

THE FLORIDA SENATE



INTERIM WORK PLAN 2001 SESSION

**TONI JENNINGS
PRESIDENT**

**WILLIAM G. "DOC" MYERS
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

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Agriculture and Consumer Services

INTERIM PROJECTS *(None)*

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

<i>Enforcement of the Motor Fuel Marketing Practices Act</i>
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DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-048

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In recent years, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has had responsibility to investigate complaints regarding violations of the Motor Fuel Marketing Practices Act. Any civil action brought as a result of the investigation, has been the responsibility of the Department of Legal Affairs.

Sections 17-21 of CS/CS/SB 1114, 1st Engrossed transfers the authority to bring civil action in such cases to the Office of the General Counsel in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to monitor implementation of the transfer of authority to bring civil action regarding violations of the Motor Fuel Marketing Practices Act to the Office of General Counsel in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Investigations resulting in civil action and staffing requirements as a result of the new responsibility will be included.

METHODOLOGY:

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

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Equipment Purchase and Direct Assistance to Florida Tobacco Farmers

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-049

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In recent years, the USDA announced quota for tobacco production has declined dramatically. The decline has placed many tobacco farmers in serious financial trouble as their ability to repay loans has diminished.

Sections 7 and 8 of chapter 2000-128, Laws of Florida, provides for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to purchase certain tobacco production equipment under specified conditions. Also, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) of the University of Florida is to provide on-farm direct assistance to growers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to monitor the development of rules and implementation of the program to purchase tobacco production equipment from farmers. Additionally, the efforts of IFAS will be monitored regarding on-farm direct assistance to growers.

METHODOLOGY:

Interviews will be held in person and by telephone with agency and university staff, as well as with farmers and other interested parties in the private sector. Public meetings and hearings will be attended to the extent possible to obtain information through those forums.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Agriculture and Consumers Services (Lead) and Fiscal Resource.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Citrus Canker Eradication Program

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-050

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Over the past few years, citrus canker has spread northward from Dade County into Palm Beach County and into some west coast counties. This progression indicates that the disease is still spreading even as backyard trees and groves of citrus trees continue to be surveyed and destroyed.

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, is moving at an accelerated pace to eradicate the disease from Florida. The

Legislature passed statutory changes to enable these agencies to conduct the eradication program more efficiently.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to monitor the efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the United States Department of Agriculture to eradicate citrus canker disease from the state.

METHODOLOGY:

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

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Performance-Based Program Budgeting by Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-051

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Legislature approved programs, performance measures and standards for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services beginning with the 1999-00 FY. Legislative actions of the last session will require some changes in the information submitted to the Legislature regarding agency long-range plans for FY 2001-02.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to monitor proposed Performance-Based Program Budgeting measures of the department for FY 2001-02.

METHODOLOGY:

Interviews will be held in person and by telephone with agency staff and Fiscal Policy Committee staff to obtain and review information.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Performance-Based Program Budgeting by Department of Citrus

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-052

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Legislature approved programs, performance measures, and standards for the Department of Citrus for the first time for FY 2000-01. Legislative actions of the last session will require changes to the agency's long-range plans.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to monitor the implementation of performance measurement and long-range planning by the department.

METHODOLOGY:

Interviews will be held in person and by telephone with agency staff and Fiscal Policy Committee staff to obtain and review information.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Agriculture and Consumer Services (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Banking and Insurance

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Whether Florida's Insurance Laws are Adequate to Respond to the Next Major Hurricane

DATE DUE: October 15, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-001

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

There are likely to be serious insurance problems following the next major hurricane, despite the insurance laws that have been enacted since Hurricane Andrew struck in 1992. Current laws will address some of these problems, including: (1) the Florida Residential Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association, which sells residential property insurance to persons unable to obtain coverage; (2) the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, which will reimburse insurers for a portion of their hurricane losses and will continue to provide reinsurance (but a lower amount) for the next hurricane; (3) authority for the Department of Insurance to license claims adjusters on an emergency basis; and (4) a mediation program administered by DOI to help resolve property insurance claims expeditiously.

However, other problems may demand legislative or department action, unless laws are enacted in advance, related to the following: (1) The Florida Insurance Guaranty Association has a limited source of funding to pay for claims against insolvent property and casualty insurers. The current FIGA assessment is capped at 2 percent of premium (for property and casualty lines other than private passenger auto and workers' compensation) which generates about \$124 million if the maximum assessment is levied in 2000. If claims exceed this amount, the Legislature will be expected to provide funding, which occurred after Hurricane Andrew when 10 insurers became insolvent resulting in about \$500 million of unfunded liability for FIGA. The Legislature enacted a special 2% multi-year assessment to fund a \$500 million bond issue to pay these claims. (2) After Hurricane Andrew many insurers sought to reduce their exposure to hurricane losses in Florida by non-renewing existing policies. The Department of Insurance issued an emergency order prohibiting insurers from canceling or non-renewing policies for a 90-day period. In special session, the Legislature imposed a statutory moratorium on non-renewals for a 180-day period. This was followed in another special session by a 3-year "moratorium phase-out" that prohibited insurers from non-renewing more than a specified percentage of their policies. These provisions (ss. 627.7013 and 627.7014, F.S.) were extended and revised by legislative enactments in 1996 and 1998, and are currently scheduled to be repealed on June 1, 2001. (3) Other emergency rules were adopted by the Department of Insurance following Hurricane Andrew related to extending policy deadlines for paying renewal premiums; establishing a small business loan program; requiring prior approval of rate changes (by suspending the option for use-and-file); authorizing the department to impose conditions on an insurer's withdrawal from the state; setting time limits for insurers to take actions with respect to claims; and requiring insurers to submit hurricane-related claims data monthly.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine what insurance problems are likely to occur after the next major hurricane and to make recommendations with regard to insurance laws that should be enacted in advance in order to prevent or mitigate such problems.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will research the insurance problems that occurred after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and the actions taken by the Department of Insurance and the Florida Legislature in response to those problems. Staff will also research and analyze the property insurance laws that have been enacted since that time and the impact such laws are likely to have after the next major hurricane. Research will include an historical analysis of the Florida insurance market, interviews with personnel in the department and insurance industry, and insurance publications evaluating the state of the Florida property insurance market.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Banking and Insurance.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Clary and Geller

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Alternatives to Property and Casualty Insurance Rate Regulation in Florida

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-002

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 1999 Regular Session, various proposals were considered which pertained to the regulation of property and casualty insurance rates by the Department of Insurance. These proposals included the creation of an Insurance Rating Commission modeled after the Public Service Commission, the deregulation of commercial property and casualty rate regulation for large employers, and the repeal of the arbitration option for property and casualty insurance rate filings.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This report will analyze Florida's property and casualty insurance rate provisions and compare them to the regulations in selected states, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) model laws, and other rate regulatory proposals. This report will examine the various alternatives to the current property and casualty insurance rate regulation in the state and analyze the pros and cons of such options.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will review the history of Florida's current rating laws and analyze the recent rate orders which have been issued by the Department of Insurance. Staff will research case law, review model rating laws, and analyze the rating laws in selected states and other rating alternative proposals. The report will focus on property and casualty insurance rates subject to s. 627.062, F.S., (rather than the rating laws that

apply to private passenger auto, workers' compensation, and health insurance), except for proposals that effect all rating laws, such as creation of an insurance rating commission.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Banking and Insurance (Lead) and Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Holzendorf and Latvala

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Evaluation of the Transfer of Workers' Compensation Hearings from the Department of Labor and Employment Security to the Division of Administrative Hearings

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-003

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Last session, a proposal was discussed, but not considered, that would have transferred the workers' compensation hearings from the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims within the Department of Labor and Employment Security to the Division of Administrative Hearings within the Department of Management Services. Another legislative proposal, which passed the Senate, would have transferred the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims, along with the Division of Workers' Compensation, to the Department of Insurance. This proposal would have resulted in the appointment of judges by the Governor to another cabinet agency. Various functions of the Department of Labor and Employment Security were transferred to other agencies, which may give greater impetus for considering this proposal.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The report will review the current management and administration of the workers' compensation hearings by the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims and the related functions of the Division of Workers' Compensation, including workload statistics and internal and statutory time frames leading to final orders. The report will also compare the operations and procedures of the Division of Administrative Hearings and the merits of transferring the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims to the Division of Administrative Hearings, including the practical and legal issues, including the appointment of judges, that need to be considered under this proposal.

METHODOLOGY:

Stakeholders of the workers' compensation system (including representatives of insurance carriers, self-insured employers, injured workers, employee advocacy groups, employee union representatives, attorneys, and research organizations) will be contacted to obtain comments and concerns regarding the current workers' compensation hearings process. In addition, staffs from the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims, the Division of Workers' Compensation, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the Division of Administrative Hearings will be interviewed.

Based on information obtained through the interview process and an evaluation of workload statistics, staff will evaluate the current management and administration of the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims and the potential impact of transferring this function to the Division of Administrative Hearings.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Clary and King

MANDATORY REVIEW

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Public Records Exemption for Surplus Lines Insurance Records Furnished to the Department of Insurance

DATE DUE: October 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-028

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The public records exemption related to surplus lines insurance in s. 626.921(8), F.S., is scheduled for repeal on October 2, 2001, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature, pursuant to the criteria specified in the Open Government Sunshine Review Act, s. 119.15, F.S. Currently, information furnished to the Department of Insurance under s. 626.923, F.S., or contained in the records subject to examination by the department under s. 626.930, F.S., is confidential and exempt if the disclosure of the information would reveal a trade secret as defined in s. 688.002, F.S. The cited statutes require surplus lines agents to furnish, upon request of the department, copies of surplus lines policies, including applications, cover notes, or other forms of confirmation of insurance, and to also have available for examination by the department specified information related to the surplus lines coverage, including the amount of the insurance, perils insured, premiums charged, address of the insured, and certain other information.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine whether the current public records exemption in s. 626.921(8), F.S., for certain surplus lines insurance records submitted to the Department of Insurance, should be retained, modified, or repealed, pursuant to the criteria specified in the Open Government Subset Review Act, s. 119.15, F.S.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will determine what specific records are affected and attempt to determine how the exemption affects insurers and the general public, identify the public purpose of the exemption, and address all criteria specified in s. 119.15, F.S. Staff will interview personnel with surplus lines insurance companies, the Surplus Lines Service Office, the Department of Insurance, and the First Amendment Foundation.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Banking and Insurance.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

MONITOR PROJECTS *(None)*

Budget

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Develop New Budget Instructions for Legislative Budget Request Development (Chapter 216, F.S.)

DATE DUE: July 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-004

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

House Bill 2377, passed during the 2000 Legislative Session, substantially modified the planning and budgeting process for state agencies. Major changes affecting the budget instructions include: eliminating preliminary budget requests; changing submittal dates and other time frames; merging phase-in provisions for Performance-Based Planning and Budgeting into the annual budgeting requirements to be used by all agencies as of the 2001-2002 budget cycle; creating Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) requirements; restructuring the budget hierarchy (i.e., programs, budget entities, activities, unit costs); creating a community budget request process; and revising the process for establishing non-operating budget authority.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To modify the budget instructions as needed to implement the changes in law enacted through HB 2377.

METHODOLOGY:

Work groups comprised of the Senate, House and Governor's Office staff will be convened to develop consensus on changes to be made in the annual budget instructions. The recommendations of these workgroups will be reviewed by the Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for final approval.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Burt

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Review Department of Elder Affairs Waiting List Projections for the Elderly Who Need Services

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-005

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000 Legislative Session, members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services and senate staff were unable to obtain reliable and understandable data relating to the number of elderly individuals waiting to receive services from the Department of Elder Affairs. The Legislature must have this information in order to make sound budgetary decisions to determine the true level of need for the elderly citizens of the State of Florida.

The department in the past year has implemented new procedures that determine what types of services elderly citizens need in order to reduce nursing home placements and to determine the total number of elderly individuals statewide that are requesting services. The waiting list information is collected on the department's three major program areas, the Assisted Living Facilities Waiver; Home and Community-based Waiver; and Community Care for the Elderly. This interim project will assist the 2001 Legislature by assuring that the Department of Elder Affairs will provide accurate and reliable information on its waiting list in order for the Legislature to make budgetary decisions for the citizens of the State of Florida.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To obtain accurate, reliable and understandable data relating to the Department of Elder Affairs' waiting list information and projections on elder individuals who are in need of services. This data will be used to develop recommended funding levels for inclusion in the 2001-2002 General Appropriations Act.

METHODOLOGY:

Attend pertinent meetings and analyze data and statistical reports from the Department of Elder Affairs relating to the department's waiting list for services for the elderly citizens of the State of Florida.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services (Lead) and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Brown-Waite

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Analysis of County Health Department Cash Accounting and Cash Balances

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-006

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Annually the Department of Health is required by Chapter 154, Florida Statutes to determine the fund balances of each county health department trust fund and to allocate the balances between state and county funds. For FY 2000-01 the General Appropriations Act utilized significant portions of the state

share of these cash balances to fund priority issues in the Department of Health. An estimated 14% reserve was left in the fund, however, we have no reliable data about the sufficiency of this reserve and whether the utilization of this surplus will impact county health department operations or state priorities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this interim project is to determine the appropriate level of reserve for the county health department trust funds by county. Additionally, the accounting systems will be reviewed and the methodology for allocating the ending cash balances will be assessed.

METHODOLOGY:

Meetings will be held with agency officials who manage the county health department trust funds to document the various processes used to account for these funds. Quarterly reports will be reviewed for uniformity and comparability between the separate county health departments. The types of information contained in the quarterly reports will be reviewed for usefulness and relevancy. Data will be reviewed and analyzed on the sufficiency of cash balances. Interviews will be conducted to determine the basis for the rationale for maintaining cash reserves and the perceived impacts of using cash balances to fund state priorities.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Health, Aging and Long Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Klein

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Cost Analysis of the Protective Investigative Functions Performed by Sheriffs

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-007

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1998 Legislature passed Chapter 98-180, LOF, transferring the function of Child Protective Investigations to the respective Sheriffs of Pasco, Manatee and Pinellas Counties in Fiscal Year 1999-2000. The law also mandated DCF to negotiate a contract with each of the three sheriffs agreeing to 1) a specific funding level based on caseload, 2) the applicable performance standards in the General Appropriation Act (GAA), and 3) any other provisions deemed appropriate by the contracting parties to ensure adequate delivery of services.

Since that time, the 1999 Legislature added Broward to the list of sheriffs authorized to provide Protective Investigations, and appropriated \$10.8 million to supplement the programs in Pasco, Manatee, Pinellas and Broward. Most recently, the 2000 Legislature appropriated an additional \$3.2 million for Broward County and \$2.6 million for a new program in Seminole County.

This interim project will provide a cost analysis of contracting with sheriffs pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 98-180, LOF.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project objective is to provide a cost analysis of contracts that have been put into effect since 1999, and to examine the benefits relative to those costs. The goal of the project is to determine the potential funding requirements of this service delivery option.

METHODOLOGY:

The project methodology will encompass the following:

- C Collect and analyze the following
 1. Fund transfers from DCF to the sheriffs according to their respective contracts.
 2. Sheriffs' operating budget for Protective Investigation by expenditure category.
 3. Actual expenditures for Protective Investigation by detailed category or function.
 4. Output measures including
 - a. Number of reports of child abuse/neglect
 - b. Number of investigations
 5. Outcome measures including
 - a. Percent of alleged victims seen within 24 hours
 - b. Percent of investigations completed within 30 days
 6. Operational procedures and functional activities for each of the Sheriffs.

- C Project future caseload/expenditure trends
- C Measure sheriff related data against corresponding statewide averages
- C Report analysis, conclusions and recommendations

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services (Lead) and Children and Families.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Laurent and Meek

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE: <i>FEFP Review Task Force</i>
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DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-053

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

CS/HB 701 includes a provision sunsetting the state's public school funding formula (Florida Education Finance Program - FEFP) in 2004 and it establishes a fifteen (15) member task force to evaluate the current funding formula and to recommend alternative new funding methods. Members of the task force must be appointed by June 30 and the organizational session of the task force must be held by September 1. Staff from the Budget, Education and Fiscal Policy committees will monitor the organization and activities of the task force and will provide assistance as required for their deliberations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor task force activities and to provide information and assistance as required.

