

By Senator Bullard

39-542-04

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

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

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14 Section 1. Florida Families Faith-Based Institute.--

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 the provisions of chapter 286, Florida
25 Statutes, relating to public meetings and records.

26 (2) DEFINITION.--As used in this section, the term
27 "faith-based organization" means an organization that is owned
28 by, operated by, or affiliated with a religious entity and the
29 primary purpose of which is providing social services and
30 assistance to individuals in need of its services, without

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1 regard to the race or religion of the person in need of such
2 services.

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

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

7 (b) Provide programmatic and managerial training and
8 technical assistance to faith-based organizations that seek or
9 use state or federal funds to provide services. Such training
10 and technical assistance must focus on critical areas of
11 faith-based social services management, including community
12 asset-based program development, research-based best program
13 practices, resource development for nonstate funding sources,
14 and financial management and budgeting.

15 (c) Establish a statewide resource center and
16 clearinghouse for information related to technical assistance
17 and training resources for faith-based and community-based
18 organizations.

19 (d) Serve, as required, as a fiscal intermediary for
20 faith-based and community-based organizations that receive
21 state funding.

22 (e) To the maximum extent possible, leverage state
23 funding for the institute with any federal funding that the
24 institute may receive to support similar faith-based
25 activities.

26 (f) Provide specific goals and objective criteria to
27 measure, evaluate, and document the quality and cost of
28 services provided by faith-based organizations with state or
29 federal funds.

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

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

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7 The Florida Families Faith-Based Institute shall perform its
8 duties without imposing fees on faith-based organizations that
9 receive its assistance.

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

19 Section 2. Notwithstanding sections 216.181 and
20 216.292, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to section 216.351,
21 Florida Statutes, the sum of \$700,000 is appropriated to the
22 Florida Families Faith-Based Institute for purposes of
23 administering this act during the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

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

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27 SENATE SUMMARY

28 Creates the Florida Families Faith-Based Institute within
29 the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.
30 Provides duties of the institute. Prohibits the
31 imposition of fees for certain purposes. Requires an
annual report to the Governor and to legislative leaders.
Provides for open records and meetings. Provides an
appropriation.