

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to children's zones; creating s. 409.147,
3 F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; providing
4 policy and purpose; providing definitions; providing a
5 process for nominating and selecting a children's zone;
6 providing for the governing body of a county or
7 municipality to adopt a resolution designating a
8 children's zone; specifying contents of the resolution;
9 requiring the governing body to establish a children's
10 zone planning team; providing powers and responsibilities
11 of the planning team; requiring the planning team to
12 designate working groups; specifying focus areas for the
13 working groups; providing for the development of a
14 strategic community plan; providing objectives for each
15 focus area; requiring the governing body to create a
16 corporation not for profit for specified purposes;
17 establishing the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., pilot
18 project; providing for management by an entity organized
19 as a corporation not for profit; providing geographic
20 boundaries for the zone; providing for designation and
21 appointment of a board of directors; providing for
22 meetings and duties of the board of directors; providing
23 per diem and travel expenses; requiring the board to enter
24 into a contract to develop a business plan; providing for
25 reports to the Legislature; providing appropriations;
26 providing an effective date.

27
28 WHEREAS, the State of Florida is often referred to as the

CS/CS/HB 1041

2007

29 Sunshine State, a term that suggests warm weather, a carefree
30 lifestyle, and unlimited potential for nurturing hope and
31 realizing dreams for a fulfilling and productive life, and

32 WHEREAS, communities within the state suffering from
33 fragile infrastructures and multiple social ills are home to
34 families for whom those obstacles limit, or completely preclude,
35 their ability to create a good quality of life for themselves
36 and for their children, and

37 WHEREAS, a proposed community initiative known as a
38 children's zone, which is modeled after the long-established and
39 successful Harlem Children's Zone, seeks to change that
40 experience, and

41 WHEREAS, the initiative will be based on the belief that in
42 order to help children from troubled communities become healthy
43 adults and responsible, fulfilled members of their communities,
44 two things must happen: first, they must be surrounded by a
45 critical mass of adults who are effective parents engaged in
46 activities with their children; and second, early in their
47 lives, they must be exposed to sound health care, intellectual
48 and social stimulation, and consistent guidance from loving,
49 attentive adults, and

50 WHEREAS, the initiative seeks to establish a comprehensive,
51 community-based, coordinated, and targeted system of strategies
52 and services to revitalize communities with an increased sense
53 of culture, pride, and togetherness; to support parents; and to
54 provide comprehensive care for all children within the zone,

55 NOW, THEREFORE,
56

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

58

59 Section 1. Section 409.147, Florida Statutes, is created
60 to read:

61 409.147 Children's zones.--

62 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

63 (a) The Legislature finds that:

64 1. There are neighborhoods in the state where the
65 infrastructure and opportunities that middle-class communities
66 take for granted are nonexistent or so marginal that they are
67 ineffective.

68 2. Children in these neighborhoods are read to by an adult
69 on a regular basis and attend a prekindergarten education
70 program at a much lower rate than children in other communities.
71 The children experience below-average performance on
72 standardized tests and graduate from high school in fewer
73 numbers. Most children are eligible for the free or reduced-
74 price school lunch program.

75 3. Children in these neighborhoods often suffer from high
76 rates of asthma, a higher risk of lead poisoning, and inadequate
77 health care, and they are routinely exposed to violence and
78 crime.

79 4. In spite of these obstacles, these neighborhoods are
80 many times home to strong individuals and institutions that are
81 committed to making a difference in the lives of children and
82 their families.

83 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
84 assist disadvantaged areas within the state in creating a

85 community-based service network that develops, coordinates, and
86 provides quality education, accessible health care, youth
87 development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and
88 affordable housing for children and families living within its
89 boundaries.

