

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: Education Appropriations Committee

BILL: CS/SB 0388

SPONSOR: Senator Alexander

SUBJECT: Student Financial Aid/Deposit of Funds in State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund

DATE: March 23, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Bryant</u>	<u>Newman</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>WM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill amends statutory provisions for four state funded student financial aid programs to eliminate the requirement that results in the Legislature “double” appropriating funds for these programs. The bill removes the mandatory requirement to “double” appropriate funds, but does not prohibit this procedure if the Legislature should determine there is a need for it.

This bill amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1009.50 (5); 1009.51 (5); 1009.52 (6); and 1009.89 (6).

II. Present Situation:

The statutes providing for the Florida Public Student Assistance Grant Program, Florida Private Student Assistance Grant Program, Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant Program, and Florida Resident Access Grants, currently require that funds appropriated by the Legislature for each of these four programs “be deposited in the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund”. This requirement results in the Legislature “double” appropriating these funds. Funds are appropriated from various sources for transfer to the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund and then appropriated a second time from the State Student Financial Assistance Trust Fund for expenditure. The practice of “double” budgeting of funds does not conform to the current standard practice used for the General Appropriations Act.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The proposed change eliminates the requirement to “double” appropriate funds for these four programs. The funds appropriated by the Legislature will be expended directly from the

appropriation for each program. This eliminates the unnecessary steps of transferring appropriations from other fund sources to the Trust Fund and appropriating them again as Trust Funds.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill will eliminate a double budgeting practice which results in the General Appropriations Act being overstated. Also, this will simplify the appropriations act for the general public.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
