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1 productively is critical to becoming competitively qualified  
2 for high-skill, high-wage employment.

3 (c) Families that are living near or below the poverty  
4 level are without adequate economic resources to have  
5 reasonable opportunities to obtain frequent access to use of  
6 information technology or the education and training necessary  
7 to acquire the knowledge and skills required to become  
8 competitively qualified for high-skill, high-wage employment.

9 (d) The absence of such economic resources divides  
10 such families from those who have adequate economic resources  
11 to have such opportunities, places such families at risk of  
12 never realizing their employment and income earning potential,  
13 and prevents the state's economy from prospering to the extent  
14 possible if such families realized their employment and income  
15 earning potential.

16 (e) The divide between the members of such at-risk  
17 families and those who have adequate economic resources to  
18 have reasonable opportunities to obtain access to frequent use  
19 of information technology and the education and training  
20 necessary to acquire the knowledge and skills required to  
21 become competitively qualified for high-skill, high-wage  
22 employment could be reduced, and the economy of the state  
23 could be enhanced, by designing and implementing programs that  
24 provide such opportunities to members of such at-risk  
25 families.

26  
27 It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the authority  
28 and resources reasonably necessary to facilitate design and  
29 implementation of such programs.

30 (2) DIGITAL DIVIDE COUNCIL.--The Digital Divide  
31 Council is created in the State Technology Office. The council

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1 shall consist of:

2 (a) The chief information officer in the State  
3 Technology Office.

4 (b) The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and  
5 Economic Development in the Executive Office of the Governor.

6 (c) The president of Workforce Florida, Inc.

7 (d) The director of the Agency for Workforce  
8 Innovation.

9 (e) The chair of itflorida.com, Inc.

10 (f) The Commissioner of Education.

11 (g) The executive director of the State Board of  
12 Community Colleges.

13 (h) The executive director of the State Board for  
14 Career Education.

15 (i) The chair of the Network Access Point of the  
16 Americas.

17 (j) A representative of the information technology  
18 industry in this state appointed by the Speaker of the House  
19 of Representatives.

20 (k) A representative of the information technology  
21 industry in this state appointed by the President of the  
22 Senate.

23 (l) Two members of the House of Representatives, who  
24 shall be ex officio, nonvoting members of the council,  
25 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one  
26 of whom shall be a member of the Republican caucus and the  
27 other of whom shall be a member of the Democratic caucus.

28 (m) Two members of the Senate, who shall be ex  
29 officio, nonvoting members of the council, appointed by the  
30 President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the  
31 Republican caucus and the other of whom shall be a member of

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1 the Democratic caucus.

2 (3) TERMS OF APPOINTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL; VACANCIES;  
3 COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.--The appointed members of the council  
4 shall serve an initial term of 1 year commencing July 1, 2001,  
5 and ending June 30, 2002, and successor appointees shall serve  
6 a term of 2 years, the first of which shall commence July 1,  
7 2002, and end June 30, 2004. Successive 2-year terms shall  
8 commence and end on the same schedule in subsequent years. Any  
9 vacancy in the membership of the council resulting from  
10 resignation, incapacity, or death shall be filled within 30  
11 days after the date the vacancy is effective. The appointed  
12 members of the council shall serve without compensation, but  
13 such appointees and the other members of the council shall be  
14 entitled to receive per diem and reimbursement for travel  
15 expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes. Payment  
16 of such per diem and reimbursement of such travel expenses may  
17 be made from appropriations authorized to be used for such  
18 purposes.

19 (4) COUNCIL MEETINGS; ELECTION OF OFFICERS.--The  
20 council shall conduct its initial meeting by August 1, 2001,  
21 and shall meet thereafter at least once every 60 days. In its  
22 initial meeting, the members of the council shall elect a  
23 member to serve as chair and another to serve as vice chair,  
24 each for a term of 1 year from the date of the election. Any  
25 vacancy in the offices of chair and vice chair resulting from  
26 resignation, incapacity, or death shall be filled by similar  
27 election within 30 days after the date the vacancy is  
28 effective.

29 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT; PAYMENT OF  
30 SUPPORT COSTS.--The State Technology Office shall provide such  
31 administrative and technical support to the council as is

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1 reasonably necessary for the council to effectively and timely  
2 carry out its duties and responsibilities. All direct and  
3 indirect costs of providing such support and performing the  
4 other duties assigned to the State Technology Office related  
5 to design and implementation of the programs authorized by  
6 this section may be paid from appropriations authorized to be  
7 used for such purposes.

8 (6) POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL.--The council,  
9 through the State Technology Office, is authorized and  
10 empowered to facilitate the design and implementation of  
11 programs that are aimed at achieving the objectives and goals  
12 stated in this section. The State Technology Office shall  
13 present and demonstrate to the council the design  
14 characteristics and functional elements of each program  
15 proposed to be implemented to achieve the objectives and goals  
16 stated in this section and each such program shall be reviewed  
17 and approved by the council before being implemented. Such  
18 programs shall initially be implemented as pilot programs in a  
19 minimum of six different areas of the state to develop model  
20 programs that are likely to be successful if implemented  
21 throughout the state. The areas of the state where the pilot  
22 programs are implemented shall be selected by the council with  
23 the objectives of testing the merits of the programs in each  
24 geographic region of the state and providing equal exposure of  
25 the programs to urban and rural communities alike.  
26 Implementation of all such pilot and model programs shall be  
27 administered by and through the local workforce development  
28 boards and each such board shall coordinate and confirm the  
29 ready availability and timely delivery of all elements of such  
30 programs to ensure the highest probability of such programs  
31 achieving their intended results.