90 (2) POLICY AND PURPOSE.--It is the policy of this state to
91 provide the necessary means to assist local communities, the
92 children and families who live in those communities, and the
93 private sector in creating a sound educational, social, and
94 economic environment. To achieve this objective, the state
95 intends to provide investments sufficient to encourage community
96 partners to commit financial and other resources to severely
97 disadvantaged areas. The purpose of this section is to establish
98 a process that clearly identifies the severely disadvantaged
99 areas and provides guidance for developing a new social service
100 paradigm that systematically coordinates programs that address
101 the critical needs of children and their families and for
102 directing efforts to rebuild the basic infrastructure of the
103 community. The Legislature, therefore, declares the creation of
104 children's zones, through the collaborative efforts of
105 government and the private sector, to be a public purpose.

106 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

107 (a) "Governing body" means the commission or other
108 legislative body charged with governing a county or
109 municipality.

110 (b) "Ounce" means the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida,
111 Inc.

112 (c) "Planning team" means a children's zone planning team

113 established under this section.

114 (d) "Resident" means a person who lives or operates a
 115 small community-based business or organization within the
 116 boundaries of the children's zone.

117 (4) CHILDREN'S ZONE NOMINATING PROCESS.--A county or
 118 municipality, or a county and one or more municipalities
 119 together, may apply to Ounce to designate an area as a
 120 children's zone after the governing body:

121 (a) Adopts a resolution that:

122 1. Finds that an area exists in such county or
 123 municipality, or in the county and one or more municipalities,
 124 which chronically exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of
 125 poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, as well as
 126 limited access to quality educational, health care, and social
 127 services.

128 2. Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or
 129 redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of the area is
 130 necessary in the interest of improving the health, wellness,
 131 education, living conditions, and livelihoods of the children
 132 and families who live in the county or municipality.

133 3. Determines that the revitalization of the area can
 134 occur only if the state and the private sector invest resources
 135 to improve infrastructure and the provision of services.

136 (b) Establishes a children's zone planning team as
 137 provided in subsection (5).

138 (c) Develops and adopts a strategic community plan as
 139 provided in subsection (6).

140 (d) Creates a corporation not for profit as provided in

141 subsection (7).

142 (5) CHILDREN'S ZONE PLANNING TEAM.--

143 (a) After the governing body adopts the resolution
144 described in subsection (4), the county or municipality shall
145 establish a children's zone planning team.

146 (b) The planning team shall include residents and
147 representatives from community-based organizations and other
148 community institutions. At least half of the members of the
149 planning team shall be residents.

150 (c) The planning team shall:

151 1. Develop a planning process that sets the direction for,
152 builds a commitment to, and develops the capacity to realize the
153 children's zone concept.

154 2. Develop a vision of what the children's zone will look
155 like when the challenges, problems, and opportunities in the
156 children's zone are successfully addressed.

157 3. Identify important opportunities, strengths,
158 challenges, and problems in the children's zone.

159 4. Develop a strategic community plan consisting of goals,
160 objectives, tasks, the designation of responsible parties, the
161 identification of resources needed, timelines for implementation
162 of the plan, and procedures for monitoring outcomes.

163 (d) The planning team shall designate working groups to
164 specifically address each of the following focus areas:

165 1. Early development and care of children.

166 2. Education of children and youth.

167 3. Health and wellness.

168 4. Youth support.

169 5. Parent and guardian support.
 170 6. Adult education, training, and jobs.
 171 7. Community safety.
 172 8. Housing and community development.
 173 (6) CHILDREN'S ZONE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN.--After the
 174 governing body adopts the resolution described in subsection
 175 (4), the working groups shall develop objectives and identify
 176 strategies for each focus area. The objectives, specified by
 177 focus area, for a working group may include, but not be limited
 178 to:
 179 (a) Early development and care of children.
 180 1. Providing resources to enable every child to be
 181 adequately nurtured in the first 3 years of life.
 182 2. Ensuring that all schools are ready for children and
 183 all children are ready for school.
 184 3. Facilitating enrollment in half-day or full-day
 185 prekindergarten for all 3-year old and 4-year old children.
 186 4. Strengthening parent and guardian relationships with
 187 care providers.
 188 5. Providing support and education for families and child
 189 care providers.
 190 (b) Education of children and youth.
 191 1. Increasing the level and degree of accountability of
 192 persons who are responsible for the development and well-being
 193 of all children in the children's zone.
 194 2. Changing the structure and function of schools to
 195 increase the quality of and the amount of time spent on
 196 instruction and increase programmatic options and offerings.

