

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to economic recovery from the Deepwater
3 Horizon disaster; creating s. 288.1062, F.S.; defining the
4 term "disproportionally affected county"; providing
5 conditions under which the Governor and the Office of
6 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development may waive
7 specified job, wage, and local financial support
8 eligibility requirements for certain projects; providing a
9 limitation; providing for a qualified target industry
10 business that relocates from another state to a
11 disproportionally affected county to receive certain tax
12 refund payments; providing for expiration of the section;
13 providing an appropriation; requiring the Office of
14 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development to consult with
15 certain entities to create a framework and strategy for
16 the use of the funds to promote research and development,
17 commercialization of research, economic diversification,
18 and job creation in the Counties of Bay, Escambia,
19 Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, and Walton;
20 providing criteria for such use; directing the Board of
21 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to provide
22 specified recommendations to the Legislature; providing an
23 effective date.

24
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26
27 Section 1. Section 288.1062, Florida Statutes, is created
28 to read:

29 288.1062 Special incentives for disproportionately affected
30 counties.—

31 (1) For purposes of this section, the term
32 "disproportionally affected county" means Bay County, Escambia
33 County, Franklin County, Gulf County, Okaloosa County, Santa
34 Rosa County, Wakulla County, or Walton County.

35 (2) (a) Between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2014, if the
36 Governor determines it is in the best interest of the public for
37 reasons of facilitating economic development, growth, or new
38 employment opportunities within a disproportionately affected
39 county:

40 1. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
41 may waive any or all job or wage eligibility requirements under
42 s. 288.063, s. 288.065, s. 288.0655, s. 288.0657, s. 288.0659,
43 s. 288.107, s. 288.108, s. 288.1081, s. 288.1088, or s. 288.1089
44 up to the cumulative amount of \$5 million of all state
45 incentives received per project. Before granting the waiver, the
46 director of the office shall file with the Governor a written
47 statement of the conditions and circumstances constituting the
48 reason for the waiver.

49 2. The Governor may waive any or all job or wage
50 eligibility requirements under s. 288.063, s. 288.065, s.
51 288.0655, s. 288.0657, s. 288.0659, s. 288.107, s. 288.108, s.
52 288.1081, s. 288.1088, or s. 288.1089 for cumulative amounts in
53 excess of \$5 million but less than \$10 million of all state
54 incentives received per project. Before granting the waiver, the
55 Governor shall provide written notice of the action at least 5
56 business days before the effective date to the chair and vice

57 chair of the Legislative Budget Commission. If the chair or vice
58 chair of the Legislative Budget Commission advises the Governor
59 in writing within 5 business days before the effective date that
60 the action exceeds the delegated authority of the Governor or is
61 contrary to legislative policy or intent, the Governor shall
62 void the action.

63 (b) Neither the Governor nor the Office of Tourism, Trade,
64 and Economic Development may waive job and wage eligibility
65 requirements under s. 288.063, s. 288.065, s. 288.0655, s.
66 288.0657, s. 288.0659, s. 288.107, s. 288.108, s. 288.1081, s.
67 288.1088, or s. 288.1089 for cumulative amounts of \$10 million
68 or more of all state incentives received per project.

69 (3) Between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2014, if the
70 Governor determines it is in the best interest of the public for
71 reasons of facilitating economic development, growth, or new
72 employment opportunities within a disproportionately affected
73 county, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
74 may waive any or all wage or local financial support eligibility
75 requirements and allow a qualified target industry business from
76 another state which locates all or a portion of its business to
77 a disproportionately affected county to receive a tax refund
78 payment of up to \$6,000 multiplied by the number of jobs
79 specified in the tax refund agreement under s. 288.106(5)(a)1.
80 over the term of the agreement. Before granting the waiver, the
81 director of the office shall file with the Governor a written
82 statement of the conditions and circumstances constituting the
83 reason for the waiver. The business is eligible for an
84 additional tax refund payment under s. 288.106(3)(b)4. if the

85 business meets the criteria provided in that subparagraph.

86 (4) This section expires July 1, 2014.

87 Section 2. (1) For fiscal year 2011-2012, the sum of \$10
88 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is
89 appropriated to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
90 Development to assist in diversifying the regional economy for
91 the Counties of Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa
92 Rosa, Wakulla, and Walton. The funds may be used to recruit or
93 expand targeted industries or businesses in the region, promote
94 research and development, promote commercialization of research,
95 support job creation, and provide funding for matching grant
96 opportunities with federal and private grants. The funds may not
97 be used to pay for administrative costs.

98 (2) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development
99 shall consult with local educational entities, economic
100 development organizations, local governments, and Florida's
101 Great Northwest, Inc., to create a framework and strategy for
102 the use of funds appropriated under subsection (1) and shall
103 consider local support from these entities before approving any
104 project. In order to promote research and development,
105 commercialization of research, economic diversification, and job
106 creation in the Counties of Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf,
107 Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, and Walton, the criteria for the
108 use of such funds shall, at a minimum, require local match, job
109 creation, return on investment, or capital investment, and shall
110 require expedited permitting when appropriate and possible by
111 the local governments required to issue permits. Funds may be
112 used, on a case-by-case basis, for:

113 (a) Universities and other institutions to conduct
114 research for existing and prospective businesses, particularly
115 in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and
116 mathematics, and to provide funding for the commercialization of
117 research that will result in the creation of new jobs.

118 (b) Direct recruiting of new businesses to Northwest
119 Florida, including prospect visits, the development of economic
120 development information and materials needed to compete with
121 other states, and events that showcase the region to prospective
122 industry sectors.

123 (c) Supplementing existing state and local incentives for
124 the direct recruitment and expansion of companies in Northwest
125 Florida, including funding for bridging the gap between
126 incentives available in this state and incentives available in
127 competing jurisdictions.

128 (d) Matching grant opportunities for job creation, job
129 training, or university research needed to develop new products.

130 Section 3. No later than February 1, 2013, the Board of
131 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund shall provide
132 recommendations to the Legislature as to whether any existing
133 multistate compact for mutual aid should be modified or whether
134 the state should enter into a new multistate compact to address
135 the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon disaster or potentially
136 similar future incidents.

137 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.