

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to municipalities; amending s.
3 166.021, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
4 authorizing municipal governing bodies to
5 expend public funds to attract and retain
6 business enterprises; specifying that such use
7 of public funds constitutes a public purpose
8 and defining the economic development
9 activities that qualify as such public purpose;
10 providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 166.021,
15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 166.021 Powers.--

17 (9)(a) The Legislature finds and declares that this
18 state faces increasing competition from other states and other
19 countries for the location and retention of private
20 enterprises within its borders. Furthermore, the Legislature
21 finds that there is a need to enhance and expand economic
22 activity in the municipalities of this state by attracting and
23 retaining manufacturing development, business enterprise
24 management, and other activities conducive to economic
25 promotion, in order to provide a stronger, more balanced, and
26 stable economy in the state, to enhance and preserve
27 purchasing power and employment opportunities for the
28 residents of this state, and to improve the welfare and
29 competitive position of the state. The Legislature declares
30 that it is necessary and in the public interest to facilitate

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1 the growth and creation of business enterprises in the
2 municipalities of the state.

3 (b) The governing body of a municipality may expend
4 public funds to attract and retain business enterprises, and
5 the use of public funds toward the achievement of such
6 economic development goals constitutes a public purpose. The
7 provisions of this chapter which confer powers and duties on
8 the governing body of a municipality, including any powers not
9 specifically prohibited by law which can be exercised by the
10 governing body of a municipality, shall be liberally construed
11 in order to effectively carry out the purposes of this
12 subsection.

13 (c) For the purposes of this subsection, it
14 constitutes a public purpose to expend public funds for
15 economic development activities, including, but not limited
16 to, developing or improving local infrastructure, issuing
17 bonds to finance or refinance the cost of capital projects for
18 industrial or manufacturing plants, leasing or conveying real
19 property, and making grants to private enterprises for the
20 expansion of businesses existing in the community or the
21 attraction of new businesses to the community.

22 (d) Nothing contained in this subsection shall be
23 construed as a limitation on the home rule powers granted by
24 the State Constitution for municipalities.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
26 law.

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