197 3. Creating a safe and respectful environment for student
 198 learning.

199 4. Identifying and supporting points of alignment between
 200 the children's zone community plan and the school district's
 201 strategic plan.

202 (c) Health and wellness.

203 1. Facilitating enrollment of all eligible children in the
 204 Florida Kidcare program and providing full access to high-
 205 quality drug and alcohol treatment services.

206 2. Eliminating health disparities between racial and
 207 cultural groups, including improving outcomes and increasing
 208 interventions.

209 3. Providing fresh, good quality, affordable, and
 210 nutritious food within the children's zone.

211 4. Providing all children in the children's zone with
 212 access to safe, structured, and unstructured recreation.

213 (d) Youth support.

214 1. Increasing the high school graduation rate.

215 2. Increasing leadership development and employment
 216 opportunities for youth.

217 (e) Parent and guardian support.

218 1. Increasing parent and adult literacy.

219 2. Expanding access for parents to critical resources,
 220 such as jobs, transportation, day care, and after-school care.

221 3. Improving the effectiveness of the ways in which
 222 systems communicate and collaborate with parents and the ways in
 223 which parents communicate and collaborate with systems.

224 4. Making the services of the Healthy Families Florida

225 program available to provide multiyear support to expectant
 226 parents and persons caring for infants and toddlers.

227 (f) Adult education, training, and jobs.

228 1. Creating job opportunities for adults which lead to
 229 career development.

230 2. Establishing a career and technical school or a
 231 satellite of such a school in the children's zone which includes
 232 a one-stop career center.

233 (g) Community safety.

234 1. Providing a safe environment for all children at home,
 235 in school, and in the community.

236 2. Eliminating the economic, political, and social forces
 237 that lead to a lack of safety within the family, the community,
 238 schools, and institutional structures.

239 3. Assessing policies and practices, including sentencing,
 240 incarceration, detention, and data reporting, in order to reduce
 241 youth violence, crime, and recidivism.

242 (h) Housing and community development.

243 1. Strengthening the residential real estate market.

244 2. Building on existing efforts to promote socioeconomic
 245 diversity when developing a comprehensive land use strategic
 246 plan.

247 3. Promoting neighborhood beautification strategies.

248 (7) CHILDREN'S ZONE CORPORATION.--After the governing body
 249 adopts the resolution described in subsection (4), the county or
 250 municipality shall create a corporation not for profit which
 251 shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in
 252 compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation is

253 to facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership
 254 of the children's zone, and, if the area selected by the
 255 governing body is designated as a children's zone, to:

256 (a) Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the
 257 children's zone planning team to the corporation.

258 (b) Begin the implementation and governance of the
 259 children's zone community plan.

260 (8) CREATION OF MAGIC CITY CHILDREN'S ZONE, INC., PILOT
 261 PROJECT.--

262 (a) There is created within the Liberty City neighborhood
 263 in Miami-Dade County a 10-year pilot project zone that, by
 264 November 1, 2007, shall be managed by an entity organized as a
 265 corporation not for profit which shall be registered,
 266 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter
 267 617. The corporation shall be known as the Magic City Children's
 268 Zone, Inc., and shall be administratively housed within the
 269 Belafonte Tacolcy Center. However, Magic City Children's Zone,
 270 Inc., is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by
 271 the Belafonte Tacolcy Center in any manner.