METHODOLOGY:

Attend task force meetings and assist with research and analysis activities of the task force.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A**INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:**

Technology Solutions for Customer-Centered Services - Department of Business and Professional Regulation

DATE DUE: N/A**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2001-054**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has implemented a major technology initiative which will include an on-line application processing system and creation of a centralized customer interaction center via the Internet. This Internet site will feature one-stop licensing and enable inquiries to be answered immediately. This project is a re-engineering of the department's business processes to build a model regulatory agency.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the agency implementation process and planning for this 3 year project in order to meet customers' demand for real-time access to information, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, this project will review the agency's proposal for expending the appropriated funds provided by the 2000 Legislature and will ensure that statutory requirements are met by the electronic, one-stop shopping system. Further, the agency's plan for continued funding of future years will be reviewed and analyzed in conjunction with the agency's legislative budget request.

METHODOLOGY:

Evidence of progress will be noted through meetings and site visits with staff of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and Senate Regulated Industries Committee to ensure that the implementation of the new system will meet the needs of Florida's businesses and citizens.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Regulated Industries.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Call Center Pilot Project - Department of Business and Professional Regulation

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-055

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has determined through a feasibility study that the current practice of each Division/Board independently managing their telephone contacts has resulted in problems with unanswered and transferred calls, causing inconsistent services for customers. An appropriation of \$554,326 was included in the 2000-2001 General Appropriations Act for development of a new call center to address this problem.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To ensure the Department of Business and Professional Regulation provides a single entry point for customer service with direct interaction so that customers can receive the information they need quickly and easily.

METHODOLOGY:

This project will consist of a review of the technology, management focus, and process improvements used to resolve customer service inadequacies. Site visits and discussions will be held with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and staff of the Regulated Industries Committee.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Regulated Industries.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) - Department of Business and Professional Regulation

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-056

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC) is a private not-for-profit corporation created in statute to provide administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. These functions were assigned to FEMC with the expectation of greater operational and economic efficiency. The department contracts with the corporation for the regulatory services and employs a full-time contract manager to provide supervision of the corporation. During the 2000 Legislative Session, the funding required for FEMC to operate was questioned. \$500,000 was placed in reserve to be used for costs that were passed on to FEMC associated with new legislation (CS/SB 220).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the methods of operation, cost effectiveness, and discuss any proposed contract changes with the agency and FEMC. This project will determine what the appropriate level of funding should be for FEMC to conduct its functions assigned by law.

METHODOLOGY:

This project will monitor this issue by reviewing reports submitted and meeting with staff of FEMC, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and Senate Regulated Industries Committee to ensure economic efficiency and service improvements.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Regulated Industries.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A**INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:**

Increasing Citrus Industry Revenues through New Filtration System Equipment - Department of Citrus

DATE DUE: N/A**PROJECT NUMBER:** 2001-057**BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:**

The Scientific Research Program within the Department of Citrus has been researching a filtration system process aimed at developing additional uses for citrus and citrus by-products. The filtration process will “de-bitter” grapefruit juice to improve its flavor and palatability. In addition, the phytochemical by-products filtered out of the juice may be re-manufactured into pharmaceutical products.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will review and monitor the department’s development of a new filtration system that would expand the juice product line and/or increase consumption and generate increased or new revenue streams for the Florida citrus growers.

METHODOLOGY:

Meet with the Department of Citrus and staff of the Agriculture and Consumer Services Committee to collect and review information in the development of this new system.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Agriculture and Consumer Services.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Water Projects Funded in the 2000-01 General Appropriations Act

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-058

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 2000 Legislature provided \$144.2 million for funding of 121 local wastewater and surface water projects, based on the recommendations of the Water Advisory Panel created pursuant to Executive Order 99-288. Many of these are multi-year projects which were funded below the requested first year amounts, and most of the projects approved by the Water Advisory Panel and funded by the Legislature required local matching funds.

This project will entail reviewing projects authorized for the 2000-01 fiscal year to determine whether the projects will achieve their stated goals with the funding provided, and whether the local matching funds indicated in the approved Water Advisory Panel applications will in fact be received.

METHODOLOGY:

Work with staff of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting, and the Department of Environmental Protection in monitoring the progress made on the projects authorized and implemented in 2000-01.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on General Government (Lead) and Natural Resources.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

State Law Enforcement 800 MHZ Radio System

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-059

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The State Technology Office within the Department of Management Services (DMS) is currently negotiating with two private vendors to award a contract for the completion of Phases 3 through 5 of the statewide law enforcement radio system. This contract is expected to involve the transfer of significant state assets to a private entity and to commit the state to a long-term funding strategy not unlike a bond program. Because the Legislature had no opportunity to address the issue of privatizing this project during the 2000 session, Senate Bill 2252 was passed to create a panel of legislators and other appointed persons to review the proposed contract developed by DMS.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will focus on providing analysis and other staff assistance to members of the review panel, and on ensuring that the requirements of SB 2252 relating to ongoing funding parameters of the proposal are met. In addition, subsequent to the completion of the review panels' tasks, the implementation of the contracted project will be closely monitored for compliance with legislative intent and to keep legislators informed of progress and problems.

METHODOLOGY:

Periodic contact will be maintained with staff of the State Technology Office to keep abreast of their progress in negotiating a contract and in planning for future implementation issues. All correspondence from the State Technology Office will be reviewed. All meetings scheduled for the review panel will be attended, and staff comments and analyses will be prepared for review panel members as necessary or requested.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Regular Disproportionate Share Hospital Formula Task Force

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-060

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program is designed to financially assist hospitals which serve a disproportionate number of low-income patients and incur high levels of uncompensated and charity care. Florida currently has eight types of these programs. The largest and most comprehensive program is the Regular Disproportionate Share Program implemented on July 1, 1998. The Regular DSH Program has remained relatively unchanged until this year when the 2000 Legislature made some modifications to the base year for calculating distributions. Many hospitals are concerned with the current formula and are also interested in alternative financing options which will more equitably reimburse hospitals for unreimbursed costs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The General Appropriations Act contained proviso language directing the Agency for Health Care Administration to convene a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the formula for the Regular Disproportionate Share program and alternative financing options.

METHODOLOGY:

The Agency for Health Care Administration will appoint the members of the task force which shall include representatives of the Governor's Office, legislative budget committees, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and representatives from teaching, public, private non-profit, or private for-profit hospitals. The task force must convene by August 1, 2000 and shall have a report completed by January 1, 2000. Staff from the Budget and Fiscal Policy Committees will either be appointed to the task force or will attend all meetings. All draft reports and the final report will be reviewed for consistency with legislative intent and current Medicaid policy.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

State Attorney and Public Defender Workload and Technology Assessment

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-061

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In order to efficiently and effectively implement Revision 7 to Article V of Florida's Constitution; ensure that performance-based program budgeting is meaningful for these entities; and make sound budget decisions based on actual workload and technology needs, the Senate Budget Committee must obtain an up-to-date assessment of the workload and technology needs of the 20 State Attorney's and 20 Public Defender's Offices.

As these offices have become more and more reliant on automation, it is critical that a top-to-bottom information technology assessment be conducted to determine the systems and support needs required to operate efficiently. Workload data collected by these information technology systems is used by the Legislature to determine funding needs and forms the basis of all funding decisions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To obtain accurate, reliable, auditable and useful information relating to the workload and technology needs from each State Attorney's and Public Defender's Office.

METHODOLOGY:

Review data collection and database management policy and procedures; On-site technology assessment; interview/survey systems users; identify best practices, hardware/software inventory/needs using private consultants.

Contract procurement and management provided by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Budget Subcommittee on Public Safety and Judiciary (Lead), Judiciary, Fiscal Policy, and Criminal Justice.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Tax Collector Equipment Enhancement and Replacement

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-062

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

House Bill 4533, which was passed by the 1998 Legislature, authorized the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to impose a \$1.00 service charge for each license plate validation and mobile home sticker issued from an automated vending facility. Although authorized, the legislature did not appropriate funds for these vending facilities until the 2000 Session, during which \$7 million were provided. Thus the department will begin implementation of this multi-year program during FY 2000-2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the implementation of the new vending facility program for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the program.

METHODOLOGY:

Work with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and with several tax collectors in the area who will be implementing the automated vending facilities.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Automated Traffic Law Enforcement System - Florida Highway Patrol

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-063

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 2000 Legislature provided \$5 million for the implementation of an Automated Traffic Law Enforcement System. This is a computer system that is placed in a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper's vehicle and can complete a multitude of functions including the writing of tickets and electronic submission of information to and from the Clerk of Court's office.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the implementation of the Automated Traffic Law Enforcement System to determine the reliability, effectiveness, and efficiency of the system.

METHODOLOGY:

Work with the Florida Highway Patrol and with the various Clerks of the Court. The troopers will have the system installed in their vehicles and will electronically submit the data and information to the clerks.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) - Department of Transportation

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-064

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Transportation currently operates the ITS in several areas of the state including Miami-Dade, Broward County and the Orlando area. This system consists basically of control center offices that control electronic road signals. The signs alert drivers of traffic problems ahead and provides information such as alternate routes. The 2000 Legislature provided 6 new positions to expand this system to additional areas of the state and approximately \$10 million is included in DOT's Work Program for FY 2000-2001 for expansion of the system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the effectiveness of the current operating ITS and the expansion of the system in new areas of the state.

METHODOLOGY:

Work with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. This project could possibly entail travel to the Orlando area to visit a joint dispatch office for the two departments.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Children and Families

INTERIM PROJECT

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Protecting the Child and Adult Victim Where Domestic Violence Exists

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-008

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Growing attention is being paid to the effect of domestic violence on children and how best to protect these children. Recent reviews of more than two decades of studies have revealed that in families where women are abused, between 30 and 60 percent of their children also are maltreated. A wide range of studies has also shown that some children who witness adult domestic violence suffer considerably. The harmful effects to the child's development identified in these studies is raising concerns in the child protection system as to the risk to the child in homes where there is domestic violence and the need for strong child protective measures including removal from the home of the non-abusing parent.

While it is recognized that the involvement of the child protection system on children experiencing domestic violence is necessary and a valuable resource to protect the child, we also know that children function best if they can remain safely with their families and that most battered women care deeply about their children's safety and are often protecting themselves and their children from the physical dangers created by their partners in ways that may not be obvious to the child protection system. Accordingly, victims of domestic violence who face the likelihood of having their children removed from their care may not be as willing to seek injunctions for protection or services to assist them to achieve safety for themselves or their children. As a result, there is growing debate as to how child protection systems should protect and provide safe homes for both the children and adult victims who have experienced domestic violence. The difficulty facing states and communities is how to provide non-abusing parents the services, supports and opportunities to maintain a safe home for their child while ensuring the child's protection from direct abuse and emotional harm that exposure can cause.

Federal law, such as the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, and Florida law which set forth the child's safety and health as the most important consideration are often found in conflict with the goals of the domestic violence initiatives of empowering the adult victim to achieve safety for herself and her children and have set the stage for this debate. In addition, two provisions adopted by the 1999 Florida Legislature have focused particular attention on children in homes with domestic violence within the child protection system. Chapter 99-168, L.O.F., identified judges in the specific list of professionals required to report suspected child abuse. Even though judges were already required to report child abuse, their addition to the specified professionals required to report resulted in a significant increase in child abuse reports submitted by judges, including judges hearing injunctions for protection against domestic violence. In addition, ch. 99-193, L.O.F., required that a petition for dependency be filed if the child abuse case involved domestic violence. While SB 855, adopted by the 2000 Legislature, modified and

provided flexibility to both of these provisions, these requirements will continue to accelerate the need to address these issues.

Some states have begun to recognize and address these problems by exploring integration of child welfare services and community based domestic violence services and by passing laws to shift child protection agencies' focus away from removing children from homes in which domestic violence occurs and toward helping the non-abusing parent achieve safety for herself and her children. The domestic violence and child protection systems in Florida have made tremendous strides in beginning to build the collaboration between the two systems for the safety and well-being of both children and adult victims. While there is a growing commitment to work collaboratively to meet the safety needs of both the child and adult victim, the issues of the level and type of child protective involvement, of when a child should be removed, and of access to services and supports that could keep the child and non-abusing parent together when possible have not yet been resolved.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project will be to explore how Florida's child protection and domestic violence systems can further promote the safety and well-being of both children and adult victims, with a specific focus on how well current laws assist the non-abusing parent in removing the risk of domestic violence and maintaining a safe and stable home for the child, mitigate the effects of domestic violence on the child, support the non-abusing parent's efforts to keep or reunify with their child when possible, hold the abusing parent accountable, and minimize the potential for hasty or inappropriate removal of children from the non-abusing parent. Current Florida child protection statutes will be reviewed and assessed as they relate to families where domestic violence exists and as they compare to other state laws and emerging initiatives to determine whether or how Florida can improve its statutory framework and efforts to provide protection to both the child and adult victims and to promote the maintaining or reunifying of the child with the non-abusing parent when possible.

METHODOLOGY:

In carrying out this project, staff plans to conduct the following activities:

- C Review a sample of child protection cases where domestic violence exists for the outcomes of cases under various scenarios.
- C Review and assess Florida law as it relates to child protection and domestic violence and identify improvements that could be made to protect both the child and adult victim and promote maintaining and reunifying the child with the non-abusing parent, when possible.
- C Review other state's laws relative to child protection and domestic violence for their potential applicability for Florida.
- C Examine effective programs that protect and support families where there is domestic violence and that mitigate the effects of domestic violence on children for potential enhancements to Florida's services.
- C Obtain the perspectives of key stakeholders through (1) a survey of child welfare and domestic violence organizations and certain community program staff to gather initial perceptions of the current system and need and ideas for improvement and (2) a workshop on preliminary results of the project for discussion of recommendations.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Criminal Justice.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Dawson

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Domestic Violence Centers Capital Improvement Grant Program

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-065

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

CS/HB 1039 established the certified domestic violence center capital improvement grant program. Certified domestic violence centers may apply to the Department of Children and Family Services for a capital improvement grant to construct, acquire, repair, improve, or upgrade systems, facilities, or equipment. The minimum requirements for information that must be included in the grant application are stipulated. The Department of Children and Family Services and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence are directed to develop a needs assessment instrument that will be used to conduct an assessment of the domestic violence centers' capital improvement needs each year and provide a mechanism to rank the needs of those centers requesting funds for capital improvements. The Department of Children and Family Services is also directed to establish criteria for awarding the capital improvement funds in collaboration with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. An appropriation of \$2 million was allocated for the first year of capital improvement grants in the General Appropriations Act (HB 2145).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the development of the process for the new domestic violence centers capital improvement grant program established pursuant to CS/HB 1039, including needs assessment and criteria for awarding grants and the execution of the grant process for the first year of awards.

