

By Senator Webster

12-961-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to volunteer and community  
3           service; creating the Florida Volunteer and  
4           Community Service Act; authorizing the  
5           Executive Office of the Governor to establish  
6           policies to promote volunteerism and community  
7           service; providing for assistance by the  
8           Florida Commission on Community Service;  
9           requiring a report by the commission; providing  
10          an effective date.

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12           WHEREAS, the Legislature is placing an increasingly  
13          high priority on citizen participation and volunteerism,  
14          particularly at a time when community problems are becoming  
15          increasingly complex, and

16           WHEREAS, it is important to encourage local community  
17          leaders to implement strategies that expand civic  
18          participation because volunteers represent a valuable and  
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,  
24          dedication, and combined expertise of individual citizens and  
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,

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

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1           Section 1. Florida Volunteer and Community Service  
2 Act.--

3           (1) The Executive Office of the Governor may establish  
4 policies and procedures relating to the expenditure of funds  
5 to develop and facilitate initiatives from public agencies,  
6 educational institutions, private institutions, and  
7 individuals that establish and implement programs within their  
8 respective institutions or communities which have the effect  
9 of encouraging and rewarding volunteerism from their members.

10           (2) The Executive Office of the Governor may establish  
11 policies to:

12           (a) Foster the alignment of community volunteer  
13 resources with the stated goals of the state.

14           (b) Implement policy and administrative changes that  
15 encourage and enable individuals to participate in volunteer  
16 and community service activities.

17           (c) Encourage nonprofit agencies to interweave  
18 volunteers into the fabric of their service delivery as a  
19 means of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of their  
20 services.

21           (d) Support and promote volunteer service to all  
22 persons as an effective means of addressing community needs  
23 and fostering a collective commitment to lifelong community  
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.

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