and recommended ways to increase access within existing facilities. The 1999 Legislature passed HB 765 to create the site-determined baccalaureate degree access program. The program encourages community colleges to bring 4-year institutions to their campuses to deliver baccalaureate programs that meet locally-identified academic and economic development needs. Specific Appropriation 155A of the 1999-2000 General Appropriations Act provides \$1.6 million to continue the Degree Access Partnership between the St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) and the University of South Florida (USF) and to establish a demonstration college-university center. The institutions must report by January 1, 2000, how the center may serve as a model for the state. In January 1999, the Chancellor of the State University System and the Director of the Division of Community Colleges created a joint task force to explore ways for Florida residents to have easier access to 4-year degrees.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor implementation of the site-based baccalaureate degree program, further development of the SPJC/USF Degree Access Partnership, establishment of the demonstration college-university center, and the work of the joint task force on increased access.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Maintain dialogue with staff of the Chancellor's Office, the Division of Community Colleges, the joint task force on increased access, and representatives of participating colleges and universities, particularly those developing the university-center model at SPJC and USF.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education and Budget Subcommittee on Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of the School Readiness Act*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-147

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 Legislature created the School Readiness Act to improve children's readiness for school. The 16-member Florida Partnership for School Readiness will be responsible for coordinating implementation of the program. Local governance of the school readiness system will be by coalitions of 18 to 25 individuals, representing both the public and the private sectors. A coalition will make a single plan for the use of state, federal, local, and lottery funds including those for the Florida First Start Program, Even Start literacy, prekindergarten early intervention, Head Start, migrant prekindergarten, Title I, subsidized child care, and teen parent programs.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To oversee the implementation of the School Readiness Act created in CS/CS/SB 366, 382, and 708.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor appointment of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and the creation of local coalitions. Visit selected counties as coalitions are being formed. Attend statewide meetings of stakeholders in early education and care industry as implementation of the act is planned.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education and Fiscal Resources

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of CS/SB 2186--Deregulated Public Schools*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-148

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The pilot program for deregulated public schools will be extended through the 2003-2004 school year. In addition to the six school boards that are conducting programs--Palm Beach, Pinellas, Seminole, Leon, Walton, and Citrus-- CS/SB 2186 amends s. 228.0565, F.S., to authorize Lee County Public Schools to conduct a pilot program as well. A deregulated public school is authorized to request a waiver from, and the commissioner is authorized to waive, the certification requirements of chapter 231, F.S.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the continued implementation of deregulated schools, including the waiver provision for teacher certification.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Contact the seven participating school districts to determine the status of their implementation of deregulated public schools and monitor the Department of Education's technical assistance to districts. Monitor use of the waiver for teacher certification. Attend statewide meetings of representatives from participating districts.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

## **Ethics and Elections**

### **INTERIM PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*A Review of Selected Provisions of Florida's Ethics Laws*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-35

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the interim prior to the 1999 Session, the Committee conducted a study of various ethics provisions and introduced a bill addressing a number of provisions of the Code of Ethics. The bill was subsequently amended to include a number of provisions requested by the Committee on Ethics, which were not included in the interim project review. During discussion of the bill in 1999, a number of Senators have provided additional feedback on various provisions of the bill.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To revise the original committee bill to address the concerns of members and to produce a bill for filing in the 2000 Legislative Session.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Senate bill from 1999 will be reviewed and revised to address the issues which have been brought to our attention by Senators.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Ethics and Elections

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Carlton and Kirkpatrick

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Implementation of Constitutional Amendment Relating to Primary Elections*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-36

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

At the 1998 General Election, the voters of Florida approved a constitutional amendment relating to primary elections. The amendment provides that if all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all voters, regardless of party affiliation, are eligible to vote in the primary election for that office. Although bills were introduced in both the Senate and the House during the 1999 Session, neither bill passed the Legislature.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To produce a bill for filing in the 2000 Legislative Session.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The Senate bill from 1999 will be reviewed for consideration as a committee bill.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Ethics and Elections

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Meek and Saunders

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Election Case Law Update*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-37

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In the past few years, the courts have rendered a number of important decisions in the area of election law. State and federal courts in Florida have stricken or modified a number of state election statutes on constitutional grounds; case decisions in other jurisdictions have called into question the validity of others.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To identify and summarize cases impacting Florida's election statutes; to propose alternatives to remedy laws held unconstitutional or called into question by judicial action, where possible.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Legal research.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Ethics and Elections

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Carlton and Rossin

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Strategies for Increasing Voter Participation in Florida*

DATE DUE: October 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-38

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Voter participation rates in Florida have declined in recent years. The National Voter Registration Act increased the number of registered Florida voters, yet voter turnout remains relatively low. There is no shortage of opinions on the issue of why voters nationwide are staying away from the polls --- and whether their absence indicates a crisis or reflects general satisfaction with government. Some of the reasons which have been cited for this low voter turnout include: alienation from the political process; dissatisfaction with candidates; the frequency of elections; lack of information about candidates and issues; and, the mechanics of the voting process failing to account for busy lifestyles.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To document diminishing voter turnout in Florida in the 1990's, pinpoint several reasons for the decline, and recommend options to increase participation.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Research studies and literature relating to the decline in voter turnout rates in Florida in the past decade. Discuss options for increasing voter turnout with Florida officials responsible for voting administration. Contact other states with higher voter turnout rates to identify successful strategies, as necessary.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Ethics and Elections

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Saunders, Sebesta, and Meek

**MONITOR**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Performance Based Budgeting - Division of Elections*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-149

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Pursuant to s. 216.0166, F.S., the Department of State has submitted the performance-based program budgeting proposed Elections program and measures for consideration in the fiscal year 2000-2001 budget. Prior to recommending the program and associated measures, the Governor's Office is required to discuss

the program and measures with the appropriate substantive and appropriations committees of the Legislature.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor and review implementation of performance-based program budgeting by the Department of State's Elections Program.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review materials submitted by the Department of State to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting. Participate in meetings with the Department staff, House and Senate Appropriations staff, substantive committee staff, OPB and OPPAGA to discuss the proposals submitted by the Department.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Ethics and Elections (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Fiscal Policy

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Develop Performance Incentive/Disincentive Strategies for All Programs Involved in Performance-Based Program Budgeting*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-39

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

It is essential to the long-term effectiveness of performance budgeting and management to provide incentives when agencies achieve desired results, and when necessary, provide disincentives for failure to achieve such results. The incentives and disincentives specified in Chapter 216, F.S. are both financial and non-financial in nature.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review prior use of incentives in Florida and in other states; develop proposed criteria to be used awarding incentives and disincentives; recommend procedures for Senate consideration of agency performance and for awarding incentives and disincentives.

### METHODOLOGY:

Review past use of incentives; survey work in other states; interview legislative and executive personnel on criteria for awarding incentives and disincentives; test criteria by applying to a sample of agency programs; solicit feedback on final proposed criteria; develop drafts and process maps for proposed procedures.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, and Budget

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators King and Rossin

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Improve the Quality and Efficiency of the Member Project Process*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-40

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Senate implemented a new process for member budget projects for the 1999 Session. Although the process provided additional and valuable information for legislative decision making, it can be implemented in a more efficient manner.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Review FY 1999-00 process and recommend enhancements for substantive, technical and procedural aspects of the Senate's process for considering member budget project proposals.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Detailed analysis of the 1999 member project process will involve process mapping, reviewing policy objectives and criteria, surveying a selected sample of members and district staff, developing modifications to the project request format, identifying changes that may be required in the Grants Management System, and identifying changes that need to be made in internal work flow and document management.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead) and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Casas and Rossin

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Trust Fund Review Process*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-41

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Florida Constitution requires that all trust funds not otherwise exempt be reviewed at least once every four years, and that the Legislature act to re-create, modify, or terminate each fund.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Review the 1999-00 process to identify procedural problems and recommend enhancements to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the trust fund process, including in consultation with the Secretary of the Senate, the creation of a more simplified floor action process for the Senate.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The study project would involve process mapping, improving the quality of agency input by revising the Schedule 1D, improving the Senate's procedures for documenting and tracking agency information, and simplifying the development and enactment of trust fund legislation.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead) and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Casas and Thomas

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Develop Strategy for Integrating School Readiness Funding Streams*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-42

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 Legislature passed the School Readiness Act, which provides for the creation of local coalitions to better prepare children for success in school. Each coalition's program is to have available to it funding from all the coalition's early education and child care programs that are funded with state, federal, lottery, or local funds. The act also creates The Florida Partnership for School Readiness, which is to present to the Legislature by February 1, 2000, a plan for combining funding streams for school readiness programs into a School Readiness Trust Fund.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To develop strategies for integrating independent funding streams into a unified plan.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Identification and analysis of the sources, amounts and constraints associated with funding all programs that are included in the new School Readiness system, including Florida First Start, Even-Start literacy programs, prekindergarten early intervention programs, Head Start programs, programs offered by public and private providers of child care, migrant prekindergarten programs, Title I programs, subsidized child care programs, and teen parent programs.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Budget, and Education

