

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

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

11 Representative(s) Byrd offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

14 Remove everything after the enacting clause

16 and insert in lieu thereof:

17 Section 1. Legislative intent.--The purpose of the
18 Passport to Economic Progress Act is to provide incentives and
19 services designed to assist individuals who are recipients of
20 temporary cash assistance or who are former recipients of
21 temporary cash assistance generate family income levels that
22 help foster the achievement and maintenance of economic
23 self-sufficiency. It is the intent of the Legislature to
24 create through this act a demonstration program for the
25 provision of such incentives and services, with the goal of
26 developing a model for the continued evolution and enhancement
27 of the welfare-reform efforts of the state.

28 Section 2. Passport to Economic Progress demonstration
29 program.--

30 (1) AUTHORIZATION.--Notwithstanding any law to the
31 contrary, Workforce Florida, Inc., in conjunction with the

1 Department of Children and Family Services and the Agency for
2 Workforce Innovation, shall implement a Passport to Economic
3 Progress demonstration program by November 1, 2001, consistent
4 with the provisions of this section in Hillsborough and
5 Manatee counties. Workforce Florida, Inc., must consult with
6 the applicable regional workforce boards and the applicable
7 local offices of the department which serve the demonstration
8 areas and must encourage community input into the
9 implementation process.

10 (2) WAIVERS.--If Workforce Florida, Inc., in
11 consultation with the Department of Children and Family
12 Services, finds that federal waivers would facilitate
13 implementation of the demonstration program, the department
14 shall immediately request such waivers, and Workforce Florida,
15 Inc., shall report to the Governor, the President of the
16 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives if any
17 refusal of the federal government to grant such waivers
18 prevents the implementation of the demonstration program. If
19 Workforce Florida, Inc., finds that federal waivers to
20 provisions of the Food Stamp Program would facilitate
21 implementation of the demonstration program, the Department of
22 Children and Family Services shall immediately request such
23 wavers in accordance with section 414.175, Florida Statutes.

24 (3) INCOME DISREGARD.--In order to provide an
25 additional incentive for employment, and notwithstanding the
26 amount specified in section 414.095(12), Florida Statutes, for
27 individuals residing in the areas designated for this
28 demonstration program, the first \$300 plus one-half of the
29 remainder of earned income shall be disregarded in determining
30 eligibility for temporary cash assistance. All other
31 conditions and requirements of section 414.095(12), Florida

1 Statutes, shall continue to apply to such individuals.

2 (4) TRANSITIONAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES.--In order to
3 assist them in making the transition to economic
4 self-sufficiency, former recipients of temporary cash
5 assistance residing within the areas designated for this
6 demonstration program shall be eligible for the following
7 benefits and services:

8 (a) Notwithstanding the time period specified in
9 section 445.030, Florida Statutes, transitional education and
10 training support services as specified in section 445.030,
11 Florida Statutes, for up to 4 years after the family is no
12 longer receiving temporary cash assistance;

13 (b) Notwithstanding the time period specified in
14 section 445.031, Florida Statutes, transitional transportation
15 support services as specified in section 445.031, Florida
16 Statutes, for up to 4 years after the family is no longer
17 receiving temporary cash assistance; and

18 (c) Notwithstanding the time period specified in
19 section 445.032, Florida Statutes, transitional child care as
20 specified in section 445.032, Florida Statutes, for up to 4
21 years after the family is no longer receiving temporary cash
22 assistance.

23
24 All other provisions of sections 445.030, 445.031, and
25 445.032, Florida Statutes, shall apply to such individuals, as
26 appropriate. This subsection does not constitute an
27 entitlement to transitional benefits and services. If funds
28 are insufficient to provide benefits and services under this
29 subsection, the board of directors of Workforce Florida, Inc.,
30 may limit such benefits and services or otherwise establish
31 priorities for the provisions of such benefits and services.

1 (5) WAGE SUPPLEMENTATION.--

2 (a) The Legislature finds that:

3 1. There are former recipients of temporary cash
4 assistance who are working full time but whose incomes are
5 below the federal poverty level.

6 2. Having incomes below the federal poverty level
7 makes such individuals particularly vulnerable to reliance on
8 public assistance despite their best efforts to achieve or
9 maintain economic independence through employment.

10 3. It is necessary to supplement the wages of such
11 individuals for a limited period of time in order to assist
12 them in fulfilling the transition to economic
13 self-sufficiency.

14 (b) Workforce Florida, Inc., in cooperation with the
15 Department of Children and Family Services and the Agency for
16 Workforce Innovation, shall create a transitional wage
17 supplementation program by November 1, 2001, as a component of
18 the Passport to Economic Progress demonstration program in the
19 areas designated for the demonstration program. This wage
20 supplementation program does not constitute an entitlement to
21 wage supplementation. If funds appropriated are insufficient
22 to provide wage supplementation, the board of directors of
23 Workforce Florida, Inc., may limit wage supplementation or
24 otherwise establish priorities for wage supplementation.

