



Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Meeting Packet

**March 19, 2013
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Morris Hall**



The Florida House of Representatives

APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

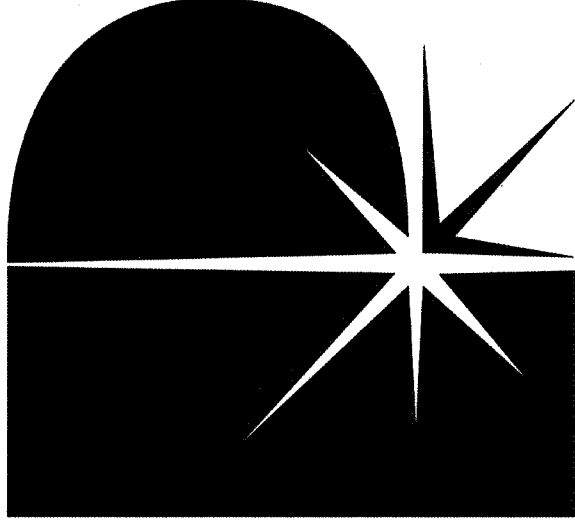
Will Weatherford
Speaker

Charles McBurney
Chair

MEETING AGENDA

Morris Hall
March 19, 2013

- I. Meeting Called To Order**
- II. Opening Remarks by Chair**
- III. Presentation by PRIDE Enterprises**
- IV. Presentation by the Clerks of Court**
- V. Closing Remarks**
- VI. Meeting Adjourned**



PRIDE
ENTERPRISES

Presentation to
Florida House of Representatives
Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Background

- Authorized by Florida Legislature in 1981 to manage the Florida DOC prison industries
- Initiative of Jack Eckerd/Gov. Bob Graham
- Private Not-for-Profit Corp.
- Instrumentality of the state
- No tax appropriations—entirely self funded
- Board of Directors Appointed by the Governor
- Four Statutory Missions



Photo of Jack Eckerd

Mission 1

Reduce recommitment by providing inmate job skills training and post-release job placement.

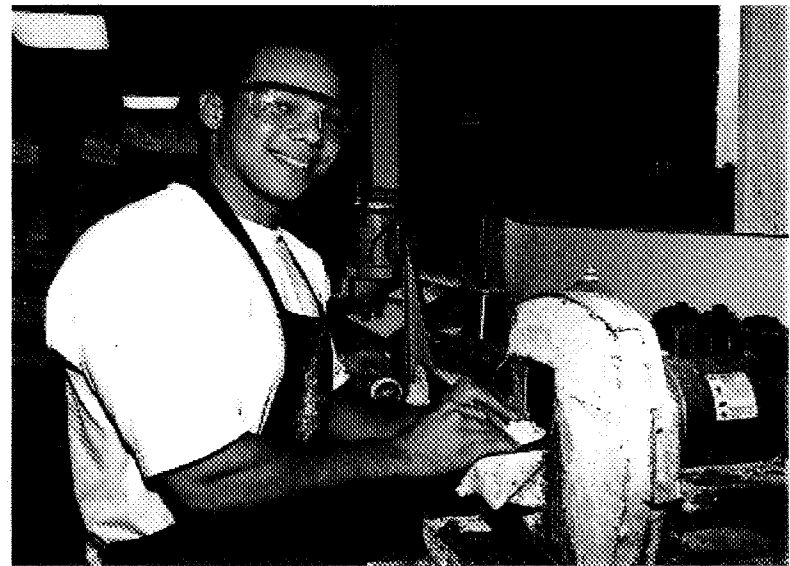
- Over 400 occupational titles
- 70% received training certificates
- 63% job placement rate in 2012
- Average starting wage was \$10.33/Hr.



