

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for  
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 406

An act relating to economic development; creating the Community and Faith-based Organizations initiative within the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; providing for the initiative to promote community development through partnerships with community and faith-based organizations; specifying the activities to be conducted by the initiative; providing for financial assistance to community and faith-based organizations; requiring the development of grant-selection criteria; requiring leveraging of funds; creating the Community and Library Technology Access Partnership; specifying the activities to be conducted by the partnership; requiring the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to administer the initiative and the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State to administer the Community and Library Technology Access Partnership; authorizing certain activities and uses of funds; prescribing eligibility of organizations for funding or assistance; requiring review and evaluation; providing appropriations; creating a community computer-access grant program, to be known as the Community High-Technology Investment Partnership, or "CHIP," program; providing purposes of the program; providing for program administration pursuant to a performance-based contract; providing for performance measures; providing for grants to be awarded to eligible neighborhood facilities; providing requirements for grant applications; prescribing the maximum amount of a grant; requiring a grant agreement between the institute and the recipient facility; providing for establishing minimum specifications of computers purchased under the program; providing for an evaluation and a report; authorizing the institute to subcontract for specified assistance services; creating an inner city redevelopment assistance grants program; providing duties of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; prescribing eligibility requirements for grants; providing expected outcomes from grants; creating the Inner City Redevelopment Review Panel and providing its membership and duties; providing legislative findings; amending s. 331.368, F.S.; expanding the purpose of the Florida Space Research Institute; revising the membership of the institute; prescribing additional duties of the institute; creating the Space Industry Workforce Initiative; requiring the Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., to develop initiatives to address the workforce needs of the industry; prescribing criteria; requiring the board to convene industry representatives; requiring a report; providing for the establishment of the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative by the Seaport Employment Training Grant Program contingent upon a specific appropriation; providing purpose of the initiative; providing responsibilities of the Seaport Employment Training Grant Program; providing for a perform-

ance-based contract with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; providing an exemption from the tax on sales, use, and other transactions for building materials used in the construction of certain single-family homes located in an enterprise zone, empowerment zone, or Front Porch Florida Community; providing an exemption from the tax on sales, use, and other transactions for building materials used in the construction of specified redevelopment projects; providing requirements for refund applications; providing for rules; directing the Department of Community Affairs to propose modifications to the Brownfields Redevelopment Act and other economic incentives for consideration by the Legislature; providing for creation and purpose of the Toolkit for Economic Development; defining the term “economically distressed”; requiring the appointment of liaisons from agencies and organizations; providing for requirements and duties; creating coordinating partners to serve as the program’s executive committee; providing for duties and powers; providing for waivers of state-required matching-funds requirements; requiring an inventory of programs that help economically distressed communities; requiring that the inventory be categorized; creating the Start-Up Initiative to promote the use of the inventory; providing for identification of communities; providing for solicitation of proposals; providing for proposal content; providing for review process and evaluation criteria; providing for funding; providing for the designation of communities of critical economic opportunity; providing for use of funds and certification; providing for reporting; providing for expiration; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, many community and faith-based organizations are providing a new focus on economic uplift in Florida’s poor and most vulnerable neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, these nonprofit organizations have local experts who serve in leadership roles by assisting individuals to move from dependency to self-sufficiency and restoring the lives of residents in Florida’s most distressed communities, and

WHEREAS, crime, drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, homelessness, and juvenile delinquency, the most notable indicators of a distressed community, are being addressed by small, and sometimes unrecognized, community and faith-based organizations, and

WHEREAS, the leadership and expertise of these organizations should not be ignored, and

WHEREAS, a recognized effort to empower community and faith-based organizations, encourage community revitalization, and implement educational reform will help those who reside in inner cities and distressed rural communities to gain their share of the state’s resources, and

WHEREAS, residents of low income communities lack access to technology, the internet, and computer literacy needed to succeed in Florida’s emerging information-based economy, and

WHEREAS, Florida public libraries eligible for e-rate discounts have the capacity to partner effectively with community and faith-based organizations and agencies to provide technology access and training to assist in closing the digital divide, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative; Community and Library Technology Access Partnership.—

(1) CREATION.—There is created the Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative which shall be administered by the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and the Community and Library Technology Access Partnership which shall be administered by the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State.

(2) INTENT.—The purpose of the initiative is to promote community development in low-income communities through partnerships with not-for-profit community and faith-based organizations. The purpose of the partnership is to encourage public libraries eligible for e-rate discounted telecommunications services to partner with community and faith-based organizations to provide technology access and training to assist other state efforts to close the digital divide.

(3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(a) Authorized activities of the initiative.—The Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University may conduct the following activities as part of the Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative:

1. Create and operate training programs to enhance the professional skills of individuals in community and faith-based organizations.

2. Create and operate a program to select and place students and recent graduates from business and related professional schools as interns with community and faith-based organizations for a period not to exceed 1 year, and provide stipends for such interns.

3. Organize an annual conference for community and faith-based organizations to discuss and share information on best practices regarding issues relevant to the creation, operation, and sustainability of these organizations.

