

By Senator Crist

12-1559A-07

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to urban revitalization;

3 creating s. 288.715, F.S.; creating the Urban

4 Revitalization Congress within the Executive

5 Office of the Governor; providing legislative

6 intent; providing for membership, staff

7 support, and reimbursement for travel and per

8 diem expenses for members; providing tasks;

9 providing an appropriation; providing an

10 effective date.

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

14 Section 1. Section 288.715, Florida Statutes, is
15 created to read:

16 288.715 Urban Revitalization Congress.--

17 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds and
18 declares:

19 (a) Fiscally strong urban centers are beneficial to
20 regional and state economies and a resource for minimizing
21 future urban distress and should, therefore, be promoted by
22 state and local governments.

23 (b) The health and vibrancy of an urban center
24 benefits its region and state; conversely, the deterioration
25 of an urban core negatively affects the surrounding area and
26 the entire state.

27 (c) In recognition of the interwoven destiny between
28 urban centers, the surrounding suburbs, the region, and the
29 state, the respective governments need to establish a
30 framework for working in partnership with communities and the
31 private sector to revitalize urban centers.

1 (d) State urban policies should guide the state,
2 regional agencies, local governments, and the private sector
3 in preserving and revitalizing existing urban centers and
4 promoting the adequate provision of infrastructure, human
5 services, safe neighborhoods, educational facilities, and
6 economic development needed to sustain these centers into the
7 future.

8 (e) Successfully revitalizing and sustaining urban
9 centers is dependent on addressing, through an integrated and
10 coordinated statewide and community effort, the varied
11 cultural, educational, recreational, economic, transportation,
12 and social service components essential to maintaining a
13 healthy urban environment.

14 (f) Leadership, strategic guidance, resource
15 coordination and leveraging, and promoting the use of
16 innovative approaches are recognized as essential factors for
17 promoting and sustaining urban centers. State and regional
18 agencies and local governments must provide incentives to
19 promote urban revitalization, which along with existing
20 programs, need to be integrated to the maximum extent possible
21 to promote urban revitalization and to achieve the goals of
22 the state's urban policy.

23 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.--There is established, as part of
24 an overall state urban strategy, the Urban Revitalization
25 Congress within the Executive Office of the Governor to foster
26 leadership and provide resources and support to economically
27 energize the state's urban centers.

28 (3) MEMBERSHIP.--

29 (a) The congress shall consist of _____ members
30 appointed by the Governor, one of whom the Governor shall
31 appoint as chair. The members shall include both elected and

1 appointed local government officials, directors of urban
2 centers, representatives of economic and community development
3 organizations, private-sector leaders, as well as other
4 parties having an interest in and knowledge about the vitality
5 of this state's urban centers.

6 (b) Members shall serve without compensation but are
7 entitled to receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance
8 with s. 112.061 while performing their duties.

9 (c) The congress shall meet at least twice per year.

10 (4) TASKS.--At a minimum, the congress shall:

11 (a) Award competitive grants to fund demonstration
12 projects that encourage business investment in urban centers.

13 (b) Provide matching funds for community redevelopment
14 projects and partnerships with urban colleges and universities
15 which support urban revitalization programs.

16 (c) Work with state agencies and communities to
17 prepare a statewide strategy and plan for revitalizing and
18 sustaining the state's urban centers.

19 (5) STAFFING.--The Executive Office of the Governor
20 shall provide staff support for the congress.

21 (6) REPORTS.--The congress shall prepare an annual
22 report, which shall be submitted to the Governor, the
23 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives beginning September 1, 2008, and annually
25 thereafter.

26 (7) TERMINATION.--The congress shall expire July 1,
27 2011.

28 Section 2. The sum of \$ _____ is
29 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Executive
30 Office of the Governor for the purpose of funding the
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1 activities of the Urban Revitalization Congress during the
2 2007-2008 fiscal year.

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

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6 SENATE SUMMARY

7 Creates the Urban Revitalization Congress in the
8 Executive Office of the Governor. Provides legislative
9 intent and tasks of the congress. Provides for
10 membership, travel and per diem expense reimbursement for
11 members, and staff support. Provides for termination of
12 the congress.

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