METHODOLOGY:

To meet with Department of Children and Family Services headquarters staff and participate in other appropriate activities related to the development of the capital grant improvement program process and implementation of the program for the first year grant awards.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Child Support Guidelines

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-066

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Federal and state law (s. 61.30(16), F.S.) require that the child support guidelines be reviewed every four years. The House Committee on Family Law and Children developed and introduced HB 2421 in response to this requirement, but the bill was not adopted. HB 2421 created a new Chapter of the Florida Statutes dedicated to child support guidelines. The current provisions on child support guidelines were moved to the new chapter with major reorganization and expansion to provide specific direction to parents, judiciary and others who work in the area of child support. There was a great deal of discussion surrounding this bill and its impact. As a result, the House Committee on Family Law and Children plans to form an informal workgroup to continue the discussion on the bill and, to the extent possible, address identified issues in preparation for the 2001 Legislature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the continuing work of the House Committee on Family Law and Children to update the child support guidelines.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend the meetings of the informal workgroup and participate in other appropriate activities related to reviewing the child support guidelines and monitoring the House activities to update child support guidelines.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead) and Judiciary.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-067

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

CS/HB 1039 provides statutory authority for domestic violence fatality review teams and provides for the parameters of their operation. The purpose of the domestic violence fatality review teams is defined as reviewing fatal and near fatal incidents of domestic violence, related domestic violence matters, and suicides to learn how to prevent domestic violence with intervention that is early and with improvements to the systems' response to domestic violence. Currently, nine domestic violence fatality review teams are in place in Florida. The bill directs each domestic violence fatality review team to

collect data regarding the incidents of domestic violence and charges the Department of Law Enforcement with preparing an annual report. Members of the review team, witnesses, incident reporters and investigators are provided with immunity from liability, unless they act outside the scope of the domestic violence fatality review team. The bill assigned the domestic violence fatality review teams to the Department of Children and Family Services for administrative purposes.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the state data collection process, development of the annual report, and any domestic violence fatality review team operational aspects established as a result of the passage of CS/HB 1039.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend meetings of the workgroup being formed to establish the data collection process and to participate in other appropriate activities related to the development of the statewide data collection process, the annual report and any other operational aspect established for domestic violence fatality review teams.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Child Protection Teams

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-068

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 99-168, L.O.F., shifted the referral process of certain reports of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect received by the Department of Children and Family Services to the child protection teams (CPTs) for a medical evaluation and support services from a permissive process to a requirement. It also required that any determination that a medical evaluation was not necessary be made by either the CPT physician or registered nurse practitioner or the examining physician in consultation with these two CPT medical professionals. These provisions have had a substantial workload impact on the CPTs and, to some degree, an inappropriate increase in the number of children referred to the CPT system for a face-to-face medical evaluation. Not only has there been an enormous increase in the number of cases for which the CPTs are conducting medical evaluations, but almost half of those cases did not meet the criteria warranting a CPT evaluation.

CS/CS/HB 855 revised several aspects of the operation of the child protection teams that are intended to address the workload increase experienced this past year, while retaining the enhanced role of the CPTs provided by ch. 99-168, L.O.F. First, those cases which must be referred to the CPT for an assessment was modified to clarify and better identify the cases of maltreatment that necessitate a CPT review. Second, the individuals who can conduct a review of a child referred to the CPT to determine if a face-to-face medical evaluation is needed was broadened. Third, the circumstances under which a face-

to-face medical evaluation is determined not needed was expanded. The goal of these revisions is to reduce inappropriate referrals to CPTs and, in turn, the number of children who require an actual face-to-face CPT medical evaluation and to more accurately target the expertise of the CPT on the children who have actually experienced some form of injury.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the changes to the operation of the child protection teams as a result of modifications to the circumstances and types of cases requiring a child protection team evaluation adopted through CS/CS/HB 855 in the 2000 Legislature.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend the periodic Child Protection Teams conference calls, meet with Department of Health headquarters staff, conduct a visit to a minimum of one child protection team site, and participate in other appropriate activities related to the modification of the operation of the CPTs.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Summer Camp Health and Safety Qualities

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-069

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

CS/SB 212 directed the statewide child care resource and referral network to convene a workgroup for the purpose of developing recommendations for improving the health and safety qualities of summer camp programs without over-regulation. One of the identified components of the workgroup's charge is to examine the feasibility of requiring summer camp programs to register with the Department of Children and Family Services, to provide annual program information to the statewide child care resource and referral networks, or to publish their health and safety plans. Members of the workgroup are to include representatives from summer camp program-related associations, the Department of Children and Family Services, parents, and other interested parties. A report of the recommendations is to be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2001.

Specific summer camp program responsibilities were added to the services provided by the child care resource and referral agencies in CS/SB 212. Child care resource and referral agencies were charged with assisting families in identifying summer recreation camp and summer day camp programs and in evaluating the health and safety qualities of these programs. A checklist of important health and safety qualities that parents can use to choose their summer camp programs is to be developed and distributed to parents interested in such programs for their children. The workgroup will likely be used to help provide direction to this checklist initiative.

Both provisions were contingent upon specific appropriation; however, the Department of Children and Family Services had stated funding would be available.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the summer camp programs health and safety qualities initiatives provided for in CS/SB 212, as follows: a) the workgroup provided for in section 21 of the legislation that is to develop recommendations for improving the health and safety qualities of summer camp programs, and b) the development of the checklist of health and safety qualities in summer camp programs and the plans for distribution.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend the meetings of the workgroup, review the recommendations and any other products developed by the workgroup, meet with the staff of the statewide child care resource and referral agency and to participate in other appropriate activities of the child care resource and referral agencies associated with these summer camp health and safety initiatives.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead) and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Transition of G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-070

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Federal Balanced Budget Act has reduced the Medicaid disproportionate share funds allocated to state mental health hospitals which requires that the Department of Children and Family Services reduce the number of state mental health hospital beds. In order to achieve this bed reduction, the 2000 Legislature directed the Department of Children and Family Services to increase the quality and quantity of community-based mental health treatment and support services in those communities served by G. Pierce Wood Memorial Hospital. For this purpose, funds were appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for FY 2000-2001 to establish two assertive community treatment teams, and start up funds were provided for short-term residential treatment beds in those communities within the G. Pierce Wood catchment area.

The Department of Children and Family Services is currently developing an implementation plan that will provide the details on the appropriate community alternatives (short-term and long term treatment and support services) needed to accommodate the transfer of patients from G. Pierce Wood, maintain those patients in the community, and serve all other mentally ill persons in those surrounding communities who rely on state mental health hospital services. This transition to less institutional care and greater community-based care must occur with deliberative planning so that persons with severe and persistent mental illness will receive appropriate treatment and support services in the least restrictive

setting as required in ch. 394, F.S. This plan will assist in preparing the 2001 Legislature about the future resources needed to fully implement community based mental health care in the G. Pierce Wood catchment area, including the time frames that this transition can be accomplished.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the development and implementation of the Department of Children and Family Services' plan to transition Florida's mental health system in Districts 5, 6, and 8 from reliance on state mental health hospital care to community based care.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend pertinent meetings with the Department of Children and Family Services relating to the conversion of G. Pierce Wood which may include a visit to the hospital and/or to community based programs.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Community-Based Care

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-071

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 the privatization of foster care and related services statewide. Privatization is being phased in over a 3 year period that began January 1, 2000. This legislation also required that the sheriffs of Pasco, Manatee, and Pinellas counties provide child protective investigative services by the end of fiscal year 1999-2000.

Chapter 2000-139, L.O.F. (HB 2125), addressed several new provisions to assist in the implementation of community-based care. The Department of Children and Family Services was directed to implement employment programs and strategies to attract and retain competent staff in the transition to privatized community-based care that includes lump-sum bonuses, salary incentives, relocation allowances, severance pay, out placement services, and time-limited exempt positions with salaries and benefits comparable to career service employees. Also, s. 402.731, F.S., was created to extend the department's authority to develop certification programs for employees and agents to all providers (not just the family safety and preservation providers) to help ensure that only qualified persons provide client services. The 2000 Legislature also expanded the sheriffs performing child protective investigations specifically to Broward and Seminole counties.

Section 409.1671, F.S., (privatization of foster care and related services) was amended to: 1) allow the department to contract with more than one lead agency within a single county when it would result in

more effective delivery of foster care and related services, 2) authorize the department to establish a risk pool to reduce service provider financial risk from unanticipated growth in caseloads, and 3) establish a receivership procedure for lead community-based providers.

The Department of Children and Family Services received an appropriation of \$6,398,371 to fund transitional costs related to community-based care privatization initiative and \$4,500,000 to establish a “Community-based Care Risk Pool.”

Since the passage of ch. 98-180, L.O.F., there have been delays in the privatization of foster care and related services. The implementation date was extended 6 months by the 1999 Legislature for District 5 (Pinellas and Pasco counties) and a contract with a community-based provider in District 7, Lake County Boys Ranch, was recently canceled. In addition, at least one of the four sheriffs with responsibility for all child protective investigations (Pinellas) has indicated that they may cancel their contract to provide this function.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the implementation of community-based care by the Department of Children and Family Services, specifically the statutory mandate to privatize all foster care and related services by January 1, 2003, and to transfer child protective investigative services to the Sheriffs of four Florida counties.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend meetings, review reports, conduct at least one site visit, and participate in other appropriate activities of the Department of Children and Family Services and county sheriffs related to the implementation of community-based care.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Identification of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Population Groups

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-072

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 98-05, L.O.F., created statutory definitions for children and adolescents who are experiencing a mental or emotional crisis, have an emotional disturbance or a serious emotional disturbance, or are at risk of an emotional disturbance. Chapter 99-396, L.O.F., defined children who are at risk for substance abuse and children with substance abuse problems.

CS/SB 358 passed by the 2000 Legislature creates statutory definitions for persons (children, adolescents, and adults) experiencing an acute mental or emotional crisis or an acute substance abuse crisis but does not include definitions of adults with a serious mental illness or adults with a substance

abuse problem. The bill specifies that persons who are in one of the department's target groups approved by the Legislature pursuant to s. 216.0166, F.S., are eligible to receive publicly funded substance abuse and mental health services. The bill directs the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse to study and make recommendations to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2000, regarding who should receive publicly funded mental health and substance abuse services. The Department of Children and Family Services is directed to revise its target groups pursuant to s. 216.0166, F.S., to include older adults who: 1) are in crisis, 2) are at risk of being placed in a more restrictive environment because of their mental illness or substance abuse, 3) have a severe and persistent mental illness, or 4) are in need of substance abuse treatment.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the activities of the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Department of Children and Family Services relating to their statutory charges to identify those persons who should receive publicly funded mental health or substance abuse services.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Department of Children and Family Services associated with the identification of the persons who should receive publicly funded mental health and substance abuse services.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Legal Representation of Dependent Children Pilot Program

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-073

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 2000-139, L.O.F. (HB 2125), directs the Office of the State Court Administrator to establish a 3-year pilot Attorney Ad Litem Program in the Ninth Judicial Circuit by October 1, 2000, to represent the rights of children who continue in out of home care after the shelter hearing and who the court believes need legal representation. The child's wishes are to be represented as long as they are consistent with the safety and well being of the child. The court must appoint a guardian ad litem for all children who are appointed an attorney ad litem. The Office of the State Courts Administrator must evaluate the impact of the pilot program and submit a final report to the Legislature on October 1, 2003, that includes recommendations on the feasibility of a statewide program. An appropriation of \$1,860,583 is provided.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the implementation of the pilot program in the Ninth Judicial Circuit relating to legal representation of dependent children.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Office of the State Court Administrator and the Department of Children and Family Services relating to the pilot program.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead), Judiciary, and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Reorganization of the Department of Children and Family Services

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-074

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 2000-139, L.O.F. (HB 2125), amended s. 20.19, F.S., to revise the organizational structure of the Department of Children and Family Services. The bill repeals the district and statewide health and human services boards and directs the department to establish a community alliance in each county comprised of stakeholders, community leaders, client representatives, and funders of human services to provide a focal point for community participation and governance of community-based services. The alliance is responsible for advising the department on issues such as resource use, needs assessment, community priorities for service delivery, and community outcome goals.

The bill establishes a prototype region comprised of the counties of the sixth, twelfth, and thirteenth judicial circuits (Pasco, Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, and Hillsborough counties) within which the department may consolidate the management and administrative structure or functions. The department must evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation of the prototype region and upon a determination that there has been a demonstrated improvement in management and oversight of services or cost savings, the Secretary may consolidate the administration of additional geographic areas of the state but must stay within the geographic service districts as specified in s. 20.19(5), F.S.

Chapter 2000-139, L.O.F., also authorized the department to contract for children's services with a lead agency in each county of the prototype region. Section 409.1671, F.S., requires the department to contract with a lead agency in the privatization of foster care services. The bill allows the department to include other children's services, such as children's mental health, in their lead agency contracts.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the development of the prototype region of the Department of Children and Family Services, the initial work to evaluate the prototype, and the creation of a community alliance in each county.

METHODOLOGY:

To attend meetings and participate in other appropriate activities of the Department of Children and Family Services associated with the development of the prototype region and the development of a community alliance in each county.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Children and Families (Lead), Budget, Fiscal Policy, and Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Commerce and Economic Opportunities

INTERIM PROJECT

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Olympics 2012: Policy Options for State Support of a Florida City's Bid

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-009

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Tampa is attempting to secure candidate city designation by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and, ultimately, host city designation by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the XXXth Olympics in 2012. Tampa is competing with eight other cities for U.S. Candidate City designation by the USOC. The local organizing committees representing these cities must submit bid documents by December 15, 2000, to the USOC. The USOC is expected to announce the U.S. Candidate City in October 2002, and the IOC is expected to announce the choice of the actual site in the summer of 2005.

The USOC requires that the host city arrange to indemnify the USOC and the IOC against any possible net financial loss. During the 2000 session, the Legislature authorized the creation of the Olympic Games Guaranty Account within the Economic Development Trust Fund for the purpose of fulfilling the state's obligations to indemnify and insure against any net financial deficit resulting from the conduct of the games, up to \$175 million. (*See* ch. 2000-148, L.O.F.; CS/CS/SB 1806.)

Tampa's organizing committee, Florida 2012, is raising cash and in-kind contributions from the public/private community. In addition, the committee has secured some funding from the Florida Sports Foundation. The foundation entered into an agreement in July 1999 with Florida 2012, and committed to awarding the organizing committee \$500,000 in grant money over a three-year period to assist the committee in its host city bid and in its efforts to host or support a number of sporting events in the interim.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Identify, for consideration by the Legislature, policy options for providing additional state support to assist the City of Tampa's bid to host the 2012 Olympics and to assist Tampa in carrying out the wide variety of responsibilities if it is ultimately selected as the host city for the games.

METHODOLOGY:

Research what public resources other states and countries have dedicated to the Olympic games or to the hosting of comparable large-scale public events. Review relevant statutes and regulations and consult with interested parties to identify existing or new public resources or programs in Florida that could be targeted to support Tampa's bid for, and hosting of, the 2012 Olympics.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Budget, Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, Fiscal Resource, and Transportation.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Sebesta

MANDATORY REVIEWS

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Review and Evaluation of the Enterprise Zone Program

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-029

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

An “enterprise zone” is a specific geographic area targeted for economic revitalization. Florida established one of the first enterprise zone programs in the country in 1980 to encourage economic growth and investment in distressed areas by offering tax advantages to businesses willing to make such an investment. In 1994, the Legislature passed significant revisions to the Enterprise Zone Program, following comprehensive reviews by the Auditor General and substantive committees of the Legislature. Then-existing zones were repealed on December 31, 1994, and parameters were established for designation of new zones in the summer of 1995. Administrative responsibilities of the program were changed and certain tax incentives under the program were revised. The Florida Enterprise Zone Act of 1994, ss. 290.001-290.016, F.S., provides the current statutory framework for the state’s enterprise zone program. The law currently mandates that prior to the 2001 Regular Session of the Legislature the appropriate substantive committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall review and evaluate the Florida Enterprise Zone Act of 1994, together with the state incentives available in enterprise zones (s. 290.015(3), F.S.). The act stands repealed on December 31, 2005.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review and evaluate the state’s Enterprise Zone Program, including the tax incentives provided under the program, and formulate recommendations to the Legislature regarding whether to continue the program and any recommendations for revising the program.

METHODOLOGY:

Conduct qualitative research, such as open-ended interviews, with representatives of local enterprise zone development agencies and economic development organizations on the operation and effectiveness of the program. Interview businesses located in enterprise zones to evaluate the impact of zone incentives on location, expansion, and other investment decisions by such businesses. Gather and assess quantitative data, to the extent available, to assess changes in economic conditions within individual zones and to make comparisons among zones. Consult state and local program administrators to identify any obstacles to effective program implementation. Analyze the relevant statutory provisions to identify any technical or substantive issues to be addressed by the Legislature. Conduct literature reviews to

identify any trends in public policy relating to enterprise zone programs or similar community revitalization programs.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Klein

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Review of Public Records Exemption Relating to Economic Development Agencies

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-030

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The "Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995," s. 119.15, F.S., establishes a review and repeal process for exemptions to public records or meetings requirements. In the fifth year after enactment of a new exemption or the substantial amendment of an existing exemption, the exemption is repealed on October 2 of the fifth year, unless the Legislature acts to re-enact the exemption. Section 119.15(3)(a), F.S., requires a law that enacts a new exemption or substantially amends a new exemption to state that the exemption is repealed at the end of five years and that the exemption must be reviewed by the Legislature before the scheduled repeal date.