4. Provide funding for the development of materials for courses on topics in the area of community development, and for research on economic, operational, and policy issues relating to community development.

5. Provide financial assistance to community and faith-based organizations through small grants for partnerships with universities and the operation of programs to build strong communities and future community development leaders. The Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida

Agricultural and Mechanical University shall develop selection criteria for awarding such grants which are based on the goals of the initiative.

The institute, to the maximum extent possible, shall leverage state funding for the initiative with any federal funding that the institute may receive to support similar community-based activities.

(b) Authorized activities of the partnership.—The Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State may conduct the following activities as part of the Community and Library Technology Access Partnership:

1. Provide funding for e-rate eligible public libraries to provide technology access and training to community and faith-based organizations. Funding provided under this subparagraph must be for eligible public libraries in distressed communities in the state. The division shall consult with the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce to identify such communities and to develop criteria to be used in evaluating funding proposals. The division shall coordinate with the institute to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, the division and the institute leverage their resources under the programs authorized by this section in order to focus efforts on addressing the most distressed communities in the state. The division shall include a representative of the institute on a review team to evaluate funding proposals under this subparagraph.

2. Provide a method of assessment and outcome measurement for e-rate eligible public libraries to assess progress in closing the digital divide and in training for individuals to succeed in the emerging information economy.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—A community or faith-based organization receiving funding or other assistance under the Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative or the Community Library Technology Access Partnership must be a nonprofit organization holding a current exemption from federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Funding under this section shall not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

(5) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—

(a) By January 1, 2001, the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce and the Division of Library and Information Services shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives brief status reports on their respective implementation of the activities authorized under this section. The institute and the division may elect to collaborate on the submission of a combined status report covering both programs. At a minimum, the status reports or combined report shall address:

1. The activities and accomplishments to date;
2. Any impediments to the effective implementation or utilization of each program; and

3. The initial progress toward achievement of measurable program outcomes.

(b) By January 1, 2002, the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce and the Division of Library and Information Services shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives final reports on the activities authorized under this section. The institute and the division may elect to collaborate on the submission of a combined final report covering both programs. In addition to updating the elements addressed under paragraph (a), the reports or combined report shall include recommendations on whether it would be sound public policy to continue the programs and recommendations on any changes designed to enhance the effectiveness of the programs.

Section 2. Community computer access grant program.—

(1) The Legislature finds that there is a growing digital divide in the state, manifested in the fact that many youths from distressed urban communities do not possess the degree and ease of access to computers and information technologies which youths in other communities in the state possess. This disparity in access to rapidly changing and commercially significant technologies has a negative impact on the educational, workforce development, and employment competitiveness of these needy youths, and thereby impedes the economic development of the distressed urban communities in which these youths reside. Although many public libraries offer users access to computers and are increasingly making library materials available to the public through electronic means, many youths from distressed urban communities do not live near a library that has such technology and do not have computers to access Internet-based virtual libraries. Neighborhood organizations, such as churches, are more likely, however, to be located in closer proximity to the homes of these youths than are educational institutions or libraries, and these youths are more likely to gain the desirable computer access at church-related or other neighborhood facilities than at other institutions. The Legislature therefore finds that a public purpose is served in enhancing the ability of youths from these communities to have access to computers and the Internet within the neighborhoods in which they reside.

(2) Subject to legislative appropriation, there is created the Community High-Technology Investment Partnership (CHIP) program to assist distressed urban communities in securing computers for access by youths between the ages of 5 years and 18 years who reside in these communities. The program shall be administered by the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University pursuant to a performance-based contract with the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State. The division shall develop performance measures, standards, and sanctions for the program. Performance measures must include, but are not limited to: the number of youth obtaining access to computers purchased under this program; the number of hours computers are made available to youth; and the number of hours spent by youth on computers purchased under this program for educational purposes. The administrative costs for administration of this program cannot exceed 10 percent of the amount appropriated to the division for the program.

(3)(a) Under this program, neighborhood facilities, through their governing bodies, may apply to the institute for grants to purchase computers that will be available for use by eligible youths who reside in the immediate vicinity of the neighborhood facility. For purposes of this program, eligible neighborhood facilities include, but are not limited to, facilities operated by:

1. Units of local government, including school districts;
2. Nonprofit, faith-based organizations, including neighborhood churches;
3. Nonprofit civic associations or homeowners' associations; and
4. Nonprofit organizations, the missions of which include improving conditions for residents of distressed urban communities.

