

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: April 2, 1998 Revised: _____

Subject: Florida Community Outreach Partnership Act

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>Cooper</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>_____</u>
3.	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>WM</u>	<u>_____</u>
4.	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
5.	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>

I. Summary:

This bill creates the Florida Community Outreach Partnership Act (COPA) of 1998. The Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is directed to carry out a 5-year demonstration program to determine the feasibility of facilitating partnerships between state universities and communities to solve urban problems. The bill authorizes grants to state universities to establish Florida COPA centers; specifies the responsibilities of centers; and criteria for grants.

This bill creates a new section of the Laws of Florida.

II. Present Situation:

In 1992, the U.S. Congress authorized a 5-year demonstration program to establish Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPCs) on university campuses. A COPC is expected to play an active and visible role in community revitalization by the following:

- Applying research to real urban problems;
- Coordinating outreach efforts with neighborhood groups;
- Acting as local information exchange centers;
- Galvanizing support for neighborhood revitalization;
- Developing public service projects and instructional programs; and
- Collaborating with other COPCs.

Currently, there are two federally funded Community Outreach Partnership Program grants awarded in Florida. In 1994, the University of South Florida (USF) was awarded a 3-year federal grant of \$370,417 to provide comprehensive outreach to four neighborhoods - East Tampa, the

University of South Florida, Florence Villa, and Tarpon Springs. In 1995, the University of Florida (UF) was awarded a 2-year federal grant of \$500,000 to establish an urban, inner city extension service in East Gainesville.

COPCs are primarily funded as federal demonstration projects. Additional funds are provided through partnerships with state agencies, local governments, nonprofit agencies, and commercial businesses. The federal program was designed as a demonstration project and does not provide for continued funding of the centers.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill would create the Florida Community Outreach Partnership Act (COPA). The act would require the Secretary of DCA to establish a 5-year demonstration program to determine the feasibility of facilitating partnerships between Florida universities and local communities to solve urban problems through technical assistance, applied and practical research, and outreach.

The act would establish a grant program administered by DCA to address the critical needs associated with urban problems. Grants are to be used to establish and operate Florida COPCs. COPCs will conduct research on problems in cities and facilitate partnerships, provide technical assistance, and outreach activities between universities, communities, and local governments.

The research, technical assistance, and outreach activities funded under this act must focus on problems associated with housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, infrastructure, health care, job training, education, crime prevention, planning, community organizing, and other areas deemed appropriate by the secretary of DCA.

The act specifies grant award selection criteria and directs the Secretary of DCA to give preference to “state universities that undertake applied research and outreach activities by bringing together knowledge and expertise in the various social science and technical disciplines that relate to urban problems.”

The act specifies that the state share of a COPA grant should not be more than 50 percent of the cost of establishing and operating a center’s applied research activities and 90 percent of the cost of establishing and operating a center’s outreach activities and technical assistance. Furthermore, the nonstate share of a grant may include cash, or the value of noncash contributions deemed appropriate by the secretary of DCA.

COPCs established under this act must:

- Use the applied research and outreach resources of its sponsoring university to solve specific urban problems identified by communities served by the center;
- Establish outreach activities in the communities to be served;

- Establish a community advisory committee with representatives of local institutions and residents of the community to be served to assist in identifying local needs and advise on the development and implementation of strategies to address those issues;
- Coordinate outreach activities;
- Facilitate public service projects;
- Act as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of information;
- Develop programs, convene conferences, and provide training for local community leaders;
- Exchange information with other centers; and
- Design and implement a process to evaluate and measure program effectiveness.

The Secretary of DCA must establish a state advisory council to disseminate the results of research and outreach activities conducted by the COPCs, act as a clearinghouse for grant recipients, and review and evaluate programs carried out by grant recipients. The council must be composed of 12 members: three members from state and local government; three members from the state universities that receive grants; three members from organizations that possess significant expertise in urban issues; and three members from community advisory committees created under this act. The council must meet at least biannually.

The Secretary of DCA must establish a state clearinghouse to disseminate information resulting from the research and COPC activities. The secretary must submit a report on the research and COPCs' activities, and department findings and conclusions drawn from such activities, to the Committees on Community Affairs in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

To the extent that COPCs successfully carry out their responsibilities, neighborhoods where the COPCs are involved will benefit.

C. Government Sector Impact:

DCA is directed to carry out, in accordance with the Act, a 5-year demonstration program. The agency will incur an indeterminate amount of expenses in carrying out this program.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

There is no appropriation provided for in this bill.

VIII. Amendments:

None.