

CS/HB 1309

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to economic recovery from the Deepwater
3 Horizon disaster; amending s. 288.0656, F.S.; designating
4 the Counties of Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa,
5 Santa Rosa, Wakulla, and Walton, and the municipalities
6 within those counties, as a rural area of critical
7 economic concern for purposes of the Rural Economic
8 Development Initiative; providing that the area is a
9 priority assignment, eligible for certain waivers, and
10 exempt from specified requirements; providing for a
11 qualified target industry business that relocates all or a
12 portion of its business to the area from another state to
13 receive tax refund payments; providing appropriations;
14 providing for reserve, release, use, and reversion of
15 appropriated funds; requiring the Office of Tourism,
16 Trade, and Economic Development to contract with Florida's
17 Great Northwest, Inc., to develop and implement an
18 economic development program in the Counties of Bay,
19 Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla,
20 and Walton; providing contract requirements; providing for
21 expiration; providing an effective date.

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

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25 Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4) and paragraph (c) of
26 subsection (6) of section 288.0656, Florida Statutes, are
27 amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:
28 288.0656 Rural Economic Development Initiative.—

29 (3) REDI shall be responsible for coordinating and
 30 focusing the efforts and resources of state and regional
 31 agencies on the problems which affect the fiscal, economic, and
 32 community viability of Florida's economically distressed rural
 33 communities and rural areas of critical economic concern,
 34 working with local governments, community-based organizations,
 35 and private organizations that have an interest in the growth
 36 and development of these communities to find ways to balance
 37 environmental and growth management issues with local needs.

38 (4) REDI shall review and evaluate the impact of statutes
 39 and rules on rural communities and rural areas of critical
 40 economic concern and shall work to minimize any adverse impact
 41 and undertake outreach and capacity-building efforts.

42 (6)

43 (c) The REDI representatives shall work with REDI in the
 44 review and evaluation of statutes and rules for adverse impact
 45 on rural communities and rural areas of critical economic
 46 concern and the development of alternative proposals to mitigate
 47 that impact.

48 (9) (a) For purposes of this section, the Counties of Bay,
 49 Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, and
 50 Walton, and the municipalities within those counties, are
 51 designated as a rural area of critical economic concern.

52 (b) The area is a priority assignment for REDI and
 53 eligible for waiver of criteria, requirements, or similar
 54 provisions of any economic development incentive pursuant to
 55 paragraph (7) (a) and is exempt from the requirements of
 56 paragraph (7) (b).

57 (c) Between July 1, 2011, and June 29, 2014, if the Office
58 of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development determines it is in
59 the best interest of the public for reasons of facilitating
60 economic development, growth, or new employment in the area
61 designated under this subsection, the office may allow a
62 qualified target industry business that relocates all or a
63 portion of its business to the area from another state to
64 receive a tax refund payment of up to \$6,000 multiplied by the
65 number of jobs specified in the tax refund agreement pursuant to
66 s. 288.106(5)(a)1. The business is eligible for an additional
67 tax refund payment pursuant to s. 288.106(3)(b)4. if the
68 business meets the criteria provided in that subparagraph. A
69 project pursuant to this paragraph must meet all of the criteria
70 provided in s. 288.106 unless such requirement is expressly
71 waived by the Governor.

72 (d) This subsection expires on June 30, 2014.

73 Section 2. (1) For fiscal years 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and
74 2013-2014, the sum of \$10 million per fiscal year in recurring
75 funds from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the
76 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for the
77 purpose of contracting with Florida's Great Northwest, Inc., to
78 develop and implement an innovative economic development program
79 to promote research and development, commercialization of
80 research, economic diversification, and job creation in the
81 Counties of Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa,
82 Wakulla, and Walton. The funds shall be placed in reserve by the
83 Executive Office of the Governor and may be released as
84 authorized by law or the Legislative Budget Commission. The

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85 funds may not be used to pay for the administrative costs of
86 Florida's Great Northwest, Inc. Any funds remaining on June 30,
87 2014, shall revert to the General Revenue Fund.

88 (2) The contract shall, at a minimum, require Florida's
89 Great Northwest, Inc., to report quarterly to the Office of
90 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and to collaborate with
91 educational entities, economic development organizations, local
92 governments, and relevant state agencies to create a program
93 framework and strategy, including specific criteria for the
94 expenditure of funds. The criteria for the expenditure of funds
95 shall, at a minimum, require a funding preference for the
96 Counties of Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa,
97 Wakulla, and Walton, and the municipalities within those
98 counties, which provides for expedited permitting in order to
99 promote research and development, commercialization of research,
100 economic diversification, and job creation within those
101 jurisdictions.

102 (3) This section expires on June 30, 2014.

103 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.