25 (c) To be eligible for wage supplementation under this
26 subsection, an individual must:

27 1. Be a former recipient of temporary cash assistance
28 who last received such assistance on or after January 1, 2000;

29 2. Be employed full time, which for the purposes of
30 this subsection means employment averaging at least 32 hours
31 per week; and

1 3. Have an average family income for the 6 months
2 preceding the date of application for wage supplementation
3 which is less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

4 (d) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall determine the
5 schedule for the payment of wage supplementation under this
6 subsection. An individual eligible for wage supplementation
7 under this subsection may receive a payment that equals the
8 amount necessary to bring the individual's total family income
9 for the period covered by the payment to 100 percent of the
10 federal poverty level. An individual may not receive wage
11 supplementation payments for more than a total of 12 months.

12 (e) The wage supplementation program authorized by
13 this subsection shall be administered through the regional
14 workforce boards and the one-stop delivery system, under
15 policy guidelines, criteria, and applications developed by
16 Workforce Florida, Inc., in cooperation with the Department of
17 Children and Family Services and the Agency for Workforce
18 Innovation. To the maximum extent possible, the regional
19 workforce boards shall use electronic debit card technologies
20 to provide wage supplementation payments under this program.

21 (6) EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.--Workforce
22 Florida, Inc., in conjunction with the Department of Children
23 and Family Services, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and
24 the regional workforce boards in the areas designated for this
25 demonstration program, shall conduct a comprehensive
26 evaluation of the effectiveness of the demonstration program
27 operated under this section. By January 1, 2003, Workforce
28 Florida, Inc., shall submit a report on such evaluation to the
29 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
30 House of Representatives. The report must include
31 recommendations as to whether the demonstration program should

1 be expanded to other service areas or statewide and whether
2 the program should be revised to enhance its administration or
3 effectiveness.

4 (7) CONFLICTS.--If there is a conflict between the
5 implementation procedures described in this section and
6 federal requirements and regulations, federal requirements and
7 regulations shall control.

8 Section 3. There is appropriated from the Federal
9 Grants Trust Fund to the Department of Children and Family
10 Services \$310,000 to provide funds for 9 months to implement
11 the additional income disregard for fiscal year 2001-2002.

12 There is appropriated from the Employment Security
13 Administration Trust Fund to the Agency for Workforce
14 Innovation \$3,222,500 to provide funds for 9 months to extend
15 transitional benefits and services and to implement the wage
16 supplementation program for fiscal year 2001-2002. The source
17 of these funds is the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
18 block grant.

19 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and
20 paragraph (a) of subsection (10) of section 445.004, Florida
21 Statutes, are amended to read:

22 445.004 Workforce Florida, Inc.; creation; purpose;
23 membership; duties and powers.--

24 (3)(a) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall be governed by a
25 board of directors, the number of directors to be determined
26 by the Governor, whose membership and appointment must be
27 consistent with Pub. L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 111(b), and
28 contain one member representing the licensed nonpublic
29 postsecondary educational institutions authorized as
30 individual training account providers, one member from the
31 staffing service industry, at least one member who is a

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1 current or former recipient of welfare transition services as
2 defined in s. 445.002(3) or workforce services as provided in
3 s. 445.009(1), and five representatives of organized labor who
4 shall be appointed by the Governor. Notwithstanding s.
5 114.05(1)(f), the Governor may appoint remaining members to
6 Workforce Florida, Inc., from the current Workforce
7 Development Board and the WAGES Program State Board of
8 Directors, established pursuant to chapter 96-175, Laws of
9 Florida, to serve on the reconstituted board. By July 1, 2000,
10 the Workforce Development Board will provide to the Governor a
11 transition plan to incorporate the changes required by this
12 act and Pub. L. No. 105-220, specifying the manner of changes
13 to the board. This plan shall govern the transition, unless
14 otherwise notified by the Governor. The importance of
15 minority, gender, and geographic representation shall be
16 considered when making appointments to the board.

17 (10) The workforce development strategy for the state
18 shall be designed by Workforce Florida, Inc., and shall be
19 centered around the strategies of First Jobs/First Wages,
20 Better Jobs/Better Wages, and High Skills/High Wages.

