

SB 2500 — General Appropriations

by Budget Committee

This bill is the General Appropriations Act which provides moneys for the annual period beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of State government.

Total Funds Appropriated: \$48.9 Billion

Education

Public Schools

- Provides \$749.9 million (7.1 percent) increase in FEFP total potential funds; provides a \$207.43 (5.6 percent) increase in total potential funds per weighted student.
- Provides FEFP funding only for enrollment in the 180-day regular school term; funding for summer school and supplemental services, and a new \$527 million Class Size Reduction/Supplemental Instruction appropriation.
- Provides \$40 million for schools that choose to extend the length of the school year from 180 to 210 days of instruction.

Community Colleges

- Provides \$67 million in flexible funds for the community college system and \$28.6 million for Challenge Grant Programs.

State University System

- Provides \$68 million for enhancing graduate and undergraduate education in the State University System, and \$60 million for Deferred Maintenance and Challenge Grant Programs.

- Provides for a tuition increase of 5 percent, to help fund the enhancement issues; in addition, allowing university presidents to increase tuition by another 5 percent, which could generate \$17 million to be spent on their institutional priorities.

Other Education

- Provides a 30 percent increase in need-based financial aid. Students who are eligible for need-based financial aid in any of the state's three programs will receive \$1,070 in the next year.
- Fully funds the number of additional students who have qualified for the Bright Futures Scholarship. Total funding has now grown to \$130 million.

Statewide Drug Control Initiatives

- Education, Prevention and Intervention - \$41.2 million
- Treatment - \$6.0 million
- Enforcement - \$4.8 million

Health and Human Services

- In the Health and Human Services area, significant investments were made to improve the health and social well-being of Floridians. The systems and infrastructure which deliver those services have been improved as well as the ability of the state to respond to the pressing needs in child welfare and developmental services programs. Funding has increased in excess of \$1.0 billion over the 1998-99 General Appropriations Act including an increase of \$93.5 million in General Revenue, \$397 million in Tobacco Settlement Trust Funds, and an increase of \$631 million in the drawdown of federal funds.
- Funding increases for the Health and Human Services Departments include:
 - Children and Families - increased by \$370.5 million
 - Health - increased by \$185.7 million
 - Health Care Administration - increased by \$535.9 million
 - Elder Affairs - increased by \$23.6 million
 - Veterans' - increased by \$3.5 million

General Government

- A total of \$20.4 million from general revenue and trust funds is appropriated to help equip our Division of Forestry to fight future wildfires and to help prevent future wildfires through increased prescribed burning and urban wildfire mitigation strategies.
- Provides \$422.7 million for land acquisition (including authorizing the tenth and final series of bonds for Preservation 2000).
- Provides \$84.8 million for state and local park facility development and management.
- Provides \$176.7 million for wastewater and drinking water facility construction grants and loans.
- Provides \$17.5 million for surface water improvement and management (SWIM) activities.

Transportation and Economic Development

- Provides \$159.2 million for Economic Development Programs:
 - Economic Development Road Fund - \$30 million
 - Tourism Commission - \$22 million
 - Qualified Targeted Industry - \$19.2 million
 - High Impact Performance Incentive - \$6.0 million
 - Front Porch Florida - \$5.9 million
 - Spaceport Florida - \$4.8 million
 - Quick Action Closing Fund - \$4 million
- Provides 3 positions and \$1.1 million to fund the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, which will be assigned to the Executive Office of the Governor for administrative purposes. The partnership will establish a statewide measure for readiness that children will undergo upon entry to kindergarten. As local coalitions form, the partnership will approve their composition and school readiness.

Public Safety and Judiciary

- Provides 50 positions and over \$3 million to the state attorneys and public defenders for sexual predator civil commitment workload and \$18.1 million for treatment including 215 treatment beds for Jimmy Ryce cases.
- Provides \$5.4 million in funding for additional judgeships, judicial assistants and law clerks as requested by the Supreme Court.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 1999.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 119-0