

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCB ENRC 08-16 Reorganization of the Department of Environmental Protection

SPONSOR(S): Environment & Natural Resources Council

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
Orig. Comm.: Environment & Natural Resources Council	_____	Perkins	Dixon / Hamby
1) _____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____	_____

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill reorganizes programs within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The bill changes the name of one of six special offices, from the Office of Legislative and Government Affairs to the Office of Legislative Affairs, and adds a seventh office, the Office of Intergovernmental Programs.

The bill deletes the current Division of Resource Assessment and Management and allows for the realignment of water-related programs into two separate divisions: the current Division of Water Resource Management and the new Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. The DEP reports that this realignment of water-related programs will enable the agency to better focus on water resource management and restoration efforts.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2008.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provides Limited Government: The bill amends section 20.255, F.S., to allow for the reorganization of programs within the DEP. This bill will result in no increase in total budget, FTEs or rate and only includes the transfer of resources between budget entities.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The rapid rate of growth and development throughout Florida has placed considerable pressure on the State's water resources. Recognizing this challenge, the DEP indicates it needs to realign programs to enable it to better focus its water resource management and restoration efforts.

Section 20.255, F.S., provides for six special offices under the Secretary and eight divisions. These six special offices are the Office of Chief of Staff, Office of General Counsel, Office of Inspector General, Office of External Affairs, Office of Legislative and Government Affairs, and Office of Greenways and Trails. The eight divisions are Administrative Services, Air Resource Management, Water Resource Management, Law Enforcement, Resource Assessment and Management, Waste Management, Recreation and Parks, and State Lands.

Effect of Proposed Change

The bill changes the name of one of six special offices from the Office of Legislative and Government Affairs to the Office of Legislative Affairs and adds a seventh Office of Intergovernmental Programs.

The bill deletes the current Division of Resource Assessment and Management and allows for the realignment of water-related programs into two separate divisions: the current Division of Water Resource Management and the new Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration. The DEP reports that this realignment of water-related programs will enable the agency to better focus on water resource management and restoration efforts.

The bill will result in no increase in total budget, FTEs or rate and only includes the transfer of resources between budget entities.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 20.255, F.S., revising the organizational structure of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2008.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The DEP reports that these changes will enable the agency to better focus on water resource management and restoration efforts and better serve the citizens of Florida.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill will result in no increase in total budget, FTEs or rate and only includes the transfer of resources between budget entities.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to require municipalities or counties to take action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, nor reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not provide rulemaking.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

D. STATEMENT OF THE SPONSOR

N/A

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

N/A