21 (a) First Jobs/First Wages is the state's strategy to
22 promote successful entry into the workforce through education
23 and workplace experience that lead to self-sufficiency and
24 career advancement. The components of the strategy include
25 efforts that enlist business, education, and community support
26 for students to achieve long-term career goals, ensuring that
27 young people have the academic and occupational skills
28 required to succeed in the workplace. A minimum of 15 percent
29 of all Workforce Investment Act youth services funds shall be
30 expended for after-school care programs, through contracts
31 with qualified community-based organizations and faith-based

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1 organizations, on an equal basis with other private
2 organizations, to provide after-school care programs to
3 eligible children 14 through 18 years of age. These programs
4 shall include academic tutoring, mentoring, and other
5 appropriate services. Similar services may be provided for
6 eligible children 6 through 13 years of age using Temporary
7 Assistance for Needy Families funds. Funds expended under this
8 paragraph may not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.
9 To provide after-school care programs under this paragraph, a
10 community-based organization or a faith-based organization
11 must be a nonprofit organization that holds a current
12 exemption from federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of
13 the Internal Revenue Code or must be a religious organization
14 that is not required to apply for recognition of its exemption
15 from federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal
16 Revenue Code.

17 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 445.007, Florida
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19 445.007 Regional workforce boards.--

20 (1) One regional workforce board shall be appointed in
21 each designated service delivery area and shall serve as the
22 local workforce investment board pursuant to Pub. L. No.
23 105-220. The membership of the board shall be consistent with
24 Pub. L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b), and contain one
25 representative from a nonpublic postsecondary educational
26 institution that is an authorized individual training account
27 provider within the region and confers certificates and
28 diplomas, one representative from a nonpublic postsecondary
29 educational institution that is an authorized individual
30 training account provider within the region and confers
31 degrees, and three representatives of organized labor.

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1 Individuals serving as members of regional workforce
2 development boards or local WAGES coalitions, as of June 30,
3 2000, are eligible for appointment to regional workforce
4 boards, pursuant to this section. It is the intent of the
5 Legislature that, whenever possible and to the greatest extent
6 practicable, membership of a regional workforce board include
7 persons who are current or former recipients of welfare
8 transition assistance as defined in s. 445.002(3) or workforce
9 services as provided in s. 445.009(1), or that such persons be
10 included as ex officio members of the board or of committees
11 organized by the board.The importance of minority and gender
12 representation shall be considered when making appointments to
13 the board. If the regional workforce board enters into a
14 contract with an organization or individual represented on the
15 board of directors, the contract must be approved by a
16 two-thirds vote of the entire board, and the board member who
17 could benefit financially from the transaction must abstain
18 from voting on the contract. A board member must disclose any
19 such conflict in a manner that is consistent with the
20 procedures outlined in s. 112.3143.

21 Section 6. Legislative findings and intent; Digital
22 Divide Council; powers and duties; program objectives and
23 goals; review and assessment of program performances; annual
24 report.--

25 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--The Legislature
26 finds as follows:

27 (a) Frequent access to use of information technology
28 and possession of the knowledge and skills required to use
29 information technology productively is becoming increasingly
30 more important to being competitively qualified for
31 high-skill, high-wage employment.

1 (b) The availability of reasonable opportunities to
2 have frequent access to use of information technology and to
3 obtain the education and training necessary to acquire the
4 knowledge and skills required to use information technology
5 productively is critical to becoming competitively qualified
6 for high-skill, high-wage employment.

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

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

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

30
31 It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the authority

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1 and resources reasonably necessary to facilitate design and
2 implementation of such programs.

3 (2) DIGITAL DIVIDE COUNCIL.--The Digital Divide
4 Council is created in the State Technology Office. The council
5 shall consist of:

6 (a) The chief information officer in the State
7 Technology Office.

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

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

11 (d) The director of the Agency for Workforce
12 Innovation.

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

14 (f) The Commissioner of Education.

15 (g) The executive director of the State Board of
16 Community Colleges.

17 (h) The executive director of the State Board for
18 Career Education.

19 (i) The chair of the Network Access Point of the
20 Americas.

21 (j) A representative of the information technology
22 industry in this state appointed by the Speaker of the House
23 of Representatives.

24 (k) A representative of the information technology
25 industry in this state appointed by the President of the
26 Senate.

27 (l) Two members of the House of Representatives, who
28 shall be ex officio, nonvoting members of the council,
29 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one
30 of whom shall be a member of the Republican caucus and the
31 other of whom shall be a member of the Democratic caucus.

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1 (m) Two members of the Senate, who shall be ex
2 officio, nonvoting members of the council, appointed by the
3 President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the
4 Republican caucus and the other of whom shall be a member of
5 the Democratic caucus.

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

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

1 effective.

2 (5) ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT; PAYMENT OF
3 SUPPORT COSTS.--The State Technology Office shall provide such
4 administrative and technical support to the council as is
5 reasonably necessary for the council to effectively and timely
6 carry out its duties and responsibilities. All direct and
7 indirect costs of providing such support and performing the
8 other duties assigned to the State Technology Office related
9 to design and implementation of the programs authorized by
10 this section may be paid from appropriations authorized to be
11 used for such purposes.

