

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning
 3 Council; directing the Southwest Florida Regional Planning
 4 Council to establish a pilot project; requiring the
 5 council to provide administrative oversight and hire
 6 contract employees; specifying the scope of the pilot
 7 project; providing for termination of the pilot project;
 8 requiring the council to submit a report to the Governor
 9 and Legislature; specifying report requirements; providing
 10 appropriations; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. (1) The Southwest Florida Regional Planning
 15 Council is directed to establish a pilot project to expand the
 16 current capabilities of the council to better identify and
 17 resolve potential conflicts in overlapping jurisdictions within
 18 the region.

19 (2) The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council shall
 20 provide administrative oversight to the pilot project and shall
 21 hire contract employees as required for implementation of the
 22 pilot project.

23 (3) The scope of the pilot project shall include, but is
 24 not limited to:

25 (a) Developing and providing comprehensive planning tools
 26 to all the communities within the region.

27 (b) Facilitating community outreach by convening community
 28 discussion, meeting with city, county, and state permitting and

29 approval agencies, water management districts, and other local
30 and regional organizations to define goals, issues, and
31 challenges.

32 (c) Convening stakeholder groups for agriculture,
33 environmental preservation, landowners, developers, residents,
34 and others to further define the issues and areas of conflict
35 and working in small groups to mediate acceptable solutions to
36 the conflicts.

37 (d) Incorporating the concepts and ideas from the
38 stakeholder groups and community outreach efforts into regional
39 discussions for consensus building and conflict resolution.

40 (e) Contracting with the University of Florida's Geo-
41 Facilities Planning and Information Research Center to further
42 refine the geographic maps to develop a common vision for the
43 future infrastructure needs, environmental preservation
44 opportunities, and land use policies for the region.

45 (f) Contracting with a web-based community outreach
46 service to enhance community input and communication management.

47 (g) Capturing the issues and conflicts that cannot be
48 resolved or mediated for future discussion by the region as the
49 effort moves forward.

50 (h) Providing written progress reports on a quarterly
51 basis to the legislative delegations of Charlotte, Collier,
52 Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Sarasota Counties and the Southwest
53 Florida Regional Planning Council.

54 (i) Convening an annual meeting with the legislative
55 delegations of Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and
56 Sarasota Counties and community stakeholders to discuss the

HB 1421

2008

57 progress of the region and its future direction.

58 (4) The pilot project shall terminate on July 1, 2011.

59 (5) On July 1, 2009, 2010, and 2011, the Southwest Florida
60 Regional Planning Council shall provide an annual report of the
61 pilot project's activities, including the impact of measurable
62 outcomes within the region, to the Governor, the President of
63 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

64 Section 2. In fiscal years 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-
65 2011, the sum of \$225,000 is appropriated from the unexpended
66 funds in the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of
67 Environmental Protection, and the Department of Transportation
68 to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council for the
69 purpose of funding the pilot project pursuant to this act.

70 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.