

1 A bill to be entitled

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

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

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19 Section 1. Section 14.31, Florida Statutes, is created to
20 read:

21 14.31 Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory
22 Council.--

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

24 (a) Compassionate groups of individuals have selflessly
25 aided this state in serving our most vulnerable residents and
26 our most debilitated neighborhoods.

27 (b) Inspired by faith and civic commitment, these
28 organizations have accomplished much in changing the lives of
29 thousands and resurrecting neighborhoods torn by the strife of
30 crime and poverty.

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

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

46 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.--

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

52 (b) The council shall consist of 25 members. Council
53 members may include, but need not be limited to, representatives

54 from various faiths, faith-based organizations, community-based
 55 organizations, foundations, corporations, and municipalities.

56 (c) The council shall be composed of the following
 57 members:

58 1. Seventeen members appointed by and serving at the
 59 pleasure of the Governor.

60 2. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure
 61 of the President of the Senate.

62 3. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure
 63 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

66 1. The Governor shall appoint six members for a term of 3
 67 years, six members for a term of 2 years, and five members for a
 68 term of 1 year.

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

71 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
 72 appoint two members for a term of 3 years and two members for a
 73 term of 2 years.

74 (e) A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the
 75 original appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the
 76 term.

77 (4) MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION.--

78 (a) The first meeting of the council shall be held no
 79 later than August 1, 2006. Thereafter, the council shall meet at

80 least once per quarter per calendar year. Meetings may be held
 81 via teleconference or other electronic means.

82 (b) The council shall annually elect from its membership
 83 one member to serve as chair of the council and one member to
 84 serve as vice chair.

85 (c) Thirteen members of the council shall constitute a
 86 quorum.

87 (d) Members of the council shall serve without
 88 compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel
 89 expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

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

93 (a) How faith-based and community-based organizations can
 94 best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state
 95 services, regardless of an organization's orientation, whether
 96 faith-based or secular.

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

102 (c) How best to ensure that state policy decisions take
 103 into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-
 104 based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state
 105 priorities.

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

109 (e) How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based
110 and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot
111 programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism,
112 and special projects.

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

115 (g) How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options
116 to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening,
117 and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based
118 programs.

119 (h) How best to develop and implement strategic
120 initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and
121 communities in this state.

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

124 (j) How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative,
125 regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede
126 effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to
127 address social problems.

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

130 (l) How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and
131 other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for
132 performance and accountability.

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

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

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

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