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CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

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House

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1 Senator Lynn moved the following **amendment**:

2
3 **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between line(s) 135 and 136

5 insert:

6
7 Section 3. Section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, is amended
8 to read:

9 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.--

10 (1)(a) Recognizing that rural communities and regions
11 continue to face extraordinary challenges in their efforts to
12 achieve significant improvements to their economies, specifically
13 in terms of personal income, job creation, average wages, and
14 strong tax bases, it is the intent of the Legislature to
15 encourage and facilitate the location and expansion in such rural
16 communities of major economic development projects of significant
17 scale.



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18 (b) The Rural Economic Development Initiative, known as
19 "REDI," is created within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
20 Economic Development, and the participation of state and regional
21 agencies in this initiative is authorized.

22 (2) As used in this section, the term:

23 (a) "Catalyst project" means a business locating or
24 expanding in a rural area of critical economic concern which is
25 likely to serve as an economic growth opportunity of regional
26 significance for the growth of a regional target industry
27 cluster. The project shall provide capital investment of
28 significant scale which will affect the entire region and will
29 facilitate the development of high-wage and high-skill jobs.

30 (b) "Catalyst site" means a parcel or parcels of land
31 within a rural area of critical economic concern that has been
32 prioritized by representatives of the jurisdictions within the
33 rural area of critical economic concern, reviewed by REDI, and
34 approved by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
35 Development for purposes of locating a catalyst project.

36 (c) ~~(a)~~ "Economic distress" means conditions affecting the
37 fiscal and economic viability of a rural community, including
38 such factors as low per capita income, low per capita taxable
39 values, high unemployment, high underemployment, low weekly
40 earned wages compared to the state average, low housing values
41 compared to the state average, high percentages of the population
42 receiving public assistance, high poverty levels compared to the
43 state average, and a lack of year-round stable employment
44 opportunities.

45 (d) "Rural area of critical economic concern" means a rural
46 community, or a region composed of rural communities, designated
47 by the Governor, which has been adversely affected by an



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48 extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a
49 natural disaster or which presents a unique economic development
50 opportunity of regional impact.

51 (e) ~~(b)~~ "Rural community" means:

52 1. A county with a population of 75,000 or less.

53 2. A county with a population of 120,000 ~~100,000~~ or less
54 that is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or
55 less.

56 3. A municipality within a county described in subparagraph
57 1. or subparagraph 2.

58 4. An unincorporated federal enterprise community or an
59 incorporated rural city with a population of 25,000 or less and
60 an employment base focused on traditional agricultural or
61 resource-based industries, located in a county not defined as
62 rural, which has at least three or more of the economic distress
63 factors identified in paragraph (a) and verified by the Office of
64 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

65
66 For purposes of this paragraph, population shall be determined in
67 accordance with the most recent official estimate pursuant to s.
68 186.901.

69 (3) REDI shall be responsible for coordinating and focusing
70 the efforts and resources of state and regional agencies on the
71 problems which affect the fiscal, economic, and community
72 viability of Florida's economically distressed rural communities,
73 working with local governments, community-based organizations,
74 and private organizations that have an interest in the growth and
75 development of these communities to find ways to balance
76 environmental and growth management issues with local needs.



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77 (4) REDI shall review and evaluate the impact of laws
78 ~~statutes~~ and rules on rural communities and ~~shall~~ work to
79 minimize any adverse impact and shall undertake outreach and
80 capacity-building efforts.

81 (5) REDI shall facilitate better access to state resources
82 by promoting direct access and referrals to appropriate state and
83 regional agencies and statewide organizations. REDI may undertake
84 outreach, capacity-building, and other advocacy efforts to
85 improve conditions in rural communities. These activities may
86 include sponsorship of conferences and achievement awards.

87 (6) (a) By August 1 of each year, the head of each of the
88 following agencies and organizations shall designate a high-level
89 staff person from within the agency or organization to serve as
90 the REDI representative for the agency or organization:

- 91 1. The Department of Community Affairs.
- 92 2. The Department of Transportation.
- 93 3. The Department of Environmental Protection.
- 94 4. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- 95 5. The Department of State.
- 96 6. The Department of Health.
- 97 7. The Department of Children and Family Services.
- 98 8. The Department of Corrections.
- 99 9. The Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- 100 10. The Department of Education.
- 101 11. The Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 102 12. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- 103 13. Each water management district.
- 104 14. Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- 105 15. Workforce Florida, Inc.
- 106 16. The Florida Commission on Tourism or VISIT Florida.



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107 17. The Florida Regional Planning Council Association.

108 18. The Agency for Health Care Administration ~~Florida State~~
109 ~~Rural Development Council~~.

110 19. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

111
112 An alternate for each designee shall also be chosen, and the
113 names of the designees and alternates shall be sent to the
114 director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
115 Development.

116 (b) Each REDI representative must have comprehensive
117 knowledge of his or her agency's functions, both regulatory and
118 service in nature, and of the state's economic goals, policies,
119 and programs. This person shall be the primary point of contact
120 for his or her agency with REDI on issues and projects relating
121 to economically distressed rural communities and with regard to
122 expediting project review, shall ensure a prompt effective
123 response to problems arising with regard to rural issues, and
124 shall work closely with the other REDI representatives in the
125 identification of opportunities for preferential awards of
126 program funds and allowances and waiver of program requirements
127 when necessary to encourage and facilitate long-term private
128 capital investment and job creation.

129 (c) The REDI representatives shall work with REDI in the
130 review and evaluation of statutes and rules for adverse impact on
131 rural communities and the development of alternative proposals to
132 mitigate that impact.

