

By Senator Meek

36-1033-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to enterprise zones;  
3           authorizing certain counties to apply for  
4           amendment of enterprise zone boundary lines;  
5           providing deadlines; prescribing conditions  
6           applicable to the area proposed for addition to  
7           the enterprise zone; directing the Office of  
8           Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to  
9           approve such amendment under certain  
10          conditions; providing an effective date.

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12           WHEREAS, Florida has been affected significantly by the  
13          immigration of individuals seeking to improve their economic  
14          circumstances and secure political freedoms, and

15           WHEREAS, many immigrants have chosen to reside in  
16          specific neighborhoods within some of the state's larger urban  
17          regions, creating distinct communities of shared ethnic  
18          character, and

19           WHEREAS, these communities of shared ethnic character  
20          contribute to the cultural diversity, cultural enrichment, and  
21          economic well-being of the state, and

22           WHEREAS, some of these communities are, however,  
23          experiencing conditions of pervasive poverty, unemployment,  
24          and general distress, and

25           WHEREAS, in some communities with high concentrations  
26          of immigrants from Haiti, in particular, conditions of  
27          pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general distress are  
28          impeding true economic development potential, and

29           WHEREAS, it is a laudable public policy goal of the  
30          state to encourage business and individual investment in  
31          communities with high concentrations of immigrants from Haiti

1 in order to produce employment opportunities and improved  
2 economic conditions for the residents and positive economic  
3 impacts for the state, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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7           Section 1. Notwithstanding any provisions in section  
8 290.0055, Florida Statutes, regarding the size of an  
9 enterprise zone, a county as defined in section 125.011(1),  
10 Florida Statutes, may apply to the Office of Tourism, Trade,  
11 and Economic Development before October 1, 2002, to amend the  
12 boundary lines of its existing enterprise zone in order to add  
13 an area not exceeding 3 square miles. The area proposed for  
14 addition to the enterprise zone under this section must be  
15 contiguous to a portion of the existing enterprise zone and  
16 must be part of a revitalization area that has been targeted  
17 for assistance by the county or by a municipality within the  
18 county. The area proposed for addition to the enterprise zone  
19 also must contain a high concentration of individuals who have  
20 immigrated to this state from Haiti. The Office of Tourism,  
21 Trade, and Economic Development shall approve an amendment to  
22 the enterprise zone boundary lines, effective January 1, 2003,  
23 provided that the area proposed for addition to the enterprise  
24 zone is consistent with the criteria and conditions imposed by  
25 section 290.0055, Florida Statutes, upon the establishment of  
26 enterprise zones, including the requirement that the area  
27 suffer from pervasive poverty, unemployment, and general  
28 distress.

29           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
30 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Authorizes the expansion of an enterprise zone to include  
an area with a high concentration of immigrants from  
Haiti.