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CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Floor: WD/2R
4/24/2008 10:49 AM

1 Senator Bullard moved the following **amendment**:

2
3 **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Delete everything after the enacting clause
5 and insert:

6 Section 1. Section 409.147, Florida Statutes, is created to
7 read:

8 409.147 Children's zones.--

9 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

10 (a) The Legislature finds that:

11 1. There are neighborhoods in the state where the
12 infrastructure and opportunities that middle-class communities
13 take for granted are nonexistent or so marginal that they are
14 ineffective.

15 2. Children living in these neighborhoods are read to by an
16 adult on a regular basis and attend a prekindergarten education
17 program at a much lower rate than children in other communities.



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18 These children experience below-average performance on
19 standardized tests and graduate from high school in fewer
20 numbers. Most of these children are eligible for the free or
21 reduced-price school lunch program.

22 3. Children in these neighborhoods often suffer from high
23 rates of asthma, a higher risk of lead poisoning, and inadequate
24 health care, and they are routinely exposed to violence and
25 crime.

26 4. In spite of these obstacles, these neighborhoods are
27 many times home to strong individuals and institutions that are
28 committed to making a difference in the lives of children and
29 their families.

30 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to assist
31 disadvantaged areas within the state in creating a community-
32 based service network that develops, coordinates, and provides
33 quality education, accessible health care, youth development
34 programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable
35 housing for children and families living within its boundaries.

36 (2) POLICY AND PURPOSE.--It is the policy of this state to
37 provide the necessary means to assist local communities, the
38 children and families who live in those communities, and the
39 private sector in creating a sound educational, social, and
40 economic environment. To achieve this objective, the state
41 intends to provide investments sufficient to encourage community
42 partners to commit financial and other resources to severely
43 disadvantaged areas. The purpose of this section is to establish
44 a process that clearly identifies the severely disadvantaged
45 areas and provides guidance for developing a new social service
46 paradigm that systematically coordinates programs that address
47 the critical needs of children and their families and for



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48 directing efforts to rebuild the basic infrastructure of the
49 community. The Legislature, therefore, declares the creation of
50 children's zones, through the collaborative efforts of government
51 and the private sector, to be a public purpose.

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

53 (a) "Governing body" means the commission or other
54 legislative body charged with governing a county or municipality.

55 (b) "Ounce" means the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida,
56 Inc.

57 (c) "Planning team" means a children's zone planning team
58 established under this section.

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

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

66 (a) Adopts a resolution that:

67 1. Finds that an area exists in such county or
68 municipality, or in the county and one or more municipalities,
69 that chronically exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of
70 poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, as well as limited
71 access to quality educational, health care, and social services.

72 2. Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or
73 redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of the area is necessary
74 in the interest of improving the health, wellness, education,
75 living conditions, and livelihoods of the children and families
76 who live in the county or municipality.



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77 3. Determines that the revitalization of the area can occur
78 only if the state and the private sector invest resources to
79 improve infrastructure and the provision of services.

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

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

84 (d) Creates a corporation not for profit as provided in
85 subsection (7).

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

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

90 (b) The planning team shall include residents and
91 representatives from community-based organizations and other
92 community institutions. At least half of the members of the
93 planning team must be residents.

94 (c) The planning team shall:

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

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

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

103 4. Develop a strategic community plan consisting of goals,
104 objectives, tasks, the designation of responsible parties, the
105 identification of resources needed, timelines for implementation
106 of the plan, and procedures for monitoring outcomes.



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

109 1. Early development and care of children.

110 2. Education of children and youth.

111 3. Health and wellness.

112 4. Youth support.

113 5. Parent and guardian support.

114 6. Adult education, training, and jobs.

115 7. Community safety.

116 8. Housing and community development.

117 (6) CHILDREN'S ZONE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN.--After the
118 governing body adopts the resolution described in subsection (4),
119 the working groups shall develop objectives and identify
120 strategies for each focus area. The objectives, specified by
121 focus area, for a working group may include, but not be limited
122 to:

123 (a) Early development and care of children.

124 1. Providing resources to enable every child to be
125 adequately nurtured during the first 3 years of life.

126 2. Ensuring that all schools are ready for children and all
127 children are ready for school.