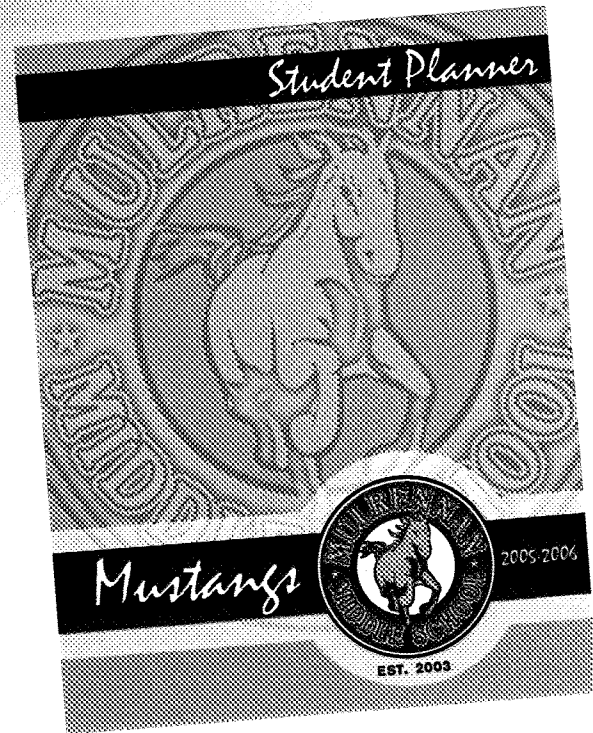
Mission 2

Support security goals by reducing idleness and providing incentives for good behavior.

- Over 3700 trained in 2012
- PRIDE inmate workers have about 1/3 of the disciplinary reports as general population inmates.



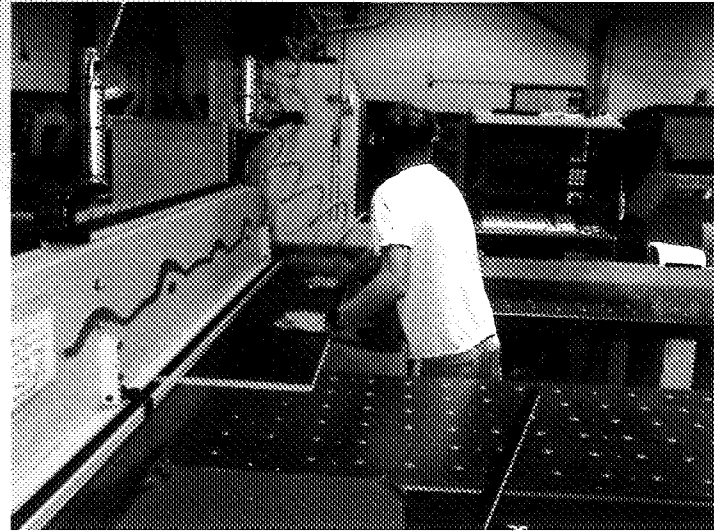
Mission 3



Reduce the cost to state government by using inmate labor in enterprises that do not seek to unreasonably compete with private sector.

- Approximately 3000 products approved for purchase by DMS

Mission 4



Serve rehabilitative goals of the state by closely duplicating the operating activities of a free-enterprise type of profit making enterprise.

- Operate 32 varied industries in 29 CI's

Programs & Services

Pre-Release

(Re-entry Program)

- ▶ On-the-Job Training
- ▶ Supplemental Ed.
- ▶ Victim Restitution
- ▶ Achievement Certifications

Post-Release

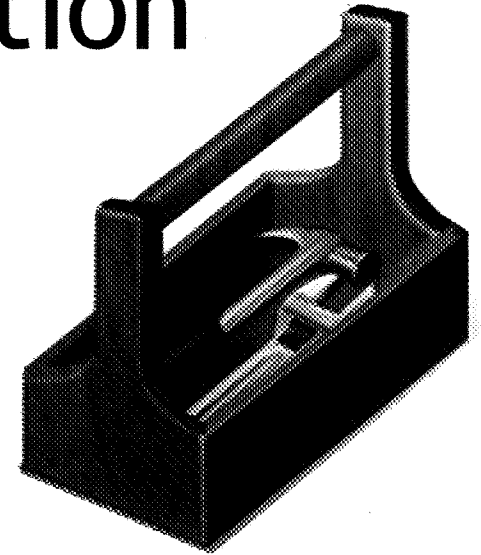
(Transition Program)

