

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 3619

An act relating to computers; creating s. 14.025, F.S., relating to the Governor; recognizing the potential computer problems that may occur in state agencies due to the date change necessitated by the year 2000; authorizing the Governor to reassign resources in the event of a likely computer failure; authorizing the Administration Commission to reassign resources if an agency headed by the Governor and Cabinet or a Cabinet officer is likely to experience a computer failure; requiring the reassignment of resources to conform with the law governing budget amendments; requiring the reassignment of personnel to conform with the law governing employee interchanges; requiring legislative approval if a reassignment of resources is necessary for more than 90 days; authorizing legislative veto of the reassignment of state resources; providing for repeal of the powers granted to the Governor; amending ss. 112.24 and 112.27, F.S., relating to employee interchange programs; clarifying that state agencies may exchange employees; creating s. 282.4045, F.S.; providing legislative findings relating to the adequacy of the state's actions to prevent year 2000 computer failures; protecting the state and units of local government against legal actions that result from a year 2000 computer date calculation failure; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 14.025, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

14.025 Executive powers for year 2000 computer remediation.—

(1) In the event the Governor believes that a computer system may fail related to the impending date change necessitated by the year 2000, or in the event of a computer system failure related to the date change necessitated by the year 2000, the Governor may reassign resources, including personnel, from one or more agencies or departments to the agency with the projected or actual computer system failure. If this agency is under the control of the Governor, and the agencies affected by the reassignment of resources also are under the control of the Governor, the actions and decisions of the Governor with respect to the reassignment of resources are final. If the transfer is from an agency under the control of the Governor to an agency under the control of the Governor and Cabinet or the transfer is from an agency under the control of the Governor and Cabinet to an agency under the control of the Governor, the recommendation by the Governor shall be forwarded to the Administration Commission for approval.

(2) If a year 2000 computer system failure occurs, or is predicted to occur, in an agency under the control of the Governor and Cabinet, and the Governor recommends the reassignment of resources, including personnel, from an agency under the control of the Governor and Cabinet, such recommenda-

tion by the Governor shall be forwarded to the Administration Commission for approval.

(3) If a year 2000 computer system failure occurs, or is predicted to occur, in an agency under the control of a Cabinet officer, and the Governor recommends the reassignment of resources, including personnel, from an agency under the control of a Cabinet officer, such recommendation by the Governor shall be forwarded to the Administration Commission for approval.

(4) Notwithstanding ss. 216.292 and 216.351, or any other law to the contrary, moneys reassigned related to a predicted or actual year 2000 computer system failure must be transferred as specified by s. 216.177. The Governor shall follow the process in part II of chapter 112 in transferring personnel among affected agencies. The transfer of personnel or moneys for more than 90 days must have the concurrence of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a majority of the members of each of the House and Senate fiscal committees.

(5) The Legislature may, by concurrent resolution, terminate the reassignment of state resources made pursuant to this section.

(6) This section is repealed July 1, 2000.

Section 2. Section 112.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.24 Intergovernmental transfer and interchange of public employees.—To encourage economical and effective utilization of public employees in this state, the temporary assignment of employees among agencies of government, both state and local, and including school districts and public institutions of higher education is authorized under terms and conditions set forth in this section. State agencies, municipalities, and political subdivisions are authorized to enter into employee interchange agreements with other state agencies, the Federal Government, with another state, a with another municipality, or a political subdivision including a school district, or with a public institution of higher education. State agencies are also authorized to enter into employee interchange agreements with private institutions of higher education and other nonprofit organizations under the terms and conditions provided in this section. In addition, the Governor or the Governor and Cabinet may enter into employee interchange agreements with a state agency, the Federal Government, with another state, with a municipality, or a political subdivision including a school district, or with a public institution of higher learning to fill, subject to the requirements of chapter 20, appointive offices which are within the executive branch of government and which are filled by appointment by the Governor or the Governor and Cabinet. Under no circumstances shall employee interchange agreements be utilized for the purpose of assigning individuals to participate in political campaigns. Duties and responsibilities of interchange employees shall be limited to the mission and goals of the agencies of government.

(1) Details of an employee interchange program shall be the subject of an agreement, which may be extended or modified, between a sending party and a receiving party. State agencies shall report such agreements and any

extensions or modifications thereto to the Department of Management Services.

(2) The period of an individual's assignment or detail under an employee interchange program shall not exceed 2 years. Upon agreement of the sending party and the receiving party and under the same or modified terms, an assignment or detail of 2 years may be extended by 3 months. However, agreements relating to faculty members of the State University System may be extended biennially upon approval by the Department of Management Services. If the appointing agency is the Governor or the Governor and Cabinet, the period of an individual's assignment or detail under an employee interchange program shall not exceed 2 years plus an extension of 3 months or the number of years left in the term of office of the Governor, whichever is less.

