

By the Committee on Community Affairs and 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 chair of the governing board of the South Florida Water
14 Management District, or his or her designee; the executive
15 director of the Department of Revenue, or his or her designee;
16 the Secretary of Community Affairs, or his or her designee;
17 the Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee; and the
18 Attorney General, or his or her designee. The chair of the
19 commission shall be selected by a majority vote of the
20 commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (12) The commission shall expire June 1, 2001.

2 Section 2. (1) The Legislative Committee on
3 Intergovernmental Relations may employ staff or enter into
4 contracts to provide technical support for the Proposed
5 Creation of Hialeah County Study Commission, and may expend
6 funds appropriated to the committee for carrying out the
7 official duties of the commission.

8 (2) The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated to the
9 Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations from the
10 General Revenue Fund to be used to carry out the duties of the
11 Proposed Creation of Hialeah County Study Commission.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
13 law.

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