



HB 0137A

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Faith-Based Initiative;
3 creating the Florida Families Faith-Based Initiative and
4 providing for administration by the Florida Agricultural
5 and Mechanical University; providing a definition;
6 providing duties; prohibiting imposition of fees for
7 certain purposes; requiring a report; providing for open
8 records and meetings; providing for construction of the
9 act in pari materia with laws enacted during the 2003
10 Regular Session of the Legislature; providing an
11 effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Florida Faith-Based Initiative.--

16 (1) CREATION.--The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute
17 is created at and shall be administered by the Florida
18 Agricultural and Mechanical University. The Legislature
19 determines that public policy dictates that the Florida Families
20 Faith-Based Institute operate in the most open and accessible
21 manner consistent with its public purpose. To this end, the
22 Legislature specifically declares that the Florida Families
23 Faith-Based Institute is subject to the provisions of chapter
24 119, Florida Statutes, relating to public records and those
25 provisions of chapter 286, Florida Statutes, relating to public
26 meetings and records.

27 (2) DEFINITION.--"Faith-based organization" means an
28 organization which is owned by, operated by, or affiliated with
29 a religious entity and whose primary purpose is providing social
30 services and assistance to individuals in need of its services,



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31 without regard to the race or religion of the person in need of
32 such services.

33 (3) DUTIES.--The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute
34 shall:

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

37 (b) Provide programmatic and managerial training and
38 technical assistance to faith-based organizations seeking or
39 using state or federal funds to provide services. Such training
40 and technical assistance shall focus on critical areas of faith-
41 based social services management, including community asset-
42 based program development, research-based "best program
43 practices," resource development for nonstate funding sources,
44 and financial management and budgeting.

45 (c) Establish a statewide resource center and
46 clearinghouse for information related to technical assistance
47 and training resources for faith-based and community-based
48 organizations.

49 (d) Serve, as required, as a fiscal intermediary for
50 faith-based and community-based organizations receiving state
51 funding.

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

55 (f) Provide specific goals and objective criteria to
56 measure, evaluate, and document the quality and cost of services
57 provided by faith-based organizations with state or federal
58 funds.

59 (g) Serve as liaison to the Centers for Faith-Based and
60 Community Initiatives established within the United States



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61 Department of Justice, United States Department of Health and
62 Human Services, United States Department of Education, United
63 States Department of Labor, and United States Department of
64 Housing and Urban Development to work in tandem with the White
65 House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

66
67 The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute shall perform its
68 duties without imposing fees on faith-based organizations
69 receiving its assistance.

70 (4) REPORT.--By January 1 of each year, the institute
71 shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and
72 the Speaker of the House of Representatives an annual report,
73 which shall describe the activities of the institute in
74 fulfilling its duties, describe expenditures of funds by the
75 institute, and recommend to the President of the Senate and the
76 Speaker of the House of Representatives changes to the Florida
77 Statutes necessary to fulfill its purposes and duties.

78 Section 2. If any law amended by this act was also amended
79 by a law enacted at the 2003 Regular Session of the Legislature,
80 such laws shall be construed as if they had been enacted at the
81 same session of the Legislature, and full effect shall be given
82 to each if possible.

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