Section 288.075(2), F.S., provides a public records exemption for records of an economic development agency which contain or would provide information concerning plans, intentions, or interests of a private corporation, partnership, or person to locate, relocate, or expand any of its business activities in this state. This public records exemption is among those certified for review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review the public records exemption provided under s. 288.075(2), F.S., for certain business-location information held by economic development agencies to determine if the exemption satisfies statutorily prescribed criteria and serves an identifiable public purpose. Provide a recommendation on whether the exemption should be maintained and on whether any revisions to the exemption are necessary.

METHODOLOGY:

Survey interested parties on the use and need for the exemption in order to obtain information such as the volume of records covered by the exemption, the manner in which document security is maintained, the organizations or individuals affected by the exemption, and the significance of the exemption to the operation of a public program or activity.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Review of Public Records Exemptions Relating to Qualified Defense Contractor and Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Programs

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-031

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The “Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995,” s. 119.15, F.S., establishes a review and repeal process for exemptions to public records or meetings requirements. In the fifth year after enactment of a new exemption or the substantial amendment of an existing exemption, the exemption is repealed on October 2 of the fifth year, unless the Legislature acts to re-enact the exemption. Section 119.15(3)(a), F.S., requires a law that enacts a new exemption or substantially amends a new exemption to state that the exemption is repealed at the end of five years and that the exemption must be reviewed by the Legislature before the scheduled repeal date.

Section 288.1066, F.S., provides public records exemptions for certain information received by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; Enterprise Florida, Inc.; or county or municipal governmental entities and their employees pursuant to the Qualified Defense Contractor Tax Refund Program and the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program. The exemptions apply to information such as the amount of taxes paid and the applicant’s federal employer identification number. These public records exemptions are among those certified for review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review the public records exemptions provided under s. 288.1066, F.S., for certain information relating to the Qualified Defense Contractor Tax Refund Program and the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program to determine if the exemptions satisfy statutorily prescribed criteria and serve identifiable public purposes. Provide a recommendation on whether the exemptions should be maintained and on whether any revisions to the exemptions are necessary.

METHODOLOGY:

Survey interested parties on the use and need for the exemptions in order to obtain information such as the volume of records covered by the exemptions, the manner in which document security is maintained, the organizations or individuals affected by the exemptions, and the significance of the exemptions to the operation of public programs or activities.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Review of Public Records Exemption Relating to Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-032

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The “Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995,” s. 119.15, F.S., establishes a review and repeal process for exemptions to public records or meetings requirements. In the fifth year after enactment of a new exemption or the substantial amendment of an existing exemption, the exemption is repealed on October 2 of the fifth year, unless the Legislature acts to re-enact the exemption. Section 119.15(3)(a), F.S., requires a law that enacts a new exemption or substantially amends a new exemption to state that the exemption is repealed at the end of five years and that the exemption must be reviewed by the Legislature before the scheduled repeal date.

Section 288.1226(8), F.S., provides that the identity of a person who responds to a marketing project or advertising research project conducted by the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, as well as trade secrets obtained through such activities, are exempt from the public records requirements. This public records exemption is among those certified for review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review the public records exemption provided under s. 288.1226(8), F.S., for trade secrets and for the identities of respondents to marketing projects and advertising research projects of the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation to determine if the exemption satisfies statutorily prescribed criteria and serves an identifiable public purpose. Provide a recommendation on whether the exemption should be maintained and on whether any revisions to the exemption are necessary.

METHODOLOGY:

Survey interested parties on the use and need for the exemption in order to obtain information such as the volume of records covered by the exemptions, the manner in which document security is maintained, the organizations or individuals affected by the exemption, and the significance of the exemption to the operation of a public program or activity.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Review of Public Records Exemption Relating to Florida Sports Foundation Donors

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-033

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The "Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995," s. 119.15, F.S., establishes a review and repeal process for exemptions to public records or meetings requirements. In the fifth year after enactment of a new exemption or the substantial amendment of an existing exemption, the exemption is repealed on October 2 of the fifth year, unless the Legislature acts to re-enact the exemption. Section 119.15(3)(a), F.S., requires a law that enacts a new exemption or substantially amends a new exemption to state that the exemption is repealed at the end of five years and that the exemption must be reviewed by the Legislature before the scheduled repeal date.

Section 288.12295, F.S., provides that the identity of a donor or prospective donor to the direct-support organization authorized under statute to promote and develop sports-related industries and amateur athletics for the state (the Florida Sports Foundation) who desires to remain anonymous is confidential and exempt from the public records law. This public records exemption is among those certified for review under the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review the public records exemption provided under s. 288.12295, F.S., for the identity of donors to the Florida Sports Foundation to determine if the exemption satisfies statutorily prescribed criteria and serves an identifiable public purpose. Provide a recommendation on whether the exemption should be maintained and on whether any revisions to the exemption are necessary.

METHODOLOGY:

Survey interested parties on the use and need for the exemption in order to obtain information such as the volume of records covered by the exemption, the manner in which document security is maintained, the organizations or individuals affected by the exemption, and the significance of the exemption to the operation of a state program or activity.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Department of Labor and Employment Security Organizational Changes

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-075

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 1999 session, the Legislature adopted a measure significantly reorganizing the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security (DLES), including, for example, assigning primary responsibility for vocational rehabilitation activities to an Occupational Access and Opportunity Commission within the Department of Education and providing for the transfer of the Division of Blind Services to the Department of Education in January 2001. (See ch. 99-240, Laws of Florida; CS/CS/SB 230.) During the 2000 session, the Legislature enacted additional changes to DLES, including, for example, transferring the Division of Unemployment Compensation and certain workforce development responsibilities to a new Agency for Workforce Innovation. (See ch. 2000-165, L.O.F.; CS/SB 2050.)

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor continued implementation of 1999 legislation (ch. 99-240, L.O.F.) reorganizing key functions of the Department of Labor and Employment Security, as well as implementation of 2000 legislation (ch. 2000-165, L.O.F.) affecting DLES, in order to assess implementation progress and to identify potential issues requiring attention by the Legislature.

METHODOLOGY:

Conduct meetings/interviews with DLES staff, as well as staff at other state agencies affected by organizational and functional changes at the department. Review any budget amendments or similar documents submitted to the Legislature to effectuate changes in agency responsibilities. Attend meetings organized by DLES or other affected agencies. Communicate with representatives from federal agencies that are monitoring changes at DLES.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Toolkit for Economic Development and Other Community Development Initiatives

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-076

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000 session, the Legislature authorized the “Toolkit for Economic Development (TED).” (See CS/CS/CS/SB 406, enrolled.) This program is designed to help distressed communities leverage resources from federal, state, and local sources in order to improve economic conditions in such communities and help needy families avoid public assistance, retain employment, and become self-sufficient. The toolkit is comprised of six initiatives, or “tools,” to meet the program’s stated purpose: Liaisons, Coordinating Partners, Fee Waivers and Matching Fund Options, Inventory, Start-Up Initiatives, and Communities of Critical Economic Opportunity. Among other provisions, the legislation requires 22 entities to designate high-level individuals by August 1 to serve as liaisons for the TED program and help develop an inventory of assistance programs. The legislation also establishes a process for designating communities to participate in a Start-Up Initiative, under which the communities may apply for financial assistance to effectuate specific revitalization projects. Senate Bill 406 also contained a number of other community development initiatives, such as ones designed to improve access to computers for residents of economically distressed communities and to improve the capacity of community and faith-based organizations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor implementation of the Toolkit for Economic Development, as well as other community development initiatives contained in CS/CS/CS/SB 406 from the 2000 session, in order to assess implementation progress and to identify potential issues requiring attention by the Legislature.

METHODOLOGY:

Conduct interviews with staff from agencies or entities that have roles in implementing the Toolkit for Economic Development (TED) or in implementing the other community-development initiatives authorized under CS/CS/CS/SB 406. Attend meetings organized by such participating agencies or entities. Review project proposals submitted by communities under the TED program, to the extent such proposals are available.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Commerce and Economic Opportunities (Lead), Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs

INTERIM PROJECTS *(None)*

MANDATORY REVIEWS

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE: <i>Sustainable Communities Demonstration Project</i>
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DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-034

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 163.3244, F.S., was enacted by the 1996 Florida Legislature to test a more flexible, results-oriented approach to community planning. Five communities were selected by the Department of Community Affairs to further six broad principles of sustainability: restore key ecosystems; create quality communities and jobs; achieve a cleaner, healthier environment; limit urban sprawl; protect wildlife and natural areas; and advance the efficient use of land and other resources. The Sustainable Communities Demonstration Project emanated from the work of the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, which was tasked with balancing economic development and restoration of the South Florida ecosystem.

The designation criteria of the program require that the local government has set an urban development boundary that will: 1) encourage urban infill and discourage sprawl; 2) assure protection of key natural areas and agricultural lands and 3) ensure the cost-efficient provision of public infrastructure and services. In addition, the department was to evaluate the extent to which the local government adopted programs within its comprehensive plan that further certain planning goals such as: promoting urban infill; providing low-income housing; supporting public transit; encouraging mixed-use development and promoting economic diversity while preserving rural areas and protecting the environment.

Upon designation of the local government as a sustainable community, proposed comprehensive plan amendments within the urban growth boundary are exempt from state and regional review and the department does not conduct a compliance determination on the amendments. Affected persons may, however, file a petition for administrative hearing to challenge the compliance of an adopted plan amendment using the same procedure employed for small scale amendments. In contrast, plan amendments that would change the adopted urban development boundary, affect lands outside the urban development boundary, or affect lands within the coastal high-hazard area undergo the same compliance review procedure as comprehensive plan amendments for other local governments.

Following a competitive selection process, the department designated Boca Raton, Ocala, Hillsborough County/Tampa; Martin County and Orlando as sustainable communities. Agreements were

negotiated with all five local governments and contracts entered, with the final contract with Martin County entered in November 1997.

Subsection (9) of s. 163.3244, F.S., requires the Legislature to review the program prior to the repeal of the program on June 30, 2001. Staff will coordinate this project with the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

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:

The Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations has produced a draft report focusing on the lessons learned from the sustainable communities program and the program is the subject of their interim meeting scheduled for June 8, 2000. Staff intends to review the report and to supplement the scope of inquiry of the LCIR review by interviewing stakeholder groups affected by the sustainable communities program, including the efficacy of the pilot project as a model for narrowing the Department of Community Affairs review of comprehensive plan amendments.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Carlton

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Public Records Exemption for Bids by Municipal Utilities

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-035

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 119.07(3)(aa), F.S., creates a public records law exemption for: “any data, record, or document used directly or solely by a municipally owned utility to prepare and submit a bid relative to the sale, distribution, or use of any service, commodity, or tangible personal property to any customer or prospective customer.” This section is repealed on October 2, 2001 unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review the public records exemption and make recommendations regarding whether to continue the exemption and whether any statutory provisions should be modified to address the exemption.

METHODOLOGY:

Interview managers of municipal-owned utilities, competitor utilities and utility consumer groups regarding the implementation of this exemption, including the necessity of reenacting the section.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:
Confidentiality of "911" Records

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-036

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 365.171(15), F.S., exempts from disclosure as a public record pursuant to s. 119.07(1), F.S., any record or portion of a "911" call which may identify the name, address, telephone number or personal information about an individual requesting assistance or reporting an emergency using the "911" system. This exemption will stand repealed on October 2, 2001 unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review this public records exemption and make recommendations regarding whether to continue the exemption and whether any statutory provisions should be modified to address the exemption.

METHODOLOGY:

Interview representatives from the wireless industry, state officials with oversight responsibilities for the 911 system, County 911 Coordinators, and staff of the Florida Association of Counties.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Geller

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Commission on the Homeless

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-077

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

SB 1220 created the Commission on the Homeless to review the problems of the homeless and propose solutions for reducing homelessness to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2001. Specifically, the commission is charged with investigating the causes of homelessness, the services currently provided to the homeless and ways in which current government programs could be better adapted to serve the needs of the homeless. The commission must hold at least four public hearings throughout the state to solicit public input.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the progress and actions of the commission.

METHODOLOGY:

Attend meetings of the commission and review materials related to commission recommendations.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead) and Children and Families.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

One Stop Permitting System

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-078

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 99-244, Laws of Florida, required the Department of Management Services to create a One-Stop Permitting Internet web site to provide one location where the public and businesses can access development permit information and, where available, to apply for permits on-line. By using Florida's On-line Permitting One-Stop Center, businesses are able to investigate the permitting needs for specific site locations around the state and locate valuable contact information. One of the objectives of the On-Line Permitting One-Stop Center is to reduce the time it takes for an agency to process and issue a permit. Accordingly, each state agency, processing permit applications over the Internet system, must submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representative, by January 1 of each year indicating the time it takes to process Internet permits.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the progress of the implementation of the One Stop Permitting.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will continue to monitor the Department of Management Service's implementation of the One-Stop Permitting Internet System, including the agencies, water management districts and counties that connect to the system, and the use of the system by development permit applicants. In addition to monitoring the state agencies, the committee staff will monitor the designation of Quick Permitting Counties and the promotion of these counties to the business community by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development and Enterprise Florida.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs (Lead), Natural Resources, and Commerce and Economic Opportunities.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Statewide Unified Building Code

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-079

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

This year the Legislature passed a law requiring the development of a statewide unified building code effective July 1, 2001. The Florida Building Commission will be meeting periodically throughout the interim to discuss implementation of the new Florida Building Code. It is anticipated that there will be a “glitch bill” next year to address unresolved issues. In addition, the Commission is charged to develop recommendations for a state-wide product approval system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the actions and recommendations of the Florida Building Commission.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will attend commission meetings and review the commission’s recommendation for a statewide product approval system and review materials related any proposed legislation.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Growth Management

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-080

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Governor’s Office indicated that an executive order will be forthcoming to form a “blue-ribbon” commission to study and make recommendations to the Legislature for improving the system of growth management in Florida. Ostensibly, the charge of commission may include: examination of the role of state and local government regarding comprehensive plans; role of citizens in preparation and enforcement of plans; the relationship between DRI process and local government comprehensive

planning; relationship between infrastructure spending and concurrency; property rights protection and development of a rural land's policy.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the actions and recommendations of the commission.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will attend meetings of the commission and review any legislative recommendations.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Performance-Based Program Budgeting by the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Veterans' Affairs

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-081

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Beginning FY 2000-01, the Departments of Community Affairs, Military Affairs and Veterans' Affairs started using Performance-Based Program Budgeting. Performance measures were submitted and approved this year and committee staff will review and evaluate these standards.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To review and evaluate submitted standards.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will review and evaluate, together with staff of the Fiscal Policy Committee, standards submitted by these departments.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Criminal Justice

INTERIM PROJECTS *(None)*

MANDATORY REVIEW

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:
Open Government Sunset Review of s. 539.003, F.S.

