

1996 Turkey Watch

1996 State Budget Stuffed with
45 Turkeys Worth \$32 Million



July 1996

Updated to include June 7, 1996 Governor's Vetoes



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David McIntosh
Chairman

Dominic M. Calabro
President and Chief Executive Officer

June 1996

Dear Fellow Taxpayers:

Following the 1995 Legislative Session, a total of 45 budget turkeys were found totalling \$32 million. The budget for 1996-97 is \$39.8 billion. Of the total appropriated for budget turkeys, 36 budget turkeys worth \$21.9 million were found in General Revenue and 9 budget turkeys worth \$9.7 million were found in trust funds. While the dollar amount of 1996 "budget turkeys" decreased over last year's, the actual count of individual turkeys has increased.

But one recently employed practice involves using the appropriations process to fund specific vendors without competitive selection. An example of this occurs whenever General Revenue dollars are spent to build privately owned facilities. Addressing facilities needs should be accomplished by appropriating the necessary funds for competitive purchase. Allowing state funds to be used to build private facilities effectively gives away a valuable fixed asset with no accountable return on taxpayers' investment. Moreover, the practice circumvents competition, thus costing more but realizing less benefit. Finally, it constitutes political favoritism and disrupts the fair, level playing field among similar state vendors.

Budget turkeys were zeroed out 1990 and again 1992. But although too many "budget turkeys" were seen this year, many more turkeys might be passed without TaxWatch's yearly budgetary scrutiny. And while a stubborn trend persists whereby budget items are passed without following proper channels, many of this year's projects involved urgently needed services that could make a value-added difference. That alone is reason enough to follow the lawful review procedures -- both to avoid being tagged a "budget turkey and to give the item its best chance to avoid being vetoed.

Sincerely,

David McIntosh
Chairman

Dominic M. Calabro
President and Chief Executive Officer

Joseph P. Lacher
Chairman-Elect

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Secretary

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"Improving taxpayer value, citizen understanding and government accountability"

THE 1996 TURKEY WATCH REPORT

The 1996-97 State Budget Contained 45 Turkeys Worth \$32 Million

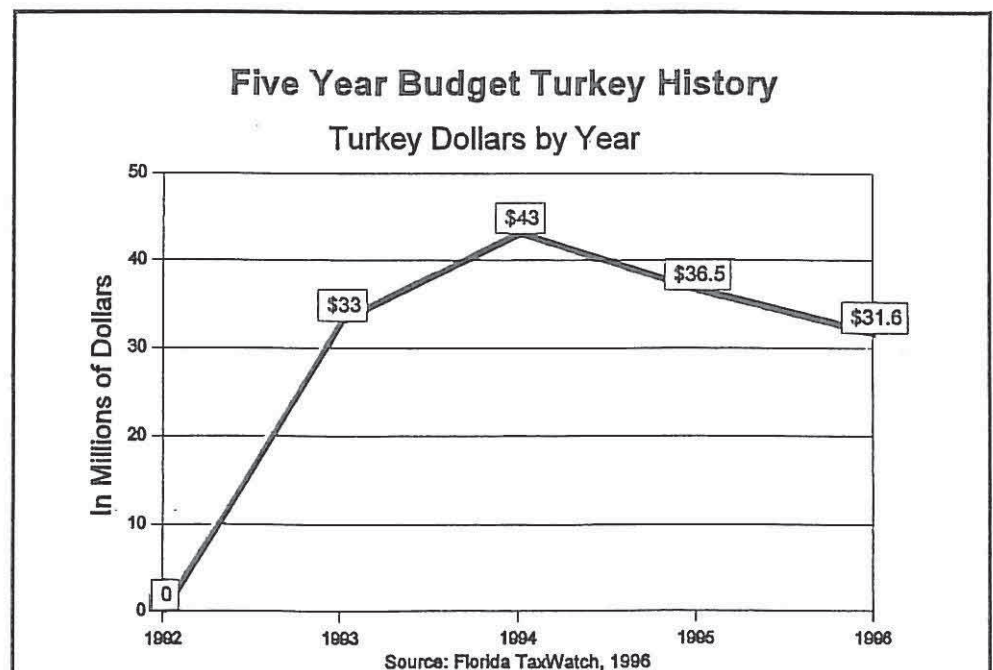
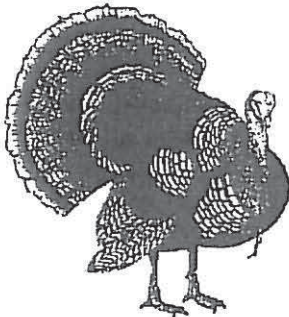
What Is A Budget Turkey?

