

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to economic development;
3 creating the Community and Faith-based
4 Organizations initiative within the Institute
5 on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida
6 Agricultural and Mechanical University;
7 providing for the initiative to promote
8 community development through partnerships with
9 community and faith-based organizations;
10 specifying the activities to be conducted by
11 the initiative; providing for financial
12 assistance to community and faith-based
13 organizations; requiring the development of
14 grant-selection criteria; requiring leveraging
15 of funds; creating the Community and Library
16 Technology Access Partnership; specifying the
17 activities to be conducted by the partnership;
18 requiring the Institute on Urban Policy and
19 Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
20 University to administer the initiative and the
21 Division of Library and Information Services of
22 the Department of State to administer the
23 Community and Library Technology Access
24 Partnership; authorizing certain activities and
25 uses of funds; prescribing eligibility of
26 organizations for funding or assistance;
27 requiring review and evaluation; providing
28 appropriations; creating a community
29 computer-access grant program, to be known as
30 the Community High-Technology Investment
31 Partnership, or "CHIP," program; providing

1 purposes of the program; providing for program
2 administration pursuant to a performance-based
3 contract; providing for performance measures;
4 providing for grants to be awarded to eligible
5 neighborhood facilities; providing requirements
6 for grant applications; prescribing the maximum
7 amount of a grant; requiring a grant agreement
8 between the institute and the recipient
9 facility; providing for establishing minimum
10 specifications of computers purchased under the
11 program; providing for an evaluation and a
12 report; authorizing the institute to
13 subcontract for specified assistance services;
14 creating an inner city redevelopment assistance
15 grants program; providing duties of the Office
16 of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;
17 prescribing eligibility requirements for
18 grants; providing expected outcomes from
19 grants; creating the Inner City Redevelopment
20 Review Panel and providing its membership and
21 duties; providing legislative findings;
22 amending s. 331.368, F.S.; expanding the
23 purpose of the Florida Space Research
24 Institute; revising the membership of the
25 institute; prescribing additional duties of the
26 institute; creating the Space Industry
27 Workforce Initiative; requiring the Workforce
28 Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc.,
29 to develop initiatives to address the workforce
30 needs of the industry; prescribing criteria;
31 requiring the board to convene industry

1 representatives; requiring a report; providing
2 for the establishment of the Florida-Caribbean
3 Basin Trade Initiative by the Seaport
4 Employment Training Grant Program contingent
5 upon a specific appropriation; providing
6 purpose of the initiative; providing
7 responsibilities of the Seaport Employment
8 Training Grant Program; providing for a
9 performance-based contract with the Office of
10 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;
11 amending s. 212.08, F.S.; providing an
12 exemption from the tax on sales, use, and other
13 transactions for building materials used in the
14 construction of certain single-family homes
15 located in an enterprise zone, empowerment
16 zone, or Front Porch Florida Community;
17 providing an exemption from the tax on sales,
18 use, and other transactions for building
19 materials used in the construction of specified
20 redevelopment projects; providing requirements
21 for refund applications; providing for rules;
22 directing the agencies involved with specified
23 housing programs to give priority consideration
24 to specified projects in urban-core
25 neighborhoods; directing the Department of
26 Community Affairs to propose modifications to
27 the Brownfields Redevelopment Act and other
28 economic incentives for consideration by the
29 Legislature; providing an effective date.

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1 WHEREAS, many community and faith-based organizations
2 are providing a new focus on economic uplift in Florida's poor
3 and most vulnerable neighborhoods, and

4 WHEREAS, these nonprofit organizations have local
5 experts who serve in leadership roles by assisting individuals
6 to move from dependency to self-sufficiency and restoring the
7 lives of residents in Florida's most distressed communities,
8 and

9 WHEREAS, crime, drug addiction, teenage pregnancy,
10 homelessness, and juvenile delinquency, the most notable
11 indicators of a distressed community, are being addressed by
12 small, and sometimes unrecognized, community and faith-based
13 organizations, and

14 WHEREAS, the leadership and expertise of these
15 organizations should not be ignored, and

16 WHEREAS, a recognized effort to empower community and
17 faith-based organizations, encourage community revitalization,
18 and implement educational reform will help those who reside in
19 inner cities and distressed rural communities to gain their
20 share of the state's resources, and

21 WHEREAS, residents of low income communities lack
22 access to technology, the internet, and computer literacy
23 needed to succeed in Florida's emerging information-based
24 economy, and