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-037

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 539.003, F.S., provides, in part, that all records relating to pawnbroker transactions delivered to appropriate law enforcement officials pursuant to s. 539.001, F.S., are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1), F.S., and s. 24(a), Art. 1 of the State Constitution. Pursuant to s. 539.003(2), s. 539.003 is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 in accordance with s. 119.15, F.S., and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2001, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review of the above referenced statute to determine whether it should be saved from repeal.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will conduct the necessary sunset review.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Campbell

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Feasibility and Cost Benefits of a Video Link Between all State Prisons and Courtrooms

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-082

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Corrections has been asked by Senator Brown-Waite to conduct a study, in cooperation with the State Court Administrator's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel, the Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office to determine whether a video link between Florida's prisons and courtrooms is possible, with a view towards the technological, legal and financial issues involved. A video link between local jails and the courtroom is currently utilized throughout the state to conduct routine hearings such as first appearance, without the security risks of actually transporting detainees to the courthouse. A similar system between prisons and courthouses may be beneficial for post-conviction hearings.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project is designed to monitor the feasibility of this video linkage.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will conduct site visits, meet with stakeholders and agency representatives and attend any meetings relevant to monitor this project.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Development of a Five-county Pilot CrimeTrax Linking Data Monitored by Global Positioning System Technology

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-083

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and law enforcement agencies in Citrus, Hillsborough, Leon, Orange and Pinellas County are implementing the CrimeTrax pilot project. The pilot project, which should begin at the end of 2000, will link data on crime incidents reported and the location and movement of probationers monitored by Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will monitor the development of the five-county pilot CrimeTrax project to link data on criminal incidents reported with the location and movement of probationers monitored by GPS technology.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will conduct site visits, as appropriate; research relevant issues; and attend any meetings relevant to monitor this project.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of New Rules of Court on the Capital Postconviction Process

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-084

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Death Penalty Reform Act, which passed during the Special Session of January 2000, was overturned by the Florida Supreme Court in April 2000. At that time, the Court also proposed court rules designed to reform the capital postconviction process. The proposed rules adopted a modified-version of a “dual-track” procedure and revised the rules designed to control public records litigation during the capital collateral process.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project is designed to monitor the Court’s action in adopting its proposed rules.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will review the proposed rules and related case law, discuss the rules’ proposed effects with interested parties and attend any meetings relevant to this monitor project.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Privatization of Inmate Health Care by Department of Corrections in Region IV

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-085

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Corrections is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a health care vendor to provide medical services to inmates in an entire Region of the prison system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will monitor the progress of the movement toward privatization of inmate health care in Region IV.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will track the procurement process, attend relevant hearings and conferences resulting from the RFP and any resulting health care contract.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Re-opening of River Junction Correctional Institution as a Specialized Geriatric Facility

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-086

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Corrections will establish and operate an exclusively geriatric facility for elderly prisoners at the current River Junction Correctional Institution site.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Staff will monitor the transition of the physical site to comply with ADA standards and the re-opening of the facility.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend any relevant meetings and conduct a site visit to the facility.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Development of the Contraband Interdiction Program - Office of Motor Carrier Compliance, Department of Transportation

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-087

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

One of the major features of the Senate's money laundering legislative package was the creation and funding of a contraband interdiction program within the Department of Transportation. The 2000 Legislature appropriated, for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, 15 FTE and \$1,600,000 from the State Transportation Fund to the Department of Transportation, Office of Motor Carrier Compliance, for the purpose of creating a contraband interdiction program within the Office of Motor Carrier Compliance.

The 15 FTE consists of seven certified K-9 handlers, seven felony officers and one support staff. Contraband interdiction teams will be created to patrol major highway corridors and commercial weigh stations in order to reduce the flow of illicit drugs and illegal contraband.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will monitor the development of the Contraband Interdiction Program within the Office of Motor Carrier Compliance, Department of Transportation.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will conduct site visits, as appropriate; research relevant issues; and attend any meetings on this project.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead), Transportation, and Agriculture and Consumer Services.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Department of Juvenile Justice Reorganization

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-088

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1196 authorizes the reorganization of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), including eliminating senior management positions and establishing newly formed program areas within the department. These program areas will coincide more closely with the department's major services (prevention and victim services, detention, residential and correctional facilities, probation and community corrections, and administration). The legislation also eliminates the 15 current service districts and five commitment regions and instead, requires the department to administer its programs through a structure that conforms to the boundaries of the 20 judicial circuits. The bill also realigns and renames the 15 district boards as circuit boards.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will monitor the reorganization efforts of DJJ through close contact with agency management and field personnel during the interim.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will conduct site visits, as appropriate; research relevant issues; and attend any meetings relevant to this monitor project.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Department of Juvenile Justice - Statewide Prevention Services Coordination Efforts

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-089

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1196 requires the department to report to the Governor and Legislature on statewide prevention services coordination efforts by January, 2001. In compiling this report, the department will coordinate with and receive input from state agencies that receive or use state appropriations to fund prevention programs. The report must identify whether legislation will be needed to effect a statewide plan to coordinate the efforts of all state-funded prevention programs. It codifies juvenile crime prevention strategies such as staying in school, positive after-school activities, avoiding violence, and developing employment skills. The impact of these strategies must be considered in compiling the report.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Staff will monitor the progress of the department's prevention coordination efforts.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend relevant meetings, meet with involved parties, and review the department's reported findings.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Classification and Placement Workgroup

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-090

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1196 amends s. 985.404, F.S., which relates to the administration of the juvenile justice continuum, to provide statutory authority for the continuation of the Classification and Placement Workgroup which was formed during the interim. The legislation authorizes the continued efforts of the workgroup to consider pertinent issues and make recommendations concerning the development of a system for classifying and placing juvenile offenders who are committed to residential programs. The workgroup will also recommend a process for testing and validating the effectiveness of the recommended classification and placement system. The workgroup must report its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by September 30, 2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Staff will monitor the progress of this workgroup and its recommendations.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend relevant meetings, meet with involved parties, and review the workgroup's recommendations.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Task Force on Self-Inflicted Crimes

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-091

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1266 creates the Task Force on Victims of Self-Inflicted Crimes within the Executive Office of the Governor. This task force is charged with studying the problems associated with victims of self-inflicted crimes and proposing solutions for reducing the repetitious behavior causing these actions by providing programs to specifically remedy this behavior.

The legislation requires the task force to investigate the following: causes leading to these crimes; current availability and methods of treatment; current state and local policies relative to victims of self-inflicted crimes; number of these victims; and recommendations to improve services for this population. The task force is required to conduct at least four public hearings around the state to receive input from the public and experts on problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes. By January 1, 2001, the task force will issue its written report, containing recommendations for addressing the problems of victims of self-inflicted crimes, to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Staff will monitor the progress of this task force and its recommendations.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend relevant meetings and review the task force's recommendations.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Firearms Purchase Program

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-092

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 2000 Legislature appropriated \$400,000 to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), to be held in reserve and released upon implementation of an amendment to the administrative rule that reduces the amount of the fee collected from firearm purchasers for a criminal history check.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Staff will monitor FDLE's progress on amending the rule and reducing the fee.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will meet with representatives of FDLE as appropriate.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Development of the Pawnbroker Database

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-093

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), will develop and implement a statewide database to record pawnshop transactions using money allocated in the FY 2000-2001 budget. It is anticipated that such a database may make it easier for law enforcement to apprehend people pawning stolen property.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Staff will monitor the progress made by FDLE on this new database. The database will not be fully operational for approximately 12 months.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend any relevant meetings between FDLE and the pawnbroker associations.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Criminal Justice (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Education

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

School Grading and Opportunity Scholarships

DATE DUE: October 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-010

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Education accountability legislation passed by the 1999 Legislature required the assignment of a performance grade to each public school. The criteria for assigning schools letter grades, from A through F, has been the subject of debate. Changes in the way the grades are determined were effected in both rule and law this year.

The law authorizes Opportunity Scholarships that permit a student in a failing school to attend a public or private school of his or her parents' choice. In the first year of implementation, students at two schools in Escambia County were eligible for Opportunity Scholarships. The scholarships were found to be unconstitutional in the Second Judicial Circuit, and that decision is being appealed. Students in approximately 15 school districts likely will be eligible for Opportunity Scholarships in the 2000-2001 school year.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will examine the issues involved in school grading and Opportunity Scholarships to provide Senators essential background information for their consideration of the issues in the 2001 Session.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will follow the progress of litigation regarding Opportunity Scholarships, conduct interviews in schools that receive a failing grade, interview DOE personnel regarding implementation of the scholarships, and monitor school district expenditures of funds appropriated for students in failing schools.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Diaz de la Portilla

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Reorganization of Education Governance

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-011

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1999, Florida's citizens approved changes in the State Constitution to mandate a new public education governance system led by an appointed, rather than elected, State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education. The 2000 Legislature created an Education Governance Reorganization Task Force to accomplish a smooth transition to the new structure by January 7, 2003, the constitutional date for change. In carrying out its charge, the task force is to make a series of recommendations to the Legislature over the next two years for statutory changes that will effect the transition. The Legislature's assigned role in this process, in addition to receiving task force recommendations, will be to initiate required reviews of current laws that describe the structure and powers and duties of the present governance system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The primary objective of the project is to develop and initiate a work plan to: receive and review task force recommendations, conduct mandated reviews of current laws, and conduct a review of the School Code to identify modifications necessary to accommodate the governance change.

METHODOLOGY:

The committee staff will monitor the organization and activities of the Education Governance Reorganization Task Force, begin a review of the School Code, and initiate mandated statutory reviews.

The change in education governance is scheduled to take effect January 7, 2003. The Education Committee project to oversee the transition process will take two years to complete. The first year of the project will be devoted to designing and initiating the necessary reviews.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Horne and Sullivan

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Postsecondary Education Issues

DATE DUE: October 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001- 012

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

A number of recent Legislative initiatives dramatically re-order the roles and responsibilities of postsecondary education institutions and students. The effects of changing one sector will be felt in another, perhaps in unforeseen ways. For instance, school districts and community colleges feel the impact of the Governor's executive order that eliminates affirmative action and admits to a university freshman class the top 20 percent of high school graduates. The role of branch campuses may be altered by the possibility that they may be converted to independent universities. The Legislature's creation of new professional schools affects the relationship of the other universities to the Legislature and the Board of Regents, which opposed creating the new programs. The schedule to eliminate the Board of Regents in 2003 will be stopped, slowed, or redirected only by concentrated action. Any or all of these initiatives may influence the universities' capital campaigns, whose magnificent success alters the state's budget priorities by commanding such a large amount in matching funds. The Legislature should be informed and alert to the changes and their repercussions so as to assure that the system remains responsive to the needs of students and the economy.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Assess the potential impact of how the following issues may develop and relate to one another and the system:

- C Admission of top 20 percent of high school students to a university freshman class.
- C Planning for new law schools and medical school.
- C Independently governed universities.
- C Trust Fund for Major Gifts.
- C Increasing access to baccalaureate degrees or shifting student selection of degree programs into subject areas more critical to the state's needs.

METHODOLOGY:

Convene and attend meetings of agency staff and institutional officials to discuss postsecondary education institutions and their interrelationships. Conduct on-site research for interviews with selected staff and students. Review meeting agenda, reports, and student data available through the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission, the Board of Regents, the State Board of Community Colleges, and their institutions to assess the impact of current and impending policy decisions.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead), Budget, and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Sullivan

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Articulation of Workforce Development Courses and Programs

DATE DUE: September 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-013

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1997 and 1998 Legislatures made great changes in the state’s workforce development programs by creating a separate program fund and by requiring statewide articulation among programs offered by both community colleges and school district technical centers. In the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the statewide articulation was prepared for implementation with the authorization of 13 Applied Technology Diploma (ATD) programs. However, the ATD programs have not yet admitted students. In addition, the community college system has expanded its unique programs¹ by creating additional College Credit Certificate programs and Associate in Applied Science programs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Determine the degree to which local school districts and community colleges plan to use the new program levels. Assess the need for unique courses or programs and evaluate their advantage over a more uniform system.

METHODOLOGY:

Survey local deans, directors, and counselors to identify the prevalence of newly authorized program levels and unique courses. Visit selected sites to seek a local perspective on the need for changes. Examine college catalogues and documents produced by the Articulation Coordinating Committee and the relevant subcommittees of the Commissioner’s Task Force on Workforce Development.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead), Commerce and Economic Opportunities, and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Cowin

MANDATORY REVIEW

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Open Government Sunset Review of s. 240.2996(2),(3), and (4), F.S.

DATE DUE: September 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001- 038

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The law (s. 240.2995, F.S.) allows each state university to establish university health services support organizations. During the 2001 regular legislative session, the Legislature must review provisions of law (s. 240.2996[2],[3], and [4], F.S.) related to public records and public meetings exemptions for state university health services support organizations. The provisions stand repealed October 2, 2001, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

¹The term “unique program” means a program that is unique to the community college system, and “unique course” means a course that is included in only one program statewide. These programs and courses may or may not transfer to other programs, but their transfer is not protected by a statewide articulation agreement.

The provisions in subsections (3) and (4) have not been amended since their creation in 1996. Two measures passed by the 2000 Legislature (CS/SB 2086 and CS/HB 2339) amended paragraph (a) of subsection (2) to add a definition of managed care, which is the same definition that is currently incorporated by cross-reference to s. 408.701, F.S. The law (s. 408.701, F.S.) was repealed by both bills (see section 11 of CS/SB 2086 and section 60 of CS/HB 2339).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project’s purpose is to determine whether these provisions should be reenacted or permitted to repeal. The review will result in a report to assist Senators in reviewing the current public records and public meetings exemptions for state university health services support organizations.

METHODOLOGY:

The project will involve reviewing relevant case law and other materials, as well as the provisions in s. 119.15, F.S., and conducting a survey of state universities with university health services support organizations. Follow-up interviews may be conducted, as needed, with respondents as well as experts on public records law.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator King

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation Status of Workforce Development Education Program Fund

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001- 094

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the performance funding formula for all workforce development programs was fully implemented, but not all programs generated performance funds because of gaps in the data about student completions and placements. The 2000 Legislature was lobbied to adjust the formula or to enact various hold-harmless provisions (or “performance shelters”) to accommodate changing programs. Questions remain about whether these adjustments would help the formula to produce changes that would increase completions and placements.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Develop a closer understanding of the effects of the performance funding formula on local programs and the progress of data compilation. Analyze student demographic and follow-up data to discover any changes or trends. Assess the need for adjusting the formula to accommodate program changes.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will visit selected school district and community college workforce development programs and meet with Department of Education staff including: Loretta Costin, Nancy Cordill, and Linda Hartnig of the Division of Workforce Development; Lanny Larson, David Armstrong, and Margaret Wingate of the Division of Community Colleges; Jay Pfeiffer, Bryan Savon, and Duane Whitfield of the Workforce Education Outcome Information System.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead), Budget, and Commerce and Economic Opportunities.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE: <i>Public School Personnel</i>

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-095

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In CS/HB 63, the 2000 Legislature initiated a number of changes in the ways school personnel may demonstrate competency to be certified teachers. Although many of the changes will not be implemented until 2002, the progress toward their completion requires a number of policy decisions, including the types of subject matter competency tests developed, the components to be included in an alternate route to certification, and how the assessment of student learning gains will be used in personnel evaluations. Three incentive programs that provide teachers with salary bonuses will be implemented in the beginning of the fiscal year. These new programs will not accomplish their goals if the bonuses are distributed inequitably or, at the other extreme, if the bonuses are spread out so thin among all eligible teachers that they do not provide a real incentive.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Identify the opportunities and problems associated with implementing the alternate route to certification and the new testing programs. Determine progress toward development of statewide models that assess student learning gains (“value added” assessment methods). Assess the degree to which incentive programs that award bonuses have the intended effect of increasing the supply of master teachers in needed positions or low-performing schools.

METHODOLOGY:

Interview staff including Barbara Harrell, Audrey Huggins, Carl Backman, Karen Wilde, Adeniji Odutola, Dottie Mineer, and Geri Richardson. Review reports on how teachers are selected for bonuses and interview certain staff of school districts and the Department of Education about the perceptions surrounding implementation of the value added assessment program, the bonus programs, and the certification routes. Monitor implementation teams. Site visits may be requested to districts with the greatest need for new teachers.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead), Fiscal Policy, and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of 2000 School Safety Legislation

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-096

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Many of the provisions of the school safety legislation are based on recommendations of the 1999 Florida Senate Task Force, a bipartisan group appointed by the President.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project's purpose is to review the implementation of the legislation. Specific areas of interest include the following:

- Creation of the Partnership on School Safety and Security;
- Development of the electronic clearinghouse; and
- Improvements to the reporting and information process.