As in previous years, it is important to note that the "budget turkey" label does not denote condemnation of a budget item's worthiness. The term merely suggests that with the state's vast and pressing needs and limited resources, the question must be asked: "Is this the best use of the Floridians' state tax dollars?" The priorities of all citizens must be considered.

This and previous Turkey Watch reports are not attempts to record only government waste or inefficiency. While in some cases that may be a factor, this report offers an independent assessment about the honesty, integrity and public review of the state's \$39.8 billion 1996-97 budget.

Most budget turkeys are added onto the state budget, many times during the waning hours of the legislative session. This maneuver circumvents the normal planning and budgeting process which, by necessity, requires close scrutiny by state agencies, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting and legislative committees and staff. Florida TaxWatch makes allowances for a certain amount of legislative initiative. But the definition of what constitutes sufficient budgetary review includes deliberative scrutiny of passages of substantive legislation and substantial review at legislative committee hearings. Too often, these processes are bypassed.

The 1996 Legislature generated a total of 45 budget turkeys totalling \$31.6 million. The budget for 1996-97 is \$39.8 billion. Of the total appropriated for budget turkeys, 36 budget turkeys worth \$21.9 million were found in General Revenue and nine budget turkeys worth \$9.7 million were found in trust funds. This year's budget turkeys cost \$5.44 for each Florida household, with budget turkeys costing every man, woman and child in Florida \$2.19.



Turkey Criteria

1. Projects or programs that did not go through any review process allowing for proper evaluation: agency budget requests, governor's recommended budget or legislative committee hearings.
2. Subsidies to private organizations, councils or committees which can and should obtain funding from private sources.
3. Local government projects benefiting local area residents but lacking significant local funding support and/or overall benefit to the state as a whole.
4. Projects lacking an empirically demonstrated public benefit but instead benefit some special interest.
5. Low priority projects that get funded over higher priority items.
6. Inappropriate sources and questionable appropriations -- e.g., only partially funded with a large annualized cost in subsequent years, funded from inappropriate sources and/or duplicative of existing programs.

What Else Could a Turkey Buy?

One of the best arguments for stopping turkeys is the many urgently needed state services that the funds spent on turkeys could purchase. Florida TaxWatch investigated other funding opportunities for the revenue appropriated to this year's turkey crop. More than \$21.9 million of General Revenue, now appropriated for budget turkeys, could be used to purchase the following critically needed social services. These funds are needed even more now that the HRS budget has been cut, which reduced the level of social services for needy Floridians to an even lower level.

Cost effective and/or programmatic areas that could be made more effective with these funds:

- ✓ 6,844 child care slots
- ✓ 1,153 secure drug treatment beds
- ✓ 6,083 foster home placements

Governor's Vetoes

Florida TaxWatch's 1996 Turkey Watch was originally released on June 5, 1996. On June 7, 1996, Governor Lawton Chiles vetoed 14 items worth \$10,739,033 million. The Governor's veto list included 5 items TaxWatch identified as "budget turkeys" that are worth \$6,883,000 million. These are denoted in this report by a red "vetoed" stamp.

1996 TURKEY WATCH REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



27A - Technology Matching Grants. The proviso language in this item states that grants would be matched with no less than 40% local funds to enable public and private (emphasis added) elementary and secondary schools to implement technology plans.

However, there is no provision for equitable allocation of grant funds among the 67 school districts; thus a few large (or only one) school district(s) could receive all the funding. In addition, this item is funded from Lottery proceeds, which may violate the provisions of s. 24.102(2)(a), Florida Statutes requiring that "...the net proceeds of lottery games conducted pursuant to this act be used to support improvements in public (emphasis added) education..." This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in either House or Senate bills. It appeared only in the Conference bill.

