

By Representative Bense

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to community service; creating  
 3           the Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act  
 4           of 2001; providing legislative intent;  
 5           authorizing the state to establish policies and  
 6           procedures which provide for the expenditure of  
 7           funds to develop and facilitate initiatives  
 8           that encourage and reward volunteerism;  
 9           providing purposes of the act; amending s.  
 10          14.29, F.S.; expanding the purposes of a  
 11          required report of the Florida Commission on  
 12          Community Service; authorizing the commission  
 13          to provide specified assistance for the  
 14          establishment and implementation of programs  
 15          pursuant to the Florida Volunteer and Community  
 16          Service Act of 2001; providing an effective  
 17          date.

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

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 21           Section 1. Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act  
 22 of 2001.--

23           (1) This act may be cited as the "Florida Volunteer  
 24 and Community Service Act of 2001."

25           (2) It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the  
 26 development of better communities by fostering greater civic  
 27 responsibility through volunteerism and service to the  
 28 community. Toward this end, the state may establish policies  
 29 and procedures which provide for the expenditure of funds to  
 30 develop and facilitate initiatives by public agencies,  
 31 scholastic institutions, private institutions, and individuals

1 that establish and implement programs that encourage and  
2 reward volunteerism.

3 (3) Initiatives and programs developed pursuant to  
4 this act shall have the following purposes and objectives:

5 (a) To place increased priority on citizen  
6 participation and volunteerism as a means of addressing the  
7 increasingly complex problems facing Florida's communities.

8 (b) To encourage local community leaders to implement  
9 strategies that expand civic participation based on the fact  
10 that volunteers represent a valuable and much-needed asset  
11 within communities.

12 (c) To promote the concept and practice of corporate  
13 citizenship, particularly in communities where such  
14 initiatives are less developed.

15 (d) To build the enthusiasm, dedication, and combined  
16 expertise of individual citizens and public and private  
17 systems to find new and creative ways to effectively use  
18 volunteerism and community service as a strategy to meet the  
19 challenges facing Florida's communities both now and in the  
20 future.

21 (e) To foster the alignment of community volunteer  
22 resources with the goals of the state.

23 (f) To implement policy and administrative changes  
24 that encourage and enable individuals to participate in  
25 volunteer and community service activities.

26 (g) To encourage nonprofit agencies to interweave  
27 volunteers into the fabric of their service delivery as a  
28 means of increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of their  
29 services.

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1       (h) To support and promote volunteer service to all  
2 citizens as an effective means to address community needs and  
3 foster a collective commitment to lifelong community service.

4       (i) To recognize National Volunteer Week as a time to  
5 encourage all citizens of Florida to participate in local  
6 service projects.

7       (j) To recognize the value of individual volunteers  
8 and volunteer and service organizations and programs and to  
9 honor and celebrate the success of volunteers.

10       (k) To encourage volunteer and service efforts to  
11 point children in the right direction and to endow them with  
12 the character and competence they need to achieve success in  
13 life. In order to accomplish this, the citizens of Florida  
14 are encouraged to support America's Promise, the Alliance for  
15 Youth, and Florida's Promise for Youth through volunteerism  
16 and citizen service, to help ensure that children in Florida  
17 have the following five fundamental resources in their lives:

18           1. An ongoing relationship with a caring adult.

19           2. Safe places with structured activities during  
20 after-school hours.

21           3. A healthy start.

22           4. A marketable skill through effective education.

23           5. An opportunity to give back through community  
24 service.

25       Section 2. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) and  
26 paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of section 14.29, Florida  
27 Statutes, are amended to read:

28       14.29 Florida Commission on Community Service.--

29       (7) The commission shall:

30       (c) Prepare an annual report detailing its activities  
31 during the preceding year and, to the extent possible, compile

1 and synthesize any reports that it accepted on behalf of the  
2 Governor. The commission's report shall be presented to the  
3 Governor no later than January 15, with copies to the  
4 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives. The report shall also include specific  
6 recommendations for any necessary legislative, administrative,  
7 or regulatory reform, and the commission's assessment of the  
8 state of volunteerism in Florida.

9 (8) The commission may:

10 (c) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and  
11 services from local, state, or federal government, or from any  
12 of their agencies, or any other public or private source and  
13 is authorized to use funds derived from these sources to  
14 defray administrative costs, and implement programs as may be  
15 necessary to carry out the commission's charge, and assist  
16 agencies, institutions, and individuals in the implementation  
17 of programs pursuant to the Florida Volunteer and Community  
18 Service Act of 2001. The commission may also authorize  
19 Volunteer Florida, Inc., the commission's nonprofit  
20 direct-support organization, to assist in securing training,  
21 technical assistance, and other support needed to accomplish  
22 the intent and purposes of the Florida Volunteer and Community  
23 Service Act of 2001.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Creates the Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act of 2001. Provides legislative intent. Authorizes the state to establish policies and procedures which provide for the expenditure of funds to develop and facilitate initiatives that encourage and reward volunteerism. Provides purposes of the act. Expands the scope of an annual report by the Florida Commission on Community Service to include the commission's assessment of the state of volunteerism in Florida. Authorizes the commission to provide specified assistance for the implementation of programs pursuant to the Florida Volunteer and Community Service Act of 2001.