

By Senators Hargrett, Childers and Holzendorf

21-89B-99

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to urban policy; creating the
Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce;
providing for the purposes of the institute;
directing the institute to investigate specific
issues; directing the establishment of regional
centers; providing reporting requirements;
providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, through years of serious neglect and
deprivation, urban communities have become plagued by
pervasive poverty and economic and physical distress, and

WHEREAS, many of these urban communities have become
ghost towns overwhelmed by unemployment, vacant buildings, and
boarded-up homes, and

WHEREAS, the majority of these inner city communities
are underserved and are cut off from the larger community by a
lack of employment skills and a lack of business and economic
development opportunities due to a profusion of social and
family burdens, including poverty, crime, substance abuse,
illiteracy, and overcrowding, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. There is created the Institute on Urban
Policy and Commerce as a Type I Institute under the Board of
Regents at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to
improve the quality of life in urban communities through
research, teaching, and outreach activities.

Section 2. The major purposes of the institute are to
pursue basic and applied research on urban policy issues

1 confronting the inner-city areas and neighborhoods in the
2 state; to influence the equitable allocation and stewardship
3 of federal, state, and local financial resources; to train a
4 new generation of civic leaders and university students
5 interested in approaches to community planning and design; to
6 assist with the planning, development, and capacity building
7 of urban area nonprofit organizations and government agencies;
8 to develop and maintain a data base relating to inner city
9 areas; and to support the community development efforts of
10 inner city areas, neighborhood-based organizations, and
11 municipal agencies.

12 Section 3. The institute shall research and recommend
13 strategies concerning critical issues facing the underserved
14 population in urban communities, including, but not limited
15 to, transportation and physical infrastructure; affordable
16 housing; tourism and commerce; environmental restoration; job
17 development and retention; child care; public health;
18 life-long learning; family intervention; public safety; and
19 community relations.

20 Section 4. The institute shall establish regional
21 urban centers to be located in the inner cities of St.
22 Petersburg, Tampa, Jacksonville, Orlando, West Palm Beach, Ft.
23 Lauderdale, Miami, Daytona Beach, and Pensacola to assist
24 urban communities on critical economic, social, and
25 educational problems affecting the underserved population.

26 Section 5. Before January 1 of each year, the
27 institute must submit a report of its critical findings and
28 recommendations for the prior year to the President of the
29 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
30 appropriate committees of the Legislature. The report shall be
31 titled "The State of Unmet Needs in Florida's Urban

1 Communities" and should include, but is not limited to, a
2 recommended list of resources that could be made available for
3 revitalizing urban communities; significant accomplishments
4 and activities of the institute; and recommendations
5 concerning the expansion, improvement, or termination of the
6 institute.

7 Section 6. The Governor shall submit an annual report
8 to the Legislature on the unmet needs in the state's urban
9 communities.

10 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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12 SENATE SUMMARY

13
14 Creates the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at
15 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Provides
16 for its purposes and directs it to investigate specific
17 issues. Directs the establishment of seven regional urban
18 centers. Provides reporting requirements for the
19 Institute and the Governor.
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