\$5,000,000 TF



79A - Minority Teacher Incentive. This is a program to increase the number of minority teachers in Florida's public school system. While a worthwhile purpose, it duplicates an appropriation in the proviso language of line item # 1610B. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$200,000 GR



80 - Teacher Professional Development. Proviso language allocates \$250,000 for a new "Distant Scientist Mentor Program" to be jointly administered by the Florida Gulf Coast University and the Technological

Research and Development Authority. The stated purpose of the program is to pair groups of students (middle school and expanding to high school) with small teams of scientists and mathematicians to serve as role models through distance learning technologies. Although potentially a worthwhile program, Florida Gulf Coast University will not enroll its first postsecondary student until the Fall of 1997, and probably should concentrate on that effort before undertaking projects of this nature. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$250,000 GR



140C - Newfound Marine Institute - Monroe County. This appropriation would provide funds to revise the "Monroe County Story," an environmental review of the biological and social aspects of the Monroe county eco-system, to be used as an educational tool for Monroe County students. Environmental education projects are funded on a competitive grant basis by the Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education (FACEE) as authorized by s. 229.8058, Florida Statutes, previously administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, but being transferred to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission under the provisions of SB38 which passed during the 1996 legislative session. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill and circumvents the competitive grant process established in law.

\$141,383 GR

DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS



299A - Congregate Meals for City of Sweetwater. Proviso language provides \$300,000 for congregate meals for the City of Sweetwater elderly program. The department states that this program, although very worthwhile, does not require additional funding. This action violates the established systematic and equitable need-based process for funding such services through the community care for the elderly program. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor, or in the House bill.

\$300,000 GR



302D - Neighborly Senior Services Centralized Refueling and Vehicle Operations Facility. The Pinellas County central transportation provider for the elderly requires new space for its operational facility.

The Governor recommended \$100,000 for relocation expenses and a leasing solution. However, the provider preferred to purchase land and construct buildings with a much higher level of state support. Given the statewide reductions in state funding for transportation of the disadvantaged, earmarking funds that exceed an adequate solution to a specific county's problem for serving the elderly serves local interests at the expense of statewide

consideration of all vulnerable and needy citizens. The item was not requested by the agency or recommended by the Senate.

\$700,000 GR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES



364A - Healthier Communities and Shared Data Base in Broward County.

The item is very simply a special category appropriation for serving local governmental interests that more properly should be funded with local revenues. The appropriation has no direct overall benefit to the state as a whole even though the concept is laudable. Funds were not requested by the agency, nor recommended by the Governor. The Senate bill appropriates \$250,000, whereas the House bill only appropriates \$50,000 for the shared data base.

\$250,000 GR



381 - Community Mental Health Services - District 7.

In the general appropriation category for community mental health services, the Legislature earmarked \$500,000 in additional funds for one of the department's districts. The department utilizes population as a need-based allocation formula to distribute its appropriation for community mental health services. No district receives an allocation that represents 100% of need and District 7 is the second lowest ranked district on an equity basis. Using the number of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients as an alternative indicator of need, District 11 is found to be ranked the lowest in the state relative to its allocation as a percentage of need. District 7 is not in the greatest need regardless of the allocation/need formula.

Other problems exist in the department's method followed to allocate community mental health services funds. Namely, the department does not consider the dollars in a district's base allocation before distributing the additional dollars appropriated above the previous year's funding level. Thus, inequities persist and may be exacerbated in 1997 given the overall reduction in funding relative to last year. If the Legislature intended to remedy existing inequities, this proposed special appropriation to District 7 does not solve the problem. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$500,000 GR



383 - Community Substance Abuse Services -- District 7. Proviso language associated with the community substance abuse line item earmarks \$620,000 for the operation of a specific detoxification center in District 7, the Center for Drug Free Living. Earmarking funds for a particular provider impedes competition, conflicts with performance-based contracting and is inconsistent with development of standardized unit of service costs.

In the absence of compelling interests, the state's responsibility is to encourage, not impede, competition and accountability. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill. The House bill appropriated \$500,000 for District 7 which was increased by \$120,000 in the Conference bill.

\$620,000 GR



383 - Community Substance Abuse Services -- North Broward CSU.

