



ART BARKER
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Askew Asks Review Of The Seed

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Staff Writer

Gov. Reubin Askew has asked for a statewide review of licensing procedures for drug centers, focusing on the Seed, Inc., a controversial treatment program.

Askew appointed Hillsborough County Circuit Judge Herboth Ryder, chairman of the Florida State Drug Abuse Advisory Council, to appoint and chair a subcommittee to investigate and make recommendations.

"I asked for a review of The Seed because of the controversy surrounding it," Askew said. "Questions raised

about the program by concerned citizens need to be answered."

Art Barker, president of Seed, which started in Broward County in 1970 and now has four centers throughout the state, said he is delighted with the governor's action.

"I have made it well known in the past some of the license programs are not fair," Barker said. "The Seed is now a statewide program and the most successful in the world."

A spokesman at the governor's office said the problem brought to the governor's attention stemmed from apparent

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the state's licensing requirements and those of the Seed program.

Askew said the governor had been asked by members of the Broward and Dade committees both the Seed and the state's licensing

committee requested Ryder:

to review the state's manual for licensing drug and education programs published by the Rehabilitation Service in 1973 to determine if requirements and procedures comply with the Florida statutes and whether they are in the intent of the law.

He also requested recommendations for changes in state licensing procedures to more effectively carry out the intent

of the Seed program to determine if it meets requirements in licensing procedures. If the Seed program does not meet requirements, the committee must answer the following questions:

1. Are the requirements not met reasonable and valid?

2. Are there any acceptable administrative and programmatic

changes in the state requirements and procedures in the Seed?

3. If there are changes in the state requirements and procedures, what changes in the administrative operation of Seed are indicated?

4. What changes in the administrative operation of Seed are indicated? This information was unavailable for comment yesterday.