- ▶ Job Placement Assistance
- ▶ Community Support Services
- ▶ Case Monitoring



Supplemental Education

- Trade Certifications
 - ASE- Automotive Service Excellence
 - American Welding Society
 - Hercules Tire & Rubber
 - Emergency Vehicle Technical Commission
 - OSHA forklift certification
 - National Academy of Opticianry
 - Certified Dental Technician
- Learn Key- basic computer literacy
- Ready to Work Certification
- PRIDE Culinary Arts
- Kitchen Machine Operation Training



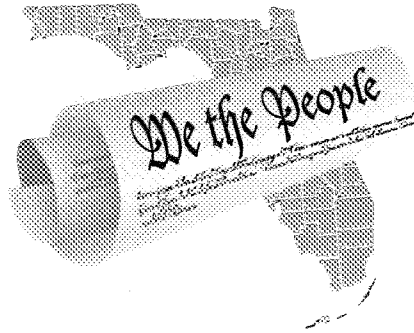
PRIDE CUSTOMERS

- State Government Agencies, Universities, Colleges, K-12 Schools
- City & County Government, Not-For-Profit Organizations, Foreign Entities
- Business Enterprises

2012 Benefits to the State

- Provided over 3000 competitively priced products to state govt
- At not cost to state govt, it provided job training, computer assisted learning, Ready to Work preparation & testing, job placement to its inmate workers
- Transferred approximately \$265,000 to victim restitution/crime comp. fund
- Purchased more than \$34 million in materials, most from Florida companies
- Paid approximately \$11 million in payroll
- Paid \$3.2 million in inmate wages
- Spent \$4 million in capital for facilities, equipment, and repair/maintenance
- PRIDE's recidivism rate is 11.7%, which reduced re-incarceration costs
- PRIDE's "stockholders" are the citizens of Florida; since 2005, it has increased its stockholders net assets by \$28 million

QUESTIONS

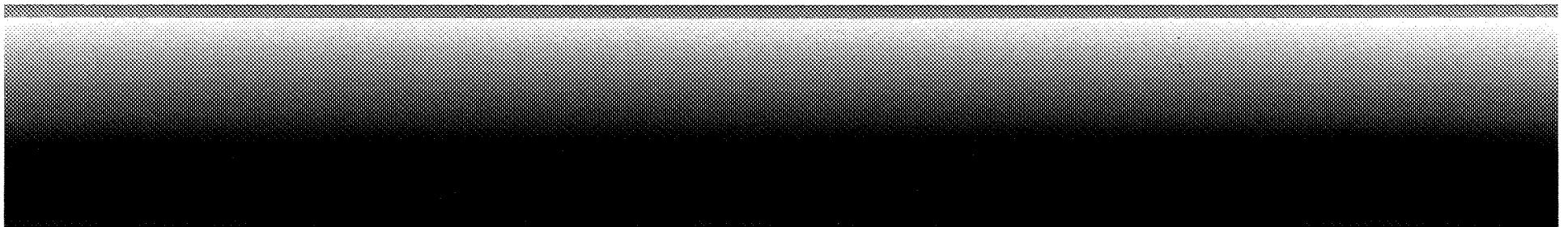


FLORIDA **COURT CLERKS & COMPTROLLERS**

House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Karen E. Rushing, Sarasota County Clerk of Court
Chair, Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers Legislative Committee



Background: Clerks of Court Funding

- ▼ For 150 years, Clerks, as elected County Constitutional Officers, provided services to both the Courts and County government and were funded by fines, fees and service charges they collected, with any additional revenue needed to fund their operations provided by the County.
- ▼ That structure worked well.

Background: Clerks of Court Funding

- In 1998, a major Constitutional change was adopted (implemented in 2004) to require the State to fund the State Courts System:
- **“All funding for the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county courts performing court-related functions . . . shall be provided by adequate and appropriate filing fees for judicial proceedings and service charges and costs for performing court-related functions as required by general law. . .”**

Section 14(b), Article V, Florida Constitution



Background: Clerks of Court Funding

- ▼ The Clerks' base budget was changed to equal previous year's revenue, adjusted for increases or decreases in revenues collected.
- ▼ In 2007-08, unforeseen increases in foreclosures spiked collections and resulted in an unrealistic increase in the Clerks' "allowed" maximum budgets.

