

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 Agriculture Committee

BILL: SB 2010

INTRODUCER: Senator Dean

SUBJECT: Florida Agricultural Museum

DATE: March 9, 2010 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Hill	Poole	AG	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	GO	_____
3.	_____	_____	GA	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The Florida Agricultural Museum (museum) is a non-profit corporation designated as the museum of agriculture and rural history of the State of Florida. The museum is dedicated to preserving Florida’s agricultural past and conserving heritage livestock.

As a budget reduction issue during the 2008 regular session, the Legislature eliminated the museum position that was being funded by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department).

This bill repeals s. 570.901, F.S., which establishes the Florida Agricultural Museum. It amends ss. 570.902 and 570.903, F.S., relating to direct-support organizations for the museum and certain other programs and definitions that reference the museum in order to conform to the repeal of s. 570.901, F.S.

This bill repeals section 570.901 and amends sections 570.902 and 570.903 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The Florida Agricultural Museum was established in 1983 by a group of concerned agriculturalists and historians at the request of Commissioner of Agriculture, Doyle Conner to preserve Florida’s important agricultural heritage. The museum was originally located in Tallahassee, Florida, but it was moved to Flagler County in 1997 where it features an outdoor historical farm covering more than 400 acres.

The museum is a private non-profit corporation led by a board of trustees. In addition to preserving Florida's agricultural past, the museum hosts various agricultural events throughout the year. The museum is also active in the conservation of heritage livestock including rare Florida Cracker cattle and horses.

In 1992, the museum was designated as the museum of agriculture and rural history of the State of Florida and established within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Additionally in that same year, the department began to provide funding for one position at the museum. As a budget reduction issue during the 2008 regular session, the Legislature eliminated the museum position that was being funded by the department. Currently, the museum continues to operate.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 repeals s. 570.901, F.S., to remove the Florida Agricultural Museum from the Florida Statutes.

Section 2 amends s. 570.902, F.S., to delete the term museum as it relates to a direct-support organization and deletes the definition of museum which references the Florida Agricultural Museum.

Section 3 amends s. 570.903, F.S., to delete the term museum as it relates to a direct-support organization and deletes other cross-references to the museum to reflect the repeal of s. 570.901, F.S.

Section 4 provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2010.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Although the museum will be deleted from the Florida Statutes, the department reports that the existence of the museum is not likely to be affected. Under this bill, the board of trustees will continue to have authority over the museum; however the department will no longer be responsible for the museum.

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.