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Cowin and King

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Revise Funding Methodology for the Department of Corrections' Operating Budget*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-43

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

When the demand for prison beds exceeded supply several years ago, funds were appropriated based on the staffing at a discrete institution. However, over the past four years the supply of beds has exceeded demand and DOC's budget has been adjusted and readjusted in response to changes in the prison population forecasts. Because it was anticipated that the population down turn was temporary, these adjustments were made on an "ad hoc" basis.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Develop a means to fund the operating budget of the Department of Corrections using empirical data, e.g., inmate population, % of inmates in individual medical grades; % of inmates requiring basic literacy training.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Identify the data elements that will be useful in developing the funding process; review current relationships between funding and data elements; calculate cost of operating individual housing units and essential functions for institutions, e.g., food service, laundry, maintenance.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead) and Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Brown-Waite and Bronson

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Medicaid Disproportionate Share Funding Replacement*

DATE DUE: September 1,1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-44

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The federal Medicaid disproportionate share program allows payments to hospitals, which incur unreimbursed costs related to charity and indigent care. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 capped the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments and limits the amount available for Mental Health DSH. Florida's allotments for FY 1998 - 2000 range from \$207 million to \$160 million. There are currently seven DSH programs: Regular, Mental Health, Graduate Medical Education, RPICC, Rural Hospital, Primary Care and Tuberculosis Hospital program.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To make key policy recommendations on the most cost effective methods of utilizing the disproportionate share program in light of the federal DSH reductions and its impact on state mental hospitals.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Detailed analysis of state and federal statutes, administrative rules and procedures, current funding structure and formulas to distribute payments to hospitals. Projections will need to be developed based on policy assumptions to determine the potential future impact of formula and program changes. AHCA staff will assist in data analysis.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Budget, and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Klein and Brown-Waite

**MANDATORY REVIEW**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Conduct Review of Public Records Modernization Trust Fund as Required by Statute*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-78

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Public Records Modernization Trust Fund is due to expire on November 4, 2000. By law, this trust fund must be reviewed prior to that date to determine the necessity of the trust fund.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Develop legislation to either recreate, or modify, the trust fund. If the trust fund is to be recreated or modified, create a review schedule that coincides with the review schedule of trust funds in the Judicial Branch.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review history and current use of the trust fund and current balances.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Judiciary, and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Brown-Waite and Lee

## MONITORS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*The Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund (HB 1885)*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-150

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida won a landmark lawsuit against tobacco companies in 1997 and is to receive an estimated \$11.3 billion over 25 years and will receive an additional \$1.7 billion over the next five years as a result of a most favored nation clause. The Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund was created by the 1999 Legislature (HB 1885) to provide a perpetual source of funding for children's health programs, child welfare, community-based health and human service initiatives and biomedical research.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the establishment of an endowment fund, the amount deposited to the fund during FY 1999-2000, development of an investment plan by the State Board of Administration, establishment of a biomedical research council and procedures by the Department of Health, and coordinated development of funding proposals for non-biomedical purposes by designated agencies.

### METHODOLOGY:

Contact the State Board of Administration and the Department of Health regarding the status, attend meetings and prepare monthly status reports.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Policy (Lead) and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Implementation of Unit Cost Budgeting (CS/HB 1)*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-151

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Participate in the development of instructions for agencies to produce unit cost information on their key services and products. The Governor's Office will coordinate the development of instructions, with assistance from the Legislature.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Represent the interests and concerns of the Senate in the method agencies will use to calculate and report unit cost information to ensure that agency reports meet the Legislature's information needs for budgeting and oversight. Report to the committee on the status of implementation.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Participate in workgroup made up of legislative and executive branch officials. Review and comment on unit cost procedures.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Government Oversight and Productivity, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of Changes in the WAGES Program made by CS/CS/SB 256*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-152

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

CS/CS/SB 256 made significant changes in the design and management of the state's welfare reform program, WAGES. These changes include changing state agency management of program funding, implementing a series of new welfare diversion programs, providing incentives for participants to leave cash assistance early and Retention Incentive Training Accounts.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this monitoring project will be to determine if implementation activities of the State WAGES Board and executive agencies conform to legislative intent and to identify any additional statutory adjustments that would enhance program effectiveness.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The project will involve participation in meetings of the State WAGES Board, review of performance reports and related analysis, discussions with state agency personnel and local WAGES Coalition personnel and review of literature concerning emerging national trends.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Commerce and Economic Opportunities, and Children and Families

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

## **Fiscal Resource**

### **INTERIM PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*State Economic and Development Incentives*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-45

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Florida's economy depends on a business friendly atmosphere. Accordingly, the Florida Legislature has offered various incentives to attract business, to create jobs, to revitalize business communities and to make Florida businesses competitive with other states as well as the global market. The purpose of this project is to identify Florida's incentives, determine the degree of utilization and explore the availability of information to assess the impact the incentives had on Florida's business community.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objectives are: to provide a list of business incentives offered in Florida; to determine the degree of utilization of tax incentives; to assess the impact of incentives on the business community; and, to offer recommendations for future legislative initiatives.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Research of statutes and legislative history will be used to identify existing tax incentives in Florida. Data for statistical analysis will be garnered from the various repositories. Where data is not available and to supplement empirical data, inquiries by mail, interviews by phone and personal interviews will be conducted to assess the impact of tax incentives.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Resource (Lead), Fiscal Policy, Transportation, and Commerce and Economic Opportunity

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators McKay, Gutman, and Lee

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Revenue Sharing with Local Governments: Examination of Alternatives*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-46

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

There are three primary sources of state revenue shared with local governments for general government purposes: sales and use tax, intangibles tax, and cigarette tax. In the 1999 Legislative Session a bill was filed on behalf of the League of Cities (SB 1416) to change the formula for sharing revenue with cities and counties to provide cities with more revenue because their primary source, cigarette tax, has experienced no consistent growth over the last decade. Counties, on the other hand, have seen strong growth in the intangibles tax, their major shared revenue source. The passage of SB 318 gives counties a cause for concern about their own shared revenue source since the tax rate on intangibles was cut by 25 percent, and some members of the legislature have endorsed a phased repeal of the tax. An historical overview of revenue sharing, its relative importance for local governments, and the expressed intent of the Legislature in passing revenue sharing will provide a background against which alternative revenue sharing scenarios can be evaluated.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objectives of this project are these:

Provide an historical review of revenue sharing in Florida, including any expressed legislative intent.

Compare the three sources of shared funds in terms of their growth and stability, and examine their contributions to local governments compared to each other and other sources of revenue available to local governments.

Examine alternative revenue sharing scenarios by creating hypothetical formulas and applying them in recent years to see how they would have performed.

## METHODOLOGY:

1. Research legislative history of revenue sharing.
2. Review research done by the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (LCIR) on revenue sharing.
3. Create alternative revenue sharing schemes and, with assistance of Economic and Demographic Research, apply these formulas retroactively to assess their impact.

## COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource (Lead), and Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs

## MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Forman and Carlton

## PROJECT TITLE:

*Feasibility of Exempting All s. 501(c)(3) Organizations from Florida's Sales and Use Tax*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-47

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Each year the Legislature spends significant time and effort to provide sales and use tax exemptions to organizations that qualify for exemption from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, but fail to meet one or more of the myriad of requirements for exemption under Florida law. Section 501(c)(3) status, standing alone, is insufficient under current Florida law to qualify for exemption from Florida's sales and use tax. However, many of Florida's sales and use tax exemptions do require that an organization hold s. 501(c)(3) status as one of several requirements, all of which must be met, in order to qualify for exemption. As a result, Florida's law is difficult for the public to understand and for the Department of Revenue to administer. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of providing an exemption from Florida's sales and use tax to all s. 501(c)(3) organizations.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objectives of this project are: to provide a list of the types of organizations that currently hold s. 501(c)(3) status; identify which Florida organizations would qualify for exemption based on the federal exemption, and of those identified, delineate between those currently exempt from state sales and use tax and those that are not; and to estimate the fiscal impact of exempting all such Florida organizations.

## METHODOLOGY:

Research federal and state statutes to determine criteria used for exemption. Obtain a comprehensive list of s. 501(c)(3) organizations from the Internal Revenue Service. Work with the Department of Revenue to: obtain a list of current exempt organizations; obtain a list of s. 501(c)(3) organizations that have been denied an exemption, along with the reasons for denial; and to provide a revenue estimate for exemption of all s. 501(c)(3) organizations. Identify other states that provide tax exemptions to nonprofit organizations based solely on s. 501(c)(3) status.

## COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource

## MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Forman and Grant

## PROJECT TITLE:

*Fail Safe: Impacts of Economic Downturn on Florida Revenues*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-48

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida, as well as the Nation, is experiencing a long period of growth and good economic times, without inflation, and with a low unemployment rate. Prudent planning suggests that we look at what could happen to the State Revenues in the event of an economic downturn. Additionally, we might identify the Legislature's historical reactions to loss of revenue.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of the project is to provide information on what might happen to the tax revenues if the economy has a downturn of significant duration. Additionally, the project will identify the historical reactions of the Legislature to loss of revenue. Alternative remedies might be offered to serve as a starting point in the undesired event of future need.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Research of available data on the recent historical economic downturns will be paramount in making assumptions of the future. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research as well as the Department of Revenue will play a vital role in the evaluation of data. Interviews will be used as well as statutory research to identify historical legislative reactions to revenue deficits.

#### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource (Lead) and Budget

#### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Grant and Sebesta

#### PROJECT TITLE:

*Automatic Repeal of Section 206.9825(2), F.S. - Proration of the Aviation Fuel Tax*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-49

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1988, the Legislature passed ch. 88-371, Laws of Florida, which authorized certain air carriers that utilize mileage apportionment for corporate income tax purposes to use the apportionment formula established in s. 212.0598, F.S., for their aviation fuel tax. The rate is 8 percent of the retail sales price on aviation fuel used in Florida only, as compared to the regular aviation fuel tax rate of 6.9 percent of all fuel purchased in Florida. This provision was adopted to benefit airlines based in Florida who load more fuel in Florida than they utilize in Florida. The proration of aviation fuel taxes is set to expire on July 1, 2000.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to determine whether the proration of aviation fuel taxes should be continued or not.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Research the legislative history of s. 206.9825(2), F.S. Contact the Department of Revenue to determine if any Florida air carriers are utilizing the provisions of s. 206.9825(2), F.S., and if so, what would be the impact on both the state and the air carrier(s) of the repeal of s. 206.9825(2), F.S.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Resource

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Sebesta and Geller

**MONITOR**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*CS/SB 140 - Florida Residents' Tax Relief Act of 1999*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-154

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Last year the Legislature established for the first time, the "Florida Residents' Tax Relief Act of 1998" which provided a week of tax-free shopping for items of clothing with a selling price of \$50 or less. CS/SB 140 establishes the "Florida Residents' Tax Relief Act of 1999", providing that no sales and use tax shall be collected on sales of clothing, wallets, or bags, including handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and diaper bags, but excluding briefcases, suitcases, and other garment bags, having a selling price of \$100 or less during the period from 12:01 a.m., July 31, 1999, through midnight, August 8, 1999. Clothing is defined to mean any article of wearing apparel, including footwear, except for skis, swim fins, roller blades, and skates, intended to be worn on or about the human body and does not include watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, or handkerchiefs.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the second year of implementation by the Department of Revenue of the Tax Relief Act to determine the effect of these provisions on retailers, specifically identifying what difficulties were encountered this year as compared to last year, and to estimate the actual revenue impact of implementation of the act.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Work with the Department of Revenue and the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to determine the actual costs to the state of implementation of this act.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Fiscal Resource

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Governmental Oversight and Productivity

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Informed Employee Choices in Retirement Income Security*

DATE DUE: Prior to February 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-50

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1999 Senate passed CS/CS/SB 356 which would have created an alternative and optional defined contribution pension plan for members of the Regular Class of the Florida Retirement System (FRS). The rapidly changing employment and benefits marketplace indicates that more dynamic and cost-sensitive choices should be made available to public employees so they may make their own informed career choices.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will continue to explore the position taken in SB 356 as well as other approaches to income security, which could include supplemental plans to the current defined benefit plan. The project will also anticipate, in conjunction with the newly created FRS Actuarial Assumption Conference, further adjustments in the overall cost structure of the FRS in light of sustained economic performance.

### METHODOLOGY:

HB 1883 contained provisions requiring both substantive and fiscal committees in the Senate and House to collaborate on the development of an alternative pension proposal. Initial staff meetings are being scheduled to review the overall timetable and issues to be briefed for the members. The reporting date was established in HB 1883.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Webster and Rossin

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Employer Incentives for Employee Savings*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-51

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida has a tradition of providing free or reduced benefits for its employees. Benefit compensation shifts the cost burden to the employer with no constraints upon utilization by the employee.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will develop practical methods of providing employer incentives for employee savings patterned after techniques used in the private sector. These activities will include increased participation in the deferred compensation and pre-tax reimbursement programs and the use of incentive monies from PB<sup>2</sup> where performance targets have been reached or exceeded. Additional methods of providing annual salary increases and excess leave balances will be explored to complement the above.

#### METHODOLOGY:

The project will review private sector initiatives discussed in the National Summit on Retirement Savings and review proposals suggested by key state agency personnel responsible for the multiple employment-based benefit programs for state employees.

#### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Banking and Insurance

#### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Horne and Rossin

#### PROJECT TITLE:

*Cabinet Reorganization*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-52

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In November of 1998, Floridians voted to amend the structure of the Florida Cabinet. A variety of issues, such as departmental structure and organization and placement of Cabinet level duties, arose as a result of the constitutional amendment. During the 1999 legislative session, the Senate passed three bills related to cabinet reform. The bills did not pass the House of Representatives. As a result, restructuring of the Cabinet and re-assignment of duties, both Constitutional and statutory, is required.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of the project is to present various policy options for the members to select from in Cabinet reorganization.

#### METHODOLOGY:

First, the constitutional amendment will be reviewed, including any historical information available from the Constitutional Revision Commission. The various Cabinet officers will be surveyed, as well. Additionally, cabinet reorganization bills from the 1998 legislative session will be reviewed. Options will

be identified.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), Education, and Banking and Insurance

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Webster and Rossin

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Employee Incentives for Performance*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-53

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1999 Senate passed a bill (CS/SBs 350 and 364) which identified a method for developing incentive funds for use in performance management. That bill had two components: the first, a federal tax sheltering of annual and sick leave payments for permanent state employees who terminate employment, and the second, a creation of an alternative Social Security retirement plan for OPS employees. Tens of millions of dollars in employer federal payroll tax payments were identified as a result of implementing such programs.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project will continue to explore the usefulness of this approach as implemented in other educational jurisdictions and any federal tax consequences it may have.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The project will entail meeting with specific public employers and their provider companies to review their use of this program and with DMS and state retirement officials to factor in the collective bargaining and federal tax compliance issues.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead) and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Horne and Silver

## MANDATORY REVIEW

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Copyright of Governmental Software*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-79

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 90-237, L.O.F., codified at s.119.083, F.S., authorizes agencies to hold copyrights for data processing software created by the agency and to enforce its rights pertaining to such copyrights, provided that the agency complies with the section's requirements. The provision expires October 1, 2000, pursuant to s. 2, ch. 90-237, L.O.F., and is scheduled for review by the Legislature.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine if the provision authorizing agencies to hold copyrights for data processing software created by the agency and to enforce its rights pertaining to such copyrights should be continued. Also, to determine if any aspects of s. 119.083, F.S., should be revised.

### METHODOLOGY:

The last report conducted on the issue will be reviewed. Agencies, businesses, and the media will be surveyed. Federal law and the laws of a few other states will be reviewed.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead) and Commerce and Economic Opportunities

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Horne and Diaz-Balart

## MONITORS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Administrative Procedures - Rule Authorizing Bills*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-156

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Legislature modified ch. 120, F.S., during the 1999 Regular Session. The revision made by CS/HB 107 was intended to “. . . clarify the limited authority of agencies to adopt rules and to reject the class of powers and duties analysis. . . .” adopted by the First District Court of Appeal. The bill requires agencies to review rules adopted before the effective date of the bill to determine if they meet or exceed the

rulemaking standard requirements of the bill. Rules which exceed the standard must be submitted to the Joint Administrative Procedure Committee (JAPC) by October 1, 1999. No date is provided by which the JAPC is to compile and submit the list of rules to the Senate and House of Representatives for consideration during the 2000 Regular Session, though it is expected that the JAPC will submit the list in November 1999. Agencies, by January 1, 2001, must initiate the rule repeal process for rules which exceed the standard and which are not authorized.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project objective is to provide a format by which agencies will report to the JAPC and to the Senate and the House, to keep track of the rules determined by agencies to exceed the standard, and to coordinate reporting. Upon receipt of the JAPC compilation, a final report analyzing the outcomes will be prepared.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will coordinate with the JAPC, state agencies, House staff, and Senate committees on rules that are reported to exceed the standard. Staff will create a uniform form for reporting rules that exceed the standard. The JAPC compilation of reported rules will be reviewed by staff and a final tabulation of reported rules will be created. This report will not contain information regarding the final outcomes as the Legislature will determine whether to authorize reported rules during the 2000 Regular Session.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), but any Senate committee that has an agency under its jurisdiction that identifies rules as exceeding the standard will be part of the review process.