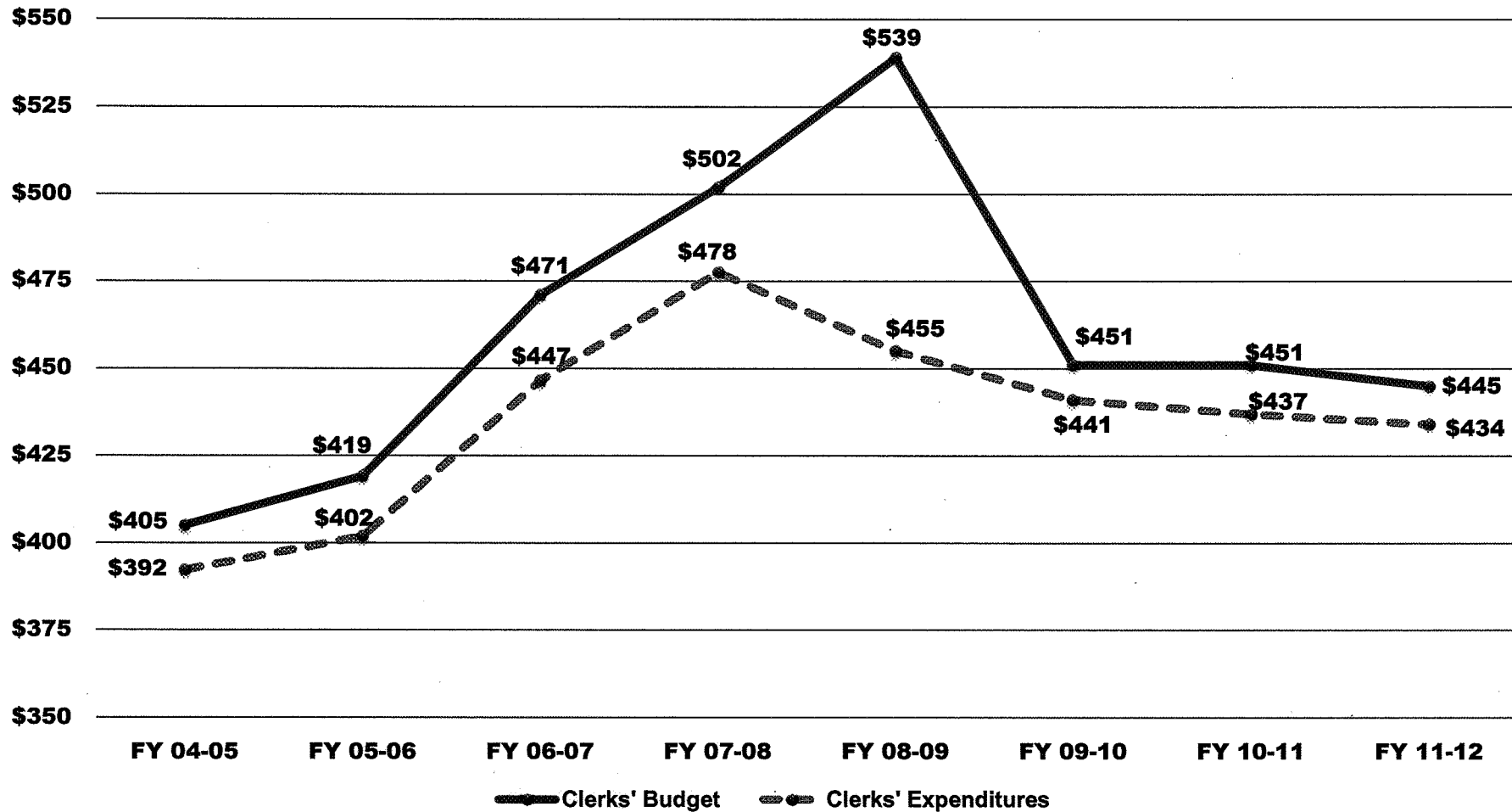
Background: Clerks of Court Funding

- In 2009, the Legislature responded by eliminating the existing “revenue based” budget process and put Clerks in the General Appropriations Act at a fixed amount.
- For 2009-10, that was 17% lower than the previous year’s budget.