Proviso language associated with the line item appropriating funds for community substance abuse services requires the department to provide \$700,000 for the North Broward Crisis Stabilization Unit. Considering that state funds for community substance abuse services are estimated to meet 13% of the statewide need, it is inappropriate to reduce funds for such services with proviso requirements for funding CSU services in Broward County. Additionally, this item appears to be a duplicate appropriation. Line item 386B also provides \$700,000 for a CSU in Broward county involving the North Broward Hospital District. The proviso language did not appear under this item until the conference committee bill was released. However, the same language was in the Senate and House bills but was within the Baker Act appropriation line as appropriate.

\$700,000 GR



383 - Community Substance Abuse Services -- Stewart-Marchman Family Counseling Program.

Although additional funds for community substance abuse services were not included among the priorities of the District 12 (Volusia and Flagler counties) health and human services board, the Legislature earmarked funds for a specific provider in two separate line items --line item 383 (\$210,000) and line item 385B (\$550,000). The funds were not requested by the Governor but were proposed by the House at \$600,000. The Governor's Office reports that the funds in line item 385B are for the provider to construct a facility and the funds in line item 383 are operational in purpose.

Earmarking funds for a particular provider impedes competition. This provider received legislative appropriations of \$726,806 in fiscal year 1990-91 and \$726,805 in fiscal year 1995-96. The reasonableness of providing a private nonprofit provider close to \$2 million dollars for fixed capital outlay over a three year-period, considering the unfunded fixed capital requirements of state-owned buildings and institutions, is highly questionable. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$210,000 GR



385B - Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonprofit Organizations -- Act/Stewart-Marchman Joint Facility. As discussed above, this item provides additional resources to a particular provider in District 12. This practice impedes competition and is inconsistent with performance-based contracting and the establishment of standard unit of cost. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$550,000 GR



385C - Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonprofit Organizations -- CSU for Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services - Pinellas. This line item provides \$900,000 for a crisis stabilization unit in Pinellas County to be operated by a particular provider --Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health Services (PEMHS). Additional funds for mental health services were not included among the top priorities of the health and human service board. It is reported that these funds are intended to be used by the provider to construct a facility on land owned by the provider. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$900,000 GR



385D - Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonprofit Organizations -- Mental Health Care Incorporated -- Capital Improvement Project - Hillsborough. This line item provides \$400,000 for a particular provider's capital improvement project in Hillsborough County. The funds will help the provider renovate a newly purchased facility involving a total cost of \$1.4 million. The provider received \$600,000 of state funds in fiscal year 1994-95. The agency and the county have contributed \$200,000 toward the project. The practice of earmarking funds for

a particular provider impedes competition in the delivery of services and is inconsistent with performance-based contracting and the development of standard unit of service costs. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$400,000 GR



399 - Special Categories Grants and Aids - Contracted Services -- Junior League of Jacksonville. The line item contains proviso language earmarking \$78,000 for the Junior League of Jacksonville. The funds are intended to support the League in providing technical assistance to community organizations throughout the state that wish to establish Family Visitation Centers. However, this action is inconsistent with the provisions of House Bill 347 which establishes a Family Visitation Network and task force to oversee and evaluate family visitation pilot projects. The Junior League is an eligible participant on the task force, creating a conflict of interest if this special appropriation is not vetoed. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$78,000 GR



405A - Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonprofit Organizations -- Baptist Children's Home - Jacksonville. The funds are intended to renovate a residential group home and emergency shelter which houses dependent children referred by the department. Per diem rates reimbursed to these programs include consideration of facility costs. Special fixed capital outlay requirements among providers typically involve local fund raising and private contribution initiatives instead of special appropriations which decrease dollars for statewide resource requirements. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$100,000 GR



419B - Grants and Aids to Local Governments and Nonprofit Organizations -- Renovate Resident Rooms - Hope Center of Miami. Reportedly, the funds will help the provider meet the costs of a renovation of a 16-bed licensed group home for developmentally disabled adults in Miami. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House or Senate bills. It appeared in the Conference bill.

\$150,000 GR



428 - Aid to Local Governments Contribution to County Health Units - County Dental Health Program.

Reportedly, the funds are to offset a deficit in the dental program in Pasco County. This action is inconsistent with an established equitable allocation formula which provides each county funds based on its proportion of the state population and persons living in poverty. Earmarking funds for Pasco County will reduce overall funding to each of the other counties. Additionally, the practice of providing an appropriation to offset overspending will only lead to more overspending. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$31,107 GR



428 - Aid to Local Governments Contribution to County Health Units -- Indigent Dental Clinic in District 5.

