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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Climate Action Partnership;
3 creating the Florida Climate Action Partnership; providing
4 purposes and duties; directing the partnership to develop
5 policy recommendations and a climate mitigation action
6 plan; providing criteria for the recommendations and plan;
7 providing for partnership membership; providing for per
8 diem and travel expenses; providing for meetings;
9 providing for staff to assist the partnership; requiring
10 that recommendations and a final report be submitted to
11 the Governor and the Legislature by certain dates;
12 specifying criteria for the report; providing for
13 expiration of the partnership; providing an effective
14 date.

15
16 WHEREAS, carbon dioxide produced by the burning of fossil
17 fuels is a leading contributor to global warming and is the
18 leading global warming pollutant released in the United States,
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the potential effects of global climate change in
21 Florida and the Southeastern United States, such as more
22 frequent and severe storm events and flooding, sea level rise,
23 water supply disruption, agricultural crop yield changes and
24 forest productivity shifts, water and air quality degradation,
25 and threats to coastal areas, tourism, and infrastructure, could
26 significantly impact the state's economy, level of public
27 expenditures, and quality of life, and

28 WHEREAS, this state is particularly vulnerable to the

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29 possible effects of global climate change due to the low
30 elevation of its 1,300 miles of coastline, susceptibility to
31 more intense hurricanes, the effect of drought conditions on the
32 state's unique environment, and the spread of infectious disease
33 to vulnerable populations, and

34 WHEREAS, the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida
35 released its first annual report to the Governor and the
36 Legislature and prominently stated, "There may be no more
37 pressing issue in our state than the impact of our country's
38 current level of use of fossil fuels on the state and global
39 environment. The relationship between our energy sources and our
40 security, economy and environment demand a bold vision. Of all
41 the states, Florida has the most at stake--and must take a
42 leadership role," and

43 WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted a number of clean energy
44 initiatives in 2006, including Senate Bill 888, which
45 established the Florida Energy Commission for the purposes of
46 encouraging energy conservation and efficiency, developing
47 renewable energy sources, and recommending a comprehensive state
48 climate action plan, and

49 WHEREAS, actions that make homes and workplaces more energy
50 efficient enhance energy security and affordability, may reduce
51 emissions of greenhouse gases, spur greater resource
52 productivity and business innovation, provide cost savings,
53 improve air quality and public health, and enhance economic
54 development, job creation, and quality of life, and

55 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has called for
56 a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and has asked the United

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57 States Congress to enact a mandatory fuel reduction and
58 renewable fuel use expansion requirement, and

59 WHEREAS, the state is almost totally dependent on energy
60 imports from out of state to satisfy its energy needs, and

61 WHEREAS, as a major agricultural producer, the state is
62 capable of producing large quantities of biofuels in order to
63 help meet the President's goal of replacing fossil fuels with
64 ethanol-based alternative fuels but currently lacks the
65 infrastructure to convert to that system, and

66 WHEREAS, legislation has been filed in the United States
67 Congress that seeks to address the issue of climate change and
68 global warming through a series of initiatives and changes to
69 the laws of the United States, including a limit on the amount
70 of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere, and

71 WHEREAS, the state seeks to develop market-based and other
72 economically sound emissions reductions approaches, such as a
73 cap-and-trade system, that create private-sector opportunities
74 and incentives, and

75 WHEREAS, a deliberative stakeholder process to address
76 solutions to climate change risks may enable the state to have
77 greater influence in eventual climate change policy
78 determinations at the regional and national levels and ensure
79 that businesses in the state are in the best position to benefit
80 from possible future federal climate change policy actions, NOW,
81 THEREFORE,

82

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

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85 Section 1. Florida Climate Action Partnership.--

86 (1) PURPOSE.--There is created the Florida Climate Action
87 Partnership (FCAP) to serve as a catalyst for a cooperative
88 dialogue related to efforts needed within our state to comply
89 with proposed federal limits to lower carbon emissions in the
90 atmosphere over time. The partnership shall seek partners in
91 Florida's communities, businesses, academic institutions, and
92 governments to participate in this effort. As part of this
93 process, the partnership shall take advantage of economic
94 opportunities for the state in the effort to find new sources of
95 energy, identify and create incentives for technology
96 innovation, and seek private-sector solutions and market-based
97 mechanisms to help solve problems related to reducing carbon
98 emissions. The partnership shall identify a range of
99 opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in all sectors of the
100 state's economy, including the trading of carbon emission
101 credits and the creation of offsets for energy savings.