Clerks' Budget & Expenditure Trends

FY 04-05 to FY 11-12



Background: Clerks of Court Funding

- The 2009-10 GAA process was accompanied by a redirection of the first \$80 of each new case filing fee which had been going to the Clerks, and the imposition of an 8% GR service charge.

Background: Clerks of Court Funding

- ▼ The recession and the slowdown in foreclosure cases caused a continued decline in Clerks' revenues.
- ▼ In each of the last 4 years, the Legislature has had to provide emergency mid-year appropriations (averaging \$37M a year) to keep Clerks' offices open and accessible to the public.
- ▼ The system is broken.

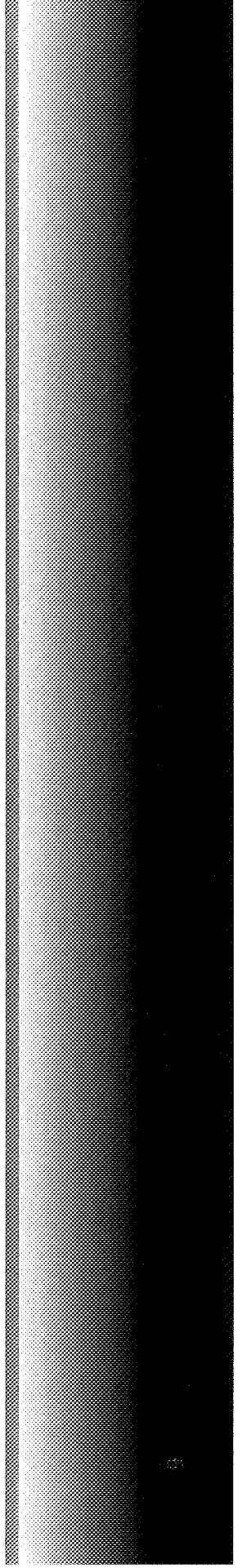




FLORIDA
**COURT CLERKS &
COMPTROLLERS**

Funding Proposal

CLERKS' PROPOSED SOLUTION



Clerks' Funding Proposal - 2012

- ✦ **Exempt the Clerks of the Court Trust Fund from the GR service charge - \$33M.**
- ✦ **Restore \$80 of the civil filing fee to the Trust Fund - \$49M.**
- ✦ **These two changes should increase Trust Fund moneys from \$386M this year to \$468M next year. The 2012-13 appropriation, including GR, is \$445.1M.**

Continuing Appropriation

- ✦ **Make a continuing appropriation in law to remove Clerks' base funding from the GAA.**
- ✦ Cap the appropriation at prior year funding, plus a limited workload factor (tied to collecting additional revenues).
- ✦ Set the amount of the first continuing appropriation in law.
- ✦ Retain legislative power to change the continuing appropriation yearly in the GAA.

Budget Control

- Each clerk proposes a budget to the CCOC.
- The CCOC develops performance measures to be used to review clerks' budgets.
- The CCOC's determination must be balanced within the limitations of the continuing appropriation and must be submitted to the Legislature and Supreme Court.
- **Any additional appropriations must be approved by the CCOC, included in an LBR, and appropriated by the Legislature.**

Excess to GR

- **Require the CCOC to transfer any Trust Fund moneys in excess of appropriations to GR each year.**
- **Reduce the transfer if any future year deficits are projected by the REC.**

Budget Oversight

- **Allow the LBC to approve increases based on additional duties assigned by law/rule, increases in the number of judges, or expenditures outside the clerks' control.**
- **Require clerks' expenditures to be reduced if necessary to stay within appropriations.**
- **Contract with DFS to perform audits of individual clerks.**

Summary

- Note that our proposal does not address funding the costs of employee benefits, retirement and insurance, that are outside the control of the Clerks.
- **We estimate, that with the proposed changes, the Clerk of the Court Trust Fund will be able to support the Clerks' current level of operations throughout the REC forecast period - through 2016-17.**