

By the Council for Healthy Communities and Representatives  
Farkas and Murman

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to prostitution; creating a  
3           community-based pilot program entitled Project  
4           HOPE in Pinellas County; specifying that  
5           certain persons convicted of violations of s.  
6           796.07, F.S., are required to participate in  
7           the program; providing for program components;  
8           providing appropriations; requiring a review by  
9           the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
10          Government Accountability and a report to the  
11          Legislature; providing an effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15           Section 1. Project HOPE.--

16           (1) There is created a 2-year community-based program  
17 in Pinellas County that shall include early intervention for a  
18 person convicted of prostitution, as defined in s.  
19 796.07(1)(a), Florida Statutes. Any person convicted two or  
20 more times under s. 796.07, Florida Statutes, shall undergo  
21 screening and evaluation for substance abuse prior to  
22 sentencing. After screening and evaluation for substance  
23 abuse, the person shall enter into a court-authorized  
24 substance abuse treatment program, if recommended.

25           (2) The proposed program shall be called Project HOPE  
26 (Healthy Options Promoting Esteem). Project HOPE shall provide  
27 services that include intake and screening, initial drug  
28 screening and urinalysis tests, psychosocial assessments, case  
29 management, short-term supportive counseling, community  
30 referrals, and referrals to residential and nonresidential  
31 drug treatment.

1           (3) In order to successfully curb the prostitution  
2 cycle, intervention efforts must target the solicitor or buyer  
3 of prostitute services as described in s. 796.07(2)(f),  
4 Florida Statutes. A person convicted for a first or second  
5 time under s. 796.07, Florida Statutes, shall be given the  
6 option to attend a rehabilitative educational program  
7 recommended by the court for solicitors or buyers of  
8 prostitution services. If the person convicted chooses this  
9 option, adjudication shall be withheld pending the completion  
10 of the requirements of such program. The person is required to  
11 attend six classes within 6 months and pay \$350 in fees. The  
12 program provider shall provide monthly tracking of the  
13 person's attendance, progress, and attitude to the court until  
14 the classes are completed.

15           Section 2. There is hereby appropriated for the  
16 2002-2003 fiscal year from the General Revenue Fund \$100,000  
17 to Pinellas County and \$100,000 to Hillsborough County for  
18 Project HOPE.

19           Section 3. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
20 Government Accountability shall conduct a program review of  
21 Project HOPE for fiscal years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 and  
22 shall present a report of its findings and recommendations to  
23 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
24 Representatives on or before December 1, 2004.

25           Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
26 law.

27  
28  
29  
30  
31