

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Productivity;
and Senators Lawson and Bullard

302-2308-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Faith-Based
3 Initiative; creating the Florida Families
4 Faith-Based Initiative and providing for
5 administration by the Florida Agricultural and
6 Mechanical University; providing duties;
7 prohibiting imposition of fees for certain
8 purposes; requiring a report; providing for
9 open records and meetings; providing an
10 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

14 Section 1. Florida Faith-Based Initiative.--
15 (1) CREATION.--The Florida Families Faith-Based
16 Institute is created at and shall be administered by the
17 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The
18 Legislature determines that public policy dictates that the
19 Florida Families Faith-Based Institute operate in the most
20 open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.
21 To this end, the Legislature specifically declares that the
22 Florida Families Faith-Based Institute is subject to the
23 provisions of chapter 119, Florida Statutes, relating to
24 public records and those provisions of chapter 286, Florida
25 Statutes, relating to public meetings and records.
26 (2) DEFINITIONS.--"Faith-based organization" means an
27 organization which is owned by, operated by, or affiliated
28 with a religious entity and whose primary purpose is providing
29 social services and assistance to individuals in need of its
30 services, without regard to the race or religion of the person
31 in need of such services.

1 (3) DUTIES.--The Florida Families Faith-Based
2 Institute shall:
3 (a) Examine barriers to state-funded or federally
4 funded provision of services by faith-based organizations.
5 (b) Provide programmatic and managerial training and
6 technical assistance to faith-based organizations seeking or
7 using state or federal funds to provide services. Such
8 training and technical assistance shall focus on critical
9 areas of faith-based social services management, including
10 community asset-based program development, research-based
11 "best program practices," resource development for nonstate
12 funding sources, and financial management and budgeting.
13 (c) Establish a statewide resource center and
14 clearinghouse for information related to technical assistance
15 and training resources for faith-based and community-based
16 organizations.
17 (d) Serve, as required, as a fiscal intermediary for
18 faith-based and community-based organizations receiving state
19 funding.
20 (e) To the maximum extent possible, leverage state
21 funding for the initiative with any federal funding that the
22 initiative may receive to support similar faith-based
23 activities.
24 (f) Provide specific goals and objective criteria to
25 measure, evaluate, and document the quality and cost of
26 services provided by faith-based organizations with state or
27 federal funds.
28 (g) Serve as liaison to the Centers for Faith-Based
29 and Community Initiatives established within the United States
30 Department of Justice, United States Department of Health and
31 Human Services, United States Department of Education, United

1 States Department of Labor, and United States Department of
2 Housing and Urban Development to work in tandem with the White
3 House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

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5 The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute shall perform its
6 duties without imposing fees on faith-based organizations
7 receiving its assistance.

8 (4) REPORT.--By January 1 of each year, the institute
9 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
10 the Speaker of the House of Representatives an annual report,
11 which shall describe the activities of the institute in
12 fulfilling its duties, describe expenditures of funds by the
13 institute, and recommend to the President of the Senate and
14 the Speaker of the House of Representatives changes to the
15 Florida Statutes necessary to fulfill its purposes and duties.

16 Section 2. Notwithstanding sections 216.181 and
17 216.292, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to section 216.351,
18 Florida Statutes, the sum of \$700,000 is appropriated to the
19 Florida Families Faith-Based Institute for purposes of
20 administering the Florida Faith-Based Initiative.

21 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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23 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
24 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
25 Senate Bill 2686

26 The Committee Substitute creates the faith-based program as an
27 institute within Florida Agricultural and Mechanical
28 University rather than as a separate not-for-profit
29 corporation.
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