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1           (7) PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND GOALS.--The programs  
2 authorized by this section shall have the following objectives  
3 and goals:

4           (a) Maximizing efficient and productive use of  
5 existing facilities, equipment, personnel, programs, and funds  
6 available from federal, state, and local government agencies  
7 and from any private person or entity.

8           (b) Using innovative concepts employing newly  
9 developed technologies in educating and training those who are  
10 enrolled in the programs authorized by this section.

11           (c) Developing viable partnerships between public  
12 agencies and private persons and entities based on mutual  
13 commitment to responsible and dedicated participation in  
14 designing and implementing the programs authorized by this  
15 section.

16           (d) Recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and graduating  
17 as many at-risk family members as feasible to ensure that they  
18 have reasonable opportunities to obtain access to frequent use  
19 of information technology and the education and training  
20 necessary to competitively qualify them for high-skill,  
21 high-wage employment.

22           (e) Reducing the number of underachieving and failing  
23 students in the state's public school systems who are members  
24 of at-risk families.

25           (f) Reducing the number of underemployed and  
26 unemployed members of at-risk families.

27           (g) Using information technology to facilitate  
28 achievement of the Sunshine State Standards by all children  
29 enrolled in the state's K-12 school system who are members of  
30 at-risk families.

31           (h) Training teachers in the state's K-12 school

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1 system to efficiently and effectively use information  
2 technology to plan, teach, and administer all courses of  
3 instruction required and available by election of children  
4 enrolled in the system.

5 (i) Using information technology to enable members of  
6 at-risk families who are no longer enrolled in K-12 schools to  
7 obtain the education needed to achieve successful completion  
8 of general education development test preparation to earn a  
9 high school diploma, an applied technology diploma, a  
10 vocational certificate, an associate of arts degree, or a  
11 baccalaureate degree.

12 (j) Bridge the digital divide in developing a  
13 competitive workforce to meet the employment needs of  
14 state-based information technology businesses and establish  
15 this state as having the most information technology ready  
16 workforce in the western hemisphere.

17 (8) MONITORING, REVIEWING, AND EVALUATING PROGRAM  
18 PERFORMANCES; REPORTING RESULTS.--The council, through the  
19 State Technology Office, shall continually monitor, review,  
20 and evaluate the progress of performances realized from  
21 implementation of the programs authorized by this section. The  
22 State Technology Office shall prepare and submit a report to  
23 the council at least 10 days before each of its meetings  
24 subsequent to its initial meeting and each such report shall,  
25 at a minimum, identify and describe the functional elements of  
26 each program being implemented and identify and describe the  
27 facilities, equipment, personnel, programs, and funds used to  
28 design and implement the program. For each such program, the  
29 report shall also identify by name, address, age, and sex the  
30 school-age children, and their older siblings and parents, who  
31 are enrolled in the program, state the educational level

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1 achieved by each enrollee as of the date he or she enrolled in  
2 the program, state the attendance and achievement level  
3 recorded for each enrollee in the program, evaluate the  
4 progress each enrollee is making toward successful completion  
5 of the program, and identify by name, address, age, and sex  
6 each enrollee who successfully completes the program. For each  
7 such program that is designed to prepare enrollees for  
8 high-skill, high-wage employment, the report shall identify  
9 each enrollee who successfully completes the program, describe  
10 each such employment position for which each enrollee has  
11 applied, identify by name, address, and nature of business  
12 each employer based in this state to whom each such  
13 application for employment has been addressed, state the  
14 results each enrollee obtained from making each such  
15 application, and describe the nature of any employment  
16 obtained and terms of compensation being earned from such  
17 employment by each enrollee as a result of making such  
18 applications.

19 (9) ANNUAL REPORT.--By March 1, 2002, the council,  
20 through the State Technology Office, shall report to the  
21 Executive Office of the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives, and the President of the Senate the results  
23 of the council's monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating such  
24 programs since their inception and the council's  
25 recommendations as to whether such programs should be  
26 continued and expanded to achieve the objectives and goals  
27 stated in this section.

28  
29 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

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1 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

2 And the title is amended as follows:

3 On page 1, line 7, after the semicolon

4

5 insert:

6 providing legislative findings and intent;  
7 creating the Digital Divide Council in the  
8 State Technology Office; specifying membership;  
9 providing for terms, filling vacancies, and  
10 compensation; providing for council meetings  
11 and officers; requiring the State Technology  
12 Office to provide administrative and technical  
13 support; providing powers and duties of the  
14 council; authorizing design and implementation  
15 of certain programs; providing program  
16 objectives and goals; requiring the council to  
17 monitor, review, and assess program  
18 performances; requiring reports;

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