Reportedly, these funds will allow an expansion of the indigent dental health services in Pinellas County. However, the requirement will result in an overall reduction in primary care base funding on a statewide basis which is already distributed on an established equitable basis. The health and human service board did not prioritize a need for supplementing indigent dental health services in its strategic plan. Proviso language associated with the line item for primary health care (the state contribution to the funding of county public health units) was proposed in the House budget. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$200,000 GR



437 - Grants and Aids-Contracted Services -- Medical Training Equipment in Orange County.

Proviso language associated with this line item directs the department to provide \$30,000 for medical training equipment in Orange County. However, the requirement will result in an overall reduction in primary care base funding which is already allocated on an equitable basis. Orange County will receive more than its fair share of funds for no compelling reason if this item is not vetoed. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$30,000 GR



451A - Fixed Capital Outlay County Health Units Construction and Renovation.

The Legislature appropriated funds for fixed capital outlay projects

involving county public health units and children's medical services clinics that are inconsistent with the priorities and needs determined by HRS in this area. There is a statutorily prescribed process for the department to follow in developing its fixed capital outlay budget request. Legislative action that undermines that process without compelling and timely reasons is inappropriate. Funded projects that were not among the priorities are:

Hamilton County	\$50,000
Hardee County	\$360,000
Marion/Belleview	\$320,000
Marion/Reddick	\$320,000
Palm Beach County	\$1,440,000
Southside/District 2	\$350,000
West Jacksonville	\$250,000
Project Warm/Volusia County	\$360,000
Miami Community Health Center	\$200,000
Bay County	\$300,000

Total \$3,950,000 GR



454 - Expenses to Relocate the CMS offices in Jacksonville.

Proviso language associated with the Children's Medical Services expense appropriation line item directs the department to use \$250,000 to relocate the CMS offices in Jacksonville. Line item 476B also provides funds--\$200,000 for the identical purpose--and should be considered a technical error (i.e. duplicate appropriation). The appropriation reflects a conflict between major health care providers in the Jacksonville area concerning where these offices should be located. It is reported that these funds are intended to be used to relocate the offices a distance of just six miles to the University Medical Center, instead of its current location which is highly adequate and proximate to the Nemours Children's Clinic, the Wolfson Children's Hospital and University Medical Center. Accessibility and co-location with speciality providers is important; however, there is nothing inadequate with the current situation that Florida TaxWatch could determine. Departmental personnel also indicate that the current location is acceptable. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$250,000 GR



472 - Grants and Aids-Developmental, Evaluation and Intervention Services-Mt. Sinai Hospital in Miami.

Proviso language associated with the Children's Medical Services (CMS) appropriation for developmental, evaluation and intervention clinics requires the department to provide \$450,000 for a clinic at Mt. Sinai

hospital in Miami. The Miami area already has three such clinics and the need for additional capacity does not exist. The CMS program does have requirements for fixed capital outlay resources, but this project is not among the priorities. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$450,000 GR



476A - Fixed Capital Outlay - Children's Medical Center in Gainesville. This item requires the department to provide \$360,000 to expand the CMS clinic in Gainesville. Again, the CMS program does have requirements for fixed capital outlay resources, but this project is not among the established priorities. Those established priorities exceed \$30 million. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$360,000 GR



476B - Fixed Capital Outlay -Relocate CMS offices in Jacksonville. This item is discussed under a duplicate appropriation in line item 454. There is no compelling requirement to relocate the CMS offices in

Jacksonville. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$200,000 GR



513A - Fixed Capital Outlay - Marianna Sunland Renovation. This item appeared for the first time in the conference committee bill and funds for this project were not among the priorities of the department's fixed capital

outlay request. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House or Senate bills.

\$300,000 GR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



562 - Life Skills Foundation Program. The Life Skills Foundation Program will be used to provide transition assistance to inmates being released from state correctional institutions. Community

Colleges and other private vendors currently provide this training. The Life Skills Foundation Program will take over this function. There was no prioritization or competitive process for the Life Skills Foundation to

assume responsibility for the entire program, nor did the agency request proposals from other vendors to do this work.