133 (d) Each REDI representative shall be responsible for
134 ensuring that each district office or facility of his or her
135 agency is informed about the Rural Economic Development



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136 Initiative and for providing assistance throughout the agency in
137 the implementation of REDI activities.

138 (7) (a) REDI may recommend to the Governor up to three rural
139 areas of critical economic concern. ~~A rural area of critical~~
140 ~~economic concern must be a rural community, or a region composed~~
141 ~~of such, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary~~
142 ~~economic event or a natural disaster or that presents a unique~~
143 ~~economic development opportunity of regional impact that will~~
144 ~~create more than 1,000 jobs over a 5-year period.~~ The Governor
145 may by executive order designate up to three rural areas of
146 critical economic concern which will establish these areas as
147 priority assignments for REDI as well as to allow the Governor,
148 acting through REDI, to waive criteria, requirements, or similar
149 provisions of any economic development incentive. Such incentives
150 shall include, but not be limited to: the Qualified Target
151 Industry Tax Refund Program under s. 288.106, the Quick Response
152 Training Program under s. 288.047, the Quick Response Training
153 Program for participants in the welfare transition program under
154 s. 288.047(8), transportation projects under s. 288.063, the
155 brownfield redevelopment bonus refund under s. 288.107, and the
156 rural job tax credit program under ss. 212.098 and 220.1895.

157 (b) Designation as a rural area of critical economic
158 concern under this subsection shall be contingent upon the
159 execution of a memorandum of agreement among the Office of
160 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development; the governing body of
161 the county; and the governing bodies of any municipalities to be
162 included within a rural area of critical economic concern. Such
163 agreement shall specify the terms and conditions of the
164 designation, including, but not limited to, the duties and
165 responsibilities of the county and any participating



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166 municipalities to take actions designed to facilitate the
167 retention and expansion of existing businesses in the area, as
168 well as the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

169 (c) Each rural area of critical economic concern may
170 designate catalyst projects provided that each catalyst project
171 is specifically recommended by REDI, identified as a catalyst
172 project by Enterprise Florida, Inc., and confirmed as a catalyst
173 project by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
174 Development. All state agencies and departments shall use all
175 available tools and resources to the extent permissible by law to
176 promote the creation and development of each catalyst project and
177 the development of catalyst sites.

178 (8) REDI shall assist local governments within rural areas
179 of critical economic concern with comprehensive planning needs
180 pursuant to s. 163.3184(20) and which implement the provisions of
181 this section. Such assistance shall reflect a multidisciplinary
182 approach among all agencies and shall include economic
183 development and planning objectives.

184 (a) A local government may request assistance in the
185 preparation of plan amendments that will stimulate economic
186 activity.

187 1. The local government must contact the Office of Tourism,
188 Trade, and Economic Development to request assistance.

189 2. REDI representatives shall meet with the local
190 government within 15 days after such request to develop the scope
191 of assistance that will be provided to assist the development,
192 transmittal, and adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan
193 amendment.

194 3. As part of the assistance provided, REDI representatives
195 shall also identify other needed local and developer actions for



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196 approval of the project and recommend a timeline for the local
197 government and developer which will minimize project delays.

198 (b) In addition, REDI shall solicit requests each year for
199 assistance from local governments within a rural area of critical
200 economic concern to update the future land use element and other
201 associated elements of the local government's comprehensive plan
202 to better position the community to respond to economic
203 development potential within the county or municipality. REDI
204 shall provide direct assistance to such local governments to
205 update their comprehensive plans pursuant to this paragraph. At
206 least one comprehensive planning technical assistance effort
207 shall be selected each year.

208 (c) REDI shall develop and annually update a technical
209 assistance manual based upon experiences learned in providing
210 direct assistance under this subsection.

211 (9) As further incentive for development of jobs and
212 advancement of health care in areas that are both a fiscally
213 constrained county pursuant to s. 218.67 and a rural area of
214 critical economic concern as designated by the Governor pursuant
215 to s. 288.0656, the provisions of Rule 9J-5.006(5), Florida
216 Administrative Code, regulating sprawl shall not be applicable to
217 a development of regional impact governed by s. 380.06 if such
218 development is a multiuse development containing at least three
219 distinct uses and such development provides a hospital with a
220 minimum of 70 beds, both of which criteria shall be met within 10
221 years after receipt of a final development order.

222 (10)-(8) REDI shall submit a report to the Governor, the
223 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
224 Representatives each year on or before ~~September~~ February 1 on
225 all REDI activities for the prior fiscal year. This report shall



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226 | include a status report on all projects currently being
227 | coordinated through REDI, the number of preferential awards and
228 | allowances made pursuant to this section, the dollar amount of
229 | such awards, and the names of the recipients. The report shall
230 | also include a description of all waivers of program requirements
231 | granted. The report shall also include information as to the
232 | economic impact of the projects coordinated by REDI.

233 |
234 | ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

235 | And the title is amended as follows:

236 | On line(s) 28, after the semicolon,
237 | insert:

238 |
239 | amending s. 288.0656, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
240 | revising definitions; providing certain additional review
241 | and action requirements for REDI relating to rural
242 | communities; revising representation on REDI; deleting a
243 | limitation on characterization as a rural area of critical
244 | economic concern; authorizing rural areas of critical
245 | economic concern to designate certain catalyst projects
246 | for certain purposes; providing project requirements;
247 | requiring the initiative to assist local governments with
248 | certain comprehensive planning needs; providing procedures
249 | and requirements for such assistance; revising certain
250 | reporting requirements for REDI; providing for
251 | nonapplication of certain administrative rules to certain
252 | developments of regional impact under certain
253 | circumstances;