To be eligible for funding under this program, a nonprofit organization or association must hold a current exemption from federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) Notwithstanding the eligibility of the organizations identified in paragraph (a), the institute shall give priority consideration for funding under this program to applications submitted by neighborhood churches or by neighborhood-based, nonprofit organizations that have as a principal part of their missions the improvement of conditions for residents of the same neighborhoods in which the organizations are located. The institute also shall give priority consideration to organizations that demonstrate that they have not been awarded community enhancement or similar community support grants from state or local government on a regular basis in the past. The institute shall develop weighted criteria to be used in evaluating applications from such churches or organizations. Funding under this section shall not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

(4) The institute shall develop guidelines governing the administration of this program and shall establish criteria to be used in evaluating an application for funding. At a minimum, the institute must find that:

(a) The neighborhood that is to be served by the grant suffers from general economic distress;

(b) Eligible youths who reside in the vicinity of the neighborhood facility have difficulty obtaining access to a library or schools that have sufficient computers; and

(c) The neighborhood facility has developed a detailed plan, as required under subsection (5), for:

1. Providing youths who reside in the vicinity of the facility with access to any computer purchased with grant funds, including evening and week-end access when libraries and schools are closed; and

2. Promoting the maximum participation of neighborhood youths in use of any computers purchased with grant funds.

(5) As part of an application for funding, the neighborhood facility must submit a plan that demonstrates:

(a) The manner in which eligible youths who reside in the immediate vicinity of the facility will be provided with access to any computer purchased with grant funds, including access during hours when libraries and schools are closed;

(b) The existence of safeguards to ensure that any computer purchased with grant funds is reserved for the educational use of eligible youths who reside in the immediate vicinity of the facility and is not used to support the business operations of the neighborhood facility or its governing body; and

(c) The existence, in the neighborhood facility, of telecommunications infrastructure necessary to guarantee access to the Internet through any computer purchased with grant funds.

(6) To the maximum extent possible, funding shall be awarded under this program in a manner designed to ensure the participation of distressed urban communities from regions throughout the state.

(7) The maximum amount of a grant which may be awarded to any single neighborhood facility under this program is \$25,000.

(8) Before the institute may allocate funds for a grant under this program, the institute and the eligible neighborhood facility must execute a grant agreement that governs the terms and conditions of the grant.

(9) The institute, based upon guidance from the State Technology Office and the state's Chief Information Officer, shall establish minimum requirements governing the specifications and capabilities of any computers purchased with funds awarded under this grant program.

(10) Before the 2002 Regular Session of the Legislature, the institute shall evaluate the outcomes of this program and report the results of the evaluation to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. At a minimum, the evaluation must assess the extent to which the program has improved access to computers for youths who reside in distressed urban communities. As part of this report, the institute shall identify any impediments to the effective implementation and utilization of the program and shall make recommendations on methods to eliminate any such impediments. In addition, the institute shall make recommendations as to whether it would be sound public policy to continue the program; whether the program should be expanded to address additional target populations, including, but not limited to, youths in distressed rural communities and adults in distressed urban or rural communities; and whether the list of neighborhood facilities eligible to participate in the program should be revised or whether priority consideration for funding should be revised to emphasize a particular type of neighborhood facility. The report required under this subsection must be submitted by January 1, 2002.

(11) The institute may subcontract with the Information Service Technology Development Task Force for assistance in carrying out the provisions

of this section, including, but not limited to, technical guidance, assistance in developing and evaluating program outcomes, and preparation or distribution of materials designed to educate the public about community access centers and other relevant resources.

Section 3. There is created an Inner City Redevelopment Assistance Grants Program to be administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The office shall develop criteria for awarding these grants which give weighted consideration to urban high-crime areas as identified by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. These criteria shall also be weighted to immediate creation of jobs for residents in the targeted areas.

Section 4. Eligibility requirements for grant proposals are as follows:

(1) An eligible grant recipient must serve within one of the 13 urban high-crime job tax credit areas and be:

(a) A community-based organization;

(b) A community development corporation;

(c) A faith-based organization;

(d) A nonprofit community development organization;

(e) A nonprofit economic development organization; or

(f) Another nonprofit organization serving the nominated area.

(2) Each applicant must submit a letter of support from the local government serving the targeted urban area.

(3) Each applicant must submit a proposal response outlining the work plan proposed using the grant funding, as well as proposed performance measures and expected, measurable outcomes.

(4) Eligible uses of grant funding must result in the creation of job opportunities for residents of targeted areas.

(5) Applicants are urged to leverage grant funds with other existing resources.

Section 5. In order to enhance public participation and involvement in the redevelopment of inner city areas, there is created within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development the Inner City Redevelopment Review Panel.

(1) The review panel shall consist of seven members who represent different areas of the state, who are appointed by the Director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, and who are qualified, through the demonstration of special interest, experience, or education, in the redevelopment of the state's inner-city areas, as follows:



(a) One member must be affiliated with the Black Business Investment Board;

(b) One member must be affiliated with the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University;

(c) One member must be affiliated with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;

(d) One member must be the president of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or the president's designee;

(e) One member must be the Secretary of Community Affairs or the secretary's designee;

(f) One member must be affiliated with Better Jobs/Better Wages of Workforce Florida, Inc., if such body is created. Otherwise, one member must be the president and chief operating officer of the Florida Workforce Development Board; and

(g) One member must be affiliated with the First Job/First Wages Council of Workforce Florida, Inc., if such body is created. Otherwise, one member must be the Secretary of Labor and Employment Security or the secretary's designee.

(2) The importance of minority and gender representation must be considered when making appointments to the panel, and the geographic representation of panel members must also be considered.

(3) Members of the review panel shall be appointed for 4-year terms. A person may not serve more than two consecutive terms on the panel.

