

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to education law repeals; repealing s.
 3 445.049, F.S., relating to the creation of the Digital
 4 Divide Council in the Department of Education; repealing
 5 s. 817.567, F.S., relating to making false claims of
 6 academic degree or title; repealing s. 1001.291, F.S.,
 7 which provides for implementation of a pilot project
 8 relating to discounted computers and Internet access for
 9 low-income students; repealing s. 1004.50, F.S., relating
 10 to the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce; amending
 11 ss. 1004.51 and 1004.52, F.S.; conforming provisions to
 12 changes made by the act; repealing s. 1004.95, F.S.,
 13 relating to adult literacy centers; repealing s. 1004.97,
 14 F.S., relating to the Florida Literacy Corps; providing an
 15 effective date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18
 19 Section 1. Section 445.049, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

20 Section 2. Section 817.567, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

21 Section 3. Section 1001.291, Florida Statutes, is
 22 repealed.

23 Section 4. Section 1004.50, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

24 Section 5. Section 1004.51, Florida Statutes, is amended
 25 to read:

26 1004.51 ~~Community and Faith-based Organizations~~
 27 ~~Initiative~~; Community and Library Technology Access
 28 Partnership.-

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29 (1) CREATION.—There is created ~~the Community and Faith-~~
 30 ~~based Organizations Initiative which shall be administered by~~
 31 ~~the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida~~
 32 ~~Agricultural and Mechanical University and the Community and~~
 33 ~~Library Technology Access Partnership which shall be~~
 34 ~~administered by the Division of Library and Information Services~~
 35 ~~of the Department of State.~~

36 (2) INTENT.—~~The purpose of the initiative is to promote~~
 37 ~~community development in low-income communities through~~
 38 ~~partnerships with not-for-profit community and faith-based~~
 39 ~~organizations.~~ The purpose of the partnership is to encourage
 40 public libraries eligible for e-rate discounted
 41 telecommunications services to partner with community and faith-
 42 based organizations to provide technology access and training to
 43 assist other state efforts to close the digital divide.

44 (3) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

45 ~~(a) Authorized activities of the initiative. The Institute~~
 46 ~~on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural and~~
 47 ~~Mechanical University may conduct the following activities as~~
 48 ~~part of the Community and Faith-based Organizations Initiative:~~

49 ~~1. Create and operate training programs to enhance the~~
 50 ~~professional skills of individuals in community and faith-based~~
 51 ~~organizations.~~

52 ~~2. Create and operate a program to select and place~~
 53 ~~students and recent graduates from business and related~~
 54 ~~professional schools as interns with community and faith-based~~
 55 ~~organizations for a period not to exceed 1 year, and provide~~
 56 ~~stipends for such interns.~~

57 ~~3. Organize an annual conference for community and faith-~~
 58 ~~based organizations to discuss and share information on best~~
 59 ~~practices regarding issues relevant to the creation, operation,~~
 60 ~~and sustainability of these organizations.~~

61 ~~4. Provide funding for the development of materials for~~
 62 ~~courses on topics in the area of community development, and for~~
 63 ~~research on economic, operational, and policy issues relating to~~
 64 ~~community development.~~

65 ~~5. Provide financial assistance to community and faith-~~
 66 ~~based organizations through small grants for partnerships with~~
 67 ~~universities and the operation of programs to build strong~~
 68 ~~communities and future community development leaders. The~~
 69 ~~Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at Florida Agricultural~~
 70 ~~and Mechanical University shall develop selection criteria for~~
 71 ~~awarding such grants which are based on the goals of the~~
 72 ~~initiative.~~

73
 74 ~~The institute, to the maximum extent possible, shall leverage~~
 75 ~~state funding for the initiative with any federal funding that~~
 76 ~~the institute may receive to support similar community-based~~
 77 ~~activities.~~

78 ~~(b) Authorized activities of the partnership.—~~The Division
 79 of Library and Information Services of the Department of State
 80 may conduct the following activities as part of the Community
 81 and Library Technology Access Partnership:

82 (a)1. Provide funding for e-rate eligible public libraries
 83 to provide technology access and training to community and
 84 faith-based organizations. Funding provided under this paragraph

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85 ~~subparagraph~~ must be for eligible public libraries in distressed
 86 communities in the state. The division shall ~~consult with the~~
 87 ~~Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce to~~ identify such
 88 communities and ~~to~~ develop criteria to be used in evaluating
 89 funding proposals. The division shall ~~coordinate with the~~
 90 ~~institute to~~ ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, it
 91 leverages its ~~the division and the institute leverage their~~
 92 resources under the programs authorized by this section in order
 93 to focus efforts on addressing the most distressed communities
 94 in the state. ~~The division shall include a representative of the~~
 95 ~~institute on a review team to evaluate funding proposals under~~
 96 ~~this subparagraph.~~

97 (b)2. Provide a method of assessment and outcome
 98 measurement for e-rate eligible public libraries to assess
 99 progress in closing the digital divide and in training for
 100 individuals to succeed in the emerging information economy.

