



HB 0837

2003  
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CHAMBER ACTION

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The Committee on Future of Florida's Families recommends the following:

**Committee Substitute**

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Faith-Based Initiative; creating the Florida Families Faith-Based Initiative and providing for administration by the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; providing duties; prohibiting imposition of fees for certain purposes; requiring a report; providing for open records and meetings; 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 Families Faith-Based Institute is created at and shall be administered by the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The Legislature determines that public policy dictates that the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute operate in the most open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. To this end, the



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29 Legislature specifically declares that the Florida Families  
30 Faith-Based Institute is subject to the provisions of chapter  
31 119, Florida Statutes, relating to public records and those  
32 provisions of chapter 286, Florida Statutes, relating to public  
33 meetings and records.

34 (2) DEFINITIONS.--"Faith-based organization" means an  
35 organization which is owned by, operated by, or affiliated with  
36 a religious entity and whose primary purpose is providing social  
37 services and assistance to individuals in need of its services,  
38 without regard to the race or religion of the person in need of  
39 such services.

40 (3) DUTIES.--The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute  
41 shall:

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

44 (b) Provide programmatic and managerial training and  
45 technical assistance to faith-based organizations seeking or  
46 using state or federal funds to provide services. Such training  
47 and technical assistance shall focus on critical areas of faith-  
48 based social services management, including community asset-  
49 based program development, research-based "best program  
50 practices," resource development for nonstate funding sources,  
51 and financial management and budgeting.

52 (c) Establish a statewide resource center and  
53 clearinghouse for information related to technical assistance  
54 and training resources for faith-based and community-based  
55 organizations.



56 (d) Serve, as required, as a fiscal intermediary for  
 57 faith-based and community-based organizations receiving state  
 58 funding.

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

62 (f) Provide specific goals and objective criteria to  
 63 measure, evaluate, and document the quality and cost of services  
 64 provided by faith-based organizations with state or federal  
 65 funds.

66 (g) Serve as liaison to the Centers for Faith-Based and  
 67 Community Initiatives established within the United States  
 68 Department of Justice, United States Department of Health and  
 69 Human Services, United States Department of Education, United  
 70 States Department of Labor, and United States Department of  
 71 Housing and Urban Development to work in tandem with the White  
 72 House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

73  
 74 The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute shall perform its  
 75 duties without imposing fees on faith-based organizations  
 76 receiving its assistance.

77 (4) REPORT.--By January 1 of each year, the institute  
 78 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
 79 the Speaker of the House of Representatives an annual report,  
 80 which shall describe the activities of the institute in  
 81 fulfilling its duties, describe expenditures of funds by the  
 82 institute, and recommend to the President of the Senate and the



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83 Speaker of the House of Representatives changes to the Florida  
84 Statutes necessary to fulfill its purposes and duties.

85       Section 2. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292,  
86 Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes,  
87 the sum of \$700,000 is appropriated to the Florida Families  
88 Faith-Based Institute for purposes of administering the Florida  
89 Faith-Based Initiative.

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