

By Representative Wise

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to community service; creating
 3 the Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act
 4 of 2000; providing legislative intent;
 5 authorizing the state to establish policies and
 6 procedures which provide for the expenditure of
 7 funds to develop and facilitate initiatives
 8 that encourage and reward volunteerism;
 9 providing purposes of the act; authorizing the
 10 Florida Commission on Community Service to
 11 provide specified assistance for the
 12 establishment and implementation of programs
 13 pursuant to the act; amending s. 14.29, F.S.;
 14 expanding the purposes of a required report of
 15 the Florida Commission on Community Service;
 16 providing an effective date.

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

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 20 Section 1. Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act
 21 of 2000.--

22 (1) This act may be cited as the "Florida Volunteer
 23 and Community Service Act of 2000."

24 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the
 25 development of better communities by fostering greater civic
 26 responsibility through volunteerism and service to the
 27 community. Toward this end, the state may establish policies
 28 and procedures which provide for the expenditure of funds to
 29 develop and facilitate initiatives by public agencies,
 30 scholastic institutions, private institutions, and individuals

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1 that establish and implement programs that encourage and
2 reward volunteerism.

3 (3) Initiatives and programs developed pursuant to
4 this act shall have the following purposes and objectives:

5 (a) To place increased priority on citizen
6 participation and volunteerism as a means of addressing the
7 increasingly complex problems facing Florida's communities.

8 (b) To encourage local community leaders to implement
9 strategies that expand civic participation based on the fact
10 that volunteers represent a valuable and much-needed asset
11 within communities.

12 (c) To promote the concept and practice of corporate
13 citizenship, particularly in communities where such
14 initiatives are less developed.

15 (d) To build the enthusiasm, dedication, and combined
16 expertise of individual citizens and public and private
17 systems to find new and creative ways to effectively use
18 volunteerism and community service as a strategy to meet the
19 challenges facing Florida's communities both now and in the
20 future.

21 (e) To foster the alignment of community volunteer
22 resources with the goals of the state.

23 (f) To implement policy and administrative changes
24 that encourage and enable individuals to participate in
25 volunteer and community service activities.

26 (g) To encourage nonprofit agencies to interweave
27 volunteers into the fabric of their service delivery as a
28 means of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of their
29 services.

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1 (h) To support and promote volunteer service to all
2 citizens as an effective means to address community needs and
3 foster a collective commitment to lifelong community service.

4 (i) To recognize National Volunteer Week as a time to
5 encourage all citizens of Florida to participate in local
6 service projects.

7 (j) To recognize the value of individual volunteers
8 and volunteer and service organizations and programs and to
9 honor and celebrate the success of volunteers.

10 (4) The Florida Commission on Community Service may
11 assist agencies, institutions, and individuals by securing
12 assistance in the form of grants, gifts, or funds from the
13 public or private sector to be used in the implementation of
14 programs pursuant to this act. The Florida Commission on
15 Community Service may also authorize Volunteer Florida, Inc.,
16 the commission's nonprofit direct-support organization, to
17 assist in securing training, technical assistance, and other
18 support needed to accomplish the intent and purposes of this
19 act.

20 Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section
21 14.29, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22 14.29 Florida Commission on Community Service.--

23 (7) The commission shall:

24 (c) Prepare an annual report detailing its activities
25 during the preceding year and, to the extent possible, compile
26 and synthesize any reports that it accepted on behalf of the
27 Governor. The commission's report shall be presented to the
28 Governor no later than January 15, with copies to the
29 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives. The report shall also include specific
31 recommendations for any necessary legislative, administrative,

1 or regulatory reform, and the commission's assessment of the
2 state of volunteerism in Florida.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4 law.

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

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9 Creates the Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act
10 of 2000. Provides legislative intent. Authorizes the
11 state to establish policies and procedures which provide
12 for the expenditure of funds to develop and facilitate
13 initiatives that encourage and reward volunteerism.
14 Provides purposes of the act. Authorizes the Florida
15 Commission on Community Service to provide specified
16 assistance for the implementation of programs pursuant to
17 the act. Expands the scope of an annual report by the
18 Florida Commission on Community Service to include the
19 commission's assessment of the state of volunteerism in
20 Florida.
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