(4) Members shall elect a chairperson annually. A member may not be elected to consecutive terms as chairperson.

(5) All action taken by the review panel shall be by majority vote of those present. The Director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or the director's designee shall serve without voting rights as secretary to the panel. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall provide necessary staff assistance to the panel.

(6) It is the responsibility of the panel to evaluate proposals for awards of inner city redevelopment grants administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The panel shall review and evaluate all proposals for grants and shall make recommendations, including a priority ranking, reflecting such evaluation.

#### Section 6. Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.—

(1) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the Seaport Employment Training Grant Program (STEP) shall establish and administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative for the purpose of assisting small and medium-sized businesses to become involved in international activities and helping them to identify markets with product demand, identify strategic

alliances in those markets, and obtain the financing to effectuate trade opportunities in the Caribbean Basin. The initiative must focus assistance to businesses located in urban communities. The initiative shall offer export readiness, assistance and referral services, internships, seminars, workshops, conferences, and e-commerce plus mentoring and matchmaking services, but shall coordinate with and not duplicate those services provided by Enterprise Florida, Inc.

(2) To enhance initiative effectiveness and leverage resources, STEP shall coordinate initiative activities with Enterprise Florida, Inc., United States Export Assistance Centers, Florida Export Finance Corporation, Florida Trade Data Center, Small Business Development Centers, and any other organizations STEP deems appropriate. The coordination may encompass export assistance and referral services, export financing, job-training programs, educational programs, market research and development, market promotion, trade missions, e-commerce, and mentoring and matchmaking services relative to the expansion of trade between Florida and the Caribbean Basin. The initiative shall also form alliances with multilateral, international, and domestic funding programs from Florida, the United States, and the Caribbean Basin to coordinate systems and programs for fundamental assistance in facilitating trade and investment.

(3) STEP shall administer the Florida–Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative pursuant to a performance–based contract with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall develop performance measures, standards, and sanctions for the initiative. Performance measures must include, but are not limited to, the number of businesses assisted; the number of urban businesses assisted; and the increase in value of exports to the Caribbean which is attributable to the initiative.

Section 7. Paragraphs (n) and (o) are added to subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

(n) Materials for construction of single-family homes in certain areas.—

1. As used in this paragraph, the term:

a. “Building materials” means tangible personal property that becomes a component part of a qualified home.

b. “Qualified home” means a single-family home having an appraised value of no more than \$160,000 which is located in an enterprise zone, empowerment zone, or Front Porch Florida Community and which is constructed and occupied by the owner thereof for residential purposes.

c. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).

2. Building materials used in the construction of a qualified home and the costs of labor associated with the construction of a qualified home are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the requirements of this paragraph have been met. This exemption inures to the owner through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive this refund, the owner must file an application under oath with the department which includes:

a. The name and address of the owner.

b. The address and assessment roll parcel number of the home for which a refund is sought.

c. A copy of the building permit issued for the home.

d. A certification by the local building inspector that the home is substantially completed.

e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the owner contracted to construct the home, which statement lists the building materials used in the construction of the home and the actual cost thereof, the labor costs associated with such construction, and the amount of sales tax paid on these materials and labor costs. If a general contractor was not used, the owner shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury. Copies of invoices evidencing payment of sales tax must be attached to the sworn statement.

f. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from the owner affirming that he or she is occupying the home for residential purposes.

3. An application for a refund under this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the date the home is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building inspector. Within 30 working days after receipt of the application, the department shall determine if it meets the requirements of this paragraph. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after formal approval of the application by the department. The provisions of s. 212.095 do not apply to any refund application made under this paragraph.

4. The department shall establish by rule an application form and criteria for establishing eligibility for exemption under this paragraph.

5. The exemption shall apply to purchases of materials on or after July 1, 2000.

(o) Building materials in redevelopment projects.—

1. As used in this paragraph, the term:

a. "Building materials" means tangible personal property that becomes a component part of a housing project or a mixed-use project.

b. "Housing project" means the conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to housing units in an urban high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brown-field area, or urban infill area and in which the developer agrees to set aside at least 20 percent of the housing units in the project for low-income and moderate-income persons.

c. "Mixed-use project" means the conversion of an existing manufacturing or industrial building to mixed-use units that include artists' studios, art and entertainment services, or other compatible uses. A mixed-use project must be located in an urban high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield area, or urban infill area and the developer must agree to set aside at least 20 percent of the square footage of the project for low-income and moderate-income housing.

d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as provided in s. 192.042(1).

2. Building materials used in the construction of a housing project or mixed-use project are exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the satisfaction of the department that the requirements of this paragraph have been met. This exemption inures to the owner through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive this refund, the owner must file an application under oath with the department which includes:

a. The name and address of the owner.

b. The address and assessment roll parcel number of the project for which a refund is sought.

c. A copy of the building permit issued for the project.

d. A certification by the local building inspector that the project is substantially completed.

e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the owner contracted to construct the project, which statement lists the building materials used in the construction of the project and the actual cost thereof, and the amount of sales tax paid on these materials. If a general contractor was not used, the owner shall provide this information in a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury. Copies of invoices evidencing payment of sales tax must be attached to the sworn statement.