The 1994-95 Appropriations Act included \$1 million for the same program through an RFP process. If the department deems this to be a necessary program, it should develop programmatic guidelines and include this in its annual request. This item is linked to line 591 of the Appropriations Act. Language for this item was originally in the Senate bill under Education and Job Training, but was inserted in Major Institutions during the Conference. It was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$1,000,000 TF



591 - Life Skills Foundation Program. This item is in addition to the \$1.0 million appropriated to the Life Skills Foundation in line item # 562 for transition assistance training. This item was not requested by

the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House or Senate bills.

\$381,000 GR

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE



923 - Fixed Capital Outlay -- Proviso Items. The following assessment centers are intended to support the department, but they were not designated by the department in a prioritized manner, nor were they in the

five-year, fixed capital outlay plan, as established by law. The Governor recommended \$750,000. These items were not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

Pasco County Assessment Center -- \$230,000 GR

Dade County Assessment Center -- \$1,375,000 GR

\$1,605,000 GR



923A - McDonald Community Center Expansion - North Miami Beach. The McDonald Community Center is a non-profit organization which has not previously served Juvenile Justice clients.

This item, which provides for expansion of the center, was not in the agency's five-year fixed capital outlay list. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$250,000 GR



923B - Juvenile Facility - Miami Shores. This item appears only in the Conference bill. The Governor's office, the agency and the five year fixed capital outlay list make no mention of this item. The agency is also unsure of the use of these funds.

\$150,000 GR

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



1002A - South Florida Food Recovery. According to the Department of Agriculture, the money will be given to a non-profit organization to expand the South Florida food recovery program. Though worthwhile, this program duplicates an existing statewide food recovery program administered by the Department of Agriculture. If funded, it may set an unwarranted precedent of duplicating services in a specific area. This item was not recommended by the Governor or the agency, appearing only in the Senate bill.

\$50,000 GR

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



1121A - Metro-Miami Action Plan. This issue did not appear until the Conference bill. The issue "provided for Housing, Economic Development, Neighborhood Revitalization and Commercial Revitalization for the black communities of Dade County." MMAP is a public trust started by Dade County. It has sought qualification as a Community Development Corporation, but is not yet qualified. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House or Senate bills.

\$500,000 GR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



1141A - Payments to Counties for the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. This item pays counties for property taken for the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. \$5 million goes to Duval County as the first of a three-year payoff totalling \$15 million, while five other counties are paid in full (\$1.5 million). The department has been selling the land in increments and using the proceeds

to fulfill its obligation to the counties. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the House bill.

\$5,000,000 GR \$1,500,000 TF



1164E - Children's Environmental Museum. The purpose of this appropriation is to enhance tourism activities in St. Lucie County through a museum along the St. Lucie River. The museum has not yet been built and these funds would go towards construction. This item was not requested by the agency or recommended by the Governor.

\$500,000 GR



1203A - Lowry Park Zoo Discovery Center. Funding would be used for manatee education programs for this local zoo in Tampa. Environmental education projects are funded on a competitive grant basis by the Florida Advisory Council on Environmental Education (FACEE) as authorized by s. 229.8058 F.S. This item circumvents this grant process for environmental education activities. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$100,000 TF



1258B - Waste Tire Abatement Pilot Project. The funds (\$231,000) of the first proviso will go toward a pilot project by a private company to convert an existing facility to use tire driven fuel in the generation of electricity, through an RFP.

The second proviso (\$500,000) provides a competitive supplemental grant to a county for demonstration of commercial scale processes for waste tire management and recycling. The county chosen for this project must enter into a five year agreement with the contractor for these services and will receive free recycling of the county's waste tires for the period of the contract. Florida law (s. 403.709 F.S., The Solid Waste Management Trust Fund) already establishes ways for counties to acquire waste tire grants.