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Open Government Exemptions*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-157

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Section 119.15, F.S., provides for the automatic repeal of new exemptions to public records and public meetings requirements, or existing exemptions that are substantially revised, in the fifth year after creation. The Division of Statutory Revision will provide to the Legislature a list of those exemptions that are subject to repeal by June 1, 1999. It is unclear at this time how many exemptions will need to be reviewed by substantive committees.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To determine if exemptions to public records and public meeting requirements should be revived, revised or permitted to repeal.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Upon receipt of the list of exemptions to public records and public meeting requirements scheduled for repeal, and assignment to the committees of jurisdiction, the exemptions will need to be reviewed to determine if they are still necessary, could be modified in a way that would permit more public access, or if they should be allowed to repeal. This will require contact with agencies, the public, including the media, businesses entities, and others. Public hearings may be necessary in some cases.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Each substantive committee that receives notice that a public records or public meeting exemption is scheduled for repeal will be lead committee on that particular review.

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*State Employee Insurance Issues*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-158

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Wide-ranging changes were made to employee benefits and insurance issues this session. Of particular note are the continuing financial recovery of the self-insurance health insurance plan, changes to drug formularies, and prescription drug co-payment increases. Retirees were also given additional opportunities to join the health plan. A significant surplus in the term life insurance plan is available for improvements or expense reductions.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the changes to gauge their financial sufficiency and anticipate further changes on the basis of cost or improvement for the coming year.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Meetings with appropriate DMS officials will be scheduled to follow these changes through implementation.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Banking and Insurance

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*State Airfare Contract*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-159

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In response to high city pair costs and a review undertaken by OPPAGA, Senate Bill 2280 directed the DMS to immediately review the reinstatement of a state airfare contract which could enhance service and equipment to state employee travelers.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project will monitor the revision of this process and identify further statutory changes which would make air travel more timely and efficient.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The project entails working with the DMS on its negotiations with participating air carriers.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Agency Organization*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-160

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Senate Bill 2280 requires each executive department to review its own collection of internal boards, councils, and commissions for a determination by the end of the 1999 year as to their continued existence. The Department of Management Services will coordinate this collection of reviews. Additionally, various OPPAGA reports have suggested practical ways of consolidating administrative operations.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To review whether various boards, councils, and commissions should be continued.

**METHODOLOGY:**

To coordinate with the Department of Management Services and keep informed of its progress.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Extraordinary Powers to the Governor for Year 2000 Date Compliance*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-161

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The 1998 Legislature provided the Governor with extraordinary statutory powers, s. 14.025, F.S., to cope with unusual circumstances resulting in disruptions in governmental services due to date calculation and recognition from the Year 2000.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project will catalog the compliance activities undertaken by state agencies and anticipate where possible disruptions may occur, within a reasonable degree of foresight.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The project entails working with staff of the Executive Office of the Governor to brief members on compliance activities within their respective areas.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# **Gubernatorial Appointments and Confirmations**

## **INTERIM PROJECT**

### **PROJECT TITLE:**

*A Review of Statutory Provisions that Relate to Appointments Requiring Senate Confirmation*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-54

### **BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the interim prior to the 1999 Session, the Committee reviewed the statutory provisions relating to boards requiring confirmation by the Senate. The Committee recommended a bill which would have repealed obsolete language, conformed conflicting language, provided in statute for the terms of office of board members whose terms are currently established by rule and clarified existing language. This bill failed to pass the Legislature.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The objective of this project is to update the original committee bill to reflect changes to the statutes made during the 1999 Legislative Session and to produce a bill for filing in the 2000 Legislative Session.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

The bills passed during the 1999 Legislative Session which were enacted into law will be reviewed for the purpose of incorporating any changes made to the various sections included in the 1999 bill.

### **COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Gubernatorial Appointments and Confirmations

### **MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Myers and Dyer

# Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of the “Negative” Drug Formulary Established Under s. 465.025(6), F.S.*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-55

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In addition to federal requirements for brand name drugs and generic drugs, Florida and various states impose additional restrictions on the substitution of generic drugs for name brand drugs dispensed to consumers. Pursuant to s. 465.025, Florida Statutes, a pharmacist who receives a prescription for a brand name drug must, unless requested otherwise by the purchaser, substitute a less expensive, generically equivalent drug product unless the prescriber writes the words “MEDICALLY NECESSARY,” in her or his own handwriting, on the face of the prescription, or in the case of an oral prescription, the prescriber expressly indicates to the pharmacist that the brand name drug prescribed is medically necessary. The pharmacist has an affirmative duty to inform the person presenting a prescription of any substitution of a generic drug product for a brand name drug product, of any retail price difference between the drugs, and of the person’s right to refuse the substitution. Section 465.025(6), Florida Statutes, requires the Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medicine to adopt by rule, a drug formulary that lists medicinal drugs which have been specifically determined by the boards to demonstrate clinically significant biological or therapeutic inequivalence and which, if substituted, could produce adverse clinical effects, or could otherwise pose a threat to the health and safety of patients receiving such prescription medications. This formulary is known as the “negative” drug formulary. The Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medicine have adopted a negative drug formulary, by rule. A pharmacist is prohibited from substituting a prescription for a brand name drug product with a generic drug if the brand name drug product or the generic drug product has been listed on the negative drug formulary. During the 1999 Session, amendments to legislation were offered to study or repeal the negative drug formulary of generic drugs.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will review the use of the negative drug formulary for generic drugs, both in Florida and in other states, and differentiate that formulary from other drug formularies used in Florida. The project will identify the benefits and costs of the state’s restriction on substitution of certain generic drugs for name brand products, including a review of federal requirements for determining that a generic drug is equivalent and suitable to substitute for the brand name product. The project will result in a report which identifies other state restrictions on generic drug substitution and outline recommendations for any proposed changes to Florida’s restrictions on generic drug substitution, if needed.

### METHODOLOGY:

Staff will review state and federal requirements for generic drug substitution of brand name drug products. Staff will research other states’ regulations for generic drug substitution and identify the effectiveness of such mechanisms, as a supplement to existing federal requirements for generic drugs. Staff will work with the pharmaceutical industry, professional associations representing health care professionals,

insurers, and other interested parties and seek input from the Department of Health and other state and federal agencies to determine if any regulatory changes are needed.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Silver and Myers

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Study the Emerging Physician Specialty of “Hospitalists”*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-56

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In the past five years, the health care industry has seen the emergence of a new specialization of physician services in the hospital setting in which physicians called “hospitalists” take over the care of a patient from the family/primary care doctor when the patient is hospitalized. The hospitalist manages the services provided while the patient is in the hospital. Insurers and HMOs are promoting this development because of the potential for cost savings and improvements in the quality of inpatient care. Family/primary care physicians have mixed reactions to the use of hospitalists, some objecting to the loss of the continuity of care and communication with their patients while they are in the hospital and others approving because of the greater time they have to care for patients in their offices. The use of hospitalists in Florida hospitals appears to be increasing and more insurers/HMOs are encouraging or requiring the use of hospitalists. During the 1999 Session, an amendment was proposed that would have required insurers/HMOs to reimburse physicians providing services in the hospital, whether or not they were hospitalists.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project will identify the functions of hospitalists, the extent to which hospitalists are used in Florida hospitals, the specialty/licensure status of hospitalists, and the extent to which insurers/HMOs require the use of hospitalists. The major focus will be on the effect that the use of hospitalists has on existing physician/patient relationships, on the quality of care provided in the hospital inpatient setting, and on the cost of hospital inpatient care. The project will provide the latest information to the Senate on this aspect of the rapidly changing and dynamic health care system.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will conduct a thorough literature review on the subject of hospitalists and work with the hospital industry, affected health care professional associations and insurers/HMOs to identify the extent to which hospitalists are being used in Florida and what effect they are having. Staff will seek input from the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Health to determine if any regulatory changes are needed. The final product will be a report.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care (Lead) and Banking and Insurance

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Saunders and Klein

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review Implementation of the Florida Kidcare Act*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-57

