

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Health Regulation Committee

BILL: SB 1120

INTRODUCER: Senator Fasano

SUBJECT: University of South Florida/Pharmacy Degree Program

DATE: April 8, 2009

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	Matthews	HE	Favorable
2.	Munroe	Wilson	HR	Favorable
3.			HI	
4.			WPSC	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill authorizes a Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at the University of South Florida (USF).

This bill creates s. 1004.387, F.S.

II. Present Situation:

Legislative Approval of Professional Schools

The Legislature must approve the establishment of new colleges, schools, or functional equivalents of any program leading to a degree that is offered as a credential for a specific license granted under the Florida Statutes or the State Constitution.¹ Thus, an institution wishing to establish a doctoral program for a licensed profession such as pharmacy would have to receive authorization from the Legislature before offering the program.

Pharmacy Education

Doctor of Pharmacy degree programs currently exist at five institutions in Florida—two public universities (University of Florida and Florida A & M University) and three independent institutions (Nova Southeastern University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, and Lake Erie College of Medicine-Bradenton Campus). According to the Board of Governors (BOG), the University of Florida and Florida A & M University awarded 635 pharmacy degrees in 2008 and

¹ s. 1004.03(3), F.S.

557 pharmacy degrees in 2007. According to the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida, Nova Southeastern University and Palm Beach Atlantic University awarded 308 pharmacy degrees in 2008. The Lake Erie College of Medicine-Bradenton School of Pharmacy is a relatively new program, and its initial class has not graduated yet.

The Florida Pharmacy Act² establishes licensure by examination requirements for a person desiring to be licensed as a pharmacist. The applicant must pay the appropriate fee, be at least 18 years of age, and have earned a degree from a school or college of pharmacy accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the United States Office of Education, or earned a degree from a 4-year undergraduate pharmacy program from a school or college of pharmacy located outside the United States and completed a minimum of 500 hours in a supervised work activity program in Florida under the supervision of a Florida-licensed pharmacist. The applicant must submit satisfactory proof that he or she has completed an internship program approved by the Board of Pharmacy. No such board-approved program may exceed 2,080 hours, all of which may be obtained prior to graduation. The Florida Pharmacy Act also provides licensure by endorsement requirements for pharmacists who are already licensed in another state who wish to become licensed to practice pharmacy in Florida.

Projected Need for Pharmacists in Florida

According to the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), employment of pharmacists is expected to grow by 23 percent between 2008 and 2016. The AWI attributes the projected demand for pharmacists to the increasing numbers of middle-aged and elderly people who use more prescription drugs than younger people; to scientific advances that will make more drug products available; and to the coverage of prescription drugs by a greater number of health insurance plans and Medicare.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill authorizes the establishment of a new pharmacy school at the USF. According to the BOG, the university board of trustees approved implementation of a Doctor of Pharmacy degree program on June 12, 2008, and the BOG reviewed and approved the USF's proposal on January 29, 2009. The USF plans to enroll the first class of 50 students in fall 2011. The program would add 75 students in Year 2 and 100 students annually thereafter until reaching full capacity at 400 students in 2016. Once students were enrolled, the program would have to become accredited so that students could become licensed pharmacists.

Other Potential Implications:

This bill could create a financial obligation for the state by authorizing a new pharmacy school at the USF. While the USF plans to use funds from corporate and private donors to start the pharmacy school, the university would request state funding beginning in 2011.

² ch. 465, F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Article I, Section 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the BOG, the USF intends to initiate planning for the program with private contributions and reallocated contract and grant dollars. Nonrecurring appropriations may be requested for Planning Year 3 (2010-11) and will be requested for Implementation Years 1 and 2 (2011-12 and 2012-13). Recurring appropriations based upon student headcount enrollment will be requested beginning in 2011-12. Tuition revenues are expected to cover approximately 69 percent of the program costs after 2013-14.

Fiscal Year 2011-12

For fiscal year 2011-12, with the first class of 50 students expected for fall enrollment at a tuition rate of \$15,100 (with 10 percent annual increases), the USF expects \$755,000 in tuition revenue and another \$800,000 in community or industry donations.

For fiscal year 2011-12, the university will request \$400,000 in recurring funds to support the first class of 50 students and \$1 million in non-recurring funds to support an additional 75 students anticipated for fall 2012.

Fiscal Year 2012-13

For fiscal year 2012-13, the university will request \$1 million in recurring funds and \$1.7 million in non-recurring funds for student and faculty support.

Potential Research Funding

According to the BOG, the USF is projecting annual awards of more than \$2.2 million in competitive federal research funding, no later than fiscal year 2014-15.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.