25 WHEREAS, Florida public libraries eligible for e-rate
26 discounts have the capacity to partner effectively with
27 community and faith-based organizations and agencies to
28 provide technology access and training to assist in closing
29 the digital divide, NOW, THEREFORE,

30

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

1 Section 1. Community and Faith-based Organizations
2 Initiative; Community and Library Technology Access
3 Partnership.--

4 (1) CREATION.--There is created the Community and
5 Faith-based Organizations Initiative which shall be
6 administered by the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at
7 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and the
8 Community and Library Technology Access Partnership which
9 shall be administered by the Division of Library and
10 Information Services of the Department of State.

11 (2) INTENT.--The purpose of the initiative is to
12 promote community development in low-income communities
13 through partnerships with not-for-profit community and
14 faith-based organizations. The purpose of the partnership is
15 to encourage public libraries eligible for e-rate discounted
16 telecommunications services to partner with community and
17 faith-based organizations to provide technology access and
18 training to assist other state efforts to close the digital
19 divide.

20 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.--

21 (a) Authorized activities of the initiative.--The
22 Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural
23 and Mechanical University may conduct the following activities
24 as part of the Community and Faith-based Organizations
25 Initiative:

26 1. Create and operate training programs to enhance the
27 professional skills of individuals in community and
28 faith-based organizations.

29 2. Create and operate a program to select and place
30 students and recent graduates from business and related
31 professional schools as interns with community and faith-based

1 organizations for a period not to exceed 1 year, and provide
2 stipends for such interns.

3 3. Organize an annual conference for community and
4 faith-based organizations to discuss and share information on
5 best practices regarding issues relevant to the creation,
6 operation, and sustainability of these organizations.

7 4. Provide funding for the development of materials
8 for courses on topics in the area of community development,
9 and for research on economic, operational, and policy issues
10 relating to community development.

11 5. Provide financial assistance to community and
12 faith-based organizations through small grants for
13 partnerships with universities and the operation of programs
14 to build strong communities and future community development
15 leaders. The Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida
16 Agricultural and Mechanical University shall develop selection
17 criteria for awarding such grants which are based on the goals
18 of the initiative.

19
20 The institute, to the maximum extent possible, shall leverage
21 state funding for the initiative with any federal funding that
22 the institute may receive to support similar community-based
23 activities.

24 (b) Authorized activities of the partnership.--The
25 Division of Library and Information Services of the Department
26 of State may conduct the following activities as part of the
27 Community and Library Technology Access Partnership:

28 1. Provide funding for e-rate eligible public
29 libraries to provide technology access and training to
30 community and faith-based organizations. Funding provided
31 under this subparagraph must be for eligible public libraries

1 in distressed communities in the state. The division shall
2 consult with the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce to
3 identify such communities and to develop criteria to be used
4 in evaluating funding proposals. The division shall coordinate
5 with the institute to ensure that, to the maximum extent
6 possible, the division and the institute leverage their
7 resources under the programs authorized by this section in
8 order to focus efforts on addressing the most distressed
9 communities in the state. The division shall include a
10 representative of the institute on a review team to evaluate
11 funding proposals under this subparagraph.

12 2. Provide a method of assessment and outcome
13 measurement for e-rate eligible public libraries to assess
14 progress in closing the digital divide and in training for
15 individuals to succeed in the emerging information economy.

16 (4) ELIGIBILITY.--A community or faith-based
17 organization receiving funding or other assistance under the
18 Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative or the
19 Community Library Technology Access Partnership must be a
20 nonprofit organization holding a current exemption from
21 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal
22 Revenue Code. Funding under this section shall not be used for
23 religious or sectarian purposes.

24 (5) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.--

25 (a) By January 1, 2001, the Institute on Urban Policy
26 and Commerce and the Division of Library and Information
27 Services shall submit to the Governor, the President of the
28 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives brief
29 status reports on their respective implementation of the
30 activities authorized under this section. The institute and
31 the division may elect to collaborate on the submission of a

1 combined status report covering both programs. At a minimum,
2 the status reports or combined report shall address:

- 3 1. The activities and accomplishments to date;
4 2. Any impediments to the effective implementation or
5 utilization of each program; and
6 3. The initial progress toward achievement of
7 measurable program outcomes.

