

The Florida Senate
PROFESSIONAL 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: Governmental Operations Committee

BILL: PCS/CS/SB 318

INTRODUCER: Community Affairs Committee and Senator Bennett

SUBJECT: Joint Legislative Committee for a Sustainable Florida

DATE: March 19, 2007 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Herrin	Yeatman	CA	Fav/CS
2.	Wilson	Wilson	GO	Pre-meeting
3.			TA	
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

The proposed committee substitute (PCS) transforms the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida (commission) from the executive to legislative branch of state government, requires the new appointments to be made by October 1, 2007, and revises the appointment criteria for committee members. It also restricts committee members from having a direct or indirect interest in any contract or benefit awarded by the committee during the member's term and for 2 years after the end of that member's term. This PCS expands the responsibilities of the committee to include the creation and dissolution of advisory committees as necessary, the receipt of contributions from any source to further the mission of the committee, and the preparation and submission of a budget.

Under this PCS, the committee is assigned to the Office of Legislative Services. The committee will appoint an executive director and is authorized to fix the salary for the position. The PCS authorizes the executive director to hire staff as necessary with the consent of the commission. In addition, it appropriates \$550,000 in recurring general revenue to fund the committee.

The PCS amends section 201.15 of the Florida Statutes, creates s. 11.74, and repeals s. 163.3247, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

In 2005, the Legislature created the 15-member Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida (commission) as a standing body to assist citizens with envisioning and planning the state's future using a 25-year and 50-year horizon.¹

As part of its responsibilities, each year the commission shall:

- Develop and recommend policies or strategies to achieve the citizens' vision of the state's future;
- Inquire how the state and local governments can best accommodate the projected population increase while maintaining those qualities that are the basis for our quality of life;
- Bring various interests together to develop a shared image of the state's developed and natural areas;
- Focus on essential state interests that are most appropriately conserved, protected, and promoted at the state level; and
- Serve as a repository of community-building ideas and a source of strategies and practices that encourage collaborative approaches to growth management issues.

In addition, the commission must submit an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor which contains specific recommendations for addressing growth management in the state.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This PCS modifies the membership of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida (commission) from 15 to 18 members and makes it a standing joint legislative committee of the Florida Legislature. It revises the criteria for appointments to the committee, requiring that the membership reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, as well as the geographic distribution, of the state's population. It also deletes obsolete language.

The PCS restricts a member of the committee from having an interest, either direct or indirect, in any contract or benefit awarded by the committee while the member serves on the committee and for 2 years after termination of the member's appointment.

In addition, the PCS expands the powers and duties of the committee to:

- Create and dissolve advisory committees or similar committees as necessary;
- Receive and accept contributions from any source to use in furtherance of the mission of the commission; and

The PCS permits the committee to fix the salary of the executive director. The executive director may employ staff as necessary within budgetary limitations and with the consent of the committee. The committee is assigned to the Office of Legislative Services for the purposes of

¹ Section 163.3247, F.S.

administration and fiscal responsibility. The Office of Legislative Services will provide staff and other resources to the commission based on the recommendations of the Legislature.

This PCS appropriates the sum of \$550,000 in recurring general revenue funds for the operation of the committee.

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:

The PCS repeals the set-aside of a portion of documentary stamp tax revenues for the committee and substitutes a like amount of general revenue funds.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The commission received \$250,000 in nonrecurring funding in the 2005-2006 fiscal year from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in the Department of Community Affairs.² For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the commission received \$250,000 recurring and \$300,000 nonrecurring funds from the same trust fund.³ This PCS appropriates \$550,000 in recurring funds to the commission for the purpose of paying salaries and other administrative expenses of the commission during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Those funds will also be distributed through the Grants and Donations Trust Fund in the department. The bill repeals a set-aside of \$300,000 dedicated to the former Century Commission and instead, converts these combined sources into a single lump-sum amount payable from the General Revenue Fund.

² Chapter 2005-290, s. 27 at 69, Laws of Fla.

³ Chapter 2006-69, s. 35 at 37, Laws of Fla.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Unlike the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations created by s.11.70, F.S., and on which the PCS is patterned, this bill is silent on whether a gubernatorial appointee may serve as chair of the committee. In s. 11.70, F.S., only a legislator-appointee may serve in that capacity.

This Senate Professional Staff Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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