

By Senator Crist

12-00036-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to urban revitalization; creating s.  
3 288.715, F.S.; creating the Urban Revitalization Congress  
4 within the Executive Office of the Governor; providing  
5 legislative intent; providing for membership, staff  
6 support, and reimbursement for travel and per diem  
7 expenses for members; providing tasks; providing an  
8 appropriation; providing an effective date.

9  
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
12 Section 1. Section 288.715, Florida Statutes, is created to  
13 read:

14 288.715 Urban Revitalization Congress.--

15 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature finds and  
16 declares:

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

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

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

29 (d) State urban policies should guide the state, regional

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30 agencies, local governments, and the private sector in preserving  
31 and revitalizing existing urban centers and promoting the  
32 adequate provision of infrastructure, human services, safe  
33 neighborhoods, educational facilities, and economic development  
34 needed to sustain these centers into the future.

35 (e) Successfully revitalizing and sustaining urban centers  
36 is dependent on addressing, through an integrated and coordinated  
37 statewide and community effort, the varied cultural, educational,  
38 recreational, economic, transportation, and social service  
39 components essential to maintaining a healthy urban environment.

40 (f) Leadership, strategic guidance, resource coordination  
41 and leveraging, and promoting the use of innovative approaches  
42 are recognized as essential factors for promoting and sustaining  
43 urban centers. State and regional agencies and local governments  
44 must provide incentives to promote urban revitalization, which  
45 along with existing programs, need to be integrated to the  
46 maximum extent possible to promote urban revitalization and to  
47 achieve the goals of the state's urban policy.

48 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.--There is established, as part of an  
49 overall state urban strategy, the Urban Revitalization Congress  
50 within the Executive Office of the Governor to foster leadership  
51 and provide resources and support to economically energize the  
52 state's urban centers.

53 (3) MEMBERSHIP.--

54 (a) The congress shall consist of \_\_\_\_\_ members appointed  
55 by the Governor, one of whom the Governor shall appoint as chair.  
56 The members shall include both elected and appointed local  
57 government officials, directors of urban centers, representatives  
58 of economic and community development organizations,

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59 private-sector leaders, as well as other parties having an  
60 interest in and knowledge about the vitality of this state's  
61 urban centers.

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

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

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

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

69 (b) Provide matching funds for community redevelopment  
70 projects and partnerships with urban colleges and universities  
71 which support urban revitalization programs.

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

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

77 (6) REPORTS.--The congress shall prepare an annual report,  
78 which shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the  
79 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives beginning  
80 September 1, 2009, and annually thereafter.

81 (7) TERMINATION.--The congress shall expire July 1, 2012.

82 Section 2. The sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated  
83 from the General Revenue Fund to the Executive Office of the  
84 Governor for the purpose of funding the activities of the Urban  
85 Revitalization Congress during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

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