

By Representative Valdes

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to economic development;  
3           creating s. 14.2019, F.S.; creating the Florida  
4           Trade Council within the Executive Office of  
5           the Governor; providing purpose of the council;  
6           providing for membership, terms, and  
7           organization of the council; providing powers  
8           and duties; providing an effective date.

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

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12           Section 1. Section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, is  
13 created to read:

14           14.2019 Florida Trade Council.--

15           (1) The Florida Trade Council is created within the  
16 Executive Office of the Governor. The council shall be  
17 responsible for assisting the Governor and the Legislature in  
18 the establishment and maintenance of Florida's competitiveness  
19 in international trade through the development of a  
20 comprehensive statewide strategic export and import service  
21 system plan which will incorporate the different components of  
22 Florida's major international trade and infrastructure  
23 programs and assure the strategic integration of each  
24 component.

25           (2)(a) The council shall consist of 12 members as  
26 follows:

27           1. The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
28 Economic Development.

29           2. The Commissioner of Agriculture or the  
30 commissioner's designee.

31           3. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee.

1           4. The Secretary of Transportation or the secretary's  
2 designee.

3           5. A representative from Enterprise Florida, Inc., to  
4 be appointed by the Governor.

5           6. A representative from the Florida Seaport  
6 Transportation and Economic Development Council, to be  
7 appointed by the Governor.

8           7. A private sector representative, to be appointed by  
9 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10           8. A private sector representative, to be appointed by  
11 the President of the Senate.

12           9. Four private sector members nominated by the  
13 members in subparagraphs 1.-8., to be appointed by the  
14 Governor.

15           (b) Each member of the council shall serve for a term  
16 of 4 years; however, of the initial appointments made by the  
17 Governor, three members shall be appointed to a 2-year term  
18 and three members shall be appointed to a 4-year term. Any  
19 vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same manner  
20 as the original appointment, and any member appointed to fill  
21 a vacancy occurring because of death, resignation, or  
22 ineligibility for membership shall serve only for the  
23 unexpired term of the member's predecessor.

24           (c) The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
25 Economic Development shall serve as the chair of the council.

26           (d) The commission shall meet at least once each  
27 quarter. All meetings are subject to the call of the chair.  
28 Seven members shall constitute a quorum.

29           (e) Members of the council shall serve without  
30 compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per  
31 diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

1       (f) The Governor shall appoint an executive director  
2 who shall serve under the direction, supervision, and control  
3 of the council. The executive director may employ additional  
4 staff as may be necessary and as authorized by the council.  
5 All employees of the council are exempt from part II of  
6 chapter 110 and shall serve at the pleasure of the council.  
7 The salaries and benefits of all employees of the council  
8 shall be set in accordance with the Selected Exempt Service,  
9 provided, however, that the council shall have complete  
10 authority for fixing the salary of the executive director.

11       (3)(a) The council shall develop and fund a  
12 comprehensive strategic statewide export and import service  
13 system plan that contains, at a minimum, the following  
14 elements:

15           1. The international programs of the entities  
16 represented on the council, including international and  
17 cultural relations plans developed by the Secretary of State  
18 pursuant to s. 15.18, the strategic development plan of  
19 Enterprise Florida, Inc., developed pursuant to s.  
20 288.905(3)(d), and the 5-year Florida Seaport Mission Plan and  
21 seaport intermodal plans developed by the Florida Seaport  
22 Transportation and Economic Development Council pursuant to  
23 ss. 311.09(3) and 311.14.

24           2. A commercial trade strategy for regions and  
25 countries that are Florida's strategic trading partners, as  
26 well as for emerging markets that present potential benefits  
27 for Florida's economy. The plan should consolidate and  
28 improve upon information obtained from Enterprise Florida,  
29 Inc., the Florida Trade Data Center, local economic  
30 development organizations, and federal databases.

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1           3. Identification of international policy issues  
2 relating to economic, social, and cultural matters.

3           4. Identification of trade development programs that  
4 will enhance the capabilities of minority businesses to access  
5 global markets.

6           5. Performance measures to ensure that state funds are  
7 expended appropriately and efficiently.

8           (b) Based on the amount appropriated to the Florida  
9 International Trade and Promotion Trust Fund for the council,  
10 the council shall allocate appropriate resources to those  
11 activities and programs that incorporate the strategies  
12 delineated in the plan. The council shall act as a wholesale  
13 agent for such activities and programs, and should leverage  
14 such resources, when possible, by funding programs,  
15 activities, and services of existing state and local service  
16 providers that facilitate the strategies delineated in the  
17 plan.

18           (4) The council shall create a transportation  
19 improvement plan for economic development projects as outlined  
20 in s. 288.063.

21           (5) The council shall have all the powers necessary  
22 and convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and  
23 provisions of this act, including, but not limited to, the  
24 power to make and enter into contracts and other instruments  
25 with public or private sector entities for the purpose of  
26 exercising or performing its powers and functions.

27           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Establishes a Florida Trade Council within the Executive Office of the Governor for the purpose of assisting the Governor and Legislature in the establishment and maintenance of Florida's competitiveness in international trade through the development of a strategic statewide export and import service system plan that incorporates the different components of Florida's major international trade and infrastructure programs and assures the strategic integration of each component. Provides for membership, terms, and organization of the council. Requires the council to develop and fund the statewide strategic plan. Specifies plan elements. Requires the council to allocate appropriate resources to activities and programs that incorporate the strategies delineated in the plan. Requires the council to create a transportation improvement plan for economic development projects.