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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to the Florida Faith-Based Initiative;
 creating the Florida Faith-Based Initiative and providing
 for administration by the Florida Families Faith-Based
 Institute, Inc.; providing for open records and meetings;
 providing duties; providing an appropriation; providing an
 effective date.

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

Section 1. Florida Faith-Based Initiative.--

(1) CREATION.--The Florida Faith-Based Initiative is
 created and shall be administered by the Florida Families Faith-
 Based Institute, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Florida
 corporation, which is registered, incorporated, organized, and
 operated in compliance with chapter 617, Florida Statutes, and
 which shall not be a unit or entity of state government. The
 Legislature determines, however, that public policy dictates
 that the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute, Inc., operate
 in the most open and accessible manner consistent with its
 public purpose. To this end, the Legislature specifically
 declares that the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute, Inc.,
 is subject to the provisions of chapter 119, Florida Statutes,
 relating to public records and those provisions of chapter 286,
 Florida Statutes, relating to public meetings and records.

(2) DUTIES.--The Florida Faith-Based Initiative shall:

(a) Examine competition-based barriers to state-funded or
 federally funded provision of services by faith-based
 organizations.

(b) Provide programmatic and managerial training and



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31 technical assistance to faith-based organizations seeking or
32 using state or federal funds to provide services. Such training
33 and technical assistance shall focus on critical areas of faith-
34 based social services management, including community asset-
35 based program development, research-based "best program
36 practices," resource development for nonstate funding sources,
37 and financial management and budgeting.

38 (c) Establish a statewide resource center and
39 clearinghouse for information related to technical assistance
40 and training resources for faith-based and community-based
41 organizations.

42 (d) Serve, as required, as a fiscal intermediary for
43 faith-based and community-based organizations receiving state
44 funding.

45 (e) To the maximum extent possible, leverage state funding
46 for the initiative with any federal funding that the initiative
47 may receive to support similar faith-based activities.

48 (f) Provide specific goals and objective criteria to
49 measure, evaluate, and document the quality and cost of services
50 provided by faith-based organizations with state or federal
51 funds.

52 (g) Serve as liaison to the Centers for Faith-Based and
53 Community Initiatives established within the United States
54 Department of Justice, United States Department of Health and
55 Human Services, United States Department of Education, United
56 States Department of Labor, and United States Department of
57 Housing and Urban Development to work in tandem with the White
58 House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

59 Section 2. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292,
60 Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes,



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61 the sum of \$700,000 is appropriated to the Florida Families
62 Faith-Based Institute, Inc., for purposes of administering the
63 Florida Faith-based Initiative.

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