

HB 0031

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Florida Faith-Based Initiative; establishing the Florida Faith-Based Initiative; creating the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute and providing for administration by the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; providing a definition; 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 Legislature specifically declares that the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute 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) DEFINITION.--"Faith-based organization" means an organization which is owned by, operated by, or affiliated with a religious entity and whose primary purpose is providing social services and assistance to individuals in need of its services, without regard to the race or religion of the person in need of

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31 such services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

58 (g) Serve as liaison to the Centers for Faith-Based and
 59 Community Initiatives established within the United States
 60 Department of Justice, United States Department of Health and

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

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

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

77 Section 2. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292,
 78 Florida Statutes, and pursuant to s. 216.351, Florida Statutes,
 79 the sum of \$700,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue
 80 Fund to the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute for purposes
 81 of administering the Florida Faith-Based Initiative.

82 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.