3. An application for a refund under this paragraph must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the date the project is deemed to be substantially completed by the local building inspector. Within 30 working days after receipt of the application, the department shall determine if it meets the requirements of this paragraph. A refund approved pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after formal approval of the

application by the department. The provisions of s. 212.095 do not apply to any refund application made under this paragraph.

4. The department shall establish by rule an application form and criteria for establishing eligibility for exemption under this paragraph.

5. The exemption shall apply to purchases of materials on or after July 1, 2000.

Section 8. The Department of Community Affairs, in conjunction with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the Office of Urban Opportunities, and Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall recommend new economic incentives or revisions to existing economic incentives in order to promote the reuse of vacant industrial and manufacturing facilities for affordable housing and mixed-use development. The report must also identify any state regulatory or programmatic barriers to the reuse of such facilities. The department shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing its recommendations by January 31, 2001. Based upon consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, the department shall include, as a component of the report, any recommended modifications to the Brownfields Redevelopment Act, sections 376.77-376.85, Florida Statutes, for revising liability protection or economic incentives under the act to promote reuse of such facilities.

Section 9. Each provision of this act will be implemented to the extent that funds are specifically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000-2001.

Section 10. Section 331.368, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

331.368 Florida Space Research Institute.—

(1) There is created the Florida Space Research Institute, the purpose of which is to serve as an industry-driven center for research, leveraging the state's resources in a collaborative effort to support Florida's space industry and its expansion, diversification, and transition to commercialization.

(2) The institute shall operate as a public/private partnership under the direction of a board composed ~~comprised~~ of:

(a) A representative of the Spaceport Florida Authority.

(b) A representative of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

(c) A representative of the Florida Aviation Aerospace Alliance.

(d) A representative of the Florida Space Business Roundtable.

(e) Additional private-sector representatives from the space industry selected collaboratively by the core members specified in paragraphs (a)–(d). The additional space industry representatives under this paragraph must comprise the majority of members of the board and must be from geographic regions throughout the state.

(f) Two representatives from the educational community who are selected collaboratively by the core members specified in paragraphs (a)–(d) and who are engaged in research or instruction related to the space industry. One representative must be from a community college and one representative must be from a public or private university.

Annually, the members of the board shall select one of the members to serve as chair, who shall be responsible for convening and leading meetings of the board, representatives of the Spaceport Florida Authority, Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Florida Aviation and Aerospace Alliance, and four additional space industry representatives selected by the core membership of the board.

(3) The board of the Florida Space Research Institute shall:

(a) ~~Set the strategic direction for the space-related institute, including research priorities of the state and its space-related businesses, the scope of research projects for the institute, and the timeframes for completion.~~

(b) Invite the participation of public and private universities, including, but not limited to, the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida, the University of South Florida, Florida State University, Florida Institute of Technology, and the University of Miami.

(c) Select a lead university to:

1. ~~Serve as coordinator of research and as the administrative entity of the institute;~~

2. Support the institute's development of a statewide space research agenda and programs; and

3. Develop, and update as necessary, a report recommending ways that the state's public and private universities can work in partnership to support the state's space-industry requirements, which report must be completed by December 15, 2000.

(d) Establish a partnership with the state Workforce Development Board, or its successor entity, under which the institute coordinates the workforce-training requirements identified by the space industry and supports development of workforce-training initiatives to meet such requirements, using training providers approved by the board or its successor entity.

(e) Co-manage, with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and subject to the terms of an agreement with NASA, operation of a Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory, if such a facility is constructed on land of the John F. Kennedy Space Center. The institute shall carry out such responsibility through a consortium of public and private universities in the state led by the University of Florida.

(f) Develop initiatives to foster the participation of the state's space industry in the International Space Station and to help the state maintain and

enhance its competitive position in the commercial space-transportation industry.

(g) Pursue partnerships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to coordinate and conduct research in fields, including, but not limited to, environmental monitoring; agriculture; aquatics; resource reutilization technologies for long-duration space missions; and spaceport technologies which support current or next-generation launch vehicles and range systems.

(h) Pursue partnerships with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the conduct of space-related research using computer technology to connect experts in a given field of science who are in disparate locations and to perform research experiments in a real-time, virtual environment.

(4) By December 15 ~~1~~ of each year, the institute shall submit a report of its activities and accomplishments for the ~~prior~~ fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report shall also include recommendations regarding actions the state should take to enhance the development of space-related businesses, including:

- (a) Future research activities.
- (b) The development of capital and technology assistance to new and expanding industries.
- (c) The removal of regulatory impediments.
- (d) The establishment of business development incentives.
- (e) The initiation of education and training programs to ensure a skilled workforce.

#### Section 11. Space Industry Workforce Initiative.—

(1) The Legislature finds that the space industry is critical to the economic future of the state and that the competitiveness of the industry in the state depends upon the development and maintenance of a qualified workforce. The Legislature further finds that the space industry in this state has diverse and complex workforce needs, including, but not limited to, the need for qualified entry-level workers, the need to upgrade the skills of technician-level incumbent workers, and the need to ensure continuing education opportunities for workers with advanced educational degrees. It is the intent of the Legislature to support programs designed to address the workforce development needs of the space industry in this state.

