

HB 1135

2010

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to international development relief and  
3           outreach activities in Haiti; creating s. 288.0252, F.S.;  
4           providing a definition; requiring the Office of Tourism,  
5           Trade, and Economic Development to contract with the  
6           state's international volunteer corps to provide certain  
7           relief activities for the people of Haiti; requiring that  
8           such activities focus on certain rural Haitian  
9           communities; requiring that such activities be conducted  
10          by volunteers with certain qualifications; directing the  
11          international volunteer corps to raise public and private  
12          funding to support the relief activities; authorizing the  
13          international volunteer corps to establish certain  
14          partnerships and build long-term relationships; providing  
15          for the award of grants to certain grassroots  
16          organizations; providing that professionals licensed by  
17          the Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
18          shall receive continuing education credit for certain  
19          volunteer services provided for specific projects in  
20          Haiti; providing appropriations; providing an effective  
21          date.

22  
23   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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25           Section 1. Section 288.0252, Florida Statutes, is created  
26           to read:

27           288.0252 International development relief and outreach  
28           activities in Haiti.-

29        (1) As used in this section, the term "international  
30 volunteer corps" means the Florida Association for Volunteer  
31 Action in the Caribbean and the Americas, Inc.

32        (2) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development  
33 shall contract with the state's international volunteer corps to  
34 provide the following rescue, recovery, rebuilding, and  
35 sustainable humanitarian outreach activities for the people of  
36 the Republic of Haiti:

37        (a) Emergency disaster response and recovery, including  
38 food and relief supply distribution, coordination with existing  
39 relief efforts, and the support of firefighters, emergency  
40 medical technicians, paramedics, and urban search and rescue  
41 professionals.

42        (b) Health care, including emergency rescue, emergency  
43 medical services, and post-traumatic stress counseling.

44        (c) Domestic security, including the improvement of local  
45 food security.

46        (d) Rebuilding, including alternative energy placement and  
47 structural engineering to assess damage to buildings,  
48 infrastructure, and other construction essential to the recovery  
49 and rebuilding of the country.

50        (e) Sustainable economic development, including job  
51 creation, enterprise development, and the recovery of  
52 agriculture.

53        (3) Such activities shall focus on rural communities  
54 receiving Haitian refugees and other residents from disaster-  
55 stricken or otherwise impoverished areas of the country.

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56       (4) The international volunteer corps must require that  
57 such activities be conducted by qualified volunteers who are  
58 citizens of the state and who each have at least 5 years of  
59 experience in coordinating international volunteer programs in  
60 Haiti.

61       (5) The international volunteer corps shall, to the  
62 maximum extent practicable, leverage the state funding provided  
63 to implement this section by raising funds from public and  
64 private sources, including, but not limited to, the Federal  
65 Government and charitable foundations, to support the activities  
66 described in subsection (2).

67       (6) To accomplish the activities described in subsection  
68 (2), the international volunteer corps may, for specific  
69 projects in Haiti:

70       (a) Establish partnerships with organizations and  
71 individuals.

72       (b) Build long-term social and economic relationships with  
73 businesses and organizations based in this state.

74       (c) Award grants of at least \$1,000 but not more than  
75 \$20,000 to grassroots organizations in this state that have  
76 previously completed successful international volunteer corps  
77 assignments in Haiti.

78       (7) Notwithstanding any provision of law, a professional  
79 licensed by the Department of Business and Professional  
80 Regulation shall receive one continuing education credit or  
81 unit, regardless of required categories, for each hour of  
82 volunteer service provided for specific projects in Haiti in  
83 coordination with the state's international volunteer corps, not

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84 to exceed 100 percent of his or her annual professional  
85 requirement for continuing education.

86 Section 2. The recurring sum of \$1 million is appropriated  
87 annually from the General Revenue Fund to the Office of Tourism,  
88 Trade, and Economic Development for the 2010-2011, 2011-2012,  
89 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-  
90 2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 fiscal years for the purpose of  
91 implementing s. 288.0252, Florida Statutes.

92 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.