8 (b) By January 1, 2002, the Institute on Urban Policy
9 and Commerce and the Division of Library and Information
10 Services shall submit to the Governor, the President of the
11 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives final
12 reports on the activities authorized under this section. The
13 institute and the division may elect to collaborate on the
14 submission of a combined final report covering both programs.
15 In addition to updating the elements addressed under paragraph
16 (a), the reports or combined report shall include
17 recommendations on whether it would be sound public policy to
18 continue the programs and recommendations on any changes
19 designed to enhance the effectiveness of the programs.

20 Section 2. Community computer access grant program.--
21 (1) The Legislature finds that there is a growing
22 digital divide in the state, manifested in the fact that many
23 youths from distressed urban communities do not possess the
24 degree and ease of access to computers and information
25 technologies which youths in other communities in the state
26 possess. This disparity in access to rapidly changing and
27 commercially significant technologies has a negative impact on
28 the educational, workforce development, and employment
29 competitiveness of these needy youths, and thereby impedes the
30 economic development of the distressed urban communities in
31 which these youths reside. Although many public libraries

1 offer users access to computers and are increasingly making
2 library materials available to the public through electronic
3 means, many youths from distressed urban communities do not
4 live near a library that has such technology and do not have
5 computers to access Internet-based virtual libraries.
6 Neighborhood organizations, such as churches, are more likely,
7 however, to be located in closer proximity to the homes of
8 these youths than are educational institutions or libraries,
9 and these youths are more likely to gain the desirable
10 computer access at church-related or other neighborhood
11 facilities than at other institutions. The Legislature
12 therefore finds that a public purpose is served in enhancing
13 the ability of youths from these communities to have access to
14 computers and the Internet within the neighborhoods in which
15 they reside.

16 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, there is
17 created the Community High-Technology Investment Partnership
18 (CHIP) program to assist distressed urban communities in
19 securing computers for access by youths between the ages of 5
20 years and 18 years who reside in these communities. The
21 program shall be administered by the Institute on Urban Policy
22 and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
23 pursuant to a performance-based contract with the Division of
24 Library and Information Services of the Department of State.
25 The division shall develop performance measures, standards,
26 and sanctions for the program. Performance measures must
27 include, but are not limited to: the number of youth obtaining
28 access to computers purchased under this program; the number
29 of hours computers are made available to youth; and the number
30 of hours spent by youth on computers purchased under this
31 program for educational purposes. The administrative costs for

1 administration of this program cannot exceed 10 percent of the
2 amount appropriated to the division for the program.

3 (3)(a) Under this program, neighborhood facilities,
4 through their governing bodies, may apply to the institute for
5 grants to purchase computers that will be available for use by
6 eligible youths who reside in the immediate vicinity of the
7 neighborhood facility. For purposes of this program, eligible
8 neighborhood facilities include, but are not limited to,
9 facilities operated by:

10 1. Units of local government, including school
11 districts;

12 2. Nonprofit, faith-based organizations, including
13 neighborhood churches;

14 3. Nonprofit civic associations or homeowners'
15 associations; and

16 4. Nonprofit organizations, the missions of which
17 include improving conditions for residents of distressed urban
18 communities.

19
20 To be eligible for funding under this program, a nonprofit
21 organization or association must hold a current exemption from
22 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal
23 Revenue Code.

24 (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility of the
25 organizations identified in paragraph (a), the institute shall
26 give priority consideration for funding under this program to
27 applications submitted by neighborhood churches or by
28 neighborhood-based, nonprofit organizations that have as a
29 principal part of their missions the improvement of conditions
30 for residents of the same neighborhoods in which the
31 organizations are located. The institute also shall give

1 priority consideration to organizations that demonstrate that
2 they have not been awarded community enhancement or similar
3 community support grants from state or local government on a
4 regular basis in the past. The institute shall develop
5 weighted criteria to be used in evaluating applications from
6 such churches or organizations. Funding under this section
7 shall not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

8 (4) The institute shall develop guidelines governing
9 the administration of this program and shall establish
10 criteria to be used in evaluating an application for funding.
11 At a minimum, the institute must find that:

12 (a) The neighborhood that is to be served by the grant
13 suffers from general economic distress;

14 (b) Eligible youths who reside in the vicinity of the
15 neighborhood facility have difficulty obtaining access to a
16 library or schools that have sufficient computers; and

17 (c) The neighborhood facility has developed a detailed
18 plan, as required under subsection (5), for:

19 1. Providing youths who reside in the vicinity of the
20 facility with access to any computer purchased with grant
21 funds, including evening and weekend access when libraries and
22 schools are closed; and

23 2. Promoting the maximum participation of neighborhood
24 youths in use of any computers purchased with grant funds.

