Florida Senate - 2000

By Senator Webster

12-961-00 A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to volunteer and community service; creating the Florida Volunteer and 3 4 Community Service Act; authorizing the Executive Office of the Governor to establish 5 6 policies to promote volunteerism and community 7 service; providing for assistance by the Florida Commission on Community Service; 8 9 requiring a report by the commission; providing an effective date. 10 11 12 WHEREAS, the Legislature is placing an increasingly high priority on citizen participation and volunteerism, 13 14 particularly at a time when community problems are becoming 15 increasingly complex, and WHEREAS, it is important to encourage local community 16 17 leaders to implement strategies that expand civic participation because volunteers represent a valuable and 18 19 much-needed asset within communities, and 20 WHEREAS, it is desirable to promote the concept and 21 practice of corporate citizenship, particularly in communities 22 where such initiatives are less developed, and 23 WHEREAS, there is a need to build the enthusiasm, dedication, and combined expertise of individual citizens and 24 25 public and private systems to find new and creative ways to 26 effectively use volunteerism and community service as a 27 strategy to meet the challenges that the state's communities 28 face both now and in the future, NOW, THEREFORE, 29 30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 31

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 Section 1. Florida Volunteer and Community Service 2 Act.--3 (1) The Executive Office of the Governor may establish policies and procedures relating to the expenditure of funds 4 5 to develop and facilitate initiatives from public agencies, б educational institutions, private institutions, and 7 individuals that establish and implement programs within their 8 respective institutions or communities which have the effect of encouraging and rewarding volunteerism from their members. 9 10 (2) The Executive Office of the Governor may establish 11 policies to: (a) Foster the alignment of community volunteer 12 resources with the stated goals of the state. 13 14 (b) Implement policy and administrative changes that 15 encourage and enable individuals to participate in volunteer and community service activities. 16 17 (c) Encourage nonprofit agencies to interweave volunteers into the fabric of their service delivery as a 18 19 means of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of their 20 services. (d) Support and promote volunteer service to all 21 persons as an effective means of addressing community needs 22 and fostering a collective commitment to lifelong community 23 24 service. 25 (e) Recognize National Volunteer Week as a time to 26 encourage all persons in the state to participate in local 27 service projects. 28 (f) Recognize the value of individual volunteers as 29 well as volunteer and service organizations and programs. 30 (g) Honor and celebrate the success of volunteers. 31

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(3) The Florida Commission on Community Service shall annually submit a report on its findings related to the state of volunteerism to the Governor and members of the Cabinet. (4) The Florida Commission on Community Service may assist any agency, institution, or individual by securing assistance in the form of grants, gifts, or funds from public or private sources to be used in the implementation of programs. The commission may also assist in securing training, technical assistance, and other support needed to accomplish the intent of this act. Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. SENATE SUMMARY Authorizes the Executive Office of the Governor to establish policies to promote volunteerism and community service in the state and to provide for assistance by the Florida Commission on Community Service.

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