

Amendment No. 01 (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

11 The Committee on Local Government & Veterans Affairs offered
12 the following:

14 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

15 On page 16, Line 24, through page 20, line 26,
16 remove from the bill: all of said lines

17
18 and insert in lieu thereof:

19 (8) NATURE-AND-HERITAGE-BASED TOURISM BUSINESS
20 MICRO-LOAN PROGRAM.--The statewide advisory committee on
21 nature-and-heritage-based tourism, as established in section
22 288.1224, Florida Statutes, shall work with Enterprise
23 Florida, Inc., the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
24 Development, VISIT FLORIDA, the Rural Economic Development
25 Initiative, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
26 Commission, the Division of Recreation and Parks of the
27 Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and other
28 appropriate entities to develop a statewide micro-loan program
29 for the purpose of financing the creation and enhancement of
30 small businesses providing nature-based or heritage-based
31 tourism experiences. Examples include bicycle rentals, canoe

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1 outfitters, and bed-and-breakfaast facilities in proximity to
2 natural areas, and eco-tour operators and guides. No later
3 than November 1, 2001, this group shall submit a report to the
4 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives which provides: the mission and structure of
6 the micro-loan program; guidelines for administering the
7 program; and criteria for and any limitations on loan
8 recipient eligibility and on use of loan funds.

9 (9) WIRELESS COMMUNITY-BASED NETWORK PILOT PROGRAM.--

10 (a) The State Technology Office, in consultation with
11 the Departments of Education, Health, and Community Affairs,
12 the State Library, local governments, and the regional
13 consortium service organizations, established under section
14 228.0857, Florida Statutes, and institutions of higher
15 education, shall develop recommendations regarding the
16 establishment of two pilot projects in rural communities that
17 use wireless or other technologies. The purposes of the
18 projects are to illustrate ways to increase access to quality
19 educational, health-care, and other resources in the state's
20 rural areas; to leverage federal funds available for bridging
21 the "digital divide"; to build on existing applications to
22 create community-based networks; and to foster opportunities
23 for innovative distribution of existing funds. The pilot
24 projects must include linkages to existing information
25 technology systems in the pilot area, for example, to a public
26 library, a university, or a 4-year or community college,
27 county or municipal government, health-care facility, or
28 private business network.

29 (b) The State Technology Office shall in consultation
30 with the Departments of Education, Health, and Community
31 Affairs, and the State Library recommend a process for the

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1 selection of the pilot project participants. The selection
2 process must be based on the following criteria:
3 1. Through evaluation of the school improvement plan,
4 demonstration of how the school or district will leverage
5 additional connectivity provided through the pilot project to
6 improve student achievement;
7 2. If the pilot project involves wireless technology,
8 demonstration of the school's or district's ability to
9 effectively deploy wireless technology based on existing
10 infrastructure;
11 3. Demonstration of commitment of the leadership of
12 the school or district to use technology to improve teaching
13 and learning;
14 4. If the pilot project involves wireless technology,
15 potential cost savings or improved access resulting from the
16 use of wireless rather than traditional connectivity
17 technology;
18 5. The ability to use the technology infrastructure in
19 other local government applications within the service area;
20 6. Demonstration of willingness and ability of the
21 community to assume ongoing costs to maintain the pilot
22 project for a minimum 5-year period. Such willingness and
23 ability may be demonstrated through intracommunity agreements
24 or other means; and
25 7. Such other criteria as determined by the agencies.
26 (c) The State Technology Office, in consultation with
27 the Departments of Education, Health, and Community Affairs,
28 the State Library, and local governments, shall include in its
29 report performance standards for the pilot project consistent
30 with the Sunshine State Standards, as described in section
31 229.57, Florida Statutes, and broader community-based

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1 standards as appropriate, and shall evaluate the progress of
2 the pilot project at least annually based on the performance
3 standards.

4 (d) The State Technology Office shall report its
5 recommendations to the Senate President, the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives, and the Governor by November 1,
7 2001. Recommendations will address the implementation and
8 funding of the pilot programs.

9 (10) AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION AND PROFITABILITY.--

10 (a) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer
11 Services, in consultation with the University of Florida and
12 the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, shall
13 establish three pilot projects aimed at encouraging the
14 diversification of agricultural production and marketing
15 throughout the state. Each project must do at least one of the
16 following: introduce alternative crops, such as hot peppers,
17 amaranth, or pigeon peas, or alternative growing techniques,
18 for example, greenhouse vegetable production in north Florida
19 or early-season blueberries and peaches; or introduce a
20 value-added activity or industry, such as fruit or vegetable
21 processing or packaging into a farming community as a means of
22 increasing the profitability of current farm products for
23 local growers. At least one of these projects must include a
24 tobacco farm that is being adversely impacted by reductions in
25 tobacco quotas. The purpose of the pilot projects is to
26 demonstrate alternative crops, techniques, and industries that
27 can enhance the profitability and sustainability of
28 agriculture in the state. The Commissioner of Agriculture
29 shall, in consultation with the Agricultural Economic
30 Development Project Review Committee as described in section
31 570.248, Florida Statutes, select the pilot project based on

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1 evaluation criteria for agricultural economic development
2 projects delineated in section 570.247, Florida Statutes. The
3 Commissioner of Agriculture shall report annually to the
4 Agricultural Economic Development Project Review Committee on
5 the progress of the pilot project for the duration of the
6 project based on performance measures developed for the
7 project consistent with sections 570.244, 570.246, and
8 570.247, Florida Statutes.

9 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall issue a
10 report on the progress of the pilot programs to the Senate
11 President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
12 the Governor by December 15, 2001.

13 (c) As authorized in section 403.0752, Florida
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16 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

17 And the title is amended as follows:

18 On page 1, lines 20-24,
19 remove from the title of the bill: all of said lines
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21 and insert in lieu thereof:

22 providing for wireless community-based network
23 technology pilot programs to be established by
24 the State Technology Office; providing for
25 pilot projects to encourage diversification of
26 agricultural products and marketing to be
27 developed by the Department of Agriculture
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