25 (5) As part of an application for funding, the
26 neighborhood facility must submit a plan that demonstrates:

27 (a) The manner in which eligible youths who reside in
28 the immediate vicinity of the facility will be provided with
29 access to any computer purchased with grant funds, including
30 access during hours when libraries and schools are closed;

31

1 (b) The existence of safeguards to ensure that any
2 computer purchased with grant funds is reserved for the
3 educational use of eligible youths who reside in the immediate
4 vicinity of the facility and is not used to support the
5 business operations of the neighborhood facility or its
6 governing body; and

7 (c) The existence, in the neighborhood facility, of
8 telecommunications infrastructure necessary to guarantee
9 access to the Internet through any computer purchased with
10 grant funds.

11 (6) To the maximum extent possible, funding shall be
12 awarded under this program in a manner designed to ensure the
13 participation of distressed urban communities from regions
14 throughout the state.

15 (7) The maximum amount of a grant which may be awarded
16 to any single neighborhood facility under this program is
17 \$25,000.

18 (8) Before the institute may allocate funds for a
19 grant under this program, the institute and the eligible
20 neighborhood facility must execute a grant agreement that
21 governs the terms and conditions of the grant.

22 (9) The institute, based upon guidance from the State
23 Technology Office and the state's Chief Information Officer,
24 shall establish minimum requirements governing the
25 specifications and capabilities of any computers purchased
26 with funds awarded under this grant program.

27 (10) Before the 2002 Regular Session of the
28 Legislature, the institute shall evaluate the outcomes of this
29 program and report the results of the evaluation to the
30 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
31 House of Representatives. At a minimum, the evaluation must

1 assess the extent to which the program has improved access to
2 computers for youths who reside in distressed urban
3 communities. As part of this report, the institute shall
4 identify any impediments to the effective implementation and
5 utilization of the program and shall make recommendations on
6 methods to eliminate any such impediments. In addition, the
7 institute shall make recommendations as to whether it would be
8 sound public policy to continue the program; whether the
9 program should be expanded to address additional target
10 populations, including, but not limited to, youths in
11 distressed rural communities and adults in distressed urban or
12 rural communities; and whether the list of neighborhood
13 facilities eligible to participate in the program should be
14 revised or whether priority consideration for funding should
15 be revised to emphasize a particular type of neighborhood
16 facility. The report required under this subsection must be
17 submitted by January 1, 2002.

18 (11) The institute may subcontract with the
19 Information Service Technology Development Task Force for
20 assistance in carrying out the provisions of this section,
21 including, but not limited to, technical guidance, assistance
22 in developing and evaluating program outcomes, and preparation
23 or distribution of materials designed to educate the public
24 about community access centers and other relevant resources.

25 Section 3. There is created an Inner City
26 Redevelopment Assistance Grants Program to be administered by
27 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The
28 office shall develop criteria for awarding these grants which
29 give weighted consideration to urban high-crime areas as
30 identified by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. These

31

1 criteria shall also be weighted to immediate creation of jobs
2 for residents in the targeted areas.

3 Section 4. Eligibility requirements for grant
4 proposals are as follows:

5 (1) An eligible grant recipient must serve within one
6 of the 13 urban high-crime job tax credit areas and be:

7 (a) A community-based organization;

8 (b) A community development corporation;

9 (c) A faith-based organization;

10 (d) A nonprofit community development organization;

11 (e) A nonprofit economic development organization; or

12 (f) Another nonprofit organization serving the
13 nominated area.

14 (2) Each applicant must submit a letter of support
15 from the local government serving the targeted urban area.

16 (3) Each applicant must submit a proposal response
17 outlining the work plan proposed using the grant funding, as
18 well as proposed performance measures and expected, measurable
19 outcomes.

20 (4) Eligible uses of grant funding must result in the
21 creation of job opportunities for residents of targeted areas.

22 (5) Applicants are urged to leverage grant funds with
23 other existing resources.

24 Section 5. In order to enhance public participation
25 and involvement in the redevelopment of inner city areas,
26 there is created within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
27 Economic Development the Inner City Redevelopment Review
28 Panel.

