

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: Community Affairs Committee

BILL: CS/SB 1494

INTRODUCER: Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee and Senator Saunders

SUBJECT: Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program

DATE: March 15, 2007

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Branning</u>	<u>Kiger</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Herrin</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>GA</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The committee substitute (CS):

- Increases the maximum project grant for each Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program project application from \$200,000 to \$500,000;
- Increases the number of grant applications a local government may submit during each application period from two to three; and
- Increases the number of active projects a local government may have during any state fiscal year from three to four.

The CS substantially amends section 375.075 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 375.075, F.S., authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to establish the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) for the purpose of providing grants to qualified local governmental entities for the acquisition and development of land for public outdoor recreation. The program is funded through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund¹ and the Florida Forever Trust Fund². Under FRDAP, grants are awarded only to those projects with the sole purpose of providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the public.

¹ s. 201.15(2) and (3), F.S.

² s. 259.105(3)(d), F.S.

The department administers the program which includes a competitive project selection process designed to maximize the outdoor recreation benefit to the public. The selection criteria shall, at a minimum, rank:

- The extent to which the project would implement the outdoor recreation goals, objectives, and priorities specified in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan; and
- The extent to which the project would provide for priority resource or facility needs in the region as specified in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan.

A local government may submit up to two grant applications during each application period with the maximum grant for each project application not to exceed \$200,000. However, a local government may not have more than three active projects expending grant funds during any state fiscal year.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This CS:

- Increases the maximum project grant for each FRDAP project application from \$200,000 to \$500,000;
- Increases the number of grant applications a local government may submit during each application period from two to three; and
- Increases the number of active projects a local government may have during any state fiscal year from three to four.

The CS 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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The CS would increase the maximum amount available for a project grant under FRDAP from \$200,000 to \$500,000. Over the past few years, construction costs have increased for projects using FRDAP grants.

For FY 2007-2008, the total funds available for the FRDAP program amount to \$6 M. There are 197 project applications. The projects are ranked within several categories:

- Large projects fund – acquisition (\$108,547)
- Small projects fund – development (\$212,172)
- Large projects fund – development (\$5,626,817)
- Large project fund – trail (\$52,464)

Raising the total maximum project grant from \$200,000 to \$500,000 may limit the total number of projects that actually receive funding.

The CS also allows a local government to submit three grant applications during each grant application period instead of two, and allows the local government to have four active projects during any state fiscal year instead of three.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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