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology will involve discussions with personnel from the Florida Department of Education, as well as others, and monitoring meetings and the development of relevant administrative rules.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Charter Schools

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-097

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Charter schools are public schools that operate privately. Approximately 112 charter schools operate in Florida. Of those, only two are public schools that converted to charter status. During a required review of the operation of charter schools in 2000, the Legislature found a need to provide funding for charter school facilities and to foster public school conversions. The 2000 Legislature

amended Florida's charter school law to accommodate 15-year funding of facilities and to encourage public schools to convert to charter status.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitoring developments in charter schools will provide Senators information they will need as this relatively new educational innovation gains popularity in Florida.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will monitor the allocation of charter school capital outlay funds and the effect of changes in the law that encourage public school conversions and developmental research charter schools.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Study on Children with Developmental Delays

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-098

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 2000 Legislature created a 16-member commission to carry out a study on children with developmental delays. The commission must report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by January 1, 2001, concerning research findings, screening and evaluation tools, community risk factors, the cost of providing services, and a plan for public policy changes to address violence prevention. The commission will examine the research, best practices, and best existing services to help Florida better identify and effectively serve young children who are at risk for developing mental disorders, developmental delays, and disabilities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitoring the work of the commission will provide Senators with information regarding the current research, best practices, and best existing services to prevent, or minimize the effect of, developmental delays in children.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend meetings of the commission and its workgroups and will become familiar with the research findings in order to provide Senators with information they will need as they consider bills related to children with developmental delays in the 2000 Session.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Education (Lead), Children and Families, and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Ethics and Elections

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

<i>Federal Preclearance and Florida's 1998 Voter Fraud Act</i>
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DATE DUE: September 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-014

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1998, the Florida Legislature enacted Ch. 98-129, L.O.F., a comprehensive voter fraud measure which included an overhaul of the State's absentee ballot process. The Voting Rights Section of the U.S. Department of Justice ("USDOJ") refused to "preclear" a number of absentee ballot provisions which it determined violated the 1965 federal Voting Rights Act. USDOJ found that the provisions might have an unintended discriminatory effect. Under federal law, these absentee ballot provisions are not enforceable in five counties in Florida, and by opinion of the Secretary of State will not be enforced statewide. Thus, the Florida Statutes contain several provisions of law, duly enacted by the Florida Legislature and approved by the Governor, which are not enforceable due to constraints of federal law. This situation has resulted in a great deal of confusion, particularly for Florida's supervisors of elections and other political groups. This project will explain the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its impact on Florida election lawmaking; detail the history of Florida's 1998 absentee ballot changes and USDOJ's decision not to preclear certain statutory provisions; identify and discuss the provisions which were not precleared; describe the current state of absentee ballot law in Florida; and, recommend specific statutory changes.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Recommend statutory changes which will bring Florida Statutes into accordance with the federal preclearance decision.

METHODOLOGY:

Legal research; review of preclearance correspondence between USDOJ and State of Florida.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Ethics and Elections.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Sebesta

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:
Suspension Manual Revision

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-015

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Senate has the power to remove public officers suspended by the Governor pursuant to Art. IV, section 7, of the Florida Constitution. The Ethics and Elections Committee currently has subject jurisdiction over suspensions. Suspension cases can require an ad-hoc adversarial legal proceeding before the Senate committee or a special master. While the Senate Rules containing broad suspension guidelines are current, the committee's *Suspension Manual* outlining specific practices and procedures is outdated (*circa* 1985).

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Revise and update the committee *Suspension Manual* so that it is available as a current, practical resource for litigants, counsel, Senators, special masters, and Senate staff in future suspension cases.

METHODOLOGY:

Review current manual and committee suspension files; conduct interview with Steve Kahn, Senate Attorney; legal research.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Ethics and Elections.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Saunders

MANDATORY REVIEWS (*None*)

MONITOR PROJECT

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Performance-Based Program Budgeting - Division of Elections

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-100

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved performance measures and standards for the Division of Elections, Department of State. Substantive and fiscal committees of the Senate will

continue to monitor the implementation of performance-based program budgeting for the Division of Elections.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the implementation of performance-based program budgeting for the Division of Elections.

METHODOLOGY:

Review data collection and determine trends, if any.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Ethics and Elections (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Fiscal Policy

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Analysis of the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund Fee Schedules and Cash Balances

DATE DUE: October 15, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-016

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The General Appropriations Act for FY 2000-01 appropriated significant amounts from the MQATF to fund current operations and to complete the development of a computer system. Also during the 2000 Session, several bills were considered that involved increasing regulatory activities that are funded by the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund (MQATF). When the Fiscal Policy Committee heard these bills, it became evident that the historic manner in which these regulatory functions have been funded cannot continue without modification to avoid large deficits. For many years, a few of the larger boards have supported their entire regulatory program while the smaller boards have incurred persistent deficits.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The outcome of this project will be preparation of legislation for the 2001 Session that will correct funding problems within the MQATF. To determine what action should be taken statutorily, it is first necessary to obtain accurate, reliable, and useful information related to the current status of all accounts within the MQATF. This status analysis will include a review of the fee schedules for each profession and of the adequacy of current and projected fund balances.

METHODOLOGY:

1. Review current statutes, sources of fees, actual and projected expenditures, and cash balances.
2. Meet with the Department of Health to obtain history information, discuss any reviews and audits performed, and any proposed adjustments to fees.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Clary and Silver

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Integration of Performance Expectations in to Agency Personnel Management

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-017

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Legislature has established performance expectations for all state agency programs. In order for agencies to meet these goals, managers must incorporate performance expectations into their personnel and contract management systems. A review was conducted during the 1997 interim by Senate staff of contract management practices of several state agencies. However, no similar review has been conducted of agency personnel management practices, even though employees and their supervisors at all levels must know the specific expectations for their work in order for the agency's program to meet its mandated performance standards. This project would entail reviewing personnel evaluations and other management practices of several state agencies to determine the extent to which measurable performance expectations related to mandated performance requirements have been integrated into the personnel management and evaluation systems of those agencies.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Determine how agencies incorporate performance expectations set by the Legislature into their personnel management systems.
2. Document best practices by agencies in integrating Legislative performance expectations into personnel management.
3. Determine reasons agencies do not integrate Legislative performance expectations into personnel management.
4. Develop recommendations relating to any needed changes to the Florida Statutes.

METHODOLOGY:

Data will be gathered through surveying and interviewing agency staff and reviewing a sample of personnel records. Quantitative and qualitative methods will be used to analyze the information.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Policy (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Children and Families, and Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Burt and Mitchell

MANDATORY REVIEWS (None)

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

The Workforce Innovation Act of 2000

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-101

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Workforce Innovation Act of 2000 made significant changes to workforce and welfare transition programs. It is essential that the Senate staff monitor the implementation of this act, with specific focus on functional consolidation, agency transfers, integration of WAGES and workforce functions, establishment of Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, implementation of accountability and reporting systems, and negotiations with federal officials concerning the act.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

1. Determine if implementation activities of the Executive Branch conform to legislative intent and expectations.
2. Identify statutory changes that may be necessary or desirable.

METHODOLOGY:

1. Attend implementation, planning, and transition meetings.
2. Review plans and reports of implementation teams and work groups.
3. Meet with agency personnel to review progress.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Prescription Drug Spending Controls

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-102

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Medicaid prescribed drug program has increased at a significant level over the past several years. In an effort to control costs, various policy changes related to Medicaid drug spending controls were included in CS/SB 2034 (i.e., voluntary preferred drug program, single source drug cap, drug

benefit management, pharmacy network controls, secure prescription pads, and drug therapy limits). The General Appropriations Act for FY 2000-01 reduced the Medicaid prescribed drug category by \$242.7 million as a result of these changes.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine if implementation activities conform to legislative intent and to track total savings.

METHODOLOGY:

Contact the Agency for Health Care Administration on the status of implementation, participate in work group meetings, analyze and review actual cost savings.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Fiscal Resource

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Disposition of Unclaimed Prize Money - Florida Lottery

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-018

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Currently, the Florida Lottery is required to transfer unclaimed prize money to the pool from which future prizes are to be awarded or used for special prize promotions. During the 2000 Legislative Session, legislation was proposed (HB 891) to transfer the unclaimed prize money directly to the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund (EETF). The Department maintains that more money will be generated for education by reinvesting unclaimed prize moneys in the form of increased prize payouts than will be generated by transferring unclaimed prize moneys into the EETF. In the 2000-2001 General Appropriations Act, \$3.4 million of savings realized from departmental restructuring was authorized to be used for prize payouts instead of being transferred to the EETF.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the reinvestment of unclaimed prize funds into the prize payout pool and analyze, if possible, the incremental impact such reinvestment has on net revenues for education. Work with staff of the Budget Committee to develop a method of calculating the incremental impact of increased prize pools.

METHODOLOGY:

Meet periodically with the staff of the Lottery and Budget Committee to obtain updated reports on prize payouts and to confirm sales and profit data.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Dyer

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Evaluation of In-Kind Communications Services Provided to Local Governments

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-019

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

SB 1338, the Communications Services Tax Simplification Law, provides that various forms of communications services be subject to the same tax and regulatory burdens, even if they use different technologies to provide communications services. One area that was unresolved by SB 1388, however, is the requirement that certain communications services providers provide in-kind services to local governments as a condition of operating in those jurisdictions. Under current law and in SB 1338, local governments may negotiate with cable television providers for certain in-kind contributions, but municipalities are prohibited from soliciting in-kind compensation from telecommunications companies.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The Fiscal Resource Committee shall study and evaluate an appropriate state policy regarding these issues, including the option of assigning a value to in-kind contributions in setting the local communications services tax rate.

METHODOLOGY:

This project shall use data provided by local governments and communications services providers to the Department of Revenue, as required by SB 1338, to evaluate the use of in-kind contributions. Committee staff will also seek information and recommendations from the affected industries and local governments.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Horne

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Feasibility of Consolidating all Economic and Tax Incentives into One Statute

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-020

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Florida Legislature has offered various tax incentives to attract and keep business and to make Florida businesses more competitive. As a result, the many tax incentives are scattered throughout the statutes and are difficult to find. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the feasibility of consolidating all economic and tax incentives into one statute for easy access.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objectives of this project are: to identify, by statute, all of the economic and tax incentives available to Florida businesses; provide a brief description of each incentive; determine what incentives can and should be consolidated into one statute; and work with Statutory Revision to construct the new incentive statute.

METHODOLOGY:

Research of statutes and the Florida Tax Handbook will be used to identify existing economic and tax incentives available to Florida businesses. Compile a comprehensive list of such incentives and evaluate the list to determine which incentives can feasibly be consolidated into one statute.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Lee

MANDATORY REVIEWS

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

General Revenue Service Charge on Certain Trust Funds

DATE DUE: September 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-039

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 215.20(1), F.S., applies a 7% General Revenue Service Charge to all income of a revenue nature deposited in all trust funds except those enumerated in s. 215.22, F.S. Section 10 of chapter 90-110, Laws of Florida, added a new subsection (3) to s. 215.20, F.S., that imposed a .3% Agency Budget Sunset Trust Fund service change on certain trust funds. This new subsection was scheduled to expire October 1, 2001, and was set for review by the Legislature. Chapter 91-112, Laws of Florida, changed the disposition of the .3% Agency Budget Sunset Trust Fund service charge to the General Revenue Fund. However, the October 1, 2001, expiration was not repealed. In fiscal year 1998-99, the .3% General Revenue Service Charge generated \$13.9 million.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objectives of this project are: to review the trust funds that the .3% General Revenue Service Charge is applied against; determine the amount of revenue that is collected from the .3% service charge; and make a recommendation as to whether the .3% General Revenue Service Charge should be continued or not.

METHODOLOGY:

The review will identify the trust funds subject to the .3% General Revenue Service Charge, document the amount of money that has been transferred to General Revenue by this service charge since its imposition, and make revenue projections of the loss to the General Revenue Fund by repeal of this service charge.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Sebesta

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Sales Tax Exemptions for Certain Citizens Support Organizations and the Florida Folk Life Festival

DATE DUE: October 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-040

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1996, the Legislature passed ch. 96-395, Laws of Florida, which provided a sales and use tax exemption for certain Citizen Support Organizations and the Florida Folk Life Festival. Section 4 of ch. 96-395, Laws of Florida, provides that these exemptions shall be repealed in five years from their effective date, which was June 2, 1996. Prior to the repeal, the economic benefits of the exemptions must be reviewed and quantified by the Legislature. These exemptions are set to repeal June 2, 2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of this project is to determine the economic benefits of the exemptions and whether the exemptions should be continued.

METHODOLOGY:

Contact the Citizen Support Organizations (CSO) that qualify for the exemption pursuant to s. 212.08(7)(kk), Florida Statutes, and the Florida Folk Life Festival to obtain the following data: projected savings to the organizations as a result of the sales and use tax exemption; type of support and total contributions made by the CSO's to state-funded environmental programs, management of state-owned lands, or state parks; and the economic impact, including number of visitors and total employment, resulting from the Florida Folk Life Festival.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Bronson

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Insurance Premium Tax

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-103

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Distribution of Insurance Premium Tax to Police and Fire Districts is based on situsing the location of customers and aggregating the amount attributable to each district. The Department of Revenue is researching others methods of distribution. The present method is problematic because of difficulty of accurately identifying the location of customers by jurisdiction.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Develop alternative distribution methodologies that have a positive correlation to premium tax distributions.

METHODOLOGY:

Monitor the results of research and formula development by the Department of Revenue.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource (Lead) and Banking and Insurance.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Sales Tax Holiday

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-104

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

HB 161 is the third "Florida Residents' Tax Relief Act" enacted by the Legislature. The Act provides that no sales and use tax shall be collected on sales of clothing, wallets, or bags, including handbags, backpacks, fanny packs, and other garment bags, having a selling price of \$100 or less, during the period from 12:01 a.m., July 29, 2000, through midnight, August 6, 2000. Clothing is defined to mean any article of wearing apparel, including footwear, except skis, swim fins, in-line skates, and other 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 third year of implementation by the Department of Revenue of the Tax Relief Act to determine the effects of these provisions on retailers and to estimate the actual revenue impact of implementation of this act.

METHODOLOGY:

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

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Tobacco Settlement Preservation

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-105

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

HB 1721 creates the Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation, which is authorized to issue bonds payable from and secured by funds payable to the corporation from the tobacco settlement agreement, subject to legislative approval. The bill also creates the Task Force on Tobacco Settlement Revenue Protection, for the purposes of determining the need for protecting the state's tobacco settlement revenue and evaluating methods to accomplish that end.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the activities of the Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation and the Task Force on Tobacco Settlement Revenue Protection.

METHODOLOGY:

Attend public meeting of the Board of Directors of the Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation and the Task Force on Tobacco Settlement Revenue Protection and report on their actions.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Fiscal Resource (Lead), Agriculture and Consumer Services, Judiciary, and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Governmental Oversight and Productivity

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

<i>Implementation of Pension Choice for Florida Public Employees</i>
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DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-021

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The enactment of a dual option pension plan for members of the multi-employer Florida Retirement System will produce significant development activity on the part of the State Board of Administration and the Department of Management Services. A two-year planning horizon has already been mapped requiring specific actions and deliverables at structured points along the 104 week pre-implementation time frame. Among the significant development issues are the receipt of internal reviews by fiduciary and tax counsel and external approvals from the Internal Revenue Service, the hiring of a third-party administrator and a separate third-party educator, and planning for the surge of requests for employee account balance statements. Additional studies will be forthcoming on the development of a disability insurance package and the receipt of policy recommendations from a newly created employee advisory group. At least two trust funds will require legislative creation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The project will provide a summary of the issues contained in the implementing legislation, the progress achieved to date, and alert members on the types of issues which will require legislative resolution at the 2001 Session.

METHODOLOGY:

Periodic meetings with the staffs of the above agencies will be scheduled along the time frames established during the month of May 2000.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Burt and Latvala

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Collective Bargaining Impasse - Date for Resolution

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-022

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida law provides that the respective state or local governing legislative body shall receive and hear all matters dealing with impasses in collective bargaining negotiations. By custom the state legislature has scheduled its joint hearing during the final month of the Regular Session. The difficulty of timing this hearing in mid- to late session, as well as the unprecedented occurrence of the decertification of an existing collective bargaining representative this year, makes a reformatting of the hearing more critical.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To identify the most opportune time for hearing of collective bargaining impasse issues prior to their final resolution by the legislative body through the appropriations process. It is also anticipated that the project will raise policy issues on the content of what is subject to bargaining and the methods for resolving impasse.