29 (1) The review panel shall consist of seven members
30 who represent different areas of the state, who are appointed
31 by the Director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic

1 Development, and who are qualified, through the demonstration
2 of special interest, experience, or education, in the
3 redevelopment of the state's inner-city areas, as follows:

4 (a) One member must be affiliated with the Black
5 Business Investment Board;

6 (b) One member must be affiliated with the Institute
7 on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and
8 Mechanical University;

9 (c) One member must be affiliated with the Office of
10 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development;

11 (d) One member must be the president of Enterprise
12 Florida, Inc., or the president's designee;

13 (e) One member must be the Secretary of Community
14 Affairs or the secretary's designee;

15 (f) One member must be affiliated with Better
16 Jobs/Better Wages of Workforce Florida, Inc., if such body is
17 created. Otherwise, one member must be the president and chief
18 operating officer of the Florida Workforce Development Board;
19 and

20 (g) One member must be affiliated with the First
21 Job/First Wages Council of Workforce Florida, Inc., if such
22 body is created. Otherwise, one member must be the Secretary
23 of Labor and Employment Security or the secretary's designee.

24 (2) The importance of minority and gender
25 representation must be considered when making appointments to
26 the panel, and the geographic representation of panel members
27 must also be considered.

28 (3) Members of the review panel shall be appointed for
29 4-year terms. A person may not serve more than two consecutive
30 terms on the panel.

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1 (4) Members shall elect a chairperson annually. A
2 member may not be elected to consecutive terms as chairperson.

3 (5) All action taken by the review panel shall be by
4 majority vote of those present. The Director of the Office of
5 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development or the director's
6 designee shall serve without voting rights as secretary to the
7 panel. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
8 shall provide necessary staff assistance to the panel.

9 (6) It is the responsibility of the panel to evaluate
10 proposals for awards of inner city redevelopment grants
11 administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
12 Development. The panel shall review and evaluate all proposals
13 for grants and shall make recommendations, including a
14 priority ranking, reflecting such evaluation.

15 Section 6. Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.--

16 (1) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the
17 Seaport Employment Training Grant Program (STEP) shall
18 establish and administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade
19 Initiative for the purpose of assisting small and medium-sized
20 businesses to become involved in international activities and
21 helping them to identify markets with product demand, identify
22 strategic alliances in those markets, and obtain the financing
23 to effectuate trade opportunities in the Caribbean Basin. The
24 initiative must focus assistance to businesses located in
25 urban communities. The initiative shall offer export
26 readiness, assistance and referral services, internships,
27 seminars, workshops, conferences, and e-commerce plus
28 mentoring and matchmaking services, but shall coordinate with
29 and not duplicate those services provided by Enterprise
30 Florida, Inc.

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1 (2) To enhance initiative effectiveness and leverage
2 resources, STEP shall coordinate initiative activities with
3 Enterprise Florida, Inc., United States Export Assistance
4 Centers, Florida Export Finance Corporation, Florida Trade
5 Data Center, Small Business Development Centers, and any other
6 organizations STEP deems appropriate. The coordination may
7 encompass export assistance and referral services, export
8 financing, job-training programs, educational programs, market
9 research and development, market promotion, trade missions,
10 e-commerce, and mentoring and matchmaking services relative to
11 the expansion of trade between Florida and the Caribbean
12 Basin. The initiative shall also form alliances with
13 multilateral, international, and domestic funding programs
14 from Florida, the United States, and the Caribbean Basin to
15 coordinate systems and programs for fundamental assistance in
16 facilitating trade and investment.

17 (3) STEP shall administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin
18 Trade Initiative pursuant to a performance-based contract with
19 the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. The
20 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall
21 develop performance measures, standards, and sanctions for the
22 initiative. Performance measures must include, but are not
23 limited to, the number of businesses assisted; the number of
24 urban businesses assisted; and the increase in value of
25 exports to the Caribbean which is attributable to the
26 initiative.

27 Section 7. Paragraphs (n) and (o) are added to
28 subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, to read:

29 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution,
30 and storage tax; specified exemptions.--The sale at retail,
31 the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and

1 the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the
2 following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed
3 by this chapter.

4 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.--

5 (n) Materials for construction of single-family homes
6 in certain areas.--

7 1. As used in this paragraph, the term:

8 a. "Building materials" means tangible personal
9 property that becomes a component part of a qualified home.

