

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to housing authorities; amending s.
 3 421.02, F.S.; revising a finding and declaration of
 4 necessity to provide that the development and
 5 implementation of mandatory family self-sufficiency
 6 programs is a purpose for which public money may be spent
 7 and private property acquired and is a governmental
 8 function of public concern; creating s. 421.041, F.S.;
 9 requiring housing authorities to develop family self-
 10 sufficiency programs; providing program objectives and
 11 requirements; authorizing the housing authority to apply
 12 to the Department of Community Affairs for funding under
 13 certain conditions; providing application requirements for
 14 funding; amending s. 421.05, F.S.; revising appointment
 15 and qualification requirements for housing authority
 16 commissioners; providing an effective date.

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

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 20 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 421.02, Florida
 21 Statutes, is amended to read:

22 421.02 Finding and declaration of necessity.--It is hereby
 23 declared that:

24 (3) The clearance, replanning, and reconstruction of the
 25 areas in which insanitary or unsafe housing conditions exist and
 26 the providing of safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations for
 27 persons of low income, including the acquisition by a housing
 28 authority of property to be used for or in connection with

29 housing projects or appurtenant thereto, and the development and
 30 implementation of mandatory family self-sufficiency programs,
 31 are exclusively public uses and purposes for which public money
 32 may be spent and private property acquired and are governmental
 33 functions of public concern.

34 Section 2. Section 421.041, Florida Statutes, is created
 35 to read:

36 421.041 Family self-sufficiency programs.--

37 (1) Each housing authority created pursuant to this
 38 chapter shall develop a family self-sufficiency program to
 39 assist persons accepted as occupants in public housing
 40 developments in becoming self-sufficient. Mandatory elements of
 41 the program shall include an in-depth and thorough analysis of
 42 the educational and social needs of participants, including
 43 parenting and homeownership skills, and the development of
 44 individualized goals designed to assist participants in meeting
 45 those needs.

46 (a) The analysis of a participant's educational and social
 47 needs shall occur prior to a participant's physical occupancy of
 48 a dwelling.

49 (b) Each participant must be provided a schedule of the
 50 times in which each individualized goal of the program must be
 51 met and the time in which all requirements of the program must
 52 be completed by the participant.

53 (c) The program must provide for day and evening child
 54 care services and job placement and homeownership assistance for
 55 each participant successfully completing the program.

56 (d) Each person accepted as a participant in the program
57 must undergo personality and career assessments.

58 (e) Failure of a participant to timely meet the
59 individualized goals or complete the requirements of the program
60 shall result in a default of the participant's lease under which
61 the lease shall be terminated. Notice of the provisions of this
62 paragraph shall be provided to all participants and stated
63 clearly in the lease of all persons participating in the
64 program.

65 (2) The housing authority may apply to the Department of
66 Community Affairs for funding to be used exclusively for costs
67 related to implementation of a family self-sufficiency program.
68 Applications for funding must include the housing authority's
69 proposed family self-sufficiency program and a resolution of the
70 board of commissioners of the housing authority adopting and
71 approving the program. The application shall include the annual
72 cost of implementing the program and the authority's plan for
73 securing additional funds for such implementation.

74 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "self-
75 sufficient" means the individual is no longer in need of
76 services provided pursuant to this chapter.

77 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 421.05, Florida
78 Statutes, is amended to read:

79 421.05 Appointment, qualifications, and tenure of
80 commissioners; hiring of employees.--

81 (1) When the governing body of a city adopts a resolution
82 as aforesaid, the mayor, with the approval of the governing
83 body, shall promptly appoint no fewer than four ~~five~~ persons,

84 and the Governor, with the approval of the governing body, shall
85 promptly appoint no fewer than three persons ~~and no more than~~
86 ~~seven persons~~, as commissioners of the authority created for
87 such city. Persons appointed to serve as commissioners shall be
88 residents of the city in which they are appointed to serve.
89 Three of the commissioners who are first appointed shall be
90 designated to serve for terms of 1, 2, and 3 years respectively;
91 the remaining commissioners shall be designated to serve for
92 terms of 4 years each, from the date of their appointment.
93 Thereafter, each commissioner shall be appointed as aforesaid
94 for a term of office of 4 years, except that a vacancy shall be
95 filled for the unexpired term by an appointment by the mayor or
96 Governor with the approval of the governing body within 60 days
97 after such vacancy occurs. Each housing authority created
98 pursuant to this chapter shall have at least one commissioner
99 who shall be a resident who is current in rent in a housing
100 project or a person of low or very low income who resides within
101 the housing authority's jurisdiction and is receiving rent
102 subsidy through a program administered by the authority or
103 public housing agency that has jurisdiction for the same
104 locality served by the housing authority, which commissioner
105 shall be appointed at the time a vacancy exists. In the case of
106 an authority which has no completed project, no tenant-
107 commissioner shall be appointed until 10 percent of the units in
108 the first project of the authority have been occupied. The
109 cessation of a tenant-commissioner's tenancy in a housing
110 project or the cessation of rent subsidy shall remove such
111 tenant-commissioner from office, and another person meeting the

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112 qualifications required for the office shall be appointed for
113 the unexpired portion of the term. After all reasonable efforts
114 have been made and documented, if the commissioners find that no
115 housing project resident or rent subsidy recipient is available
116 to serve as a tenant-commissioner, the existing vacancy shall
117 then be filled through the normal appointment procedures set
118 forth in this subsection. However, such normal appointment shall
119 not preclude the requirement to exercise diligence in all
120 succeeding vacancies to attempt to first appoint a tenant-
121 commissioner until at least one tenant-commissioner has been
122 appointed. No commissioner of an authority may be an officer or
123 employee of the city for which the authority is created. A
124 commissioner shall hold office until a successor has been
125 appointed and has qualified. A certificate of the appointment or
126 reappointment of any commissioner shall be filed with the clerk,
127 and such certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the due and
128 proper appointment of such commissioner. A commissioner shall
129 receive no compensation for his or her services but shall be
130 entitled to the necessary expenses, including travel expenses,
131 incurred in the discharge of his or her duties. The requirements
132 of this subsection with respect to the number of commissioners
133 of a housing authority apply without regard to the date on which
134 the housing authority was created.

135 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.