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Kidcare Program, designed to extend health care coverage to uninsured children through Medicaid, MediKids, the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, the Children's Medical Services Network, and an employer-sponsored coverage component, was enacted by the Legislature in 1998. This program represented the single largest health care initiative in Florida since the implementation of Medicaid in the mid-1970s. Several different interest groups, including the legislatively-created Kidcare Coordinating Council, have proposed various program revisions, none of which were adopted during the 1999 Session. The project will focus on these issues, and staff will attempt to highlight those specific issues which need to be re-visited by the Legislature.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The Florida Kidcare Act established performance measures and standards for the Florida Kidcare program. The project will determine whether the measures and standards were met for fiscal year 1998-1999 and will identify the major strengths and weaknesses of the Kidcare program. Barriers to obtaining coverage will be identified and changes in the law that will improve the program will be suggested. Final products will be a brief written report and a Proposed Committee Bill.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will work in conjunction with the House Health Care Services Committee, the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Insurance, and the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, as well as the Kidcare Coordinating Council and various interested parties, to determine implementation strengths and weaknesses of the various Kidcare components and gather recommendations for possible modification of the program. Legislative proposals from the 1999 Session will be reviewed. Staff will obtain enrollment data and other information from the entities listed above to determine if the performance measures and standards have been achieved.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care (Lead), Banking and Insurance, Budget, and Fiscal Policy

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:  
Senators Clary and Dawson

## MONITORS

PROJECT TITLE:  
*Interagency Workgroup on the Supply of Nursing Home Beds for Medicaid Recipients*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-162

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1998 Legislature established an interagency workgroup to study issues and make recommendations regarding the supply of nursing home beds for Medicaid recipients (s. 5 of ch. 98-85, L.O.F.). A final report is due 12/31/99.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The purpose of monitoring this workgroup is to keep the Senate informed about any proposed changes to law that might be recommended. A report will be provided to the committee during interim committee meetings.

### METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend meetings of this workgroup and review the final report that is produced by the workgroup. Staff will report, or will arrange for a report to be made to the committee, as recommendations are finalized.

### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:  
*Monitor Federal Action on Medical Privacy*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-163

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Under the Kennedy-Kassebaum Act of 1996, Congress has until August 21 of this year to enact medical privacy legislation. The debate will likely center around relative levels of privacy afforded to an individuals' medical records, databases of utilization patterns accumulated by public or private health plans and insurers, and databases accumulated by various suppliers of medical services and products, as well as levels of confidentiality in the exchange of medical data between insurers, researchers, government, and suppliers. This legislation may either pre-empt or allow stronger state laws regarding medical privacy and is of great interest to medical researchers, health care providers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and consumers.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor federal action on medical privacy and analyze the implications for Florida.

## METHODOLOGY:

Review proposed federal legislation, other states' analyses, news reports and journal articles regarding medical privacy issues and analyze any federal legislation that is passed for its impact on Florida, particularly any preemption of state laws.

## COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care (Lead) and Governmental Oversight and Productivity

## MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

## PROJECT TITLE:

*Monitor Health-related Groups/Task Forces and Studies Mandated by the 1999 Legislature*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-164

## BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1999 Legislature created the following work groups/panels/task forces and study requirements relating to health care issues:

1. Panel on Medicaid Reimbursement - to study the state's Medicaid reimbursement plan for nursing home facilities - AHCA - preliminary findings and recommendations 12/31/99 and final findings and recommendations 12/08/00 (HB 1971)
2. Study of Certified Nursing Assistant Training, Employment, and Retention - DOEA - recommendations by 1/15/00 (HB 1971)
3. Work Group to identify additional legal and administrative steps needed to discourage the operation of unlicensed assisted living facilities - AHCA and DOEA - report due by 02/01/00 with agency response due 02/15/00 (CS/HB 645)
4. Study and analysis of clinical laboratory services for kidney dialysis patients in the State of Florida - AHCA - findings due 02/01/00 (HB 2231 and HB 2125)

5. Study of the feasibility of requiring additional training for nurses providing school health services - DOH - findings and recommendations due by 02/01/00 (CS/SB 1356)
6. Study the statistical model used to calculate overpayments to Medicaid providers - AHCA - advise about needed changes by 03/01/00 (HB 2125)
7. Task Force for the Study of Collaborative Drug Therapy Management - DOH - report due by 12/31/99 (HB 2125)
8. Task Force on Telehealth - DOH - report due 01/01/00 - (HB 2125)
9. Public Medical Assistance Trust Fund Task Force to review the sources of funds deposited into the trust fund - AHCA to provide staff support - report by 12/01/99 (s. 192 of HB 2125)
10. Advisory group to study submission and payment of health claims - AHCA - report due 01/01/00 (CS/HB's 1927 & 961)
11. Panel on Medicaid practitioner prescribing patterns - AHCA - no report date specified (s. 16 of CS/HB's 1927 & 961)
12. Task Force on Home Health Services Licensure Provisions - AHCA - report due 12/31/99 (CS/SB 2360)
13. Work group to review available curricula for end-of-life care - Chancellor of the State University System - no report required (CS/CS/SB 2228)
14. Work group to develop model advance directive forms - DOEA - no report required (CS/CS/SB 2228)
15. Minority HIV and AIDS Task Force - DOH - report due 02/01/01 (HB 2125)

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The purpose of monitoring the health-related groups/task forces and studies created by the 1999 Legislature is to keep the Senate informed about issues that are likely to be addressed in legislation during the 2000 Session. Reports will be provided to the committee during interim committee meetings.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will monitor the progress of studies and attend meetings of the various health-related groups/task forces created by the 1999 Legislature. Staff will report, or will arrange for reports to be made to the committee, as recommendations are finalized.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

## **Judiciary**

### **INTERIM PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Examination of the Jurisdiction of Florida Trial Courts*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-58

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

There have been significant changes in the case loads of the county and circuit courts and in the complexity of the cases filed. Significant increases have also occurred in the federal, state, and common law requirements for the handling of cases. A legislative examination of the jurisdiction of the state trial courts would provide insight into the allocation of judicial resources to ensure court access continues to be adequately provided to all citizens.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Determine if the jurisdictions of the states trial courts, as mandated by the Florida Constitution and Florida Statutes, should be altered to ensure adequate court access to Florida Citizens. Geographical boundaries of the judicial circuits will not be reviewed as part of this project.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This project will examine the current jurisdiction of the trial courts and the history of the current structure as well as other methods for determining court jurisdiction. Additionally, the project will examine the state's population and court case loads for the impact on the courts' jurisdiction. This project will involve obtaining information from the courts through site visits and surveys as well as requests to the State Courts Administrator's Office and to other states. The project will also seek information from academicians and others performing research in these areas.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Judiciary

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Laurent and Campbell

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Alternative Methods for Civil Case Management by the Courts*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-59

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The courts have continuously worked to improve the processing of court cases to reduce the time a case is pending and to improve the service to litigants. During this interim and the 2000 session the Legislature will be working with the courts in the development of programs and performance measures and in the implementation of the shifting of the cost of the court system in accordance with the 1998 amendments to article V of the Constitution. The judiciary's management of cases will impact both the performance of the court and the cost of the judicial system. This project will allow the legislature to examine available techniques for case management and the benefit of those techniques for the Florida court system.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To review the case management techniques currently being used by the court system and obtain information on the effectiveness of various procedures.

To obtain information on other techniques which could benefit the Florida court system if implemented.

To examine the impact of various case management techniques on the resources of the court and the impact on the implementation of the mission of the court.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This project will be conducted through survey data collected from the courts, reviews of historical information on the development of the current circuits and jurisdiction and review of literature on court structure and jurisdiction. After the initial data collection, additional information gathering and discussions of issues will be conducted through visits to various circuits within the state, and contacts with academicians or research institutes working in this area.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Judiciary

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Scott and Silver

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review of the State Court System's Performance Based Budgeting Programs*

DATE DUE: October 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-60

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The state court system is directed by 94-249, Laws of Florida, to submit programs for legislative review by January 15, 2000. The Legislature will need to approve programs in the 2000 session such that the performance measures may be developed by September 1, 2000.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project should result in the development of specific programs of the court system for which performance measures will be developed.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will review literature related to performance measurement of court systems and work with staff of the State Courts Administrator's Office, Judges and other legislative staff to identify programs where performance-based budgeting should be applied. The courts are to submit programs by September 1, 1999 and the Legislature will then review those programs and approve them for the development of performance measures.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Judiciary (Lead), Criminal Justice, Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Webster and Gutman

**MONITORS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor the Statewide Public Guardianship Office as created by HB 213*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-165

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

HB 213 as passed by the 1999 Legislature created the Statewide Public Guardianship Office within the Department of Elderly Affairs but the Office is not subject to control, supervision, or direction of the department. This office will have oversight of the public guardians currently housed within the court system. The public guardians within this office will have responsibility for carrying out guardianship duties related to clients assigned by the courts and under the direction of the courts.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor creation and implementation of the Public Guardianship Office and the impact of the creation of that office on the activities of court appointed public guardians.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor the development of rules and policies by the Public Guardianship Office and review with members of the judiciary appointing public guardians the impact of the guardianship office on the provision of services to clients and the workload of the courts in oversight of the public guardians.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Judiciary (Lead) and Health, Aging and Long Term Care

