

By Representative Barreiro

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to handicapped and elderly  
3           security assistance; providing a short title;  
4           providing legislative intent; providing  
5           definitions; providing for administration of  
6           the handicapped and elderly security assistance  
7           program by the Department of Community Affairs;  
8           providing priorities for award of security  
9           assistance grants; providing requirements for  
10          grant applications; providing for review of  
11          applications; providing for monitoring and  
12          evaluation of security assistance grant  
13          programs; providing for utilization of  
14          donations and grants to implement the act;  
15          providing for funding for operation of the  
16          program; 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. Handicapped and Elderly Security Assistance  
21 Act; legislative intent.--

22           (1) This act may be cited as the "Handicapped and  
23 Elderly Security Assistance Act of 2000."

24           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the  
25 means by which public and private nonprofit housing  
26 authorities that own or operate housing projects for the  
27 handicapped or elderly may apply for and receive financial  
28 assistance, on a priority basis, which assistance will enable  
29 the housing authorities to carry out crime prevention and  
30 security programs designed to reduce the criminal

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1 victimization of, and the resultant fear of crime in,  
2 residents of such housing projects.

3 Section 2. Definitions.--As used in this act, unless  
4 the context otherwise requires, the term:

5 (1) "Anticrime services" or "services" includes, but  
6 is not limited to, such services as security hardware  
7 services, security lighting services, security guard services,  
8 neighborhood watch programs, property identification services,  
9 crime prevention information dissemination services, victim or  
10 witness assistance services, and victim counseling services  
11 aimed at alleviating the emotional and psychological trauma  
12 which may accompany criminal victimization.

13 (2) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Community Assistance  
14 of the Division of Housing and Community Development of the  
15 Department of Community Affairs.

16 (3) "Elderly" describes a person who is 62 years of  
17 age or older.

18 (4) "Handicapped" describes a person who:

19 (a) Has a physical or mental impairment which is  
20 expected to be of long, continued, and indefinite duration and  
21 which substantially impedes such person's ability to live  
22 independently;

23 (b) Is unable to engage in any substantial gainful  
24 activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or  
25 mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or  
26 which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous  
27 period of not less than 12 months; or

28 (c) Is 55 years of age or older, is legally blind, and  
29 is unable by reason of such blindness to engage in a gainful  
30 activity requiring skills or abilities comparable to those of  
31 any gainful activity in which such person has previously

1 engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of  
2 time.

3 (5) "Housing authority" means any public or private  
4 nonprofit housing authority, by whatever name known, that owns  
5 or operates an eligible housing project.

6 (6) "Housing project" means:

7 (a) Any housing project owned or operated by a public  
8 housing authority, 85 percent or more of the tenancy of which  
9 housing project is made up of elderly or handicapped persons;  
10 or

11 (b) Any private nonprofit housing project financed by  
12 a mortgage loan that is made or insured by the United States  
13 Department of Housing and Urban Development under s. 202 of  
14 the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, or s. 236 of the National  
15 Housing Act of 1934, as those sections apply to rental housing  
16 programs for lower-income elderly and handicapped persons.

17 (7) "Target area" means the housing project for which  
18 application is being made; the grounds associated with the  
19 housing project; and the immediately surrounding area  
20 contiguous to the housing project or within easy walking  
21 distance of the housing project, not to exceed 1/4 mile in any  
22 direction from the outer boundary of the housing project.

23 Section 3. Handicapped and elderly security assistance  
24 program; administration; rules.--

25 (1) The Department of Community Affairs, through the  
26 Bureau of Community Assistance, shall administer the  
27 handicapped and elderly security assistance program  
28 established under section 9, provide for review of all  
29 applications for security assistance grants received under  
30 this act, make final determinations with respect to the  
31 issuance or denial of such grants, and provide for regular

1 monitoring and evaluation of those projects for which grants  
2 are awarded to ensure the efficacious use of moneys received  
3 from the fund.  
4 (2) To the extent that the department receives  
5 completed applications from a county which collects surcharges  
6 and costs pursuant to ss. 938.09 and 938.11, Florida Statutes,  
7 and as consistent with the priorities for award of security  
8 assistance grants contained in section 4, the department shall  
9 approve grants to a county in an amount equal to that county's  
10 contribution to the handicapped and elderly security  
11 assistance program, less a pro rata portion of the  
12 department's administrative costs.  
13 (3) The Department of Community Affairs is authorized  
14 to adopt all rules necessary to provide for the orderly  
15 administration and implementation of this act, including rules  
16 governing the approval or disapproval of applications for  
17 security assistance grants.  
18 Section 4. Handicapped and elderly security assistance  
19 program objectives; priorities for award of security  
20 assistance grants.--  
21 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to enable  
22 housing authorities that operate housing projects in this  
23 state which serve the handicapped and the elderly to become  
24 involved in activities that are designed to prevent criminal  
25 activity against residents in such housing projects and reduce  
26 such residents' fear of being criminally victimized in and  
27 around their homes.  
28 (2) In awarding security assistance grants to eligible  
29 applicants under this act, the bureau shall establish  
30 priorities based upon the following considerations:  
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1       (a) The demonstrated need for such security  
2 assistance, as evidenced by:

3           1. The crime rate in the target area, as compared to  
4 the crime rate in contiguous and nearby areas, with particular  
5 emphasis upon the percentage of crimes committed within the  
6 preceding 5 years against the handicapped and the elderly,  
7 when such a demographic breakdown is possible.

