

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** HB 201 Enterprise Zones  
**SPONSOR(S):** Roberson  
**TIED BILLS:**           **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 294

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Tecler	Creamer
2) Finance & Tax Committee			
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

### SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Enterprise Zone Program was created in 1982 to encourage economic development in economically distressed areas of the state by providing incentives and inducing private investment. Currently, Florida has 59 enterprise zones.

The bill provides authority for Charlotte County to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for designation of an enterprise zone of up to 20 square miles. The application must be submitted by December 31, 2012. The Department shall establish the initial effective date of the enterprise zone.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has estimated a negative fiscal impact of \$200,000 on General Revenue and an insignificant fiscal impact on local revenues.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

##### **Present Situation**

##### **Enterprise Zones**

The Florida Enterprise Zone Program was created in 1982 to encourage economic development in economically distressed areas of the state by providing incentives and inducing private investment. Currently, Florida has 59 enterprise zones.

##### **Designation Process**

Sections 290.001-290.016, F.S., authorize the creation of enterprise zones and establish criteria and goals for the program. Prior to submitting an application for an enterprise zone, a local government body must determine that an area:

- Has chronic extreme and unacceptable levels of poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, and economic disinvestment;
- Needs rehabilitation or redevelopment for the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the county or municipality; and
- Can be revitalized through the inducement of the private sector.

An area nominated by a county or municipality, or a county and one or more municipalities together, for designation as an enterprise zone must meet the following criteria:

- The selected area does not exceed 20 square miles.
- The selected area must have a continuous boundary, or consist of not more than three noncontiguous parcels. The selected area does not exceed the following mileage limitation:
  - For communities having a total population of 150,000 persons or more, or for a rural enterprise zone, the selected area shall not exceed 20 square miles.
  - For communities having a total population of 50,000 persons or more but less than 150,000 persons, the selected area shall not exceed 10 square miles.
  - For communities having a total population of 20,000 persons or more but less than 50,000 persons, the selected area shall not exceed 5 square miles.
  - For communities having a total population of 7,500 persons or more but less than 20,000 persons, the selected area shall not exceed 3 square miles.
  - For communities having a total population of less than 7,500 persons, the selected area shall not exceed 3 square miles.<sup>1</sup>

The Department of Economic Opportunity is responsible for approving applications for enterprise zones, and also approves changes in enterprise zone boundaries when authorized by the Florida Legislature. As part of the application process for an enterprise zone, the county or municipality in which the designation will be located also is responsible for creating an Enterprise Zone Development Agency and an enterprise zone development plan.

As outlined in s. 290.0056, F.S., an Enterprise Zone Development Agency is required to have a board of commissioners of at least eight, and no more than 13, members. The agency has the following powers and responsibilities:

- Assisting in the development, implementation and annual review of the zone and updating the strategic plan or measurable goals;
- Identifying ways to remove regulatory burdens;

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<sup>1</sup> Section 290.055(4)(a) and (b), F.S.

- Promoting the incentives to residents and businesses;
- Recommending boundary changes;
- Working with nonprofit development organizations; and
- Ensuring the enterprise zone coordinator receives annual training and works with Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Pursuant to s. 290.0057, F.S., an enterprise zone development plan (or strategic plan) must accompany an application. At a minimum this plan must:

- Describe the community's goal in revitalizing the area;
- Describe how the community's social and human resources—transportation, housing, community development, public safety, and education and environmental concerns—will be addressed in a coordinated fashion;
- Identify key community goals and barriers;
- Outline how the community is a full partner in the process of developing and implementing this plan;
- Describe the commitment from the local governing body in enacting and maintaining local fiscal and regulatory incentives;
- Identify the amount of local and private resources available and the private/public partnerships;
- Indicate how local, state, and federal resources will all be utilized;
- Identify funding requested under any state or federal program to support the proposed development; and
- Identify baselines, methods, and benchmarks for measuring success of the plan.

### **Available Incentives**

Florida's enterprise zones qualify for various incentives from corporate income tax and sales and use tax liabilities. Examples of local incentives include: utility tax abatement, reduction of occupational license fees, reduced building permit fees or land development fees, and local funds for capital projects.

Available state sales tax incentives for enterprise zones include:

- Building Materials Used in the Rehabilitation of Real Property Located in an Enterprise Zone:  
Provides a refund for sales taxes paid on the purchase of certain building materials, up to \$5,000 or 97 percent of the tax paid.
- Business Equipment Used in Enterprise Zones:  
Provides a refund for sales taxes paid on the purchase of certain equipment, up to \$5,000 or 97 percent of the tax paid.
- Rural Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit against Sales Tax:  
Provides a sales and use tax credit for 30 or 45 percent of wages paid to new employees who live within a rural county.
- Urban Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit against Sales Tax:  
Provides a sales and use tax credit for 20 or 30 percent of wages paid to new employees who live within the enterprise zone.
- Business Property Used in an Enterprise Zone:  
Provides a refund for sales taxes paid on the purchase of certain business property, up to \$5,000 or 97 percent of the tax paid per parcel of property, which is used exclusively in an enterprise zone for at least 3 years.
- Community Contribution Tax Credit:  
Provides 50 percent sales tax refund for donations made to local community development projects.
- Electrical Energy Used in an Enterprise Zone:  
Provides 50 percent sales tax exemption to qualified businesses located within an enterprise zone on the purchase of electrical energy.

Available state corporate income tax incentives for enterprise zones include:

- Rural Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit against Corporate Income Tax:  
Provides a corporate income tax credit for 30 or 45 percent of wages paid to new employees who live within a rural county.
- Urban Enterprise Zone Jobs Credit against Corporate Income Tax:  
Provides a corporate income tax credit for 20 or 30 percent of wages paid to new employees who live within the enterprise zone.
- Enterprise Zone Property Tax Credit:  
Provides a credit against Florida corporate income tax equal to 96 percent of ad valorem taxes paid on the new or improved property.
- Community Contribution Tax Credit:  
Provides a 50-percent credit on Florida corporate income tax or insurance premium tax, or a sales tax refund, for donations made to local community development projects.

### **Effect of Proposed Changes**

The bill provides authority for Charlotte County to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for designation of an enterprise zone of up to 20 square miles.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2012.

#### **B. SECTION DIRECTORY:**

Section 1 – Amends s. 290.00729, F.S.

Section 2 – Provides an effective date.

## **II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

#### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

##### **1. Revenues:**

The Revenue Estimating Conference determined the bill has a recurring negative fiscal impact of \$200,000 on General Revenue.

##### **2. Expenditures:**

None.

#### **B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

##### **1. Revenues:**

The Revenue Estimating Conference determined the bill has an insignificant negative fiscal impact on local revenues.

##### **2. Expenditures:**

None.

#### **C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

The bill has the potential to positively impact the economy of the designated area through job growth and capital investment.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

**III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

**IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

None.