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

1 boards and each such board shall coordinate and confirm the
2 ready availability and timely delivery of all elements of such
3 programs to ensure the highest probability of such programs
4 achieving their intended results.

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

8 (a) Maximizing efficient and productive use of
9 existing facilities, equipment, personnel, programs, and funds
10 available from federal, state, and local government agencies
11 and from any private person or entity.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (g) Using information technology to facilitate

1 achievement of the Sunshine State Standards by all children
2 enrolled in the state's K-12 school system who are members of
3 at-risk families.

4 (h) Training teachers in the state's K-12 school
5 system to efficiently and effectively use information
6 technology to plan, teach, and administer all courses of
7 instruction required and available by election of children
8 enrolled in the system.

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

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

21 (8) MONITORING, REVIEWING, AND EVALUATING PROGRAM
22 PERFORMANCES; REPORTING RESULTS.--The council, through the
23 State Technology Office, shall continually monitor, review,
24 and evaluate the progress of performances realized from
25 implementation of the programs authorized by this section. The
26 State Technology Office shall prepare and submit a report to
27 the council at least 10 days before each of its meetings
28 subsequent to its initial meeting and each such report shall,
29 at a minimum, identify and describe the functional elements of
30 each program being implemented and identify and describe the
31 facilities, equipment, personnel, programs, and funds used to

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

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

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1 Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
2 law.

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

6 And the title is amended as follows:
7 remove from the title: the entire title

8
9 and insert in lieu thereof: :

10 A bill to be entitled
11 An act relating to welfare transition;
12 providing a short title; providing legislative
13 intent; authorizing the Passport to Economic
14 Progress demonstration program in specified
15 areas; requiring Workforce Florida, Inc., and
16 the Department of Children and Family Services
17 to pursue federal-government waivers as
18 necessary; increasing the amount of income that
19 may be disregarded in determining eligibility
20 for temporary cash assistance for families
21 residing in the demonstration areas;
22 authorizing an extended period of time for the
23 receipt of welfare-transition benefits by
24 families residing in the demonstration areas;
25 providing legislative findings; directing
26 Workforce Florida, Inc., to create a
27 transitional wage supplementation program;
28 authorizing wage supplementation payments to
29 certain individuals; requiring an evaluation
30 and reports on the demonstration program;
31 providing for conflicts of laws; providing

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1 appropriations; amending s. 445.004, F.S.;

2 specifying an additional member of the board of

3 directors of Workforce Florida, Inc.; requiring

4 certain funds to be expended for after-school

5 care programs; prohibiting certain uses of such

6 funds; prescribing eligibility criteria for

7 certain organizations providing such programs;

8 amending s. 445.007, F.S.; providing

9 legislative intent relating to involving

10 certain persons in board activities; providing

11 legislative findings and intent; creating the

12 Digital Divide Council in the State Technology

13 Office; specifying membership; providing for

14 terms, filling vacancies, and compensation;

15 providing for council meetings and officers;

16 requiring the State Technology Office to

17 provide administrative and technical support;

18 providing powers and duties of the council;

19 authorizing design and implementation of

20 certain programs; providing program objectives

21 and goals; requiring the council to monitor,

22 review, and assess program performances;

23 requiring reports; providing an effective date.

24

25 WHEREAS, the state has achieved dramatic success in

26 reforms to the welfare system, with more than 200,000 families

27 leaving the welfare rolls since such reforms were enacted in

28 1996, and

29 WHEREAS, the majority of those who have left the

30 welfare rolls have done so because of employment and have held

31 no more than two different jobs since leaving welfare, and

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1 WHEREAS, however, many of those who have left the
2 welfare rolls are generating incomes below the federal poverty
3 level, leaving them vulnerable to falling back into the
4 welfare system, and

5 WHEREAS, there also are families that remain within the
6 welfare system who are at risk of exhausting their eligibility
7 for assistance and who would benefit from greater incentives
8 to increase their earnings, and

9 WHEREAS, a strategy that encourages employment,
10 training, and education represents the best approach for
11 increasing family incomes and promoting economic
12 self-sufficiency, and

13 WHEREAS, the Workforce Innovation Act of 2000
14 restructured the state's workforce system to provide
15 individuals with enhanced opportunities to develop skills to
16 secure, maintain, and advance in employment through training
17 and education, and

18 WHEREAS, the expansion of incentives for employment,
19 the extension of transitional support services, and the
20 provision of wage supplements will further enhance the ability
21 of families who are participants in the welfare system or who
22 are leaving the welfare system to raise their incomes and
23 achieve economic progress, NOW, THEREFORE,

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