8           2. The unavailability of sufficient alternative  
9 funding necessary to initiate or complete the activities as  
10 the activities are envisioned in the proposed program design.

11       (b) The likelihood that alternative funding resources  
12 will be available to partially fund the initial costs of the  
13 proposed program or will become available to continue to fund  
14 the program after it has become established.

15       (c) The submission by the applicant of a proposal for  
16 the establishment of services within the framework of a  
17 program design which:

18           1. Establishes new and innovative anticrime services  
19 in the target area which are cost-effective and either have  
20 future alternative funding possibilities or require initial  
21 funding only, such as security hardware or equipment  
22 purchases, or which strengthen or expand existing anticrime  
23 services in the target area, when such services have proved  
24 cost-effective within the current funding limitations for such  
25 services and when it can be shown with reasonable certainty  
26 that there is a need for such strengthening or expansion.

27           2. Places emphasis upon direct  
28 crime-prevention-related services which do not duplicate  
29 existing services available within the social service system.

30           3. Provides for the effective utilization of existing  
31 services available within the social service system, when

1 appropriate and practicable, in correlation with services to  
2 be provided by the applicant.

3 4. Encourages the use of volunteers, when appropriate  
4 and practicable.

5 5. Demonstrates cost-effectiveness.

6 6. Establishes measurable objectives and provides for  
7 the establishment of an effective data collection system and a  
8 method for the verification of service delivery.

9 7. Establishes the likelihood of the program having a  
10 measurable, significant, and broad impact upon the handicapped  
11 and elderly population within the target area, with respect to  
12 crime prevention and the provision of security against crime.

13 8. Provides for the monitoring and evaluation of the  
14 anticrime services that are to be provided by the applicant,  
15 in accordance with requirements of the bureau.

16 Section 5. Applications for security assistance  
17 grants; preparation and submission.--

18 (1) The bureau shall prepare, for dissemination to  
19 potential applicants for security assistance grants upon  
20 request, a booklet containing application forms and complete  
21 instructions to applicants, including detailed guidelines for  
22 preparation of applications for security assistance grants.  
23 Pursuant thereto, the bureau shall develop and establish  
24 requirements for the completion of such applications,  
25 including requirements for the following components:

26 (a) General administrative information  
27 component.--This component shall include general information  
28 useful to the bureau in its deliberations, and it may include  
29 such information and supplemental material as:

30 1. The name and address of the applicant;  
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- 1           2. The name, address, and telephone number of the  
2 contact person handling the application;
- 3           3. The name, address, and telephone number of the  
4 proposed program director and any other authorized person who  
5 will have authority for accounting, management of funds,  
6 verification of expenditures, or preparation of reports  
7 related to the program, if the proposed program director or  
8 other authorized person is different from the person listed  
9 under subparagraph 2.;
- 10           4. The title and a brief description, in 25 words or  
11 less, of the proposed security program;
- 12           5. Photographs, a map, and a brief description of the  
13 target area;
- 14           6. The estimated number of persons who will benefit  
15 from the program;
- 16           7. The starting date for the program;
- 17           8. A narrative summary, in 200 words or less, of the  
18 proposed security program; and
- 19           9. Any other similar information or supplemental  
20 material that may be requested by the bureau.
- 21           (b) Program plan and supporting data component.--This  
22 component shall include:
- 23           1. A narrative statement, in 200 words or less, of the  
24 problem that the program is designed to alleviate, with  
25 supporting data and documentation thereof;
- 26           2. A step-by-step plan for program development,  
27 including a listing of planned activities and a timetable for  
28 the program development;
- 29           3. Specification of measurable program objectives;
- 30           4. A plan for the monitoring and evaluation of the  
31 program; and

