

By Representative Flanagan

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to coordinated business  
3           reporting; providing legislative findings and  
4           intent; creating the "Florida Business  
5           Coordination Act"; providing definitions;  
6           requiring the Department of State to create a  
7           master business index for certain purposes;  
8           designating the Secretary of State as the  
9           custodian of the index; providing duties of the  
10          department; requiring certain state agencies to  
11          maintain certain records; requiring the  
12          Secretary of State to conduct a study and  
13          develop legislation for certain purposes;  
14          repealing s. 119.092, F.S., relating to  
15          registration of federal employer registration  
16          numbers; providing an effective date.

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

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20           Section 1. Legislative findings and intent.--

21           (1) The Legislature finds that:

22           (a) As documented by the Governor's Single Business  
23 Identifier Interagency Task Force, state government places a  
24 heavy burden on the business community of this state through  
25 the requirement to obtain and maintain numerous licenses,  
26 permits, and registrations.

27           (b) While such requirements are necessary to ensure  
28 the public safety and welfare, present methods for the  
29 business community to meet such obligations, as prescribed by  
30 law and administered and enforced by state agencies, are

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1 cumbersome and place an undue hardship on business entities in  
2 this state.

3 (c) The potential exists for the state to more easily  
4 identify and eliminate duplicative or outdated licensing  
5 requirements and thereby reduce its cost of operation without  
6 jeopardizing the public safety or welfare.

7 (2) It is the intent of this act to establish a master  
8 business index within the Department of State and to  
9 facilitate a reporting mechanism which consolidates and  
10 coordinates business entity licensing and reporting  
11 requirements whenever possible.

12 Section 2. Short title.--This act may be cited as the  
13 "Florida Business Coordination Act."

14 Section 3. Definitions.--As used in this act:

15 (1) "Business entity" means any form of cooperation,  
16 partnership, association, cooperative, joint venture, business  
17 trust, or sole proprietorship that conducts business in this  
18 state.

19 (2) "Department" means the Department of State.

20 (3) "Master business index" means that database  
21 maintained by the department which indexes all business entity  
22 records maintained by any state government agency.

23 (4) "Single business identifier" means the unique  
24 record number assigned to a business entity by the department  
25 in compliance with the provisions of this act.

26 (5) "State agency" means any state government agency,  
27 department, or commission which has jurisdiction over business  
28 entities.

29 Section 4. Single business identifier.--

30 (1) The department shall create a master business  
31 index, using as an initial base the commercial regulation and

1 registration program databases the department currently  
2 maintains. Each business entity shall be assigned a unique  
3 single business identifier for interagency use.

4 (2) Each state agency that registers, licenses, or  
5 otherwise regulates any business entity and maintains records  
6 on such business entity shall, by July 1, 2000:

7 (a) Include the single business identifier, assigned  
8 by the department and maintained in the master business index,  
9 so that registration or license information may be directly  
10 retrieved by use of the single business identifier number.

11 (b) Coordinate the agency's data records creation with  
12 the department so as to obtain a single business identifier  
13 for all records the agency maintains or creates which are not  
14 of record with the department.

15 Section 5. Custodian.--The Secretary of State is  
16 hereby designated the custodian of the master business index  
17 and shall coordinate the implementation and application of the  
18 index throughout the state agencies.

19 Section 6. The Secretary of State shall conduct a  
20 study of the need for a uniform business report for use in  
21 consolidated licensing, registration, or renewal of business  
22 entity filings in this state. Based on the need determined in  
23 this study, the Secretary of State shall develop legislative  
24 proposals as appropriate to meet the intent of this act.

25 Section 7. Section 119.092, Florida Statutes, is  
26 hereby repealed.

27 Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
28 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the "Florida Business Coordination Act."  
Requires the Department of State to create a master  
business index of single business identifiers and  
designates the Secretary of State as the custodian of the  
index. Requires the Secretary of State to study the need  
for a uniform business report for use in consolidated  
licensing, registration, and renewal of business entity  
filings in Florida. See bill for details.