

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to homelessness; amending ss. 320.02,
3 322.08, and 322.18, F.S.; requiring the motor vehicle
4 registration form and registration renewal form, the
5 driver license application form, and the driver license
6 application form for renewal issuance or renewal extension
7 to include an option to make a voluntary contribution to
8 aid the homeless; providing for such contributions to be
9 deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the
10 Department of Children and Family Services and used by the
11 State Office on Homelessness for certain purposes;
12 providing that voluntary contributions for the homeless
13 are not income of a revenue nature for the purpose of
14 applying certain service charges; creating s. 414.161,
15 F.S.; establishing a homelessness prevention grant
16 program; requiring grant applicants to be ranked
17 competitively; providing preference for certain grant
18 applicants; providing eligibility requirements; providing
19 grant limitations and restrictions; requiring lead
20 agencies for local homeless assistance continuums of care
21 to track, monitor, and report on assisted families for a
22 specified period of time; amending s. 420.622, F.S.;
23 limiting the percentage of funding that lead agencies may
24 spend on administrative costs; providing that funding
25 shall be appropriated as a fixed capital outlay item;
26 amending s. 420.625, F.S.; deleting a cross-reference to
27 conform; amending s. 420.6275, F.S.; revising legislative
28 findings relating to the Housing First approach to

HB 923

2010

29 | homelessness; repealing s. 414.16, F.S., relating to the
 30 | emergency assistance program for families with children
 31 | that have lost shelter or face loss of shelter due to an
 32 | emergency; providing an effective date.

34 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

36 | Section 1. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (15) of
 37 | section 320.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

38 | 320.02 Registration required; application for
 39 | registration; forms.—

40 | (15)

41 | (i) Notwithstanding s. 320.023, the application form for
 42 | motor vehicle registration and renewal of registration must
 43 | include language permitting a voluntary contribution of \$1 per
 44 | applicant to aid the homeless. Contributions made pursuant to
 45 | this paragraph shall be deposited into the Grants and Donations
 46 | Trust Fund of the Department of Children and Family Services and
 47 | used by the State Office on Homelessness to supplement grants
 48 | made under s. 420.622(4) and (5), provide information to the
 49 | public about homelessness in the state, and provide literature
 50 | for homeless persons seeking assistance.

52 | For the purpose of applying the service charge provided in s.
 53 | 215.20, contributions received under this subsection are not
 54 | income of a revenue nature.

55 | Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 322.08, Florida
 56 | Statutes, is amended to read:

57 | 322.08 Application for license.—

58 | (7) The application form for a driver's license or
 59 | duplicate thereof shall include language permitting the
 60 | following:

61 | (a) A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which
 62 | contribution shall be deposited into the Health Care Trust Fund
 63 | for organ and tissue donor education and for maintaining the
 64 | organ and tissue donor registry.

65 | (b) A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which
 66 | contribution shall be distributed to the Florida Council of the
 67 | Blind.

68 | (c) A voluntary contribution of \$2 per applicant, which
 69 | shall be distributed to the Hearing Research Institute,
 70 | Incorporated.

71 | (d) A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which
 72 | shall be distributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
 73 | International.

74 | (e) A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which
 75 | shall be distributed to the Children's Hearing Help Fund.

76 | (f) A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, which
 77 | shall be distributed to Family First, a nonprofit organization.

78 | (g) A voluntary contribution of \$1 per applicant, to Stop
 79 | Heart Disease, which shall be distributed to the Florida Heart
 80 | Research Institute, a nonprofit organization.

81 | (h) Notwithstanding s. 322.081, a voluntary contribution
 82 | of \$1 per applicant to aid the homeless. Contributions made
 83 | pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited into the Grants
 84 | and Donations Trust Fund of the Department of Children and

85 Family Services and used by the State Office on Homelessness to
 86 supplement grants made under s. 420.622(4) and (5), provide
 87 information to the public about homelessness in the state, and
 88 provide literature for homeless persons seeking assistance.

89
 90 A statement providing an explanation of the purpose of the trust
 91 funds shall also be included. For the purpose of applying the
 92 service charge provided in s. 215.20, contributions received
 93 under paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), ~~and~~ (g), and (h) and
 94 under s. 322.18(9) are not income of a revenue nature.

95 Section 3. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (9) of
 96 section 322.18, Florida Statutes, to read:

97 322.18 Original applications, licenses, and renewals;
 98 expiration of licenses; delinquent licenses.—

99 (9)

100 (c) The application form for a renewal issuance or renewal
 101 extension shall include language permitting a voluntary
 102 contribution of \$1 per applicant to aid the homeless.

103 Contributions made pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited
 104 into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the Department of
 105 Children and Family Services and used by the State Office on
 106 Homelessness to supplement grants made under s. 420.622(4) and
 107 (5), provide information to the public about homelessness in the
 108 state, and provide literature for homeless persons seeking
 109 assistance. For the purpose of applying the service charge
 110 provided in s. 215.20, contributions received under this
 111 paragraph are not income of a revenue nature.