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation of the Delphi Based Court Workload Evaluation*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-166

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Proviso language in the 1998 appropriations bill directed the Office of the State Courts Administrator to contract for a Delphi-based case load weighting system to be used in determining the need for additional judicial positions. The courts entered a contract in January of 1999 and the project is to be completed prior to the end of 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor the courts' activities in developing the Delphi-based case load weighting system and its effectiveness in projecting the need for additional judicial positions.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Attend the workshops and committee meetings of the court committee assigned to the Delphi project to gain an understanding of the methodology used in system development.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Judiciary (Lead) and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# Natural Resources

## INTERIM PROJECTS

### PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of Funding Needs for Proper Management of Conservation and Recreational Lands and the Management Practices for all State Owned Lands*

DATE DUE: October 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-61

### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1990 Legislature enacted ch. 90-217, L.O.F., known as the Preservation 2000 program. This program provides for the annual sale of up to \$300 million in bonds, not to exceed a total of \$3 billion over a 10-year period, and the use of the proceeds to acquire lands for conservation and recreation and the provision of open space within urban areas. The Legislature has provided funds from the documentary stamp tax for the issuance of approximately \$300 million in bonds in each year since the inception of the program. More than one million acres of land have been acquired at a cost of over \$1.8 billion. The 1999 Legislature enacted the Florida Forever Program to continue such acquisitions for another 10 years.

The acquisition of so much land has created a concern that sufficient financial resources are not being made available to properly protect and manage the lands. Management needs include the protection and enhancement of natural resources and the provision of access to the public for recreational uses. The various state agencies assigned to manage the lands often manage them for varying uses, such as forestry, hunting, fishing, archeological preservation, certain agricultural uses, and other recreational uses. A major, underfunded, problem is the need to control invasive nonnative plant and animal species. Funds for management of lands acquired by these programs is determined by calculating the amount of 1.5 percent of the total deposits into the Preservation 2000 Trust Fund and appropriating that amount from the non-bond proceeds in the CARL Trust fund. These funds are then distributed to the managing agencies pursuant to a memorandum of understanding, based on acreage managed and character of use. No analysis has ever been completed to determine the sufficiency and appropriate distribution of funding based on the statutory factor being used or whether specific management practices are appropriately funded.

Concerns have also been raised about management restrictions placed on lands that were purchased using less than fee simple transactions. A review is needed to determine if the owners with residual rights in these lands can reasonably conduct profitable activities on these lands.

Additionally, in recent years concerns have been expressed that land management practices on certain state owned lands are inappropriate and in some instances are having a negative impact on private sector agricultural businesses with a corresponding secondary negative impact on the environment. This review would address those concerns so that corrective measures through legislative action could be taken if it is deemed necessary.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine the overall sufficiency of funding management needs using the current statutory formula. The project will determine the specific management needs for conservation and recreation lands, such as fire prevention, exotic species control, wildlife management, public access and recreation, etc., and the amount of funding required for such uses. Staff will also analyze funding needs separately for natural

resource protection and human activities. To the degree possible, state expenditures will be compared to equivalent expenditures by the private sector.

An additional objective is to review land management practices of agencies of the state to determine if those practices are in the public interest, and if they are appropriate for the environment and agricultural business.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

Meetings with agency land managers will be held to determine exactly what types of activities are being conducted by the land managing agencies. After isolating each agency's activities, the agencies will be surveyed to determine the funding expended on each type of activity and the sufficiency of such funding, as well as specific information regarding any unmet needs. Staff will review the extensive information already required by statute from agencies relating to how lands will be managed and their estimates of costs for these activities. Staff will meet individually with each agency and private sector representatives to discuss opportunities for sharing management costs with other agencies and local governments, as well as opportunities for privatizing management activities. In conjunction with the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Services Committee, staff will survey the agencies to determine the specific agricultural or forestry activities conducted on the managed lands and analyze the uses to determine whether they are beneficial to the state, in the public interest, and appropriate for the environment and agricultural businesses. Information will be reviewed relating to restrictions placed on lands purchased using less than fee simple transactions and the impacts resulting from those restrictions. Some field research, i.e., site visits, may be necessary to fully understand management techniques.

#### **COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Natural Resources (Lead), Agriculture and Consumer Services, Budget, Fiscal Policy, and Fiscal Resource

#### **MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Bronson, Laurent, and Thomas

#### **PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review of Funding Sources for the Restudy*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-62

#### **BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Since the passage of the Everglades Forever Act in 1994, the South Florida Water Management District (district) has been involved in one of the largest public works projects in the nation known as the Everglades Construction Project (ECP) - for environmental restoration estimated to cost more than \$796 million over 20 years. Additionally, in 1996, the U.S. Congress directed the Army Corps of Engineers to restudy the Central and Southern Florida Project and determine if it should be changed to restore and preserve south Florida's natural ecosystem while improving water supplies and maintaining flood protection. The district

is the local sponsor for the Restudy project which will be implemented on a 50/50 cost sharing basis. Projections of costs over the next twenty years for implementing the Restudy will work out to be just over \$400 million each year. Funding the local sponsor's share of the cost of implementing the Restudy will be an increase in funding responsibility of the district of an unparalleled magnitude. However, this is not the only expanded or additional responsibility that the district will have to assume in the upcoming decades. A third major task and funding responsibility will be for the completion of phase two of the Everglades Construction Project. This additional effort is needed to improve the quality of water going into the Everglades Protection Area because the facilities completed under the first phase may not be able to meet state water quality standards without additional treatment.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

1. To review and evaluate information that has been prepared by the South Florida Water Management District and their consultants that address the schedule of projects to be implemented for restoration of the Everglades and the alternatives for meeting future funding needs.
2. To prepare appropriate summarizing documents for presentation to the legislative committees for decision-making on alternative funding options. No funds will be actually appropriated under this project

#### METHODOLOGY:

Staff of the Senate Natural Resources Committee will review the extensive materials that have been produced by the district and the Corps of Engineers, especially the district's "Financial Capabilities Statement and Funding Plan," and the district's recent consultant report that analyzes potential approaches for meeting funding needs for implementing the restudy. From these materials, staff will prepare information for consideration by the Legislature during the year 2000 Legislative Session.

#### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Natural Resources (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Fiscal Resource

#### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Latvala and Saunders

#### PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of License Fees and Exemptions Authorized in Chapter 372, F.S.*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-63

#### BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

House Bill 2067 contains provisions requiring the Legislature to review hunting and fishing license fees and exemptions established in chapter 372, F.S., every five years. The first review is to be done beginning in 2000. Many of these fees have not been changed in many years and the cost increases of agency operations can not be met from these user fees and, as a consequence, increased cost of agency operations have created more demand on the General Revenue Fund.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To review the fees and exemptions authorized in ch. 372, F.S., and determine if they should be continued without change.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will review ch. 372, F.S., and develop a list of the license fees and exemptions authorized in law. A historical review will be made of the changes and adjustments made in these fees and exemptions. An analysis will be made of how much of the agency's operations have been dependent on the revenues from these fees, and a comparison will be made of the 10-year trend in the agency in its utilization of revenue from the State General Revenue Fund. Information will be gathered and compared from other nearby states, and other large urban state wildlife agencies to see how their fee structures and exemptions compare. Meetings will be held with personnel from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (formerly Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission) to gather information and seek their insights and recommendations for changes.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Natural Resources (Lead), Fiscal Resource, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Diaz-Balart and Forman

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Development of Legislation to Conform Various Statutes with Provisions Enacted in 1999 Relating to the Creation of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-64

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The creation of the new Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the reorganization and transfer of significant marine-related functions from the Department of Environmental Protection resulted in the need to conform numerous statutes with these reorganization decisions. While numerous statutes were conformed with the reorganization legislation in 1999, the House refused to accept all conforming provisions in Senate Bill 864 and a bill will be needed for the 2000 Legislative Session to address the remaining areas. While the Statutory Revisor was directed to address these issues for the 2000 Session, there are sections of law that need to be changed that involve more than editorial changes.