101 (4) ELIGIBILITY.—A community or faith-based organization
 102 receiving funding or other assistance under ~~the Community and~~
 103 ~~Faith-based Organizations Initiative or~~ the Community Library
 104 Technology Access Partnership must be a nonprofit organization
 105 holding a current exemption from federal taxation under s.
 106 501(c) (3) or (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. Funding under
 107 this section shall not be used for religious or sectarian
 108 purposes.

109 Section 6. Subsections (2), (3), (4), (8), and (9) of
 110 section 1004.52, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

111 1004.52 Community computer access grant program.—

112 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, there is created

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113 the Community High-Technology Investment Partnership (CHIP)
114 program to assist distressed urban communities in securing
115 computers for access by youths between the ages of 5 years and
116 18 years who reside in these communities. The program shall be
117 administered by ~~the Institute on Urban Policy and Commerce at~~
118 ~~Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University pursuant to a~~
119 ~~performance-based contract with~~ the Division of Library and
120 Information Services of the Department of State. The division
121 shall develop performance measures, standards, and sanctions for
122 the program. Performance measures must include, but are not
123 limited to: the number of youths obtaining access to computers
124 purchased under this program; the number of hours computers are
125 made available to youths; and the number of hours spent by
126 youths on computers purchased under this program for educational
127 purposes. The administrative costs for administration of this
128 program cannot exceed 10 percent of the amount appropriated to
129 the division for the program.

130 (3) (a) Under this program, neighborhood facilities,
131 through their governing bodies, may apply to the division
132 ~~institute~~ for grants to purchase computers that will be
133 available for use by eligible youths who reside in the immediate
134 vicinity of the neighborhood facility. For purposes of this
135 program, eligible neighborhood facilities include, but are not
136 limited to, facilities operated by:

- 137 1. Units of local government, including school districts.
- 138 2. Nonprofit, faith-based organizations, including
139 neighborhood churches.
- 140 3. Nonprofit civic associations or homeowners'

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141 associations.

142 4. Nonprofit organizations, the missions of which include
143 improving conditions for residents of distressed urban
144 communities.

145
146 To be eligible for funding under this program, a nonprofit
147 organization or association must hold a current exemption from
148 federal taxation under s. 501(c)(3) or (4) of the Internal
149 Revenue Code.

150 (b) Notwithstanding the eligibility of the organizations
151 identified in paragraph (a), the division ~~institute~~ shall give
152 priority consideration for funding under this program to
153 applications submitted by neighborhood churches or by
154 neighborhood-based, nonprofit organizations that have as a
155 principal part of their missions the improvement of conditions
156 for residents of the same neighborhoods in which the
157 organizations are located. The division ~~institute~~ also shall
158 give priority consideration to organizations that demonstrate
159 that they have not been awarded community enhancement or similar
160 community support grants from state or local government on a
161 regular basis in the past. The division ~~institute~~ shall develop
162 weighted criteria to be used in evaluating applications from
163 such churches or organizations. Funding under this section shall
164 not be used for religious or sectarian purposes.

165 (4) The division ~~institute~~ shall develop guidelines
166 governing the administration of this program and shall establish
167 criteria to be used in evaluating an application for funding. At
168 a minimum, the division ~~institute~~ must find that:

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169 (a) The neighborhood that is to be served by the grant
170 suffers from general economic distress.

171 (b) Eligible youths who reside in the vicinity of the
172 neighborhood facility have difficulty obtaining access to a
173 library or schools that have sufficient computers.

174 (c) The neighborhood facility has developed a detailed
175 plan, as required under subsection (5), for:

176 1. Providing youths who reside in the vicinity of the
177 facility with access to any computer purchased with grant funds,
178 including evening and weekend access when libraries and schools
179 are closed.

180 2. Promoting the maximum participation of neighborhood
181 youths in use of any computers purchased with grant funds.

182 (8) Before the division ~~institute~~ may allocate funds for a
183 grant under this program, the division ~~institute~~ and the
184 eligible neighborhood facility must execute a grant agreement
185 that governs the terms and conditions of the grant.

186 (9) The division ~~institute~~ shall establish minimum
187 requirements governing the specifications and capabilities of
188 any computers purchased with funds awarded under this grant
189 program.

190 Section 7. Section 1004.95, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

191 Section 8. Section 1004.97, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

192 Section 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.