128 3. Facilitating enrollment in half-day or full-day
129 prekindergarten for all 3-year-old and 4-year-old children.

130 4. Strengthening parent and guardian relationships with
131 care providers.

132 5. Providing support and education for families and child
133 care providers.

134 (b) Education of children and youth.



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135 1. Increasing the level and degree of accountability of
136 persons who are responsible for the development and well-being of
137 all children in the children's zone.

138 2. Changing the structure and function of schools to
139 increase the quality and amount of time spent on instruction and
140 increase programmatic options and offerings.

141 3. Creating a safe and respectful environment for student
142 learning.

143 4. Identifying and supporting points of alignment between
144 the children's zone community plan and the school district's
145 strategic plan.

146 (c) Health and wellness.

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

150 2. Eliminating health disparities between racial and
151 cultural groups, including improving outcomes and increasing
152 interventions.

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

155 4. Providing all children in the children's zone with
156 access to safe structured and unstructured recreation.

157 (d) Youth support.

158 1. Increasing the high school graduation rate.

159 2. Increasing leadership development and employment
160 opportunities for youth.

161 (e) Parent and guardian support.

162 1. Increasing parent and adult literacy.

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



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165 3. Improving the effectiveness of the ways in which support
166 systems communicate and collaborate with parents and the ways in
167 which parents communicate and collaborate with support systems.

168 4. Making the services of the Healthy Families Florida
169 program available to provide multiyear support to expectant
170 parents and persons caring for infants and toddlers.

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

172 1. Creating job opportunities for adults that lead to
173 career development.

174 2. Establishing a career and technical school, or a
175 satellite of such a school in the children's zone, which includes
176 a one-stop career center.

177 (g) Community safety.

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

180 2. Eliminating the economic, political, and social forces
181 that lead to a lack of safety within the family, the community,
182 schools, and institutional structures.

183 3. Assessing policies and practices, including sentencing,
184 incarceration, detention, and data reporting, in order to reduce
185 youth violence, crime, and recidivism.

186 (h) Housing and community development.

187 1. Strengthening the residential real estate market.

188 2. Building on existing efforts to promote socioeconomic
189 diversity when developing a comprehensive land use strategic
190 plan.

191 3. Promoting neighborhood beautification strategies.

192 (7) CHILDREN'S ZONE CORPORATION.--After the governing body
193 adopts the resolution described in subsection (4), the county or
194 municipality shall create a corporation not for profit which



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195 shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in
196 compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation is to
197 facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership of
198 the children's zone, and, if the area selected by the governing
199 body is designated as a children's zone, to:

200 (a) Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the
201 planning team to the corporation.

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

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

206 (a) There is created within the Liberty City neighborhood
207 in Miami-Dade County a 10-year pilot project zone that, by
208 November 1, 2008, shall be managed by an entity organized as a
209 corporation not for profit which shall be registered,
210 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter
211 617. The corporation shall be known as the Magic City Children's
212 Zone, Inc., and shall be administratively housed within the
213 Belafonte Tacolcy Center. However, Magic City Children's Zone,
214 Inc., is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the
215 Belafonte Tacolcy Center in any manner. The Legislature
216 determines, however, that public policy dictates that the
217 corporation operate in the most open and accessible manner
218 consistent with its public purpose. Therefore, the Legislature
219 specifically declares that the corporation is subject to chapter
220 119, relating to public records, chapter 286, relating to public
221 meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to procurement of
222 commodities or contractual services.

223 (b) This pilot project zone is designed to encompass an
224 area that is large enough to include all of the necessary



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225 components of community life, including, but not limited to,
226 schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial
227 areas, and common space, yet small enough to allow programs and
228 services to reach every willing member of the neighborhood.

229 Therefore, the geographic boundaries of the pilot project zone
230 are:

- 231 1. Northwest 79th Street to the north;
- 232 2. Northwest 36th Street to the south;
- 233 3. North Miami Avenue to the east; and
- 234 4. Northwest 27th Avenue to the west.

235 (c)1. The corporation shall be governed by a 15-member
236 board of directors. The board of directors shall consist of the
237 following members:

238 a. The chief executive officer of the Belafonte Tacolcy
239 Center.