A similar request appeared under similar circumstances in 1993. Florida TaxWatch recommended at that time that the Governor veto the project and he did. TaxWatch again requests that the state should dedicate funds for further study and implementation of waste tire recycling programs that would meet the requirements of the Solid Waste

Management Act, and not duplicate an existing competitive grant program. These items were not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$733,000 TF



1282A - Little Jetties State Park. Although so named, this is not a "state" park. These funds would be used for the construction of a pier, electrical and water facilities, although the City of Jacksonville received funding through FRDAP last year for those activities. The City says it will use these funds for construction of parking areas. Funding to purchase or develop lands for outdoor recreation purposes is available through the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), a competitive grant process authorized by s. 375.051 F.S., within the Department of Environmental Protection. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$100,000 TF



1290B - City of Miami Parks. Funds in this line are appropriated for use by the City of Miami for three parks and two revitalization/redevelopment programs. Funding to purchase or develop lands for outdoor recreation purposes is available through the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), a competitive grant process authorized by s. 375.051 F.S., within the Department of Environmental Protection. This item only appeared in the Conference bill.

- Shenandoah Park -- \$125,000 TF**
- Coral Gate Park -- \$25,000 TF**
- Kinloch Park -- \$37,500 TF**
- Downtown Coral Gables Redevelopment -- \$25,000 TF**
- City of Miami - Community Revitalization Program -- \$25,000 TF**

Total \$237,500 TF

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



1369A - Florida Expressway Authority Loans. This money is for a loan from the Toll Facilities Revolving Trust fund to the St. Lucie Expressway Authority. The implementing bill allows DOT to make this loan despite the fact that the Authority has yet to begin

repaying three loans previously made to it (\$1,000,000 August 1986, \$213,000 February 1988 and \$500,000 October 1988). Under Florida law, repayment of all three loans should have already begun.

\$500,000 TF

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



1614B - Economic Development Transportation Projects. Proviso language within this item allocates \$500,000 for road and access improvements for the State Road 52 outlet mall in Pasco County. Section 288.063, F.S., details the process for approving and funding economic development transportation projects. Senate Bill 958, passed this session and recently signed by the Governor, amends these statutes and transfers responsibility for administration of the projects to the newly-created Office of Tourism Trade and Economic Development. Regardless of who administers the economic development transportation projects, funding specific projects in advance circumvents the established prioritization selection process and reduces the amount available for approved projects. This item was not recommended by the Governor or the agency, appearing only in the Senate bill.

\$500,000 TF



1614C - Florida-Israel Institute. The Florida-Israel Institute is one of eleven linkage-institutes (Florida post-secondary education institutions and foreign institutions) authorized by s. 288.8175 Florida Statutes. Funded in lump-sum, each linkage institute receives its appropriate share for operations. The 1996 Legislature (Senate Bill 958) transferred the administration of these institutes from the Florida International Affairs Commission to the Department of Education. However, the selection and funding process established by statute is still valid. Funding this specific institute separately circumvents this process established in law. This item was not recommended by the Governor or the agency, appearing only in the Senate bill.

\$87,500 GR



1614N - Economic Development Festivals. Proviso in this item lists 16 assorted projects identified as "Economic Development Festivals." The Department of State administers several programs authorized in law that provide grant funds to qualified non-

profit groups, including those for historical preservation, folk festivals, cultural arts facilities, etc. Several projects listed in this item would be more appropriately funded through these competitive grant programs, with a selection and approval process established by law. Many other issues in this item are local projects or subsidies to private organizations that primarily benefit local area residents or interests and should be funded locally. This item was not requested by the agency, recommended by the Governor or in the Senate bill.

\$972,500 GR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECURITY



1730A - Contracted Services. This item would fund a "Minority Business Disparity Study" pursuant to s. 287.0945, F.S. (as amended by SB958), due December 1, 1996. This study is required once every five years. In 1994 and 1995, the Legislature appropriated \$400,000 GR for this study (\$200,000 each year) which was completed in December 1995, as required by the previous law. This duplicate study is unnecessary and wasteful of taxpayers' funds. This item was not requested by the agency or in the Senate bill.

\$600,000 GR

"The same prudence which in private life would forbid our paying our own money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the dispensation of the public moneys."

-Thomas Jefferson

This report was researched and written by John Hall, Kurt R. Wenner and Michael Walsh, Senior Research Analysts, and Taylor Pollock and Daniel E. Sprague, Research Analysts, under the direction of Dr. Neil S. Crispo, Senior Vice President, Research and Operations. Catherine M. Haagenson, Communications Director; Gable Abblett, Publications Assistant

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