(3) Salary, leave, travel and transportation, and reimbursements for an employee of a sending party that is participating in an interchange program shall be handled as follows:

(a) An employee of a sending party who is participating in an interchange agreement may be considered as on detail to regular work assignments of the sending party or in a leave status from the sending party except that the receiving agency shall pay the salary and benefits of such employee during the time, in excess of 1 week, that the employee is working for the receiving agency. However, an employee of a sending party who is participating in an interchange agreement pursuant to s. 10, chapter 91-429, Laws of Florida, shall be considered as on detail to regular work assignments of the sending party, and the sending party shall reimburse the receiving agency for the salary and benefits and expenses of such employee and any other direct costs of conducting the inspections during the time the employee is working for the receiving agency.

1. If on detail, an employee shall receive the same salary and benefits as if he or she were not on detail and shall remain the employee of the sending party for all purposes except that supervision during the period of detail may be governed by the interchange agreement.

2. If on leave, an employee shall have the same rights, benefits, and obligations as other employees in a leave status subject to exceptions provided in rules for state employees issued by the department or the rules or other decisions of the governing body of the municipality or political subdivision.

(b) The assignment of an employee of a state agency either on detail or on leave of absence may be made without reimbursement by the receiving party for the travel and transportation expenses to or from the place of the assignment or for the pay and benefits, or a part thereof, of the employee during the assignment.

(c) If the rate of pay for an employee of an agency of the state on temporary assignment or on leave of absence is less than the rate of pay he or she would have received had the employee continued in his or her regular posi-

tion, such employee is entitled to receive supplemental pay from the sending party in an amount equal to such difference.

(d) Any employee who participates in an exchange under the terms of this section who suffers disability or death as a result of personal injury arising out of and in the course of an exchange, or sustained in performance of duties in connection therewith, shall be treated, for the purposes of the sending party's employee compensation program, as an employee who sustained injury in the performance of duty, but shall not receive benefits under such program for any period for which the employee is entitled to, and elects to receive, similar benefits under the receiving party's employee compensation program.

(e) A sending party in this state may, in accordance with the travel regulations of such party, pay the travel expenses of an employee who is assigned to a receiving party on either detail or leave basis, but shall not pay the travel expenses of such an employee incurred in connection with work assignments at the receiving party. If the assignment or detail will exceed 8 months, travel expenses may include expenses to transport immediate family, household goods, and personal effects to and from the location of the receiving party. If the period of assignment is 3 months or less, the sending party may pay a per diem allowance to the employee on assignment or detail.

(4)(a) When any agency, municipality, or political subdivision of this state acts as a receiving party, an employee of the sending party who is assigned under authority of this section may be given appointments by the receiving party covering the periods of such assignments, with compensation to be paid from the receiving party's funds, or without compensation, or be considered to be on detail to the receiving party.

(b) Appointments of persons so assigned may be made without regard to the laws or regulations governing the selection of employees of the receiving party.

(c) During the period of an assignment, the employee who is detailed to the receiving party shall not by virtue of such detail be considered an employee of the receiving party, except as provided in paragraph (d), nor shall the employee be paid a wage or salary by the receiving party. The supervision of an employee during the period of the detail may be governed by agreement between the sending party and the receiving party. A detail of an employee to a state agency may be made with or without reimbursement to the sending party by the receiving party for the pay and benefits, or a part thereof, of the employee during the period of the detail.

(d) If the sending party of an employee assigned to an agency, municipality, or political subdivision of this state fails to continue making the employer's contribution to the retirement, life insurance, and health benefit plans for that employee, the receiving party of this state may make the employer's contribution covering the period of the assignment or any part thereof.

(e) Any employee of a sending party assigned in this state who suffers disability or death as a result of personal injury arising out of and in the course of such assignment, or sustained in the performance of duties in

connection therewith, shall be treated for the purpose of the receiving party's employee compensation program, as an employee who has sustained injury in the performance of duty, but shall not receive benefits under such program for any period for which he or she elects to receive similar benefits as an employee under the sending party's employee compensation program.

(f) A receiving party in this state may, in accordance with the travel regulations of such party, pay travel expenses of persons assigned thereto during the period of such assignments on the same basis as if they were regular employees of the receiving party.

(5) An agency may enter into agreements with private institutions of higher education in this state as the sending or receiving party as specified in subsections (3) and (4).

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 112.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.27 Authority to interchange employees.—

(1) Any department, agency, or instrumentality of the state is authorized to participate in a program of interchange of employees with departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the state, the federal government, or another state, as a sending or receiving agency.

Section 4. Section 282.4045, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

282.4045 Immunity for state agencies and units of local government for year 2000 computer date calculation failures.—The State of Florida, its agencies, and any unit of local government shall be immune from damages consistent with s. 768.28. For purposes of this section, the state's agencies or instrumentalities shall be deemed to include any public or private university school of medicine that is part of a public or private university supported in whole or in part by state funds and that has an affiliation with a local government or state instrumentality under which the medical school's computer system or systems, or diagnostic or therapeutic equipment dependent upon date logic, are used to provide clinical patient care services to the public.

Section 5. No new information technology projects shall be established with funding releases unless the agency plan for year 2000 work is on schedule or ahead of schedule for the two most recent reporting periods of the Agency Year 2000 Progress Report. Such status shall be certified by the year 2000 project officer.

Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval May 30, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1998.