

By Representative Rojas

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the proposed creation of  
 3           Hialeah County; creating the Proposed Creation  
 4           of Hialeah County Study Commission; providing  
 5           for the appointment of members to the  
 6           commission; providing for the appointment of a  
 7           technical assistance group to serve as ex  
 8           officio members of the commission; providing  
 9           for filling vacancies on the commission;  
 10          authorizing commission members to be reimbursed  
 11          for travel and per diem expenses; providing for  
 12          meetings of the commission; requiring the  
 13          commission to review the feasibility of  
 14          creating a new county in the area known as  
 15          Hialeah; requiring that the commission make  
 16          certain estimates and projections; requiring  
 17          the commission to report to the Governor and  
 18          Legislature; providing for expiration of the  
 19          commission; requiring the Legislative Committee  
 20          on Intergovernmental Relations to provide  
 21          technical support to the commission; providing  
 22          an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

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 26           Section 1. (1) The Proposed Creation of Hialeah  
 27 County Study Commission is created.

28           (2) The commission shall be composed of the following  
 29 15 members, who must be appointed within 45 days after the  
 30 effective date of this act.

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1       (a) Six members selected by the Governor, as follows:  
2 one member of the Miami-Dade County Commission, one member of  
3 the South Florida Regional Planning Council who does not  
4 reside within the boundaries of Miami-Dade County, two  
5 representatives of the business community who reside within  
6 the boundaries of Miami-Dade County, and two citizen members  
7 who reside within the boundaries of Miami-Dade County.

8       (b) Two members of the Senate, selected by the  
9 President of the Senate.

10       (c) Two members of the House of Representatives,  
11 selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12       (d) In addition, the commission shall include: the  
13 mayor of the City of Hialeah, who shall serve as the chair of  
14 the commission; the executive director of the Department of  
15 Revenue, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Community  
16 Affairs, or his or her designee; the Commissioner of  
17 Education, or his or her designee; and the Attorney General,  
18 or his or her designee.

19       (3) A technical assistance group is established to  
20 assist the commission in its activities and serve as ex  
21 officio members of the commission. The technical assistance  
22 group shall be composed of one representative from each of the  
23 following: the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida  
24 League of Cities, the Florida Association of Special  
25 Districts, the Florida Association of Court Clerks and  
26 Comptrollers, the Florida Tax Collectors, Inc., the Florida  
27 Association of Property Appraisers, the Florida Sheriffs  
28 Association, the Florida Supervisors of Election Association,  
29 the Florida Government Financial Officers' Association, and  
30 the School Board Association of Florida.

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1       (4) Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the  
2 same manner as the original appointments.

3       (5) Commission members shall not receive remuneration  
4 for their services, but are entitled to be reimbursed by the  
5 Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations for  
6 travel and per diem expenses in accordance with s. 112.061,  
7 Florida Statutes. Travel and per diem expenses of ex officio  
8 members shall be assumed by their respective associations.

9       (6) The commission shall act as an advisory body to  
10 the Governor and the Legislature.

11       (7) The commission shall convene its initial meeting  
12 within 60 days after the effective date of this act. At its  
13 initial meeting, the commission shall adopt rules of procedure  
14 for conducting its business. Thereafter, the commission shall  
15 convene monthly, or more frequently at the call of its chair.

16       (8) The commission shall review the feasibility of  
17 creating a new county, including cost estimates and related  
18 issues associated with such creation, out of portions of  
19 Miami-Dade County in the area commonly known as Hialeah.  
20 Towards that end, the commission shall:

21           (a) Identify problems with the existing structure of  
22 local governments and consider the manner in which a new  
23 government may address such problems;

24           (b) Identify and analyze the legal issues associated  
25 with the creation of the new county;

26           (c) Describe all procedures and processes for  
27 establishing a new county, subject to general law and the  
28 Florida Constitution;

29           (d) Identify the estimated fiscal impacts to  
30 Miami-Dade County, the newly created county, and all affected  
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1 existing general-purpose and limited-purpose local governments  
2 and the state;  
3 (e) Identify the costs associated with establishing  
4 the offices of the constitutional officers of the new county  
5 and the costs associated with the transfer of all relevant  
6 records;  
7 (f) Estimate the expenditures and revenue sources for  
8 the new county; and  
9 (g) Establish a 5-year projection of revenue sources  
10 and a 5-year proposed budget of expenditures.  
11 (9) The commission is encouraged to consider other  
12 issues that relate to the creation of the new county,  
13 including:  
14 (a) The extent that a new county may negatively affect  
15 the existing county's ability to equitably finance and provide  
16 county services to its remaining residents;  
17 (b) The extent that the demographic characteristics of  
18 the new county should be similar to those of the remaining  
19 county with respect to income, race, ethnicity, and age;  
20 (c) The extent that the general tax base of the new  
21 county should be similar to the tax base of the remaining  
22 county; and  
23 (d) The extent that the new county should be an area  
24 separate and distinct from the existing county.  
25 (10) State and local governmental entities shall  
26 cooperate in providing information and assistance requested by  
27 the commission which is necessary to conduct its review.  
28 (11) The commission shall report its findings to the  
29 Governor and the Legislature by January 31, 2001.  
30 (12) The commission shall expire June 1, 2001.  
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