

By the Committee on Comprehensive Planning, Local and Military Affairs; and Senator Hargrett

316-1961-99

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to urban development; creating

3           s. 290.055, F.S.; creating the Neighborhood

4           Revitalization Act; providing legislative

5           intent to advance an urban policy that helps

6           communities rebuild their neighborhoods;

7           creating s. 290.056, F.S.; providing

8           definitions; creating s. 290.057, F.S.;

9           creating the Revitalization of Urban

10          Neighborhoods Grant Program; providing for

11          planning grants of up to a specified amount;

12          providing for matching neighborhood

13          revitalization action grants to be awarded to

14          local governments and community-based

15          organizations; providing criteria for awarding

16          such grants; creating ss. 290.058, 290.059,

17          F.S.; providing requirements for neighborhood

18          revitalization plans and neighborhood

19          revitalization action grants; requiring that

20          grant recipients submit progress reports to the

21          Office of Urban Opportunity within the Office

22          of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;

23          providing an appropriation; providing an

24          effective date.

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

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28           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Front Porch

29 Florida Act."

30           Section 2. Section 290.055, Florida Statutes, is

31 created to read:

1           290.055 Short title; legislative intent.--

2           (1) Sections 290.055-290.059 may be cited as the  
3 "Neighborhood Revitalization Act."

4           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to advance an  
5 urban policy that will allow local communities in Florida's  
6 urban cores to rebuild their neighborhoods through a  
7 redevelopment process that is neighborhood asset-based,  
8 community-focused, and relationship-driven.

9           Section 3. Section 290.056, Florida Statutes, is  
10 created to read:

11           290.056 Definitions.--As used in ss. 290.055-290.059,  
12 the term:

13           (1) "Local government" means a county or municipality.

14           (2) "Office" means the Office of Urban Opportunity in  
15 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development within  
16 the Executive Office of the Governor.

17           Section 4. Section 290.057, Florida Statutes, is  
18 created to read:

19           290.057 Revitalization of Urban Neighborhoods Grant  
20 Program.--

21           (1) The Revitalization of Urban Neighborhoods Grant  
22 Program is created within the Office of Urban Opportunity  
23 within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.  
24 The program shall consist of a two-tiered grant program.  
25 During the first year of the program, the office shall award  
26 planning grants in an amount up to \$50,000 per qualified  
27 applicant for the development of neighborhood revitalization  
28 strategic plans. During the second year of the program, and  
29 upon the adoption of a neighborhood revitalization plan, local  
30 governments or community-based organizations may apply for

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1 matching neighborhood revitalization action grants that shall  
2 be awarded on a competitive basis.

3 (2) The Office of Urban Opportunity within the Office  
4 of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall administer  
5 the grant program. The Governor shall appoint a seven-member  
6 review panel to rank and score the proposals for planning  
7 grants and action grants. The membership of the review panel  
8 shall be composed of persons with expertise in one or more of  
9 the following areas: urban and community planning;  
10 architecture; financial analysis; transportation; business;  
11 community redevelopment; housing; and community organizing.  
12 Grant proposals must be presented to the review panel for  
13 ranking at a noticed public meeting.

14 (3) The planning grants shall be awarded by the office  
15 to local governments for one or more specifically identified  
16 urban neighborhoods that have an organized group of  
17 stakeholders, including, but not limited to: community  
18 development corporations; neighborhood residents; financial  
19 institutions; housing authorities; faith-based organizations;  
20 existing businesses and businesses interested in operating  
21 within the community; and schools and universities.

22 (4) Local government proposals for neighborhood  
23 revitalization planning grants shall be ranked by the review  
24 panel based upon the following criteria:

25 (a) The identification of the distressed neighborhood  
26 or neighborhoods, including a description of why the  
27 neighborhood is distressed;

28 (b) The participation and organization of stakeholders  
29 within the target neighborhood, including leadership within  
30 those neighborhoods, to develop and implement a long-range  
31 plan for neighborhood revitalization;

1       (c) The level of distress within the neighborhood or  
2 neighborhoods identified;

3       (d) The creation of partnerships between financial  
4 institutions, businesses, community organizations, and the  
5 local government; and

6       (e) The commitment from the local government and the  
7 neighborhood to the development of a long-range neighborhood  
8 revitalization plan, including the financial commitment of the  
9 local government and community development organizations.

10       Section 5. Section 290.058, Florida Statutes, is  
11 created to read:

12       290.058 Neighborhood revitalization plans.--

13       (1) A local government receiving a neighborhood  
14 revitalization grant must develop a neighborhood  
15 revitalization plan that is the product of a collaborative  
16 effort of the residents and other stakeholders of the  
17 distressed neighborhood and the local government. The plan  
18 must address the needs of the residents of the distressed  
19 neighborhoods for low-income housing, transportation, economic  
20 development, mitigation of environmental hazards, availability  
21 of jobs, and education.