272 (b) This pilot project zone is designed to apply to an
 273 area that is large enough to include all of the necessary
 274 components of community life, including, but not limited to,
 275 schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial
 276 areas, and common space, yet small enough to allow programs and
 277 services to reach every willing member of the neighborhood.
 278 Therefore, the geographic boundaries of the pilot project zone
 279 are:

280 1. Northwest 79th Street to the north;

281 2. Northwest 36th Street to the south;
 282 3. North Miami Avenue to the east; and
 283 4. Northwest 27th Avenue to the west.
 284 (c)1. The corporation shall be governed by a 15-member
 285 board of directors. The board of directors shall consist of the
 286 following members:
 287 a. The chief executive officer of the Belafonte Tacolcy
 288 Center.
 289 b. The executive director of the Carrie P. Meek
 290 Entrepreneurial Education Center, Miami-Dade College.
 291 c. The director of the Parks and Recreation Department of
 292 the City of Miami.
 293 d. The director of the Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.
 294 e. The chief executive officer of the Urban League of
 295 Greater Miami.
 296 f. The director of the Liberty City Service Partnership.
 297 g. The regional superintendent of the Miami-Dade County
 298 Public Schools.
 299 h. The president of the Student Government Association of
 300 Northwestern High School.
 301 i. The president of the Student Government Association of
 302 Edison High School.
 303 j. The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association
 304 of Northwestern High School.
 305 k. The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association
 306 of Edison High School.
 307 l. Four members from the local private business sector, to
 308 be appointed by a majority vote of the members designated in

309 sub-subparagraphs a.-k., all of whom must have significant
310 experience in one of the focus areas specified in subsection
311 (6).

312 2. All members of the board of directors shall be
313 appointed no later than 90 days following the incorporation of
314 the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., and:

315 a. Eleven members initially appointed pursuant to this
316 paragraph shall each serve a 4-year term.

317 b. The remaining initial four appointees shall each serve
318 a 2-year term.

319 c. Each member appointed thereafter shall serve a 4-year
320 term.

321 d. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which
322 the original appointment was made, and a member appointed to
323 fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term.

324 e. A member may not serve more than 8 years in consecutive
325 terms.

326 3. The board of directors shall annually elect a
327 chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the board's
328 members. The members may, by a vote of eight members, remove a
329 member from the position of chairperson or vice chairperson
330 before the expiration of his or her term as chairperson or vice
331 chairperson. His or her successor shall be elected to serve for
332 the balance of the removed chairperson's or vice chairperson's
333 term.

334 4. The board of directors shall meet at least four times
335 each year upon the call of the chairperson, at the request of
336 the vice chairperson, or at the request of a majority of the

337 membership. A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum.
338 The board of directors may take official action by a majority
339 vote of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is
340 present. The board may conduct its meetings through
341 teleconferences or other similar means.

342 5. A member of the board of directors may be removed by a
343 majority of the membership. Absence from three consecutive
344 meetings results in automatic removal.

345 6. Each member of the board of directors shall serve
346 without compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for travel
347 and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061 while in the
348 performance of his or her duties.

349 7. The corporation shall create a standing advisory board
350 to assist in any part of its delegated duties. The membership of
351 the standing advisory board shall reflect the expertise
352 necessary for the implementation of the children's zone pilot
353 project.

354 8. The board of directors has the power and duty to:

355 a. Adopt articles of incorporation and bylaws necessary to
356 govern its activities.

357 b. Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the
358 children's zone planning team to the corporation.

359 c. Begin the implementation and governance of the
360 children's zone community plan.

361 d. Enter into a contract with a management consultant who
362 has experience working with social service and educational
363 entities for the purpose of developing a 10-year comprehensive
364 business plan to carry out the provisions of this section.

365 (d) Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., shall submit an
366 annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
367 the House of Representatives by January 31, 2008, and by January
368 31 of each year thereafter, which shall include a comprehensive
369 and detailed report of its operations, activities, and
370 accomplishments for the prior year as well as its goals for the
371 current year. The initial report shall also include information
372 concerning the status of the development of a business plan.

373 Section 2. The sum of \$3.6 million in nonrecurring general
374 revenue funds and \$28,362 in nonrecurring tobacco settlement
375 funds is appropriated to the Department of Children and Family
376 Services for Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc., during
377 the 2007-2008 fiscal year as a grant for a 3-year period for the
378 purpose of implementing the provisions of this act, to include
379 contracting for the development of a business plan and for
380 evaluation and fiscal management and oversight of the pilot
381 project.

382 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.