

By the Committee on Criminal Justice; and Senator Miller

307-2070A-02

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 and Hillsborough  
5           County; specifying that certain persons  
6           convicted of violations of s. 796.07, F.S., are  
7           required to participate in the program;  
8           providing for program components; providing an  
9           appropriation; requiring the Office of Program  
10          Policy Analysis and Government Accountability  
11          to review Project HOPE and report its findings  
12          and recommendations to the Legislature;  
13          providing an effective date.

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

17           Section 1. Project HOPE.--

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

28           (2) The proposed program shall be called Project HOPE  
29 (Healthy Options Promoting Esteem). Project HOPE shall provide  
30 services that include intake and screening, initial drug  
31 screening and urinalysis tests, psychosocial assessments, case

1 management, short-term supportive counseling, community  
2 referrals, and referrals to residential and nonresidential  
3 drug treatment.

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

18 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General  
19 Revenue Fund to Pinellas County the sum of \$100,000 and to  
20 Hillsborough County the sum of \$100,000 for fiscal year  
21 2002-2003 to fund Project HOPE.

22 Section 3. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
23 Government Accountability shall conduct a program review of  
24 Project HOPE as created by this act for the 2002-2003 and  
25 2003-2004 fiscal years and shall present a report of its  
26 findings and recommendations to the President of the Senate  
27 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1,  
28 2004.

29 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
30 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 570

- Creates a two-year, community-based early intervention pilot program (Project HOPE) in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties requiring participation for those convicted two or more times of prostitution related offenses as defined in s. 796.07, F.S.
- Provides that a person who is convicted for the first or second time of soliciting or buying prostitution services can choose to complete a six-class rehabilitation educational program and pay \$350 in fees. (Adjudication will be withheld pending the completion of the program requirements.)
- Provides an appropriation for fiscal year 2002-2003 of \$100,000 to Pinellas County and \$100,000 to Hillsborough County for this project.
- Requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a program review of Project HOPE and to report to the Legislature on or before December 1, 2004.