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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 it could if such families realized their employment and income
15 earning potential; and

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 frequent use of
19 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 the design and implementation of
24 programs that provide such opportunities to members of such
25 at-risk 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.--There is created in the
31 State Technology Office a Digital Divide Council. The Council

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1 shall be constituted as follows:

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) a representative of the information technology
16 industry in Florida appointed by the Speaker of the Florida
17 House of Representatives;

18 (j) a representative of the information technology
19 industry in Florida appointed by the President of the Florida
20 Senate.

21 (k) two members of the Florida House of
22 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of
23 whom shall be a member of the Republican caucus, and the other
24 of whom shall be a member of the Democratic caucus; and

25 (l) two members of the Florida Senate appointed by the
26 President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the
27 Republican caucus, and the other of whom shall be a member of
28 the Democratic caucus.

29 (3) Term of appointed members of Council; vacancies;
30 compensation of members.--

31 The appointed members of the Council shall serve an

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

15 (4) Council meetings; election of officers.--The
16 Council shall conduct its initial meeting by August 1, 2001,
17 and shall meet thereafter at least once every 60 days. In its
18 initial meeting, the members of the Council shall elect one of
19 themselves to serve as Chair and another to serve as
20 Vice-Chair, each for a term of one year from the date of the
21 election. Any vacancy in the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair
22 resulting from resignation, incapacity or death shall be
23 filled by similar election within 30 days from the date the
24 vacancy is effective.

25 (5) Administrative and technical support; payment of
26 support costs.--The State Technology Office shall provide such
27 administrative and technical support to the Council as is
28 reasonably necessary for the Council to effectively and timely
29 carry out its duties and responsibilities. All direct and
30 indirect costs of providing such support and performing the
31 other duties imposed on the State Technology Office related to

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1 design and implementation of the programs authorized above may
2 be paid from appropriations authorized to be used for such
3 purposes.

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

29 (7) Program objectives and goals.--The programs
30 authorized by this section shall have the following objectives
31 and goals:

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1 (a) maximizing efficient and productive use of
2 existing facilities, equipment, personnel, programs and funds
3 available from federal, state and local government agencies,
4 and from any private person or entity;

5 (b) using innovative concepts employing newly
6 developed technologies in educating and training those who are
7 enrolled in the programs authorized by this section;

8 (c) developing viable partnerships between public
9 agencies and private persons and entities based on mutual
10 commitment to responsible and dedicated participation in
11 designing and implementing the programs authorized by this
12 section;

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

19 (e) reducing the number of underachieving and failing
20 students in the state's public school systems who are members
21 of at-risk families;

22 (f) reducing the number of underemployed and
23 unemployed members of at-risk families;

24 (g) using information technology to facilitate
25 achievement of Sunshine State Standards by all children
26 enrolled in the state's K-12 school system who are members of
27 at-risk families;

28 (h) training teachers in the state's K-12 school
29 system to efficiently and effectively use information
30 technology to plan, teach and administer all courses of
31 instruction required and available by election of children

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1 enrolled in the system;

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

9 (j) bridging the digital divide in developing a
10 competitive workforce to meet the employment needs of Florida
11 based information technology businesses and establishing
12 Florida as having the most information technology ready
13 workforce in the western hemisphere.

14 (8) Monitoring, reviewing and evaluating program
15 performances; reporting results.--The Digital Divide Council,
16 through the State Technology Office, shall continually
17 monitor, review and evaluate the progress of performances
18 realized from implementation of the programs authorized by
19 this section. The State Technology Office shall prepare and
20 submit a report to the Council at least 10 days in advance of
21 each of its meetings subsequent to its initial meeting and
22 each such report shall, at a minimum, identify and describe
23 the functional elements of each program being implemented, and
24 identify and describe the facilities, equipment, personnel,
25 programs and funds used to design and implement the
26 program. For each such program, the report shall also
27 identify by name, address, age and sex the school-age
28 children, and their older siblings and parents who are
29 enrolled in the program, state the educational level achieved
30 by each enrollee as of the date he or she enrolled in the
31 program, state the attendance and achievement level recorded

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

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

25
26 (Redesignate subsequent sections.)

27
28
29 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

30 And the title is amended as follows:

31 On page 7, line 22, after the semicolon

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1 insert:

2 stating legislative findings and intent;
3 providing for creation of the Digital Divide
4 Council; authorizing design and implementation
5 of programs; expressing program objectives and
6 goals; providing for review and assessment of
7 program performances;

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