

By Representative Brutus

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.