10 b. "Qualified home" means a single-family home having
11 an appraised value of no more than \$160,000 which is located
12 in an enterprise zone, empowerment zone, or Front Porch
13 Florida Community and which is constructed and occupied by the
14 owner thereof for residential purposes.

15 c. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as
16 provided in s. 192.042(1).

17 2. Building materials used in the construction of a
18 qualified home and the costs of labor associated with the
19 construction of a qualified home are exempt from the tax
20 imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the
21 satisfaction of the department that the requirements of this
22 paragraph have been met. This exemption inures to the owner
23 through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive this
24 refund, the owner must file an application under oath with the
25 department which includes:

26 a. The name and address of the owner.

27 b. The address and assessment roll parcel number of
28 the home for which a refund is sought.

29 c. A copy of the building permit issued for the home.

30 d. A certification by the local building inspector
31 that the home is substantially completed.

1 e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from
2 the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the
3 owner contracted to construct the home, which statement lists
4 the building materials used in the construction of the home
5 and the actual cost thereof, the labor costs associated with
6 such construction, and the amount of sales tax paid on these
7 materials and labor costs. If a general contractor was not
8 used, the owner shall provide this information in a sworn
9 statement, under penalty of perjury. Copies of invoices
10 evidencing payment of sales tax must be attached to the sworn
11 statement.

12 f. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from
13 the owner affirming that he or she is occupying the home for
14 residential purposes.

15 3. An application for a refund under this paragraph
16 must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the
17 date the home is deemed to be substantially completed by the
18 local building inspector. Within 30 working days after receipt
19 of the application, the department shall determine if it meets
20 the requirements of this paragraph. A refund approved pursuant
21 to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after formal
22 approval of the application by the department. The provisions
23 of s. 212.095 do not apply to any refund application made
24 under this paragraph.

25 4. The department shall establish by rule an
26 application form and criteria for establishing eligibility for
27 exemption under this paragraph.

28 5. The exemption shall apply to purchases of materials
29 on or after July 1, 2000.

30 (o) Building materials in redevelopment projects.--

31 1. As used in this paragraph, the term:

1 a. "Building materials" means tangible personal
2 property that becomes a component part of a housing project or
3 a mixed-use project.

4 b. "Housing project" means the conversion of an
5 existing manufacturing or industrial building to housing units
6 in an urban high-crime area, enterprise zone, empowerment
7 zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield area, or
8 urban infill area and in which the developer agrees to set
9 aside at least 20 percent of the housing units in the project
10 for low-income and moderate-income persons.

11 c. "Mixed-use project" means the conversion of an
12 existing manufacturing or industrial building to mixed-use
13 units that include artists' studios, art and entertainment
14 services, or other compatible uses. A mixed-use project must
15 be located in an urban high-crime area, enterprise zone,
16 empowerment zone, Front Porch Community, designated brownfield
17 area, or urban infill area and the developer must agree to set
18 aside at least 20 percent of the square footage of the project
19 for low-income and moderate-income housing.

20 d. "Substantially completed" has the same meaning as
21 provided in s. 192.042(1).

22 2. Building materials used in the construction of a
23 housing project or mixed-use project are exempt from the tax
24 imposed by this chapter upon an affirmative showing to the
25 satisfaction of the department that the requirements of this
26 paragraph have been met. This exemption inures to the owner
27 through a refund of previously paid taxes. To receive this
28 refund, the owner must file an application under oath with the
29 department which includes:

30 a. The name and address of the owner.
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1 b. The address and assessment roll parcel number of
2 the project for which a refund is sought.

3 c. A copy of the building permit issued for the
4 project.

5 d. A certification by the local building inspector
6 that the project is substantially completed.

7 e. A sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, from
8 the general contractor licensed in this state with whom the
9 owner contracted to construct the project, which statement
10 lists the building materials used in the construction of the
11 project and the actual cost thereof, and the amount of sales
12 tax paid on these materials. If a general contractor was not
13 used, the owner shall provide this information in a sworn
14 statement, under penalty of perjury. Copies of invoices
15 evidencing payment of sales tax must be attached to the sworn
16 statement.

