

HB 2145 — General Appropriations

by General Appropriations Committee (FRC), Rep. Pruitt and others (SB 2200 by Budget Committee)

This bill is the General Appropriations Act which provides moneys for the annual period beginning July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2001, to pay salaries, expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of State government.

Total Funds Appropriated: \$50.9 Billion

EDUCATION

Public Schools

- Provides \$867.8 million (7.8 percent) increase in FEFP total potential funds; a \$280.20 (5.9 percent) increase in total potential funds per unweighted student.
- Provides \$60 million for teacher recruitment/retention, \$12.25 million for Teacher Bonuses for Outstanding Teachers in “D”, “F” and alternative schools, and \$3.4 million for matching grants for “F” schools.
- Provides \$50 million for impact fee replacement for school districts.
- Provides \$30 million increase for School Recognition awards to high performing schools and a total of \$38.3 million for assistance to low performing schools.

Community Colleges

Provides an overall increase in the Community College Program Fund of \$22.8 million, including transfers.

- Provides an additional \$8.3 million in performance-based incentive funding.

- Provides \$5.5 million in savings to colleges as a result of the change in the Florida Retirement System contribution rate.
- Provides a 5% tuition increase which should generate an additional \$11 million dollars.

Workforce Development

- Provides an increase of \$15.1 million in new funding which will be distributed using the performance measures from the workforce development formula.

State University System

- Provides \$55 million for an additional 4,150 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate full-time-equivalent students and \$8 million for increasing access to baccalaureate degrees on branch campuses and centers.
- Provides \$9.6 million to begin the implementation of a new medical school at Florida State University, \$20.2 million for operating costs and equipment for expanding the basic sciences at FSU, and \$1 million to develop an implementation plan for a new Chiropractic School at FSU.
- Provides \$5 million to begin the implementation of two new law schools (\$2.5 million for FAMU and \$2.5 million for FIU).
- Provides \$46 million for Challenge Grant Matching funds for endowed professorships, scholarships and improvements for academic programs; and provides \$20 million for Facilities Challenge Grants Matching.
- Provides \$10 million for graduate medical education to be split equally between the University of Florida and University of South Florida Medical Schools.
- Provides for a 5% across-the-board tuition increase; generates \$18.7 million for priorities established by the university president.

Private Colleges and Universities

- Provides \$24.6 million for the Florida Resident Access Grant to increase the number of students from 23,256 to 25,176 (1,920 full-time-equivalent student increase) and to increase the amount of the award from \$2,074 per student to \$2,813 per student (\$739 increase per student).

Student Financial Aid

- Provides \$13.1 million additional funding for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.
- Provides an increase of \$19.4 million from Lottery funds for the Public Student Assistance Grant program.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Major investments were made by the 2000 Legislature to improve the health and social well-being of Floridians. The health and social services delivery system and the infrastructure that supports that system were improved, and the State's ability to correct the pressing problems in hospital reimbursement, child protection, welfare reform and developmental services programs was dramatically enhanced. Funding was increased by \$1.4 billion over the FY 1999-2000 General Appropriations Act including an increase of \$337.3 million in General Revenue, a decrease of \$51.7 million in Tobacco Settlement Trust Funds, and an increase of \$1.1 billion in other trust funds, which includes significant increases in new federal funds.

- Funding increases for the Health and Human Services departments include:

Children and Families increased by \$222.5 million which includes \$119.1 million for child protection, \$71.4 million for day care, \$20.1 million for substance abuse, and \$38.2 million for mental health services.

Health increased by \$143.5 million including \$10.0 million for responding to racial disparities, \$10.7 million for AIDS, \$45.6 million for health infrastructure and \$67.2 million for the transfer of the Office of Disability Determinations.

Agency for Health Care Administration increased by \$989.1 million including \$768 million to cover Medicaid workload, \$254.3 million for hospital rate increases, \$23.0 million for physician rate increases, and \$96.1 million for KidCare insurance services.

Elder Affairs increased by \$20.9 million which provides for additional community based services for at-risk elders.

Veterans' Affairs increased by \$14.8 million including \$11.6 million for two new nursing homes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- \$380.9 million for recreation and conservation land acquisition (including authorizing the first series of Florida Forever Bonds).
- \$144.2 million for water projects reviewed by the Florida Water Advisory Panel (\$107.6 in surface water projects and \$39.6 in wastewater projects).
- \$174.5 million in wastewater and drinking water facility construction grants and loans.
- \$105.0 million for the Everglades Restoration Project.
- \$30.3 million for Beach Management Projects.
- \$40.6 million in local outdoor recreation projects.
- \$60.7 million for management and development of state outdoor recreational facilities.
- \$10.0 million for Technology Solutions for Customer-Centered Services in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- \$139.5 million of state and federal funds for citrus canker eradication.

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Provides \$153.4 million to make Florida an attractive and competitive place to do business and stimulate economic growth. Funding includes:

Economic Development Transportation Projects “Road Fund”	\$25 million
Qualified Target Industry QTI Tax Refund Program	\$19 million
Quick Response Training	\$6 million
Florida Manufacturing Technology Center	\$3.5 million
High Impact Performance Incentive	\$6.3 million
Quick Action Closing Fund	\$2.6 million

Rural Infrastructure Fund	\$4 million
Defense Infrastructure Fund	\$4 million
Tourism Commission	\$21.6 million
Spaceport Florida	\$13.8 million
includes:	
Space Experiment Research & Processing Lab (SERPL) -	\$10 million
Next Generation Launch Systems -	\$1 million

- Provides \$63.8 million for the “Fast Track” Program which is dedicated to catalyzing or accelerating transportation projects which will substantially impact Florida’s economic competitiveness by funding statewide or major regional needs.
- Provides \$13.5 million for the retrofitting of structures to meet the current deficit of hurricane shelters statewide, with an additional \$4.5 million to be made available by local government in matching funds.
- Provides \$18.3 million for the Cultural Facilities Grant Program and \$17.1 million for the Historic Preservation Grant Program. These programs provide grants for renovation, preservation, and construction of cultural facilities and historic properties, major archaeological excavations and major history museum exhibition efforts.
- Provides a total of \$44.3 million for funding libraries. This includes a \$38.6 million increase in operational aid to public libraries of which \$5.2 is federal aid; \$1.2 million for Library Cooperatives; and \$4.5 million for library construction grants.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUDICIARY

- Responding to Florida’s juvenile crime problem, the budget adds more than \$70 million dollars to establish 1,285 additional commitment beds to reduce waiting lists and provide for increased lengths of stay by juvenile offenders. An additional \$22 million, representing a 72% increase in current funding levels, is also provided to enhance substance abuse and mental health treatment services provided in juvenile justice commitment facilities to enhance rehabilitation efforts and reduce recidivism.
- Several notable enhancements to Florida’s Judicial System are also contained in the budget. Additional funding includes:

 \$6.3 million for 146 additional positions and operational expenses for State Attorneys;

\$3.4 million for 76 additional positions and operational expenses for Public Defenders;

\$34.9 million and 97 new positions are provided to the Courts for trial court workload, drug court coordinators, family court case managers, model dependency court pilot projects, court house construction and implementation of Article V.

- To ensure that Florida's inmates continue to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences, the budget provides \$13.4 million and 539 new positions needed to bring an additional 2,059 prison beds on-line.
- Funding is also provided to substantially improve the salaries and benefits paid to Florida's sworn law enforcement officers, corrections probation officers, corrections medical staff, and juvenile justice detention custody workers.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2000.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 120-0