The creation of the new Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission involved lengthy legislation and there is a likelihood that several glitches may need to be addressed in 2000.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

1. To review the Florida Statutes and determine sections that need to be conformed with the 1999 enacted provisions creating a Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
2. Secondly, the proposed committee bill created in conjunction with the first project objective can

also serve as a vehicle to address any glitches that are discovered in the 340-page legislation that was used in 1999 to create the new Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will review provisions that were included in the first engrossed SB 864 and determine which provisions were not addressed in the third engrossed and enrolled SB 864. Additional research will be undertaken to determine if there are additional sections of law that need to be included in a proposed committee bill to address conforming requirements. Interviews will be held with personnel in the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to determine their awareness of sections of law that need to be changed relating to the recent reorganization activities between the agencies.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Natural Resources

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Bronson and Laurent

**MANDATORY REVIEW**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review of the Scheduled Repeal of the Distribution Formula for Bond Proceeds in the Final Fiscal Year of the Preservation 2000 Program*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-80

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Section 259.101(3), F.S., relating to the distribution of bond proceeds for the Preservation 2000 Program is repealed effective October 1, 2000, and a legislative review must be made prior to repeal. The final bond issue for the Preservation 2000 Program will be approved for Fiscal Year 2000-2001. For the previous nine years, the bonds have been issued late in the fiscal year, usually around March-May. If that trend continues in Fiscal Year 2000-2001, the final bond issue will be made after the repeal of statutory provisions prescribing how bond proceeds must be distributed.

This scheduled repeal needs to be analyzed and a determination made as to how to either extend the repeal date or coordinate the issuance of bonds in a manner to precede the repeal of the allocation formula.

This repeal provision was likely part of the original Preservation 2000 Program to assure that the program and its funding were reviewed prior to expiration of the overall program. Proponents of the program did not initially realize that bonds for this program would be issued late in the fiscal year rather than early in the fiscal year.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

1. The project will evaluate alternatives for solving the dilemma of the scheduled repeal of the allocation formula for bond proceeds prior to the likely issuance of the final bond issue.
2. To create a proposed committee bill to address the issues related to this scheduled repeal to assure that it is addressed and is not overlooked in the Legislative Session for 2000.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Interviews and meetings will be conducted with staff of the Division of Bond Finance and legislative appropriations staff to determine and evaluate alternative ways to solve problems stemming from the scheduled repeal of the allocation formula for P-2000 bond proceeds.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Natural Resources (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Bronson and Carlton

**MONITORS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Implementation Activities Relating to the New Florida Forever Program*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-168

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 Legislative Session, the Florida Forever Program was created to extend the bond funded land acquisition program for conservation and recreational lands. The new program is intended to replace the popular Preservation 2000 Program after its conclusion on July 1, 2000. The 1999 Legislation contained extensive provisions affecting land acquisition and management activities.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To determine if further statutory changes are needed for the new Florida Forever Program.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will monitor the activities of state agencies and water management districts that are involved in implementation of the new laws on acquisition and management of conservation lands. Periodic discussions and meetings with personnel in these state agencies and water management districts and other interest groups will help determine if there are glitches or other substantive changes needed in the provisions enacted in 1999.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Natural Resources

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Reorganization Activities of the Department of Environmental Protection*

**DATE DUE:** N/A

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-169

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

CS/HB 2067 provided authorization for the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to restructure and reorganize the department to increase efficiency in carrying out the agency's mission. The Secretary of the DEP shall submit a report describing actions taken and additional plans for implementing the provisions in this law to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by 30 days after this bill becomes a law. The department shall submit status reports on a monthly basis through December, 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To determine if statutory changes are needed to implement the reorganization and restructure of DEP.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Staff will review the periodic reports submitted by the DEP related to its recommendations for reorganization. Also, staff will attend meetings at the agency and interview agency personnel to determine the rationale for the reorganization and the expected benefits.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Natural Resources and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**Regulated Industries**  
**INTERIM PROJECTS**

PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of the Malt Beverage Container Size Restrictions*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-65

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 563.06(6), F.S., was enacted in 1965 and has remained essentially unchanged.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine if the restrictions on container sizes for malt beverages in s. 563.06(6), F.S., serve a broad public purpose.

METHODOLOGY:

Determine the reasons for enactment of the restrictions. Contact the National Conference of State Legislators and others to determine restrictions in other states. Contact interested parties to determine current issues relating to preserving or altering the existing restrictions.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Regulated Industries

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Holzendorf and Sullivan

PROJECT TITLE:

*Telecommunications*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-66

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Legislature enacted HB 2123 during the 1999 legislative session. Upon becoming law, it will extend until January 1, 2001, a local exchange telecommunications company's responsibility in its service area to timely furnish basic local exchange telecommunications service to any person requesting such service. Likewise, the interim universal service mechanism and the deadline for establishing a permanent universal service fund will be extended until January 1, 2001. However, HB 2123 does not provide a plan for implementing a permanent universal service mechanism.

HB 2123 also directed the Public Service Commission to actively engage in efforts to promote public awareness of consumer relief programs, like Lifeline and Link-Up. Many qualified households are not participating in the Lifeline program and, consequently, Floridians are paying more into the program than the state's low-income telephone customers are receiving. The incumbent local exchange telecommunication companies today bear the entire cost of funding the state share of the program, and greater consumer awareness will significantly increase the cost.

Barriers to entry continue to chill competition for providing local exchange service. Many of these obstacles have been identified by the Public Service Commission in its annual reports on the status of local competition. Additionally, In February, 1997, the Florida Telecommunications Taxation Task Force reported findings to the Governor and the Legislature regarding telecommunications taxation policies. In that report, the Task Force recommended the adoption of a unified or "flat" tax to accommodate market competition and to provide taxing equity among users, providers and tax revenue recipients. The Task Force's recommendations were not adopted at that time, and telecommunication taxation issues are becoming increasingly more complex with the advent of bundled services and the emergence of new technologies.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

1. To study issues related to implementation of a permanent universal service funding mechanism, including the extension of carrier-of-last-resort obligations beyond January 1, 2001, and the effect of Lifeline awareness programs.
2. To identify impediments to competition in the telecommunications market, including a consideration of the present telecommunications taxation framework.

#### METHODOLOGY:

Monitoring Public Service Commission hearings, workshops, and other meetings to keep abreast of the Commission's work respecting telecommunications issues; researching issues related to the implementation of a permanent universal service mechanism, including, but not limited to, a review of the programs being developed in other states; interviewing industry participants and consumer advocacy groups; monitoring Lifeline subscribership levels; and participating in industry discussions regarding telecommunications taxation issues.

#### COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Regulated Industries (Lead) and Fiscal Resource

#### MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Lee, Dawson, and Latvala

#### PROJECT TITLE:

*Review of Extra Charity Day for Certain Jai Alai Permitholders*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-67

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Subsection 9 of s. 550.0351, F.S., was enacted to allow jai alai permitholders to hold up to two “Retired Jai Alai Players Charity Day” performances per fiscal year until July 1, 2000 if the permitholder had not conducted the allowable annual performance since the 1992-1993 fiscal year. Under current law, the permitholder is permitted to hold up to two of such performances annually until the total number of such performances reaches the allowable level.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To determine whether s. 550.0351(9), F.S., should be repealed on July 1, 2000, as provided therein.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Ascertain, in conjunction with the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, whether allowing jai alai permitholders to conduct additional charity day performances for retired jai alai players serves a broad public purpose.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Regulated Industries

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Casas and Geller

## **MANDATORY REVIEW**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Sunset Review of Florida Engineers Management Corporation*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-81

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In 1997, s. 471.038, F.S., was enacted to create the Florida Engineers Management Corporation as a not for profit corporation to provide administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Board of Professional Engineers. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability is to conduct a performance audit of the corporation for the period of January 1, 1998, through January 1, 2000. The statute creating the corporation is scheduled for automatic repeal on October 1, 2000, with the Legislature to review the effect of the statute in the 2000 Regular Session.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To study the effect of the creation and operation of the Florida Engineers Management Corporation on the cost and effectiveness of regulation of professional engineers and to consider the applicability of this

model to other professional boards.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review the data on finances and on testing and disciplinary actions to determine the economic impact of using the Corporation to support the Board and to determine if compliance with the law and protection of the public has improved. Meet with Department of Business and Professional Regulation staff and with industry and professional board representatives to determine the applicability of the “privitization” model to others.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Regulated Industries

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Childers and Dyer

**MONITORS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Implementation of the Information Service Technology Development Task Force*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-170

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

During the 1999 Legislative Session, HB 2123 was enacted, creating, among other things, the Information Service Technology Development Task Force for the purpose of developing policy recommendations that will foster the development and beneficial use of advanced communications networks and information technologies in Florida. The task force will identify key factors and develop policy recommendations for promoting Internet-related technologies in Florida. The task force will report to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House on or before February 14, 2000, and again on or before February 14, 2001, outlining principles, policy recommendations, and any suggested legislation.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitor proceedings of the task force.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Establish contact with the State Technology Office within the Department of Management Services regarding preliminary organizational measures. Monitor progress of the task force once established.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Regulated Industries

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Monitor the Pari-Mutuel Industry*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-171

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In Florida, pari-mutuel wagering is authorized for horse racing, greyhound racing, and jai alai. Florida is one of the nation's primary pari-mutuel states. Florida has enjoyed significant revenue from the regulation and taxation of the pari-mutuel industry. However, the revenue stream provided by the regulation and taxation of the pari-mutuel industry has diminished in recent years due to changes in tax policies and the general decline of the industry. The industry believes that further tax relief is necessary to sustain the viability of Florida's tracks, frontons, and cardrooms.