1           5. A listing of additional actual or potential  
2 resources which may be available, or may become available, to  
3 fund the program.  
4           (c) Budget component.--This component shall include:  
5           1. A listing of estimated costs, when applicable, for  
6 indirect costs of the program and for personnel, professional  
7 services including contract and consultant services, travel,  
8 hardware and equipment, construction, and other operating  
9 expenses of the program;  
10           2. A budget narrative that contains justification for,  
11 and an explanation of, the items shown in the listing  
12 submitted under subparagraph 1.; that specifies criteria and  
13 data used to arrive at estimates; and that provides such  
14 further breakdown or detail of any budget figure as may be  
15 needed to ensure understanding of the manner in which the  
16 budget figure was computed; and  
17           3. A fiscal questionnaire prepared by the bureau and  
18 designed to provide additional relevant information directly  
19 or indirectly related to the budget, which information will  
20 assist the bureau in its deliberations, such as information  
21 related to the selection and procurement methods to be  
22 utilized by the applicant, further explanation as to any  
23 additional actual or potential resources which may be  
24 utilized, and so forth.  
25           (d) Compliance component.--This component shall  
26 specify all reporting requirements and all conditions and  
27 restrictions applicable to the awarding and administration of  
28 security assistance grants, to be acknowledged by the  
29 notarized signature of the program director, or of the  
30 authorized official who will have ultimate authority for  
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1 accounting, management of funds, verification of expenditures,  
2 and preparation of financial reports.

3 (2) Any housing authority that wishes to apply for a  
4 security assistance grant under this act shall obtain from the  
5 bureau an application booklet as described in subsection (1),  
6 shall complete all sections of the application as required,  
7 and shall provide any supporting information or material  
8 required by the bureau pursuant to the application. Each  
9 application shall be submitted to the bureau at least 60 days  
10 prior to the requested starting date that is set forth in the  
11 timetable of planned activities. Each application also shall  
12 contain a resolution from the local governmental unit in which  
13 the eligible housing project is located, which resolution  
14 certifies that the proposed program is consistent with local  
15 plans and regulations.

16 Section 6. Review of applications for security  
17 assistance grants.--The bureau shall develop a numerical  
18 scoring system based upon the priorities established in  
19 accordance with section 4 to assess quantitatively each  
20 application for a security assistance grant submitted to the  
21 bureau. The Secretary of Community Affairs shall appoint a  
22 five-member screening committee of qualified individuals who  
23 are not associated with the bureau, which committee shall  
24 programmatically and fiscally review every application  
25 submitted and shall evaluate each such application utilizing  
26 the numerical scoring system developed by the bureau. Any  
27 application scoring below a preset score, as determined by the  
28 bureau, shall be eliminated. Any remaining applications then  
29 shall be submitted to a technical review by the bureau. Each  
30 stage of the review process and procedures for final decision  
31 on, and approval of, applications shall be in accordance with

1 the criteria, and within the maximum funding levels,  
2 established by the Department of Community Affairs.

3       Section 7. Monitoring and evaluation of security  
4 assistance grant programs.--The Department of Community  
5 Affairs, through the Bureau of Community Assistance, shall  
6 monitor each program for which a security assistance grant is  
7 awarded under this act, to ensure that resources are being  
8 utilized in the manner proposed in the grant application as  
9 approved.

10       Section 8. Implementation of this act; utilization of  
11 donations and grants.--The Bureau of Community Assistance of  
12 the Division of Housing and Community Development of the  
13 Department of Community Affairs has the power to seek, and  
14 make effective utilization of, such financial assistance as  
15 may be available for the implementation of this act. Pursuant  
16 to such power, the bureau may seek and accept, for any of its  
17 purposes and functions under this act, any and all donations  
18 and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, or  
19 services, conditional or otherwise, from the Federal  
20 Government or any local government, or any agency thereof, or  
21 from any person, firm, association, foundation, or  
22 corporation; and the bureau may receive, utilize, and dispose  
23 of such donations and grants as provided in this act, subject  
24 to the terms, conditions, and regulations governing such  
25 donations, gifts, and grants.

26       Section 9. Handicapped and elderly security assistance  
27 program.--There is created the handicapped and elderly  
28 security assistance program, for the purpose of providing  
29 assistance grants to eligible applicants as provided in this  
30 act. The Department of Community Affairs, through its Bureau  
31 of Community Assistance, shall administer the program. All

1 necessary and proper expenses of the bureau incurred by the  
2 operation of this section shall also be paid from funds  
3 appropriated for the program.

4 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

8  
9 Creates the "Handicapped and Elderly Security Assistance  
10 Act of 2000." Provides definitions. Provides for  
11 administration of a program of crime prevention  
12 assistance to elderly and handicapped residents of  
13 housing projects. Provides for security assistance grants  
14 for anticrime services provided under the program.  
15 Provides for administration of the program, including  
16 review of grant applications and monitoring and  
17 evaluation of services, by the Bureau of Community  
18 Assistance of the Division of Housing and Community  
19 Development of the Department of Community Affairs.  
20 Provides for utilization of donations and grants to  
21 implement the act, and for funding of the expenses of the  
22 bureau.  
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