22       (2) A neighborhood revitalization plan must include  
23 the following:

24       (a) A description of: the size of the area; the  
25 objectives of neighborhood revitalization; coordination with  
26 existing programs; the goals for improving transit and  
27 transportation; and the objectives for economic development,  
28 job creation, and crime reduction;

29       (b) A description of the revitalized community that  
30 will be produced as a result of the actions outlined in the  
31 plan;

1           (c) The steps to achieve the revitalization goals;  
2           (d) A description of any capital redevelopment  
3 projects within the targeted neighborhoods, including the  
4 mechanism for financing the costs;  
5           (e) A description of how the local government intends  
6 to direct infrastructure dollars and other resources into the  
7 targeted neighborhoods;  
8           (f) A description of how public participation in the  
9 planning process will be achieved; and  
10           (g) A list of evaluation criteria that directly  
11 measure the quality of improvement within neighborhoods  
12 identified in the neighborhood revitalization plan.  
13           (3) The development of the neighborhood revitalization  
14 plan must include a community participation process that seeks  
15 the input of stakeholders, including, but not limited to,  
16 community development corporations, community-based  
17 organizations, neighborhood associations, and educational and  
18 religious organizations. The objective of this process is to  
19 encourage participation in the design and implementation of  
20 the plan and a visioning of the neighborhood.  
21           (4) Prior to submitting to the Office of Urban  
22 Opportunity a copy of the completed neighborhood  
23 revitalization plan, the local government shall hold an  
24 advertised public hearing after 5:00 p.m., on a weekday within  
25 the distressed neighborhood in order to receive comments on  
26 the plan. Notice of the meeting shall be placed in a newspaper  
27 of general interest and readership in the community pursuant  
28 to chapter 50 which is not a newspaper of limited subject  
29 matter. The advertisement must appear in a newspaper that is  
30 published at least 5 days a week, unless the only newspaper in  
31 the community is published fewer than 5 days a week.

1           (5) The local government shall adopt the neighborhood  
2 revitalization plan by ordinance.

3           Section 6. Section 290.059, Florida Statutes, is  
4 created to read:

5           290.059 Neighborhood revitalization action grants.--

6           (1) Local governments and community-based  
7 organizations may apply for neighborhood revitalization action  
8 grants to implement adopted neighborhood revitalization plans.

9           (2) Matching grants of up to \$150,000 per proposal may  
10 be awarded to implement projects identified in or consistent  
11 with a neighborhood revitalization plan. Community-based  
12 organizations within a neighborhood identified in the  
13 neighborhood revitalization plan may apply directly for  
14 matching funds, or the local government may coordinate a  
15 matching-grant application based on a group of stakeholders.

16           (3) The matching contribution of a local government or  
17 community-based organization may be made through matching  
18 dollars; in-kind contributions of property, labor, materials,  
19 or services; or local government financial incentives.

20           (4) Criteria for the review of neighborhood  
21 revitalization action grant proposals by the review panel  
22 established by subsection (2) include:

23           (a) The degree to which the proposal implements an  
24 innovative strategy to revitalize the neighborhood in order to  
25 attract a mix of residents of different incomes, but which  
26 includes housing that is affordable to low-income residents;

27           (b) The degree to which the proposal offers an  
28 innovative method of financing improvements set forth in the  
29 plan, such as tax-increment financing;

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1           (c) The degree to which the proposal includes the  
2 meaningful involvement of black and minority-owned businesses  
3 in the revitalization plan; and

4           (d) The involvement of developers who are capable of  
5 securing franchise opportunities for black and minority  
6 vendors of food and lodging, entertainment, and retail  
7 businesses.

8           (5) The review panel shall rank the action grant  
9 proposals based on the criteria set forth in subsection (4).  
10 The office shall award grant moneys based on the ranking of  
11 grant proposals by the review panel until funds are exhausted.

12           (6) Recipients of grant moneys must submit semiannual  
13 progress reports to the Office of Urban Opportunity  
14 identifying the expenditure of funds, actions completed, and  
15 progress in achieving the goals of the neighborhood  
16 revitalization plan.

17           Section 7. The sum of \$5 million is appropriated from  
18 the General Revenue Fund to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
19 Economic Development within the Executive Office of the  
20 Governor for the purpose of funding the Revitalization of  
21 Urban Neighborhoods Grant Program.

22           Section 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
23 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 1130

Replaces a shell bill and creates a Revitalization of Urban Neighborhoods Grant Program to be administered from the Office of Urban Opportunity within OTTED. The purpose of the program is to revitalize urban neighborhoods from the ground up, including the participation of neighborhood, business and community stakeholders. Two-Tiers of grants are available: 1) planning grants of up to \$50,000 per applicant for the development of neighborhood revitalization strategic plans; and 2) matching actions grants of up to \$150,000 per proposal to implement the strategic plans. The grant proposals are to be reviewed by a 7-member panel of technical experts appointed by the Governor with expertise in urban and community planning, financial analysis, and transportation.

Appropriates \$5 million to fund the Revitalization of Urban Neighborhood Grant Program.