A recent study concluded that the City of Hialeah and/or the State of Florida should purchase a portion of the property known as Hialeah Park and the pari-mutuel permit. The recommendation was based on the importance of Hialeah Park and the operation both in a historical context and to the citizens of the City of Hialeah as the last remaining substantial open area of the city.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor recent developments affecting the pari-mutuel industry, the decline in state pari-mutuel revenues, and the potential acquisition of Hialeah Park.

METHODOLOGY:

Monitoring work at the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, researching issues related to pari-mutuel regulation and taxation, interviewing industry representatives, reviewing the final report submitted to the Legislature regarding the acquisition of Hialeah Park.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Regulated Industries

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

N/A

PROJECT TITLE:

*Merchant Power Plants in Florida*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-172

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The joint petition by Duke Energy and the City of New Smyrna Beach for a determination of need for a merchant power plant was approved by the Florida Public Service Commission and has been appealed to the Florida Supreme Court. After the Supreme Court makes its decision, the power plant siting act procedure will continue with consideration by the Governor and Cabinet of the environmental impact of the proposed power plant.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor developments relating to the merchant power plant proposed by Duke Energy and any other merchant plant proposals.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor proceedings by the Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Cabinet. Monitor merchant power plant workshops of the Florida Public Service Commission.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Regulated Industries

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Florida State Boxing Commission*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-173

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In the 1999 Regular Session, as part of SB 1566, a number of changes were made to the statutes controlling the State Athletic Commission. Most significantly, the Commission was re-named the Florida State Boxing Commission and was transferred into the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, with the Department to employ the Commission's executive director, with the approval of the Commission, and to oversee the activities of the Commission.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To monitor the implementation of these changes and to determine the need, if any, to develop further legislation.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Monitor the implementation of the statutory changes by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Florida State Boxing Commission.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Regulated Industries

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

# **Transportation**

## **INTERIM PROJECTS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Review of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2000-68

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program was created to coordinate transportation services among all state agencies and local government units that purchase transportation services for their clients. Persons are considered transportation disadvantaged when physical or mental disability, income status, or age make them unable to transport themselves or to purchase transportation. Annual statewide expenditures on TD services approximate \$200 million.

In recent years the TD program has been the subject of considerable scrutiny. Much of the debate has centered on the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged and the long-term direction of the TD program. This project will focus on policy options to address the major issues of concern, including the size, composition and role of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, and opportunities for enhanced local decision making.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This project will provide committee members with a detailed analysis of the current structure, funding and operation of the TD program, summarize previous evaluations of the TD program, and identify policy options to address needed changes in the TD program.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will review statutory and rule requirements relating to the TD program. Staff will review relevant published sources. In addition, staff will conduct interviews with key stakeholders in the TD program. Where appropriate, staff will survey interested parties.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation (Lead) and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Hargrett and Mitchell

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Linking Florida's Economic Development and Transportation Strategies*

**DATE DUE:** September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-69

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

Transportation is consistently one of the principal factors businesses identify as affecting site selection decisions. During the 1999 legislative session, the Senate considered proposals that would have directed transportation funding toward transportation projects which would also aid economic development activities designed to facilitate job creation for participants in the Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency (WAGES) Program, as well as for other Floridians. At the economic summit in May 1999, business and government leaders emphasized the nexus between transportation infrastructure and Florida's economic development efforts, including, but not limited to, issues affecting the movement of cargo to the marketplace.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

To identify transportation impediments to economic development in the state; to assess policy options for utilizing an increase in the flow of federal transportation dollars as a basis for dedicating additional transportation resources to economic development activities; to assess the impact of alternative uses of transportation dollars; and to develop criteria that could be applied to specific decisions about linking transportation spending with economic development objectives of the state.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Review relevant studies such as the Chamber of Commerce Foundation's *Transportation Cornerstone* to assess the transportation needs of the business community; work with state and local transportation agencies to determine the extent to which existing transportation resources are directed to such needs, to determine the extent to which new resources have been incorporated into existing transportation strategies, and to estimate the potential impact from alternative uses of transportation resources; interview or survey economic development professionals, business leaders, and transportation authorities to solicit ideas on alternative uses of transportation resources; and review existing transportation and economic development programs to develop suggested guidelines governing continued or new transportation spending in support of economic development projects.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation (Lead), Commerce and Economic Opportunities, and Budget Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators Casas and Hargrett

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Evaluation of the Department of Transportation's Project Selection and Prioritization Process*

DATE DUE: September 1, 1999

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-70

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the Florida Transportation Code and other transportation related laws establish the Department of Transportation's (DOT) current project selection and prioritization process in relation to the expenditure of Florida's transportation funding. During the 1999 legislative session, the Senate considered proposals which would have modified this current process.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This interim project will provide Committee members with a comprehensive review of the DOT's project selection and prioritization process in order to determine whether the current process needs to be modified.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will review and summarize the DOT's transportation finance and planning process based upon existing federal and state transportation related laws, will interview DOT and other applicable agencies to determine how DOT selects and prioritizes transportation projects, will review relevant studies and will survey (if necessary) other transportation agencies throughout the country.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

Senators King and Lee

**MONITORS**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor the Financial and Performance Audit of the Florida Seaport Development Program*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-174

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

In March 1999, the Office of the Comptroller issued its preliminary audit report of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Program. (The final report is dated May 19, 1999.) The report criticized the management of the Program. As a result of this audit, HB 591 requires the Auditor General in cooperation with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the Department of Banking and Finance to conduct a financial and performance audit of the Program.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This monitoring project will provide committee members with a status report of the audit and any recommendations of the above-mentioned agencies.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will monitor the work of the agencies performing the financial and performance audit and review the final report and recommendations. Committee staff will also interview key participants to obtain their input.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation (Lead) and Budget

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Monitor Progress and Review the Recommendations of the Freight Stakeholders Task Force*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-175

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Freight Stakeholders Task Force is the result of Governor's Chiles Freight Intermodal Summit held on June 18, 1998. The purpose of the Task Force is to provide private sector input regarding freight into the Florida's Statewide Intermodal System's Plan. Several meetings are scheduled throughout 1999 and a final report of the Task Force is due to the Department of Transportation and Governor Bush in December 1999.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This monitoring project will provide committee members with a status report of the recommendations of the Freight Stakeholders Task Force.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will monitor the meetings of the Task Force to determine the status of the final report. Committee staff will also interview key participants to obtain their input.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Implementation of the Department of Transportation's Sunpass Toll Collection System*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-176

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Transportation has entered into a contract for the implementation of an electronic toll collection system (Sunpass) on a statewide basis. The value of the contract is approximately \$38 million. Once implemented, patrons of toll facilities may purchase the Sunpass system and pay tolls electronically. This will reduce the time patrons spend waiting to pay tolls. Once implemented, the Department's Turnpike District is statutorily required to implement a pilot 10% discount program to those using Sunpass and to report the results of this pilot program to the Legislature. Sunpass is currently being implemented in south Florida.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

Monitoring of Sunpass is necessary in order to determine whether the expected savings in operation and maintenance costs associated with electronic toll collection actually occurs and to determine whether it is financially feasible to pass on those savings to the patrons in the form of a discount.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will consult with the Department of Transportation to determine the current schedule for implementation of Sunpass throughout Florida and to monitor the discount program being implemented in south Florida by the Turnpike District.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A

**PROJECT TITLE:**

*Status Report on the Vehicle Information System Overall Redesign (VISOR) Project*

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2000-177

**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Vehicle Information Overall Redesign (VISOR) project is a major effort on the part of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to re-engineer computer applications and business processes used for motor vehicle titling and registration programs. The VISOR project, in combination with other on-going information technology projects within DHSMV, is intended to improve

customer service and program efficiency.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):**

This monitoring project will provide committee members with a status report on DHSMV's progress towards implementation of the VISOR project.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Committee staff will consult with DHSMV managers to determine the current status of the VISOR project and the remaining tasks to be completed. Committee staff will also interview key participants (tax collectors, tag agencies) in the title and registration programs to obtain their input on the VISOR project.

**COMMITTEES INVOLVED:**

Transportation

**MEMBER OVERSIGHT:**

N/A