102 (2) MEMBERSHIP.--

103 (a) The Florida Climate Action Partnership shall be
104 composed of 25 members as follows:

105 1. The Governor or his or her designee, who shall serve as
106 the chair.

107 2. The President of the Senate or his or her designee.

108 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his or
109 her designee.

110 4. The Commissioner of Agriculture or his or her designee.

111 5. The Chief Financial Officer or his or her designee.

112 6. Eight members appointed by the Governor.

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113 7. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate.

114 8. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
115 Representatives.

116 9. Two members appointed by the Commissioner of
117 Agriculture.

118 (b) Members appointed to the partnership must hold
119 positions of leadership within their respective fields.

120 (c) Members of the partnership shall serve without
121 compensation, but the Executive Office of the Governor and the
122 Legislature shall reimburse the expenses of their respective
123 representatives, and all other members are entitled to receive
124 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses from partnership
125 funding in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

126 (3) MEETINGS.--The partnership shall hold a minimum of
127 four public meetings in locations throughout the state to be
128 determined by the chair for the purpose of taking public
129 testimony and seeking input from interested parties.

130 (4) ACTION PLAN.--The partnership shall develop a climate
131 mitigation action plan that includes policy recommendations for
132 all economic sectors within the state as well as recommendations
133 for meeting short-term and long-term greenhouse gas reduction
134 goals. The plan shall be fact-based and developed through a
135 statewide consensus-based stakeholder process. In developing
136 recommendations, the partnership shall consider the results of a
137 statewide inventory and forecast of energy use and greenhouse
138 gas emissions for each sector from all sources. The partnership
139 shall develop policy recommendations that address, but are not
140 limited to:

141 (a) Clean, low-emission, and renewable energy supplies,
142 including advanced energy and power-generation technologies.

143 (b) Energy efficiency and conservation for buildings,
144 equipment, appliances, and other building design elements.

145 (c) Increased energy efficiency in transportation systems
146 and land use within the growth management system that decreases
147 travel and energy use.

148 (d) Agriculture and forestry conservation that promotes
149 carbon sequestration and bioenergy.

150 (e) Waste management, waste energy recovery, and waste
151 energy recycling.

152 (f) The management of high-global-warming-potential
153 refrigerants and alternatives to such refrigerants and the
154 identification and sequestration of high-global-warming-
155 potential gases in industrial processes.

156 (g) Limiting the amount of carbon emitted into the
157 atmosphere in order to reduce the buildup of greenhouse gases
158 that produce climate change.

159 (h) The use of market mechanisms, including a cap-and-
160 trade system, and other means to reduce the buildup of
161 greenhouse gases.

162 (i) Responding to climate change in ways that positively
163 affect the price and availability of property and casualty
164 insurance.

165 (5) STAFF.--The partnership shall be staffed by the
166 Executive Office of the Governor.

167 (6) RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT.--The partnership shall
168 provide a list of policy recommendations to the Governor and the

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169 members of the Senate and the House of Representatives by
170 February 1, 2008, for consideration during the 2008 Regular
171 Session. The partnership shall submit a final report containing
172 a climate mitigation action plan to the Governor and the members
173 of the Senate and the House of Representatives by October 1,
174 2008.

175 (7) EXPIRATION.--Unless renewed by the Legislature, the
176 partnership shall expire on December 31, 2008.

177 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.