(2) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, shall coordinate development of a Space Industry Workforce Initiative in partnership with the Florida Space Research Institute, the institute's consortium of public and private universities, community colleges, and other training providers approved by the board. The purpose

of the initiative is to use or revise existing programs and to develop innovative new programs to address the workforce needs of the space industry.

(3) The initiative shall emphasize:

(a) Curricula content and timeframes developed with industry participation and endorsed by the industry;

(b) Programs that certify persons completing training as meeting industry-approved standards or competencies;

(c) Use of distance-learning and computer-based training modules as appropriate and feasible;

(d) Industry solicitation of public and private universities to develop continuing education programs at the master's and doctoral levels;

(e) Agreements with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to replicate on a national level successful training programs developed through the initiative; and

(f) Leveraging of state and federal workforce funds.

(4) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, with the assistance of the Florida Space Research Institute, shall convene representatives from the space industry to identify the priority training and education needs of the industry and to appoint a team to design programs to meet such priority needs.

(5) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, as part of its statutorily prescribed annual report to the Legislature, shall provide recommendations for policies, programs, and funding to enhance the workforce needs of the space industry.

Section 12. Toolkit for Economic Development.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature finds that the state has numerous economically distressed communities with a high proportion of needy families who are current or former recipients of public assistance or who are at risk of becoming dependent upon public assistance. The Legislature also finds that the existence of safe and strong communities with prosperous economies is crucial to reduce dependence on public assistance and to promote employment retention and self-sufficiency. It is the intent of the Legislature to reduce reliance on public assistance, to promote employment retention, and to increase self-sufficiency by providing easily accessed and useable tools that support local initiatives that create economically prosperous communities for needy families.

(2) CREATION; PURPOSE.—There is created a program to be known as the “Toolkit for Economic Development,” the purpose of which is to enable economically distressed communities to access easily, and use effectively, federal and state tools to improve conditions in the communities and thereby help needy families in the communities avoid public assistance, retain employment, and become self-sufficient.



(3) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, a community is “economically distressed” if the community is experiencing conditions affecting its economic viability and hampering the self-sufficiency of its residents, including, but not limited to, low per capita income, low property values, high unemployment, high under-employment, low weekly wages compared to the state average, low housing values compared to the state or area average, high percentage of the population receiving public assistance, high poverty levels compared to the state average, and high percentage of needy families.

(4) LIAISONS.—

(a) By August 1, 2000, the head of each of the following agencies or organizations shall designate a high-level staff person from within the agency or organization to serve as a liaison to this program:

1. Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;
2. Office of Urban Opportunity;
3. Department of Community Affairs;
4. Department of Law Enforcement;
5. Department of Juvenile Justice;
6. Department of Transportation;
7. Department of Environmental Protection;
8. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
9. Department of State;
10. Department of Health;
11. Department of Children and Family Services;
12. Department of Corrections;
13. Department of Labor and Employment Security;
14. Department of Education;
15. Department of Military Affairs;
16. Florida Housing Finance Corporation;
17. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences;
18. Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce;
19. Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation;
20. Enterprise Florida, Inc.;

21. Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc.;
22. Executive Office of the Governor; and
23. Any other agencies or organizations as determined by the coordinating partners.

(b) An alternate for each designee shall also be chosen, and the names of the designees and alternates shall be sent to the coordinating partners, which shall convene the liaisons as necessary.

(c) Each liaison must have a comprehensive knowledge of the functions, whether regulatory or service-based, of his or her agency or organization. The liaison shall be the primary contact for the agency or organization for the Toolkit for Economic Development, assisting in expediting proposal review, resolving problems, promoting flexible assistance, and identifying opportunities for support within the agency or organization.

(d) As deemed necessary by the coordinating partners, liaisons shall review proposals from economically distressed communities to determine if they would be properly referred or submitted to their agencies or organizations. If such referral and submittal is appropriate, the liaison shall then assist the community as an ombudsman.

(e) The liaisons shall work at the request of the coordinating partners to review statutes and rules for their adverse effects on economically distressed communities and to develop alternative proposals to mitigate these effects.

(f) Liaisons shall review their agencies' or organizations' evaluation and scoring procedures for grant, loan, and aid programs to ensure that economically distressed communities are not unfairly disadvantaged, hampered, or handicapped in competing for awards because of community economic hardship. If they are, new evaluation criteria and scoring procedures shall be considered that recognize disproportionate requirements which an application process makes of a community that lacks the resources of other more prosperous communities. The evaluation criteria should weight contribution in proportion to the amount of resources available at the local level.

(g) Annually, the coordinating partners shall report to the Governor and the head of each agency or organization on the work and accomplishments of the liaisons.

#### (5) COORDINATING PARTNERS.—

(a) The liaisons from the WAGES State Board of Directors, or its successor organization, the Office of Urban Opportunity, the Department of Community Affairs, Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall serve as the coordinating partners of the Toolkit for Economic Development and act as an executive committee for the liaisons. The coordinating partners shall review any request from a Front Porch Community and shall provide whatever assistance that this section can afford to them.