240 b. The executive director of the Carrie P. Meek
241 Entrepreneurial Education Center, Miami-Dade College.

242 c. The director of the Parks and Recreation Department of
243 the City of Miami.

244 d. The director of the Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

245 e. The chief executive officer of the Urban League of
246 Greater Miami.

247 f. The director of the Liberty City Service Partnership.

248 g. The regional superintendent of the Miami-Dade County
249 Public Schools.

250 h. The president of the Student Government Association of
251 Northwestern High School.

252 i. The president of the Student Government Association of
253 Edison High School.



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254 | j. The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association
255 | of Northwestern High School.

256 | k. The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association
257 | of Edison High School.

258 | 1. Four members from the local private business sector, to
259 | be appointed by a majority vote of the members designated in sub-
260 | subparagraphs a.-k., all of whom must have significant experience
261 | in one of the focus areas specified in subsection (6).

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

265 | a. Eleven members initially appointed pursuant to this
266 | paragraph shall each serve a 4-year term.

267 | b. The remaining initial four appointees shall each serve a
268 | 2-year term.

269 | c. Each member appointed thereafter shall serve a 4-year
270 | term.

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

274 | e. A member may not serve more than 8 years in consecutive
275 | terms.

276 | 3. The board of directors shall annually elect a
277 | chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the board's
278 | members. The members may, by a vote of eight members, remove a
279 | member from the position of chairperson or vice chairperson
280 | before the expiration of his or her term as chairperson or vice
281 | chairperson. His or her successor shall be elected to serve for
282 | the balance of the term of the chairperson or vice chairperson
283 | who was removed.



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284 4. The board of directors shall meet at least four times
285 each year upon the call of the chairperson, at the request of the
286 vice chairperson, or at the request of a majority of the
287 membership. A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum.
288 The board of directors may take official action by a majority
289 vote of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is
290 present. The board may conduct its meetings through
291 teleconferences or other similar means.

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

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

299 7. The corporation shall create a standing advisory board
300 to assist in any part of its delegated duties. The membership of
301 the standing advisory board shall reflect the expertise necessary
302 for the implementation of the children's zone pilot project.

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

304 a. Adopt articles of incorporation and bylaws necessary to
305 govern its activities.

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

308 c. Begin the implementation and governance of the
309 children's zone community plan.

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



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314 (d) Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., shall submit an
315 annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
316 the House of Representatives by January 31, 2009, and by January
317 31 of each year thereafter, which shall include a comprehensive
318 and detailed report of its operations, activities, and
319 accomplishments for the prior year as well as its goals for the
320 current year. The initial report shall also include information
321 concerning the status of the development of a business plan.

322 (9) IMPLEMENTATION.--The implementation of this section is
323 contingent upon a specific appropriation to provide a grant for a
324 3-year period for the purpose of implementing this section, which
325 includes contracting with a not-for-profit corporation for the
326 development of a business plan and for the evaluation, fiscal
327 management, and oversight of the Magic City Children's Zone,
328 Inc., pilot project.

329 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

330
331 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

332 And the title is amended as follows:

333 Delete everything before the enacting clause
334 and insert:

335 A bill to be entitled
336 An act relating to children's zones; creating s. 409.147,
337 F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; providing
338 policy and purpose; providing definitions; providing a
339 process for nominating and selecting a children's zone;
340 providing for the governing body of a county or
341 municipality to adopt a resolution designating a
342 children's zone; specifying contents of the resolution;
343 requiring the governing body to establish a children's



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344 zone planning team; providing powers and responsibilities
345 of the planning team; requiring the planning team to
346 designate working groups; specifying focus areas for the
347 working groups; providing for the development of a
348 strategic community plan; providing objectives for each
349 focus area; requiring the governing body to create a
350 corporation not for profit for specified purposes;
351 establishing the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., pilot
352 project; providing for management by an entity organized
353 as a corporation not for profit; providing geographic
354 boundaries for the zone; providing for designation and
355 appointment of a board of directors; providing for
356 meetings and duties of the board of directors; providing
357 per diem and travel expenses; requiring the board to enter
358 into a contract to develop a business plan; providing for
359 reports to the Legislature; providing for contingent
360 implementation of the zone; providing an effective date.