By Senator Hargrett

21-1595-00

1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to international trade;

3   providing for the establishment of the

4   Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Program by

5   Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Florida Export

6   Finance Corporation, and the Florida Seaport

7   Transportation and Economic Development

8   Council; providing for the purposes of the

9   program; providing an effective date.

10

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

12

13   Section 1.   Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Program.--

14   (1)   Enterprise Florida, Inc., the Florida Export

15   Finance Corporation, and the Florida Seaport Transportation

16   and Economic Development Council shall establish the

17   Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Program for the purpose of

18   assisting small and medium-sized businesses to become involved

19   in international activities and help them to identify markets

20   with product demand, identify strategic alliances in those

21   markets, and obtain the financing to effectuate trade

22   opportunities. In addition, the program will assist urban

23   communities in tapping into the state's growth industries,

24   international trade, maritime, transportation, tourism, and

25   information technology. The program will offer export

26   readiness, assistance and referral services, adult job

27   training, career awareness, internships, seminars, workshops,

28   conferences, e-commerce, plus mentoring and matchmaking

29   services.

30   (2)   The program will focus on urban development and

31   job opportunities and seek to create a permanent economic base

1

1 in the urban areas for international trade. The program will

2 also focus on the urban inner-city areas to become platforms

3 on which to provide and develop new support, staging,

4 manufacturing, and service centers within the state.

5   (3) Enterprise Florida, Inc. and the Florida Seaport

6 Transportation and Economic Development Council shall

7 coordinate with appropriate organizations and educational

8 institutions and may contract with individuals or entities

9 considered qualified relative to the development of a

10 comprehensive plan to expand trade between the state and the

11 Caribbean Basin. The coordination may encompass export

12 assistance and referral services, export financing,

13 job-training programs, educational programs, market research

14 and development, market promotion, trade missions, e-commerce,

15 and mentoring and matchmaking services relative to the

16 expansion of trade between the state and the Caribbean Basin.

17 The program will also form alliances with multilateral,

18 international, and domestic funding programs from the state,

19 the United States, and the Caribbean Basin Region to

20 coordinate systems and programs for fundamental assistance in

21 facilitating trade and investment.

22   (4) Enterprise Florida, Inc. and the Florida Seaport

23 Transportation and Economic Development Council may develop

24 and administer other programs they consider advisable and

25 appropriate for the purpose of collecting and disseminating to

26 prospective manufacturers and businesses information regarding

27 export to and from and foreign investment by and in Caribbean

28 Basin nations.

29   Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a

30 law.

31

2

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

```
 1        *****************************************

 2                         SENATE SUMMARY

 3        Provides for the establishment of the Florida-Caribbean
          Basin Trade Program by Enterprise Florida, Inc., the
 4        Florida Export Finance Corporation, and the Florida
          Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council.
 5        Provides for the purposes of the program and the
          responsibilities of the agencies involved.

 6

 7

 8

 9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31
```