HB 923

2010

112 Section 4. Section 414.161, Florida Statutes, is created
113 to read:

114 414.161 Homelessness prevention grants.—

115 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—There is created a grant
116 program to provide emergency financial assistance to families
117 facing the loss of their current home due to a financial or
118 other crisis. The State Office on Homelessness, with the
119 concurrence of the Council on Homelessness, may accept and
120 administer moneys appropriated to it to provide homelessness
121 prevention grants annually to lead agencies for local homeless
122 assistance continuums of care, as recognized by the State Office
123 on Homelessness. These moneys shall consist of any sums that the
124 state may appropriate, as well as money received from donations,
125 gifts, bequests, or otherwise from any public or private source
126 that is intended to assist families to prevent them from
127 becoming homeless.

128 (2) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—Grant applicants shall be ranked
129 competitively. Preference shall be given to applicants who
130 leverage additional private funds and public funds, who
131 demonstrate the effectiveness of their homelessness prevention
132 programs in keeping families housed, and who demonstrate the
133 commitment of other assistance and services to address family
134 health, employment, and education needs.

135 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to qualify for a grant, a lead
136 agency must develop and implement a local homeless assistance
137 continuum of care plan for its designated catchment area. The
138 homelessness prevention program must be included in the
139 continuum of care plan.

HB 923

2010

140 (4) GRANT LIMITS.—The maximum grant amount per lead agency
141 may not exceed \$300,000. The grant assistance may be used to pay
142 past due rent or mortgage payments, past due utility costs,
143 other past due bills creating a family's financial crisis,
144 provision of case management services, and program
145 administration costs not to exceed 3 percent of the grant award.
146 The homelessness prevention program must develop a case plan for
147 each family to be assisted setting forth what costs will be
148 covered and the maximum level of assistance to be offered.

149 (5) PERFORMANCE.—The lead agency shall be required to
150 track, monitor, and report on each family assisted for at least
151 12 months after the last assistance provided to the family. The
152 goal for the homelessness prevention program shall be to enable
153 at least 85 percent of the families assisted to remain in their
154 homes and avoid becoming homeless during the ensuing year.

155 Section 5. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (4) of
156 section 420.622, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (g) is added to
157 subsection (5) of that section, to read:

158 420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on
159 Homelessness.—

160 (4) Not less than 120 days after the effective date of
161 this act, the State Office on Homelessness, with the concurrence
162 of the Council on Homelessness, may accept and administer moneys
163 appropriated to it to provide "Challenge Grants" annually to
164 lead agencies for homeless assistance continuums of care
165 designated by the State Office on Homelessness. A lead agency
166 may be a local homeless coalition, municipal or county

167 government, or other public agency or private, not-for-profit
 168 corporation. Such grants may be up to \$500,000 per lead agency.

169 (d) A lead agency may spend a maximum of 8 percent of its
 170 funding on administrative costs.

171 (5) The State Office on Homelessness, with the concurrence
 172 of the Council on Homelessness, may administer moneys
 173 appropriated to it to provide homeless housing assistance grants
 174 annually to lead agencies for local homeless assistance
 175 continuum of care, as recognized by the State Office on
 176 Homelessness, to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate
 177 transitional or permanent housing units for homeless persons.
 178 These moneys shall consist of any sums that the state may
 179 appropriate, as well as money received from donations, gifts,
 180 bequests, or otherwise from any public or private source, which
 181 are intended to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate transitional
 182 or permanent housing units for homeless persons.

183 (g) Funding shall be appropriated as a fixed capital
 184 outlay item.

185 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
 186 420.625, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

187 420.625 Grant-in-aid program.—

188 (3) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a grant-in-
 189 aid program to help local communities in serving the needs of
 190 the homeless through a variety of supportive services, which may
 191 include, but are not limited to:

192 (d) Emergency financial assistance for persons who are
 193 totally without shelter or facing loss of shelter, ~~but who are~~
 194 ~~not eligible for such assistance under s. 414.16.~~

195 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 196 420.6275, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

197 420.6275 Housing First.—

198 (2) HOUSING FIRST METHODOLOGY.—

199 (a) The Housing First approach to homelessness differs
 200 from traditional approaches by providing housing assistance,
 201 case management, and support services responsive to individual
 202 or family needs after housing is obtained. By using this
 203 approach when appropriate, communities can significantly reduce
 204 the amount of time that individuals and families are homeless
 205 and prevent further episodes of homelessness. Housing First
 206 emphasizes that social services provided to enhance individual
 207 and family well-being can be more effective when people are in
 208 their own home, and:

209 1. The housing is not time-limited.

210 2. The housing is not contingent on compliance with
 211 services. Instead, participants must comply with a standard
 212 lease agreement and are provided with the services and support
 213 that are necessary to help them do so successfully.

214 ~~3. A background check and any rehabilitation necessary to~~
 215 ~~combat an addiction related to alcoholism or substance abuse has~~
 216 ~~been completed by the individual for whom assistance or support~~
 217 ~~services are provided.~~

218 Section 8. Section 414.16, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

219 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.