

By the Committee on Education Innovation and  
Representatives Bendross-Mindingall, Gottlieb, Garcia, Harper  
and Byrd

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Workforce Florida, Inc.;  
3           amending s. 445.004, F.S.; expanding the  
4           utilization of faith-based and community-based  
5           organizations; requiring certain funds to be  
6           expended for after-school care programs;  
7           providing an effective date.

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

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11           Section 1. Subsections (6) and (10) of section  
12   445.004, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13           445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;  
14   membership; duties and powers.--

15           (6) Workforce Florida, Inc., may take action that it  
16   deems necessary to achieve the purposes of this section,  
17   including, but not limited to:

18           (a) Creating a state employment, education, and  
19   training policy that ensures that programs to prepare workers  
20   are responsive to present and future business and industry  
21   needs and complement the initiatives of Enterprise Florida,  
22   Inc.

23           (b) Establishing policy direction for a funding system  
24   that provides incentives to improve the outcomes of vocational  
25   education programs, and of registered apprenticeship and  
26   work-based learning programs, and that focuses resources on  
27   occupations related to new or emerging industries that add  
28   greatly to the value of the state's economy.

29           (c) Establishing a comprehensive policy related to the  
30   education and training of target populations such as those who  
31   have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged, receive

1 public assistance, are not proficient in English, or are  
2 dislocated workers. This approach should ensure the effective  
3 use of federal, state, local, and private resources in  
4 reducing the need for public assistance.

5 (d) Designating Institutes of Applied Technology  
6 composed of public and private postsecondary institutions  
7 working together with business and industry to ensure that  
8 technical and vocational education programs use the most  
9 advanced technology and instructional methods available and  
10 respond to the changing needs of business and industry.

11 (e) Providing policy direction for a system to project  
12 and evaluate labor market supply and demand using the results  
13 of the Workforce Estimating Conference created in s. 216.136  
14 and the career education performance standards identified  
15 under s. 239.233.

16 (f) Reviewing the performance of public programs that  
17 are responsible for economic development, education,  
18 employment, and training. The review must include an analysis  
19 of the return on investment of these programs.

20 (g) Expanding the occupations identified by the  
21 Workforce Estimating Conference to meet needs created by local  
22 emergencies or plant closings or to capture occupations within  
23 emerging industries.

24 (h) Expanding the utilization of faith-based and  
25 community-based organizations to work collaboratively in the  
26 delivery of services to Florida's citizens.

27 (10) The workforce development strategy for the state  
28 shall be designed by Workforce Florida, Inc., and shall be  
29 centered around the strategies of First Jobs/First Wages,  
30 Better Jobs/Better Wages, and High Skills/High Wages.

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1           (a) First Jobs/First Wages is the state's strategy to  
2 promote successful entry into the workforce through education  
3 and workplace experience that lead to self-sufficiency and  
4 career advancement. The components of the strategy include  
5 efforts that enlist business, education, and community support  
6 for students to achieve long-term career goals, ensuring that  
7 young people have the academic and occupational skills  
8 required to succeed in the workplace. A minimum of 15 percent  
9 of all Workforce Investment Act youth services funds shall be  
10 expended for after-school care programs through contracts with  
11 qualified faith-based and community-based organizations, on an  
12 equal basis with other private organizations, to provide  
13 after-school care programs for children in grades 1 through  
14 12. Such programs shall include academic tutoring, mentoring,  
15 and other appropriate services.

16           (b) Better Jobs/Better Wages is the state's strategy  
17 for assisting employers in upgrading or updating the skills of  
18 their employees and for assisting incumbent workers in  
19 improving their performance in their current jobs or acquiring  
20 the education or training needed to secure a better job with  
21 better wages.

22           (c) High Skills/High Wages is the state's strategy for  
23 aligning education and training programs with high-paying,  
24 high-demand occupations that advance individuals' careers,  
25 build a more skilled workforce, and enhance Florida's efforts  
26 to attract and expand job-creating businesses.

27           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.  
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