METHODOLOGY:

Communicating with all of the state-level collective bargaining agents, and their management counterparts, to develop a consensus on the timing and substance of these changes relative to the negotiation and appropriations process.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Silver

MANDATORY REVIEWS

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Confidentiality of Bank Account, Charge, Debit or Credit Card Numbers

DATE DUE: September 29, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-041

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

This is a mandatory Open Government Sunset Review of section 119.07(3)(z), F.S. That section exempts bank account numbers, debit, charge or credit card numbers in the possession of a state agency from open government requirements.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The objective of the project is to determine if the exemption meets the requirements established in s. 119.15, F.S., which outlines the standards that exemptions to open government requirements must meet in order to be reenacted.

METHODOLOGY:

A survey of state agencies will be conducted to determine the need for the exemption. Further, the exemption will be tested under the specific standards set forth in s. 119.15, F.S., to determine if the exemption meets the requirements.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Rossin

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Minority Business Enterprise Statutes

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-042

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Ch. 94-322, L.O.F., provides that statutes related to minority business enterprise (MBE) programs shall be repealed on July 1, 2001, "... contingent upon the completion of the statistical disparity analysis required pursuant to s. 287.0945(6)(p), to be completed in the year 2000" Accordingly, if this study is completed, statutes related to MBE programs sunset on July 1, 2001, unless the Legislature during the 2001 session reenacts these sections.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor whether the disparity study is completed, and in the event it is completed, to determine the ramifications of the scheduled repeal of MBE-related statutes.

METHODOLOGY:

The results of the disparity study, state and federal law, and alternatives to Florida's current race/gender conscious programming will be reviewed.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Horne and Jones

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Purchasing and Procurement Changes

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-106

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000 Session, the Legislature passed HB 2127 which amended provisions of law relating to the state contract procurement process and minority business enterprise (MBE) programs by:

- C enhancing penalties for obtaining MBE certification by false representation;
- C providing that agency discrimination in contracting is prohibited and creating a complaint and discipline process for violations;
- C permitting MBEs certified at the local level to be accepted as state certified if the local government applies the state's MBE certification criteria;
- C renaming the Minority Business Advocacy and Assistance Office as the Office of Supplier Diversity and transferring this office to the Department of Management Services (DMS);
- C expanding the definition of "small business" by allowing businesses with up to 200 employees and with \$5 million in net worth, or businesses which are federally certified by the Small Business Administration, to qualify; and
- C creating a discriminatory vendor list which prevents the vendor from doing business with the state for three years.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the implementation of HB 2127 to gauge the effectiveness of its changes and to anticipate any need for future changes or improvements to MBE programs.

METHODOLOGY:

Meetings will be scheduled with appropriate DMS officials to monitor the implementation of HB 2127.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Implementation of Cabinet Reorganization - Department of State

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-107

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1194 was based upon recommendations made by a task force appointed by the Secretary of State in response to the adoption of Amendment No. 8 to the State Constitution. That amendment removes the Secretary of State from the State Cabinet in 2003. The bill maintains much of the current structure of the Department of State, though some duties are transferred.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor the progress made in implementation of the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1194.

METHODOLOGY:

Keep in contact with the Department of State regarding implementation of the changes, as well as any other affected departments.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Administrative Procedures -- Rule Authorizing Bills

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-108

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1999, the Legislature amended ch. 120, F.S., to create a more restrictive rulemaking standard. Under this new standard, agencies are only permitted to adopt rules which implement or interpret the "specific powers and duties" granted by an enabling statute. The Legislature recognized that as a result of this amendment some existing rules might exceed the new rulemaking standard, and consequently, also provided that agencies could temporarily shield rules from rule challenges based on the amendment until July 1, 2001, by submitting a list of these rules to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC). During the 2000 Session, the Legislature reviewed shielded rules, and legislation was passed which provided specific authorization for numerous of these rules.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine which shielded rules remain without specific authorizing legislation, and to remind agencies that such rules may be subject to challenge after July 1, 2001, unless specific statutory authorization for the rule is enacted during the 2001 Session or the rule is amended or repealed.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will coordinate with the JAPC, Senate committees, House staff, and agencies to determine which shielded rules remain without specific authorizing legislation, and to advise the agencies that unauthorized rules are no longer shielded from challenge after July 1, 2001.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Governmental Oversight and Productivity (Lead), but any Senate committee that has an agency under its jurisdiction which shielded rules will be part of the monitoring process.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Gubernatorial Appointments and Confirmations

INTERIM PROJECT

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Rewrite of Chapter 114 and Related Statutes - Vacancies in Office

DATE DUE: October 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-023

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Chapter 114, F.S., relating to vacancies in office, provides the procedures by which the Senate considers, approves, rejects, or takes no action on the Governor's appointees who are subject to Senate confirmation. This chapter has not been substantially amended since 1979. Over the years, the Senate has been faced with several situations for which there is no guidance in the statutes. For example, Chapter 114 only relates to Governor's appointees subject to Senate confirmation; however, the Senate routinely receives appointments for confirmation consideration which are made by other officers or bodies. In addition, the statutes are silent on the effect of the Governor's withdrawal of an appointee or the effect if the Senate does not receive the appointment papers for consideration in the session immediately following the effective date of the appointment. Some provisions in other chapters differ from the provisions of Chapter 114 in how confirmations are handled. Additional questions have arisen over whether appointees should be United States citizens in order to be eligible for appointment to boards and commissions. This project will identify the problems encountered in recent years and recommend specific statutory changes to address these problems. Given statutory authority, many of the needed changes could be accomplished by Senate rule. Therefore, recommendations for rule changes will also be made.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Recommend specific statutory changes to the laws relating to Senate confirmations and recommend changes to the Senate rules relating to confirmations.

METHODOLOGY:

Legal research.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Gubernatorial Appointments and Confirmations (Lead) and Rules and Calendar.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Latvala

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS *(None)*

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care

INTERIM PROJECTS

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Medicaid Medically Needy Program Review

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-024

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Medicaid Medically Needy program provides health care assistance for individuals who have incomes above Medicaid limits and who have incurred catastrophic medical expenses that make them eligible for Medicaid. The program requires that, in a given month, an individual incur medical expenses equal to his or her gross income less \$180 (\$241 for a couple) during a given month. The individual is then eligible for Medicaid for the remainder of that month only. Expenditures on behalf of individuals in this eligibility category will be approximately \$238 million in FY 2000-01. The program has not undergone a thorough review since it was initiated.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine who is being served by the Medically Needy program, what services are being reimbursed, if there are eligibility gaps, whether there is consistency in implementation within the state, and whether the program is generally meeting its statutory objectives, and to recommend changes to enhance program operations.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will use data from the Department of Children and Family Services and the Medicaid program to review coverage under the Medically Needy program, determine the extent of enrollment in the program by eligible individuals, and determine utilization of medical services under the program. Staff will review Medically needy program policy and rules and review program administration.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Saunders and Silver

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Long-Term Care Affordability and Availability

DATE DUE: February 1, 2001

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-025

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Florida's elderly population of 3.5 million people represents more than 20 percent of the state's residents. "Baby boomers" will add one million to that number when they start retiring in 2010. While the majority of Florida's elders live independent and healthy lives, the number of frail elderly in need of specialized housing and long-term care services is expected to increase by 42 percent over the next ten years.

The 2000 Legislature created a 19 member "Task Force on the Availability and Affordability of Long-term Care" to study issues related to the provision of long-term care to the elderly in nursing homes and alternatives to nursing homes and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The task force is located at the University of South Florida for administrative purposes. The Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging is to provide staff and support services to the task force. The task force is required to submit a report containing its recommendations by January 1, 2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The interim project will make recommendations for changes in existing systems to assist the state to meet the growing need for services and housing for the elderly and to develop alternatives to deliver services to the growing senior population.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will meet with Task Force staff, attend meetings of the Task Force, review the results of the Task Force's deliberations, review the Task Force's recommendations, and independently review relevant articles and publications.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator McKay

MANDATORY REVIEWS

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Background Screening of Applicants for Licensure of Health Care Facilities and Programs

DATE DUE: February 1, 2001

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-043

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 71 of ch. 98-171, *Laws of Florida*, set a 6/30/01 repeal for the provisions of the act which require an applicant for licensure, certification, or registration to operate certain health care facilities or programs to undergo background screening, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. That provision of law also required the Agency for Health Care Administration to convene a workgroup and conduct a review of the effectiveness of licensure, certification, and registration applicant background screening requirements in preventing persons with specified criminal backgrounds from operating health care programs, and in preventing or deterring health care fraud and abuse. The agency must submit a report by January 1, 2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of background screening requirements in preventing and reducing health care fraud and abuse.

METHODOLOGY:

Interview Agency for Health Care Administration staff and industry associations and ask for their assessments of the impact that background screening, as specified in the relevant provisions of law, has had on health care fraud and abuse. Attend meetings of the workgroup required by s. 71 of ch. 98-171, L.O.F., and draft legislation, if indicated by the review, to reenact, with or without modifications, existing statutory screening requirements.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senators Brown-Waite and Clary

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Public Records Exemption - Health Care Provider Information for Antitrust Review

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-044

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 408.185, Florida Statutes, makes trade secrets and other confidential proprietary business information held by the Office of the Attorney General which is submitted by a member of the health care community pursuant to a request for an antitrust no-action letter confidential and exempt from the Public Records Law for one year after the date of submission. This section is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995 codified at s. 119.15, F.S., and expires on October 2, 2001, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by reenactment of the Legislature. Section 119.15(2), F.S., provides that an exemption is to be maintained only if: the exempted record or meeting is of sensitive, personal nature concerning individuals; the exemption is necessary for the effective and efficient administration of a governmental program; or the exemption affects confidential information concerning an entity.

The Open Government Sunset Review Act also specifies criteria for the Legislature to consider in its review of an exemption from the Public Records Law which has been certified for repeal:

1. What specific records or meetings are affected by the exemption?
2. Whom does the exemption uniquely affect, as opposed to the general public?
3. What is the identifiable public purpose or goal of the exemption?
4. Can the information contained in the records or discussed in the meeting be readily obtained by alternative means? If so, how?

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To determine if the provision making trade secrets and other confidential proprietary business information held by the Office of the Attorney General which is submitted by a member of the health care community pursuant to a request for an antitrust no-action letter confidential and exempt from the Public Records Law for one year after the date of submission should be continued pursuant to the criteria specified in the Open Government Sunset Review Act of 1995.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will review the provision and applicable law pursuant to the criteria specified in the Open Government Sunset Act of 1995. Staff will seek input from Office of the Attorney General, agencies, businesses, and other interested stakeholders to determine if any aspects of s. 408.185, F.S., should be revised.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Performance-Based Program Budgeting - Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, and Department of Elderly Affairs

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-109

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The performance-based program budgeting system requires ongoing review by legislative committees and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). The Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee has oversight responsibility over the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Department of Health, and the Department of Elderly Affairs. The performance measures and standards for AHCA and the Department of Elderly Affairs which had previously been adopted were significantly modified in the Implementing Bill for the 2000-2001 General Appropriations Act. The Implementing Bill also included standards for the Department of Health measures for the first time.

OPPAGA is required to perform evaluation and justification reviews of each state agency in accordance with the schedule provided in s. 216.0172, F.S., or as determined by the Legislative Auditing Committee. As provided in s. 11.513(4), F.S., OPPAGA is required, no later than December 1 of the second year following the year in which an agency begins operating under a performance-based program budget, to submit a report of its evaluation and justification review findings and recommendations. The performance-based program budget for the Medicaid program was approved and implemented for Fiscal Year 1998-1999, and is currently undergoing OPPAGA review.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To review the measures and standards submitted by AHCA, the Department of Elderly Affairs, and the Department of Health in their respective legislative budget requests and determine whether the agencies are proposing any further changes to measures and standards adopted in the Implementing Bill and to monitor OPPAGA's justification review of the Medicaid program.

METHODOLOGY:

Meet with and consult with Senate Fiscal Policy staff, staff of the House of Representatives, and staff of the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of Health, and OPPAGA staff to discuss any proposed changes to performance measures and standards. Review documents submitted by AHCA, the Department of Elderly Affairs, and the Department of Health to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting. Discuss with OPPAGA staff their findings relating to the Medicaid program justification review.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Florida Commission on Excellence in Health Care

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-110

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 2000 Legislature created the Florida Commission on Excellence in Health Care to develop a comprehensive statewide strategy for improving health care delivery systems and reducing medical errors. In carrying out its various assigned responsibilities, the 38-member commission is required to sponsor public hearings. The commission is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2001; but is to continue to exist until its termination date of June 1, 2001, for purposes of assisting the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the regulatory boards in their drafting of proposed legislation and rules to implement the commission's recommendations and for purposes of providing information to the health care industry about its recommendations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The purpose of monitoring the commission's activities is to keep the Senate informed about any proposed changes to law as recommended by the commission. A report will be provided to the committee during the interim period.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend the meetings of the commission. Staff will report on the commission's findings and any recommendations as they become final.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Health, Aging and Long-Term Care.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Florida Kidcare Program

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-111

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 1998 Florida Legislature created the Florida Kidcare program, which is Florida's Title XXI child health insurance program, to make affordable health insurance available to low and moderate income Florida children. The 2000 Legislature modified the Kidcare program and fully funded the program to provide coverage to all eligible children.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Review agency implementation of changes to Kidcare contained in CS/SB 212 and monitor growth in enrollment of children in the program.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will review agency data and interview agency staff involved with the Kidcare program, attend meetings of the Social Services Estimating Conference relating to the Kidcare program, and attend meetings of the Kidcare Coordinating Council.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Prescription Affordability Act for Seniors

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-112

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The 2000 Legislature created the "Prescription Affordability Act for Seniors" directing the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elder Affairs to develop a pharmaceutical expense assistance program for individuals who qualify for limited assistance under Medicaid as a result of being dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Additionally, the act limits retail prices pharmacies can charge for prescriptions for individuals on Medicare.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor implementation of provisions of the Act.

METHODOLOGY:

Meetings with Agency staff and review of agency data.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

End-of-Life Care Workgroup

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-113

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 16 of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1890 from the 2000 Regular Session created the End-of-Life Care Workgroup within the Department of Elderly Affairs to: (1) examine reimbursement methodologies for end-of-life care; (2) identify standards for an excellent end-of-life care delivery system; and (3) develop recommendations for incentives for appropriate end-of-life care. The workgroup is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2000.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To monitor workgroup activities and achievement of delegated responsibilities.

