

HB 599

2006
CS

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health & Families Council recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to the Florida Faith-based and Community-
7 based Advisory Council; creating s. 14.31, F.S.; providing
8 legislative findings and intent; creating the Florida
9 Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council within
10 the Executive Office of the Governor for certain purposes;
11 providing for council membership; providing for terms of
12 members; providing for successor appointments; providing
13 for meetings and organization of the council; specifying
14 serving without compensation; providing for per diem and
15 travel expenses; specifying required activities of the
16 council; specifying restricted activities; requiring a
17 report to the Governor and Legislature; providing for
18 future repeal and abolition of the council; providing an
19 effective date.

20
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

HB 599

2006
CS

23 Section 1. Section 14.31, Florida Statutes, is created to
24 read:

25 14.31 Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory
26 Council.--

27 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--The Legislature finds that:

28 (a) Compassionate groups of individuals have selflessly
29 aided this state in serving our most vulnerable residents and
30 our most debilitated neighborhoods.

31 (b) Inspired by faith and civic commitment, these
32 organizations have accomplished much in changing the lives of
33 thousands and resurrecting neighborhoods torn by the strife of
34 crime and poverty.

35 (c) It is essential that this state cooperate with these
36 organizations in order to provide an opportunity to participate
37 on an equal basis, regardless of each organization's
38 orientation, whether faith-based or secular.

39 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is therefore the intent of the
40 Legislature to recognize the contributions of these
41 organizations and to encourage opportunities for faith-based and
42 community-based organizations to work cooperatively with
43 government entities in order to deliver services more
44 effectively. The Legislature further intends that the purpose of
45 the council is to advise the Governor and the Legislature on
46 policies, priorities, and objectives for the state's
47 comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and
48 expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community
49 organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

50 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.--

HB 599

2006
CS

51 (a) The Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory
52 Council, an advisory council as defined in s. 20.03, is
53 established and assigned to the Executive Office of the
54 Governor. The council shall be administratively housed within
55 the Executive Office of the Governor.

56 (b) The council shall consist of 25 members. Council
57 members may include, but need not be limited to, representatives
58 from various faiths, faith-based organizations, community-based
59 organizations, foundations, corporations, and municipalities.

60 (c) The council shall be composed of the following
61 members:

62 1. Seventeen members appointed by and serving at the
63 pleasure of the Governor.

64 2. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure
65 of the President of the Senate.

66 3. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure
67 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

68 (d) Council members shall serve 4-year terms, except that
69 the initial terms shall be staggered as follows:

70 1. The Governor shall appoint six members for a term of 3
71 years, six members for a term of 2 years, and five members for a
72 term of 1 year.

73 2. The President of the Senate shall appoint two members
74 for a term of 3 years and two members for a term of 2 years.

75 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
76 appoint two members for a term of 3 years and two members for a
77 term of 2 years.

78 | (e) A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the
 79 | original appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the
 80 | term.

81 | (4) MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION.--

82 | (a) The first meeting of the council shall be held no
 83 | later than August 1, 2006. Thereafter, the council shall meet at
 84 | least once per quarter per calendar year. Meetings may be held
 85 | via teleconference or other electronic means.

86 | (b) The council shall annually elect from its membership
 87 | one member to serve as chair of the council and one member to
 88 | serve as vice chair.

89 | (c) Thirteen members of the council shall constitute a
 90 | quorum.

91 | (d) Members of the council shall serve without
 92 | compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel
 93 | expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

94 | (5) SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES.--The council shall review and
 95 | recommend in a report to the Governor, the President of the
 96 | Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

97 | (a) How faith-based and community-based organizations can
 98 | best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state
 99 | services, regardless of an organization's orientation, whether
 100 | faith-based or secular.

101 | (b) How best to develop and coordinate activities of
 102 | faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives,
 103 | enhance such efforts in communities, and seek such resources,
 104 | legislation, and regulatory relief as may be necessary to
 105 | accomplish these objectives.

HB 599

2006
CS

106 (c) How best to ensure that state policy decisions take
107 into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-
108 based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state
109 priorities.

110 (d) How best to identify and promote best practices across
111 state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-
112 based and other community-based organizations.

113 (e) How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based
114 and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot
115 programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism,
116 and special projects.

117 (f) How best to encourage private charitable giving to
118 support faith-based and community-based initiatives.

119 (g) How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options
120 to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening,
121 and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based
122 programs.

123 (h) How best to develop and implement strategic
124 initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and
125 communities in this state.

126 (i) How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots
127 nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives.

128 (j) How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative,
129 regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede
130 effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to
131 address social problems.

132 (k) How best to monitor implementation of state policy
133 affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.

HB 599

2006
CS

134 (1) How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and
135 other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for
136 performance and accountability.

137 (6) RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES.--The council may not make any
138 recommendation that conflicts with the Establishment Clause of
139 the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the
140 public funding provision of s. 3, Art. I of the State
141 Constitution.

142 (7) REPORT.--By February 1 of each year, the council shall
143 prepare a written report for the Governor, the President of the
144 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
145 containing an accounting of its activities and recommended
146 policies, priorities, and objectives for the state's
147 comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and
148 expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community-
149 based organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

150 (8) EXPIRATION.--This section is repealed and the council
151 is abolished June 30, 2011, unless reviewed and saved from
152 repeal by the Legislature.

153 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.