17 3. An application for a refund under this paragraph
18 must be submitted to the department within 6 months after the
19 date the project is deemed to be substantially completed by
20 the local building inspector. Within 30 working days after
21 receipt of the application, the department shall determine if
22 it meets the requirements of this paragraph. A refund approved
23 pursuant to this paragraph shall be made within 30 days after
24 formal approval of the application by the department. The
25 provisions of s. 212.095 do not apply to any refund
26 application made under this paragraph.

27 4. The department shall establish by rule an
28 application form and criteria for establishing eligibility for
29 exemption under this paragraph.

30 5. The exemption shall apply to purchases of materials
31 on or after July 1, 2000.

1 Section 8. The agencies involved with the Urban Infill
2 Implementation Project Grants Program under section 163.2523,
3 Florida Statutes, the State Apartment Incentive Loan Program
4 under section 420.5087, Florida Statutes, the HOME Investment
5 Partnership Program under section 420.5089, Florida Statutes,
6 and the State Housing Tax Credit Program under section
7 420.5093, Florida Statutes, shall give priority consideration
8 to projects that would convert vacant industrial and
9 manufacturing facilities to affordable housing units within
10 urban high-crime areas, enterprise zones, empowerment zones,
11 Front Porch Communities, designated brownfield areas, or urban
12 infill areas.

13 Section 9. The Department of Community Affairs, in
14 conjunction with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
15 Development, the Office of Urban Opportunities, and Enterprise
16 Florida, Inc., shall recommend new economic incentives or
17 revisions to existing economic incentives in order to promote
18 the reuse of vacant industrial and manufacturing facilities
19 for affordable housing and mixed-use development. The report
20 must also identify any state regulatory or programmatic
21 barriers to the reuse of such facilities. The department
22 shall submit a report to the President of the Senate and the
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives containing its
24 recommendations by January 31, 2001. Based upon consultation
25 with the Department of Environmental Protection, the
26 department shall include, as a component of the report, any
27 recommended modifications to the Brownfields Redevelopment
28 Act, sections 376.77-376.85, Florida Statutes, for revising
29 liability protection or economic incentives under the act to
30 promote reuse of such facilities.

31

1 Section 10. Each provision of this act will be
2 implemented to the extent that funds are specifically
3 appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year
4 2000-2001.

5 Section 11. Section 331.368, Florida Statutes, is
6 amended to read:

7 331.368 Florida Space Research Institute.--

8 (1) There is created the Florida Space Research
9 Institute, the purpose of which is to serve as an
10 industry-driven center for research, leveraging the state's
11 resources in a collaborative effort to support Florida's space
12 industry and its expansion, diversification, and transition to
13 commercialization.

14 (2) The institute shall operate as a public/private
15 partnership under the direction of a board composed ~~comprised~~
16 of:

17 (a) A representative of the Spaceport Florida
18 Authority.

19 (b) A representative of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

20 (c) A representative of the Florida Aviation Aerospace
21 Alliance.

22 (d) A representative of the Florida Space Business
23 Roundtable.

24 (e) Additional private-sector representatives from the
25 space industry selected collaboratively by the core members
26 specified in paragraphs (a)-(d). The additional space industry
27 representatives under this paragraph must comprise the
28 majority of members of the board and must be from geographic
29 regions throughout the state.

30 (f) Two representatives from the educational community
31 who are selected collaboratively by the core members specified

1 in paragraphs (a)-(d) and who are engaged in research or
2 instruction related to the space industry. One representative
3 must be from a community college and one representative must
4 be from a public or private university.

5
6 Annually, the members of the board shall select one of the
7 members to serve as chair, who shall be responsible for
8 convening and leading meetings of the board.~~representatives~~
9 ~~of the Spaceport Florida Authority, Enterprise Florida, Inc.,~~
10 ~~the Florida Aviation and Aerospace Alliance, and four~~
11 ~~additional space industry representatives selected by the core~~
12 ~~membership of the board.~~

13 (3) The board of the Florida Space Research Institute
14 shall:

15 (a) Set the strategic direction for the space-related
16 institute, including research priorities of the state and its
17 space-related businesses, the scope of research projects for
18 the institute, and the timeframes for completion.

19 (b) Invite the participation of public and private
20 universities, including, but not limited to, the University of
21 Central Florida, the University of Florida, the University of
22 South Florida, Florida State University, Florida Institute of
23 Technology, and the University of Miami.