(b) From time to time, the coordinating partners may recommend to the head of an agency or organization, approval of a project that in the unanimous judgment of the coordinating partners will have an extraordinary positive impact on an economically distressed community. Upon such recommendation, the head of an agency or organization shall give priority consideration for approval of such project.

(6) MATCHING-FUNDS OPTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency or organization may waive any state-required matching-funds requirements at the request of the coordinating partners. This waiver is contingent upon the determination by the coordinating partners that the community is fully committed to the success of a project, but lacks the community resources to meet match requirements. In-kind matches shall be allowed and applied as matching-funds utilizing the same determination criteria. The coordinating partners must unanimously endorse each request to an agency or organization. Any funds appropriated to the coordinating partners may be used to meet matching-funds requirements or fees for federal, state, or foundation application requirements.

(7) INVENTORY.—The coordinating partners shall develop, in consultation with the liaisons, an inventory of recommended federal and state tax credits, incentives, inducements, programs, opportunities, demonstrations or pilot programs, grants, and other resources available through the agencies and organizations which could assist Front Porch Florida or economically distressed communities. Each entry in the inventory must include a summary; a contact person; a simple description of the application process and a timetable; a profile of funding awards and funds availability; and a complexity ranking. The inventory shall be organized into seven categories, including:

(a) Leadership.—Entries that promote the skills and capacities of local leaders, volunteers, organizations, and employees that work on other categories of the inventory. These entries shall include, but are not limited to, grants; scholarships; Individual Training Accounts; Retention Incentive Training Account programs; and other programs that build the resident capacity to create a better community. These entries shall include educational-based institutes that can assist with research, consulting, technical assistance, capacity building, training, and program assistance to communities.

(b) Safety.—Entries that increase safety and reduce crime. These entries shall include, but are not limited to, the training and employment of public safety employees and volunteers; establishing safer businesses and neighborhoods; training residents in safety practices; organizing safety networks and cooperatives; improving lighting; improving the safety of homes, buildings, and streets; and providing for community police and safety projects, including those designed to protect youth in the community. Other entries may be included that reinforce community and local law enforcement.

(c) Clean Up.—Entries that support clean up and enhancement projects that quickly create visible improvements in neighborhoods, including the demolition of drug havens and abandoned buildings. These entries shall

include, but are not limited to, projects that plan, design, or implement clean up strategies; main street redevelopment; and renovation projects. These entries may also include planning and implementation for larger neighborhood revitalization and economic development projects.

(d) Business.—Entries that support small business development, including, but not limited to, attraction of national franchises; micro-loans; guaranteed commercial loans; technical assistance; self-employment; linked deposit; loan loss reserves; business incubators; and other activities that support the market economy.

(e) Schools.—Entries that upgrade schools through repair or renovation, as well as training and employment entries to assist with school transportation, services, and security. These entries shall include, but are not limited to, programs that enable school-based childcare; before, after, and summer school programs; programs that broaden the use of school facilities as a hub and haven within the community; scholarships; and grant programs that assist families and individuals to complete and enhance their education.

(f) Partners.—Entries that provide tax credits, incentives, and other inducements to businesses that contribute to community projects, such as the community contribution tax credit under sections 220.183 and 624.5105, Florida Statutes. These entries shall include any programs that help raise federal or foundation grant funds.

(g) Redevelopment.—Entries that support the planning, preparation, construction, marketing, and financing of residential, mixed-use, and commercial redevelopment, as well as residential and business infrastructure projects. These entries shall include, but are not limited to, the workforce development programs that influence business decisions such as the Quick-Response Training Program and Quick-Response Training Program for Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency (WAGES) participants.

(8) START-UP INITIATIVE.—

(a) Subject to legislative appropriation and the provisions of this act, the Start-Up Initiative is created to promote the use of the inventory, to boost a community's efforts, and to ensure that federal funds do not go unexpended or unobligated, or are not returned to federal agencies.

(b) The coordinating partners, in consultation with the liaisons, local economic development organizations, and regional workforce development boards, shall identify 15 communities, seven of which must be from the state's seven largest counties, three of which must be from rural counties, and five of which must be from other counties in the state. These communities must be compact, congruent, and contiguous census tracts that have high concentrations of needy families who are current, former, or likely recipients of public assistance. To the maximum extent possible, these communities should coincide with federal empowerment zones, enterprise communities, or similar designations; HOPE VI communities; Front Porch Florida communities; enterprise zones established under chapter 290 or chapter 370, Florida Statutes; Neighborhood Improvement Districts established

under chapter 163, Florida Statutes; community redevelopment areas established under chapter 163, Florida Statutes; and Urban High Crime Areas or Rural Job Tax Credit Areas established under chapter 212, Florida Statutes.

(c) The coordinating partners shall solicit proposals from Front Porch Advisory Committees, community-based organizations, local governments, and neighborhood associations located in the communities identified in paragraph (b) and Front Porch communities. The coordinating partners shall provide each applicant with the inventory and recommendations on proposals that can be funded.

