

HB 1221

2009

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the economic development; creating s.
3 288.1068, F.S.; establishing the business recruitment
4 recognition program within the Office of Tourism, Trade,
5 and Economic Development; providing definitions; providing
6 for the nomination and recognition of Florida residents
7 who recruit or assist in the recruitment of businesses
8 that relocate to the state; providing nomination
9 requirements and eligibility criteria; requiring the
10 office to verify the eligibility of nominees; establishing
11 a committee to recommend nominees for recognition;
12 providing for the award of recognition; authorizing the
13 office to award cash incentives to recognized nominees;
14 requiring the office to adopt rules; providing an
15 effective date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 288.1068, Florida Statutes, is created
20 to read:

21 288.1068 Business recruitment recognition program.--

22 (1) The business recruitment recognition program is
23 created within the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
24 Development to recognize Florida residents who are not economic
25 development professionals but who actively recruit or provide
26 significant assistance in the recruitment of qualifying
27 businesses that relocate to the state.

28 (2) As used in this section, the term:

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29 (a) "Economic development professional" means a person
30 who:

31 1. In employed by an economic development agency as
32 defined in s. 288.075, an economic development center
33 established under s. 1004.80, a chamber of commerce, or another
34 organization established to promote the economic development of,
35 or the general business or industrial interests of, the state or
36 a political subdivision thereof; or

37 2. Is assigned the duty of promoting the economic
38 development of, or the general business or industrial interests
39 of, the state or a political subdivision thereof.

40 (b) "Office" means the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
41 Economic Development.

42 (c) "Qualifying business" means a business described in
43 subsection (5).

44 (3) The office shall annually accept nominations for the
45 recognition of one or more Florida residents who promote the
46 state's economy and demonstrate exemplary service to the state
47 by actively recruiting or providing significant assistance in
48 the recruitment of qualifying businesses that relocate to
49 Florida and create jobs in this state. The nominations must be
50 submitted in the format prescribed by the office.

51 (4) To be eligible for recognition, a nominee must
52 actively recruit or provide significant assistance in the
53 recruitment of a qualifying business that relocates to the state
54 and must:

55 (a) Be a Florida resident as defined in s. 317.0003.

56 (b) Not be an economic development professional.

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57 (c) Not be an owner, shareholder, or employee of the
58 qualifying business.

59 (d) Not receive compensation or anything of value for
60 recruiting or providing assistance in recruiting the qualifying
61 business.

62 (5) A qualifying business must have relocated its
63 principal place of business to Florida from outside of the state
64 within the previous year and must:

65 (a) Be a target industry business as defined in s.
66 288.106.

67 (b) Create net new full-time jobs in the state.

68 (c) Pay an average annual wage of at least 125 percent of
69 the areawide or statewide private-sector average wage and pay at
70 least the average industry wage for the newly created jobs.

71 (6) Upon receipt of a nomination, the office shall verify
72 that the nominee is eligible for recognition, that the business
73 is a qualifying business, and that the information contained in
74 the nomination accurately describes the nominee's actions to
75 recruit or provide assistance in the recruitment of the
76 qualifying business. A nominee is eligible for recognition only
77 if the office is able to verify the information contained in the
78 nomination.

79 (7) The office shall establish a committee composed of at
80 least three economic development professionals who shall review
81 the nominations verified by the office and shall recommend to
82 the office that one or more of the nominees be recognized. The
83 office shall review the committee's recommendations and shall
84 award recognition to one or more nominees based on selection

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85 criteria adopted by the office.

86 (8) Subject to legislative appropriations, the office may
87 award cash incentives to nominees selected for recognition under
88 this section. A cash incentive awarded to a recognized nominee
89 may not exceed 10 percent of the total estimated state revenues
90 generated by the qualifying business over a 4-year period.

91 (9) The office shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and
92 120.54 to administer this section.

93 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.