24 (c) Select a lead university to:

25 1. Serve as coordinator of research and as the
26 administrative entity of the institute;

27 2. Support the institute's development of a statewide
28 space research agenda and programs; and

29 3. Develop, and update as necessary, a report
30 recommending ways that the state's public and private
31 universities can work in partnership to support the state's

1 space-industry requirements, which report must be completed by
2 December 15, 2000.

3 (d) Establish a partnership with the state Workforce
4 Development Board, or its successor entity, under which the
5 institute coordinates the workforce-training requirements
6 identified by the space industry and supports development of
7 workforce-training initiatives to meet such requirements,
8 using training providers approved by the board or its
9 successor entity.

10 (e) Co-manage, with the National Aeronautics and Space
11 Administration and subject to the terms of an agreement with
12 NASA, operation of a Space Experiment Research and Processing
13 Laboratory, if such a facility is constructed on land of the
14 John F. Kennedy Space Center. The institute shall carry out
15 such responsibility through a consortium of public and private
16 universities in the state led by the University of Florida.

17 (f) Develop initiatives to foster the participation of
18 the state's space industry in the International Space Station
19 and to help the state maintain and enhance its competitive
20 position in the commercial space-transportation industry.

21 (g) Pursue partnerships with the National Aeronautics
22 and Space Administration to coordinate and conduct research in
23 fields, including, but not limited to, environmental
24 monitoring; agriculture; aquatics; resource reutilization
25 technologies for long-duration space missions; and spaceport
26 technologies which support current or next-generation launch
27 vehicles and range systems.

28 (h) Pursue partnerships with the National Aeronautics
29 and Space Administration for the conduct of space-related
30 research using computer technology to connect experts in a
31 given field of science who are in disparate locations and to

1 perform research experiments in a real-time, virtual
2 environment.

3 (4) By December 15 ~~±~~ of each year, the institute shall
4 submit a report of its activities and accomplishments for the
5 ~~prior fiscal~~ year to the Governor, the President of the
6 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The
7 report shall also include recommendations regarding actions
8 the state should take to enhance the development of
9 space-related businesses, including:

10 (a) Future research activities.

11 (b) The development of capital and technology
12 assistance to new and expanding industries.

13 (c) The removal of regulatory impediments.

14 (d) The establishment of business development
15 incentives.

16 (e) The initiation of education and training programs
17 to ensure a skilled workforce.

18 Section 12. Space Industry Workforce Initiative.--

19 (1) The Legislature finds that the space industry is
20 critical to the economic future of the state and that the
21 competitiveness of the industry in the state depends upon the
22 development and maintenance of a qualified workforce. The
23 Legislature further finds that the space industry in this
24 state has diverse and complex workforce needs, including, but
25 not limited to, the need for qualified entry-level workers,
26 the need to upgrade the skills of technician-level incumbent
27 workers, and the need to ensure continuing education
28 opportunities for workers with advanced educational degrees.
29 It is the intent of the Legislature to support programs
30 designed to address the workforce development needs of the
31 space industry in this state.

1 (2) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise
2 Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, shall coordinate
3 development of a Space Industry Workforce Initiative in
4 partnership with the Florida Space Research Institute, the
5 institute's consortium of public and private universities,
6 community colleges, and other training providers approved by
7 the board. The purpose of the initiative is to use or revise
8 existing programs and to develop innovative new programs to
9 address the workforce needs of the space industry.

10 (3) The initiative shall emphasize:

11 (a) Curricula content and timeframes developed with
12 industry participation and endorsed by the industry;

13 (b) Programs that certify persons completing training
14 as meeting industry-approved standards or competencies;

15 (c) Use of distance-learning and computer-based
16 training modules as appropriate and feasible;

17 (d) Industry solicitation of public and private
18 universities to develop continuing education programs at the
19 master's and doctoral levels;

20 (e) Agreements with the National Aeronautics and Space
21 Administration to replicate on a national level successful
22 training programs developed through the initiative; and

23 (f) Leveraging of state and federal workforce funds.

24 (4) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise
25 Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, with the assistance of
26 the Florida Space Research Institute, shall convene
27 representatives from the space industry to identify the
28 priority training and education needs of the industry and to
29 appoint a team to design programs to meet such priority needs.

30 (5) The Workforce Development Board of Enterprise
31 Florida, Inc., or its successor entity, as part of its

1 statutorily prescribed annual report to the Legislature, shall
2 provide recommendations for policies, programs, and funding to
3 enhance the workforce needs of the space industry.

4 Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.
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