METHODOLOGY:

Attend workgroup meetings and confer with staff of the Department of Elderly Affairs regarding the workgroup's progress in meeting its delegated responsibilities.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

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

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Judiciary

INTERIM PROJECTS *(None)*

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

<i>Performance-Based Program Budgeting - Judicial Branch</i>
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DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001- 114

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Senate Bill 1212 and House Bill 2377 included changes to the performance-based program budgeting requirements for the judicial system to decrease the distinction between performance-based program budgets submitted by the judicial branch and executive agencies. As a result of these changes the judicial branch is required to resubmit recommended programs and to submit performance measures for those programs by September 15, 2000. The judicial branch is then to submit a performance-based program budget request for the programs approved by the Legislature by September 15, 2001. In determining the programs and performance measures to recommend the judicial branch is to consult with OPPAGA and the appropriate legislative substantive and budget committee staff.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will involve consultation with the judicial branch in the development of programs and performance measures in accordance with the requirements of SB 1212 and monitoring of the judicial branch's work in the development of programs and performance measures.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will monitor meetings held by the judicial branch for the determination of programs and performance measures and will then review the programs and performance measures submitted to the Legislature.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Judiciary (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Performance-Based Program Budgeting - Department of Legal Affairs

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-115

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Legal Affairs is moving into its third year under performance-based program budgeting. Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) has just completed the justification review and raised a number of issues. Additionally, in the 2000 budget significant changes were made to the performance measures.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will monitor the agency's implementation and use of the performance measures with emphasis on the changes made in the 2000 budget.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will meet with staff of the various program areas to better understand the program descriptions and performance measures and their impact on the operations of the agency.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Judiciary (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Natural Resources

INTERIM PROJECTS *(None)*

MANDATORY REVIEW

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:
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<i>Preapproved Advanced Cleanup Program for Petroleum Contaminated Sites</i>
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DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-045

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The Preapproved Advanced Cleanup Program for petroleum contaminated sites is contained in s. 376.30713, F.S. The program provides an opportunity for site rehabilitation at a limited number of sites each year in advance of the site's priority ranking to assist with private property transactions. Property owners are required to pay at least 25 percent of the cleanup costs and compete among other applicants for the \$10 million annually available by offering to pay a larger share of the costs. This program was reviewed during the 1999 Legislative Session under a scheduled repeal of the program. The program was continued but subject to another review by the Legislature prior to March 1, 2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

To determine if this program should be continued or modified in any way.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will send a questionnaire to various entities including the Department of Environmental Protection, Nations Bank Corp., the Florida Petroleum Council and the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, Inc., to determine their comments about the Preapproved Advanced Cleanup Program and seek any suggestions they may have about continuation and modification of this program.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Natural Resources (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Bronson

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Lake Okeechobee Restoration

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-116

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Legislation passed during the 2000 Legislative Session provides for management of the Lake Okeechobee watershed through a phased multi-year action plan to reduce phosphorus loads, construction of stormwater treatment areas, development of “best management practices” for non-point agricultural and non-agricultural sources within the watershed, and a number of other strategies. Major implementing responsibilities are assigned to the South Florida Water Management District, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Thirty-three million dollars was provided in the General Appropriation Act to begin implementation of the action plan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To review the various actions taken by the agencies involved in implementing the action plan and determine if further legislative actions will be needed in the 2001 legislative session.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend Tallahassee meetings of agencies involved in implementing the Lake Okeechobee legislation. Information and materials prepared by these agencies and used at meetings outside of Tallahassee will be obtained and reviewed.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Natural Resources (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Review the Implementation of CS/CS/SB 1646 Relating to Leveraging Funds for Water Pollution Control Financial Assistance

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-117

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Legislation enacted during the 2000 Legislative Session provides for the creation of the Florida Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation for the purpose of leveraging available state and federal funds to expand funding for water pollution control projects. The new law will expand the kinds of projects that may be funded from the Wastewater Treatment and Stormwater Management Revolving

Loan Trust Fund. The newly created nonprofit public-benefit corporation will have the Executive Director of the State Board of Administration as the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation. Over the next several months the corporation and the Department of Environmental Protection will develop a series of service contracts to specify the relationship between these two entities in providing leveraging financial services for projects that need funds. Also, the Department of Environmental Protection will be developing rules and policy for program administration, project eligibilities, and determining the time frame for submission of project applications.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To review the proposed service contracts between the Florida Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation and the Department of Environmental Protection and the proposed rules of the department to determine if further legislative actions are needed to clarify how this program is implemented.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend meetings of the governing board of the Florida Water Pollution Control Financing Corporation to obtain information about the numbers and types of service contracts needed to carry out the duties of the corporation. Also, staff will attend rule workshops held by the Department of Environmental Protection and review all related documents to these matters to assure that rules being developed are consistent with the statutory authorization for such rules.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Natural Resources (Lead) and Fiscal Policy.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Florida Forever Advisory Council

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-118

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 259.0345, F.S., creates the Florida Forever Advisory Council and charges the Council with broad responsibilities to establish goals and performance measures for the Florida Forever Program and make other recommendations concerning the implementation of the program. The Council shall provide a report by December 15, 2000 to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection who shall forward the report to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. After approval by the Board of Trustees, the report shall be forwarded to the Legislature for review by the appropriate substantive committee. The Legislature may reject, modify, or take no action relative to the goals and performance measures established by this report which will pertain solely to funding provided to the Department of Environmental Protection.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To review reports and other materials produced by the Florida Forever Advisory Council in preparation for its required report to the Legislature and determine if implementing legislation will be needed to carry out the Council's recommendations.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will attend all meetings of the Florida Forever Advisory Council held in Tallahassee and possibly some held outside of Tallahassee. Materials prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection for consideration by the Council will be obtained and reviewed. Discussions will be held with interest groups who also follow the Council meetings to determine their comments about reports and recommendations of the Council.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Natural Resources (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Regulated Industries

INTERIM PROJECTS *(None)*

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Energy 2020 Study Commission

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-119

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

By Executive Order #2000-127, Governor Bush created the Energy 2020 Study Commission to determine what Florida's electric energy needs will be over the next 20 years and how best to supply those needs in an efficient, affordable, and reliable manner that will ensure adequate electric reserves. The Commission is to recommend appropriate electric energy policies for this state, including statutory changes, if necessary. The Commission is to make these recommendations by providing to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor, by December 1, 2001, a written report containing specific recommendations for electric energy policies for this state, including legislative recommendations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the proceedings of the Energy 2020 Study Commission and its development of recommendations.

METHODOLOGY:

Monitor the proceedings of the Energy 2020 Study Commission and review all written information provided to or generated by the study commission.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Regulated Industries.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:
Information Service Technology Task Force

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-120

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

In 1999, the Legislature created the Information Service Technology Development Task Force to develop policy recommendations that will foster the development and beneficial use of advanced communications networks and information technologies in Florida. On February 14, 2000, the task force made its initial report to the Governor and the Legislature. Some of the task force's recommendations were enacted into law. Ch. 2000-164, L.O.F. The act creates a discretionary statutory framework for the validation and effect of electronic signatures; requires that each county make available online by January 1, 2002, an index of documents recorded in the official records of the county and by January 1, 2006, an actual link to all such records; reassigns state technology responsibilities to the newly appointed Chief Information Officer and the State Technology Office; requires the State Technology Office to develop a program for online procurement of commodities and contractual services; requires Enterprise Florida to develop a marketing campaign regarding the promotion of Florida as an attractive location for high-technology businesses; and provides a five-year sales tax exemption for equipment necessary for use in the deployment of broadband technologies.

The task force will make its final report to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House by February 14, 2001, outlining principles, policy recommendations, and any suggested legislation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

There are two objectives for this project: (1) to monitor the implementation of the 2000 legislation, including integration of state agency information systems, electronic bidding for state purchases, and the tax rebate program to encourage development of a Network Access Point, and (2) to monitor further proceedings of the task force and its development of recommendations.

METHODOLOGY:

Contact the agencies involved in implementation of the information technology legislation and monitor their progress in this implementation. Monitor the proceedings of the Information Service Technology Development Task Force and review all written information provided to or generated by the study commission.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Regulated Industries (Lead), Governmental Oversight and Productivity, Commerce and Economic Opportunities, and Fiscal Resource.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Transportation

INTERIM PROJECT

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Privatization or Transfer of Certain Functions of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-026

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

The stated mission of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) is to promote a safe driving environment through law enforcement, public education and service, reduction of traffic crashes, titling and registering of motor vehicles and vessels, and licensing of motor vehicle operators. The Department administers numerous supporting programs and activities through the following four divisions: the Florida Highway Patrol, the Division of Driver Licenses, the Division of Motor Vehicles, and the Division of Administrative Services/Information Systems Administration.

In recent years, a number of parties have suggested certain functions currently performed by DHSMV should be either privatized or transferred to other agencies. Most attention to date has focused on certain licensing and regulatory activities.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To provide committee members with a clear understanding of the policy options available regarding the privatization or transfer of certain functions of DHSMV.

METHODOLOGY:

Identify current DHSMV duties and responsibilities, including those activities currently outsourced.

Examine previous legislation, research, and recommendations relating to the privatization or transfer of functions currently assigned to DHSMV.

Conduct a best practices survey to determine how comparable programs are administered in other states.

Conduct interviews with DHSMV staff and other appropriate stakeholders.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Transportation (Lead) and Governmental Oversight and Productivity .

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Webster

MANDATORY REVIEWS

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Public Record Exemption for Airport Security Plans

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-046

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 331.22, F.S., provides a public record exemption for airport security plans, which section is scheduled to be repealed unless specifically reenacted by the Legislature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The object of this project is to provide the members information to make an informed decision concerning the reenactment of this section of law.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will review the implementation and merits of this section of law.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Transportation.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MANDATORY REVIEW TITLE:

Public Records Exemption for Pre-payment of Toll Information

DATE DUE: November 1, 2000

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-047

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Section 338.155, F.S., provides a public record exemption for information submitted for pre-payment of tolls, which section is scheduled to be repealed unless specifically reenacted by the Legislature.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

The object of this project is to provide the members information to make an informed decision concerning the reenactment of this section of law.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will review the implementation and merits of this section of law.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Transportation.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Used Motor Vehicle Industry Task Force

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-121

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

CS/CS/HB 1911 created a task force within the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to study the Used Motor Vehicle Industry. The task force is charged with examining and evaluating the used motor vehicle industry, including the licensing of dealers and the enforcement of dealer regulations, and analyzing the structure and manner in which DHSMV carries out its regulatory purposes. The 12 member task force is appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House. The final report with its findings and recommendations is due to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House by March 1, 2001.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

Monitor the deliberations of the Used Motor Vehicle Task Force.

METHODOLOGY:

Attend meetings of the Used Motor Vehicle Task Force.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Transportation.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Transportation Programs Created in SB 862

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-122

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000 Legislative session SB 862 passed creating and funding the State-funded Infrastructure Bank Program, the Transportation Outreach Program, the County Incentive Grant

Program, Mobility 2000, and the Small County Outreach Program. This project will monitor how the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) implements the programs created in SB 862.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will inform the members concerning the implementation of SB 862.

METHODOLOGY:

Committee staff will monitor the development of the new programs by the FDOT.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Transportation (Lead) and Budget.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

Joint Article V Committee

INTERIM PROJECT

INTERIM PROJECT TITLE:

Survey of Programs of the State Judicial System that are not Constitutionally Mandated

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-027

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Revision 7 to the State Constitution, adopted by the voters in November of 1998, provides that the State will assume the costs of the State Court System except for certain costs specifically allocated to the counties by the Constitution. Revision 7 calls for implementation to begin in FY 1999/2000 and to be completed by July 1, 2004. The implementation is to be carried out in accordance with a schedule to be developed by the Legislature.

President Jennings and Speaker Thrasher established the Task Force on State Court Funding/Article V, to formulate recommendations on implementation of the amendment. The task force recommended an implementation schedule and definitions for the basic judicial system as well as definitions for those items the Constitution requires the counties to fund. Additionally, the task force recommended for the 2000 legislative interim a work plan that included several working groups and interim projects to be performed by legislative staff. The proposed schedule, the definitions and several of the work groups were approved by the Legislature in SB 1212.

One of the proposed interim projects was a review of the programs within the court system, the state attorneys, the public defenders and the clerks that are not constitutionally mandated. These are all discretionary programs established by statute, local ordinance or court rule or procedure. These programs are funded and staffed in a variety of ways and the types of programs provided are as diverse as the judicial circuits. No information has been compiled to provide the Legislature with the ability to determine what programs are being provided, what those programs cost, who pays for the programs and the staff, and whether the programs enhance justice or are cost efficient.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will survey the courts, the state attorneys, the public defenders, and the counties to determine what judicial programs each is providing, how those programs are funded and staffed, and what services the programs provide. Additionally, the survey will seek recommendations from each entity regarding what programs should be continued or should be terminated, and recommendations on what organizational entity should provide the services recommended for continuation. The information obtained will then be combined with similar information obtained from the clerks pursuant to SB 1212. The compiled data should provide to the Joint Legislative Committee on Article V and the Legislature with information necessary to determine what non-constitutional programs of the judicial system should be funded by the state, what programs should become local requirements, and what programs should be discontinued.

METHODOLOGY:

A survey document will be prepared and distributed to the Office of the State Courts Administrator, the Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association, the Florida Public Defender Association and the Florida Association of Counties requesting the specific information set out in the project objectives. The information will be requested for each county or circuit and when received will be compiled by staff along with the recommendations from each entity to provide the Joint Legislative Committee on Article V and the Legislature with a base of data from which to evaluate specific non-constitutional programs provided by the judicial system.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Joint Legislative Committee on Article V (Lead), Judiciary, Budget, Criminal Justice, Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT:

Senator Laurent

MANDATORY REVIEWS *(None)*

MONITOR PROJECTS

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Court System Revenues - Identification of State and Local Taxes that Benefit Counties

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-123

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

As the state assumes funding for the states judicial system, decisions must be made regarding funding. One of the issues related to the 1998 Revision 7 to the State Constitution was the burden placed on local tax payers to fund the state court system. As part of the state's review and implementation of Revision 7, all sources of revenue must be examined to determine whether the revenue is currently directed to fund the judicial system, or is used for that purpose or otherwise offsets expenditures made at the local level for the judicial system. Once identified, decisions may be made by the Legislature regarding tax relief to local taxpayers or redirection of state-enacted revenue streams to continue to support the state court system.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project should provide the Legislature with a comprehensive listing of state and local revenue sources that benefit counties and the uses of those revenues in relation to funding the counties' cost of the judicial systems.

METHODOLOGY:

The Legislative Committees on Intergovernmental Relations and Economic and Demographic Research will identify all state and local taxes that benefit counties and then will determine whether those taxes are used for court-related benefits or non-court-related benefits. This information will be presented to the Joint Committee on Article V to allow that committee to consider the information obtained in recommending revenue sources to fund the state's cost of the judicial system.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Joint Legislative Committee on Article V (Lead), Judiciary, Budget, Criminal Justice, Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, Fiscal Policy, Fiscal Resource.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Article V Pilot Projects Funding Conflict Counsel and Case Related Costs in Hillsborough, Polk, and Dade Counties

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-124

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

During the 2000 legislative session county governments told the Legislature that conflict attorney expenses funded by the counties exceeded \$40 million annually. These costs are to be assumed by the state under the 1998 Revision 7 to the State Constitution. As the state assumes these expenditures, procedures and policies must be developed to direct how the funds will be allocated to the circuits, who will distribute, monitor, and audit these expenditures and provide payment to private counsel. These pilot projects will provide the state with critical information necessary to make those decisions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

To gain a better understanding of how funds are expended for conflict counsel and methods for controlling those expenditures and to ensure that the process of determination of a conflict, assignment of counsel, approval of payments and audits are effective.

METHODOLOGY:

The three pilot projects were funded with \$5.7 million placed in the state court system budget. The Office of the State Court Administrator will distribute the funds and ensure that the counties comply with the requirements of the statute. Staff will meet with the counties and with the State Courts Administrator to monitor compliance with the requirements of SB 1212.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Joint Legislative Committee on Article V (Lead), Judiciary, Budget, Criminal Justice, Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, Fiscal Policy, and Fiscal Resources.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A

INTERIM MONITOR TITLE:

Article V Small County Funding for Extraordinary Case Related Expenditures

DATE DUE: N/A

PROJECT NUMBER: 2001-125

BACKGROUND and DESCRIPTION:

Currently the costs of litigation for an indigent defendant are borne by the counties. When a crime is committed in a small county which will result in an extended trial or a trial involving numerous witnesses and extensive expert testimony the cost of the trial can place a burden on the funds of the county such that other necessary services are impacted. SB 1212 created a Small County Contingency Fund to assist counties with a population of less than 85,000 in paying extraordinary criminal case related costs. The Office of the State Courts Administrator is to develop an application process consistent with the purpose of SB 1212. Before approving funds to a small county the Office of the State Courts Administrator must determine that a request is valid, that the county budget is inadequate to cover the costs and that the deficiency will result in an impairment of the operations of the county. The Office of the State Courts Administrator is to submit a quarterly report and accounting for the contingency fund. The budget contained \$2.5 million to fund this contingency fund.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S):

This project will monitor the development of the application process and the criteria for determining whether a county is eligible for funding.

METHODOLOGY:

Staff will meet with staff for the Office of the State Courts Administrator and counties applying for funding to evaluate the impact of the fund.

COMMITTEES INVOLVED:

Joint Legislative Committee on Article V (Lead), Judiciary, Budget, Criminal Justice, Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs, Fiscal Policy, and Fiscal Resources.

MEMBER OVERSIGHT: N/A