

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;
and Senator Silver

302-2128-00

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Official Florida
3 Treasures Program; creating s. 265.2867, F.S.;
4 providing legislative intent; creating the
5 Official Florida Treasures Program; authorizing
6 the Department of State to designate an
7 organization that meets specific standards as
8 an Official Florida Treasure; creating the
9 standards to be followed by the department in
10 the review process; authorizing the department
11 to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Section 265.2867, Florida Statutes, is
16 created to read:

17 265.2867 Official Florida Treasures Program.--

18 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to honor the
19 cultural, historical, and social treasures of Florida by
20 encouraging the preservation and public display of objects of
21 significant cultural, historical and social importance to the
22 state. Further, it is the intent of the Legislature to
23 encourage research of the cultures and histories of the
24 various groups that have settled in Florida and to encourage
25 the dissemination of information on these diverse cultures and
26 histories throughout the state. In furtherance of this goal,
27 it is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and honor the
28 museums that make significant contributions to the public by
29 preserving and displaying objects of cultural, historical or
30 social significance and by disseminating important cultural,
31 historical, and social information.

1 (2) There is created within the Department of State
2 the Official Florida Treasures Program. Under this program,
3 the Department of State may designate a museum as an "Official
4 Florida Treasure."

5 (3) An "Official Florida Treasure" is a museum that
6 maintains, preserves and displays for public viewing objects
7 of significant cultural, historical, or social importance,
8 that researches and disseminates information related to the
9 culture and history of one or more of the various groups of
10 people that have settled in Florida, and that has been
11 designated by the Department of State as an organization that
12 meets the requirements of this act.

13 (4) In order for a museum to be designated as an
14 "Official Florida Treasure" by the Department of State that
15 museum must:

16 (a) Be devoted to the maintenance, preservation, and
17 public display of objects of significant cultural, historical,
18 or social value to the state;

19 (b) Be dedicated to preserving the history of any
20 racial, ethnic, or cultural group that has settled in Florida
21 and provide information and actively research or support
22 research related to the history in Florida of that racial,
23 ethnic, or cultural group;

24 (c) Provide for statewide outreach programs and
25 traveling exhibits;

26 (d) Be open to the public and, if memberships in the
27 museum or its support organization are offered, offer
28 memberships to the public regardless of race, ethnicity,
29 color, creed, gender, or national origin;

30 (e) Have strong local and statewide support as
31 evidenced by, but not limited to, participation in the state's

1 Cultural Endowment Program and membership from throughout the
2 state.
3 (f) Be fiscally responsible and financially stable;
4 and
5 (g) Be a recipient of a designation under s. 501(c)(3)
6 of the Internal Revenue Code.
7 (5) The Department of State shall adopt rules to
8 implement this section, including rules prescribing the
9 process by which applications for the designation of "Official
10 Florida Treasure" are made, reviewed, and approved. This
11 process may include the designation of an advisory committee
12 to review applications and make recommendations to the
13 Secretary of State for final determination.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
15 law.

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17 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
19 SB 2524

20 Limits designation of "Official Florida Treasure" to museums.
21 Establishes criteria for designating a museum as an Official
22 Florida Treasure.
23 Establishes department to create review and selection process,
24 including authorizing creation of a committee to review
initial applications and which forwards recommendations to the
Secretary of State for final designation.