

By Representative Littlefield

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to employment of persons with  
3           disabilities; directing the Department of Labor  
4           and Employment Security to develop a program to  
5           increase employment of persons with  
6           disabilities by private-sector businesses;  
7           providing program components; providing an  
8           effective date.  
9

10           WHEREAS, Florida has traditionally failed to receive  
11           its fair share of federal grant moneys relative to its share  
12           of federal taxes paid, and  
13           WHEREAS, encouraging Florida businesses to take  
14           advantage of federal tax credit programs, such as those that  
15           target persons with disabilities, would help rectify this  
16           situation, as well as assist persons with disabilities in  
17           finding employment, and  
18           WHEREAS, engaging the private sector directly in  
19           assisting persons with disabilities to achieve  
20           self-sufficiency through employment offers vastly greater  
21           potential for accommodating such persons' employment needs  
22           than can be offered by government and the voluntary sectors  
23           combined, and  
24           WHEREAS, providing incentives for businesses to create  
25           employment opportunities for persons with disabilities would  
26           reconcile Florida's policy of competitive provision of  
27           services with its policy of assisting with the employment  
28           endeavors of persons with disabilities, and  
29           WHEREAS, increasing private-sector involvement in the  
30           employment of persons with disabilities would reduce the  
31

1 state's overhead in administering other employment programs  
2 for such persons, NOW, THEREFORE,

3  
4 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

5  
6 Section 1. The Department of Labor and Employment  
7 Security is directed to develop and implement a program  
8 designed to increase the participation of private-sector  
9 businesses in providing employment opportunities for persons  
10 with disabilities. The program shall include the following  
11 components:

12 (1) An information component under which the  
13 department and other state agencies shall aggressively inform  
14 business organizations and the general public about federal  
15 and local programs, such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit  
16 Program, that compensate businesses that hire persons with  
17 disabilities.

18 (2) An incentive component under which state-funded  
19 grants or state corporate income tax deductions shall be  
20 provided as incentives to businesses that hire persons with  
21 disabilities.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

23  
24 \*\*\*\*\*

25 HOUSE SUMMARY

26 Directs the Department of Labor and Employment Security  
27 to develop and implement a program designed to increase  
28 employment of persons with disabilities by private-sector  
29 businesses. Provides that program components shall  
30 include providing state-funded grants or state tax  
31 incentives to businesses that hire persons with  
disabilities and informing businesses and the public of  
federal and local programs that compensate such  
businesses.