(d) Communities may prepare a proposal to access and use various entries from the inventory which will launch or boost their economic development efforts. Proposals must be no more than 20 pages long and include:

1. A brief description of how the community would use entries from the inventory in the community's economic development strategy;

2. Specific evidence of community support for the proposal from community-based organizations, local government, regional workforce development boards, and local economic development organizations;

3. Identification and commitment of local resources for the proposal from community-based organizations, local government, regional workforce development boards, and local economic development organizations;

4. Identification of the specific entity or person responsible for coordinating the community's proposal; and

5. Identification of a local fiscal entity for contracting, administration, and accountability.

(e) The coordinating partners shall appoint a liaison to assist each community with the proposal and its implementation, if awarded.

(f) The coordinating partners shall design an impartial and competitive proposal-review process and evaluation criteria. Based on the evaluation criteria, up to nine communities shall be designated to participate in the Start Up Initiative. Once a community is designated, the coordinating partners and the community's liaison will work to finalize the proposal, including the addition of funding sources for each inventory entry. The finalized proposal shall serve as the contract between the community and the Start-Up Initiative. If sufficient funding does not exist for an entry that is essential for the community's proposal or a community is ineligible for a specific inventory entry, the coordinating partners may allocate funding that is under their control to fulfill the entry. The proposal must be operational within 3 months after approval.

(g) Proposals that would mainly result in gentrification of the community, that would not employ a preponderance of residents, and that predominately create residences or businesses that are beyond the anticipated income level of the working residents of the community are not eligible.

(h) Proposal awards shall be obligated for federal funding purposes, and shall be considered appropriated for purposes of section 216.301, Florida Statutes. The coordinating partners may allocate funding that is under their control to fund this initiative. Any funding appropriated to assist needy families, or to promote job placement and employment retention, which is in excess of revenues necessary to fulfill the appropriated purpose, and which may not be obligated during the budget year, may be allocated to this initiative to support an approved proposal.

(i) Any federal funds must be used for purposes consistent with applicable federal law; however, the coordinating partners, with the assistance of the Department of Children and Family Services, shall aggressively pursue innovative uses of federal funds to support projects that train community leaders, upgrade individuals skills, promote safety, clean up communities, beautify neighborhoods, encourage small business, stimulate employment, increase educational opportunity, promote community partnering, advance community redevelopment, and upgrade housing because it assists needy families, promoting self-sufficiency and job retention.

(j) The coordinating partners shall adopt procedures for the Start-Up Initiative and may, if necessary, adopt, through the Department of Community Affairs, emergency rules to govern the submission of proposals, the evaluation of proposals, the initiative awards, and the implementation procedures for administration of awards.

(9) COMMUNITIES OF CRITICAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY.—  
The coordinating partners may recommend to the Governor up to three communities of critical economic opportunity. A community of critical economic opportunity must be a community that is economically distressed, that presents a unique economic development opportunity, and that will create more than 1,000 jobs over a 5-year period. The Governor may, by executive order, designate up to three communities of critical economic opportunity which will establish these areas as priority assignments for the liaisons and coordinating partners. The provisions of the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program under section 288.106, Florida Statutes, the Quick Response Training Program under section 288.047, Florida Statutes, the WAGES Quick Response Training Program under section 288.047(10), Florida Statutes, transportation projects under section 288.063, Florida Statutes, the brownfield redevelopment bonus refund under section 288.107, Florida Statutes, the job and employment tax credit programs and any other applicable economic development initiative or incentive may be utilized to the maximum extent allowable to address the critical economic opportunity or threat identified by the coordinating partners. Designation as a community of critical economic opportunity under this subsection shall be contingent upon the execution of a memorandum or agreement among the coordinating partners; the governing body of the county; and the governing bodies of any municipalities to be included within an area of critical economic opportunity. Such agreement shall specify the terms and conditions of the designation, including, but not limited to, the duties and responsibilities of the county and any participating municipalities to take actions designed to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the area, as well as the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

(10) FUNDING.—

(a) To implement the provisions of this act, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$25 million from non-recurring Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to the TANF administrative entity at the Department of Management Services. The Department of Management Services shall contract with entities recommended by the coordinating partners for funding pursuant to this section.

(b) Any expenditure from the TANF funds shall be in accordance with the requirements and limitations of Title IV of the Social Security Act, as amended, or any other applicable federal requirement or limitation in law. Prior to any expenditure of such funds, the Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or his or her designee, shall certify that controls are in place to ensure that such funds are expended and reported in accordance with the requirements and limitations of federal law. It shall be the responsibility of any entity to which funds are awarded to obtain the required certification prior to any expenditure of funds.

(11) REPORTING.—The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability and the coordinating partners, shall develop measures and criteria by October 1, 2001, for evaluating the effectiveness of the Toolkit for Economic Development including the liaisons, coordinating partners, waivers and matching options, inventory, Start-Up Initiative, and Communities of Critical Economic Opportunity. The Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by January 1, 2002, a report detailing the progress that the Toolkit for Economic Development has made toward achievement of established measures.

(12) EXPIRATION.—This section expires June 30, 2002.

Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

Approved by the Governor June 15, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 15, 2000.