

By Senator Smith

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Seaport Employment Training
3 Grant Program; reviving, reenacting, and amending s.
4 288.386, F.S.; requiring the Department of Economic
5 Opportunity under certain circumstances to establish
6 and administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade
7 Initiative within the program; providing the purpose
8 of, and the department's responsibilities for, the
9 initiative; providing for coordination and alliances
10 with certain organizations and funding programs;
11 requiring the department to develop performance
12 measures for the initiative; providing an effective
13 date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17 Section 1. Notwithstanding the repeal of section 288.386,
18 Florida Statutes, by section 52 of chapter 2011-213, Laws of
19 Florida, section 288.386, Florida Statutes, is revived,
20 reenacted, and amended to read:

21 288.386 Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.—

22 (1) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, the
23 department shall, within the Seaport Employment Training Grant
24 Program, ~~(STEP) shall~~ establish and administer the Florida-
25 Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative for the purpose of assisting
26 small and medium-sized businesses to become involved in
27 international activities and helping them to identify markets
28 with product demand, identify strategic alliances in those
29 markets, and obtain the financing to effectuate trade

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30 opportunities in the Caribbean Basin. The initiative must focus
31 assistance to businesses located in urban communities. The
32 initiative shall offer export readiness, assistance and referral
33 services, internships, seminars, workshops, conferences, and e-
34 commerce plus mentoring and matchmaking services, but shall
35 coordinate with and not duplicate those services provided by
36 Enterprise Florida, Inc.

37 (2) To enhance initiative effectiveness and leverage
38 resources, the department ~~STEP~~ shall coordinate initiative
39 activities with Enterprise Florida, Inc., United States Export
40 Assistance Centers, the Florida Export Finance Corporation,
41 ~~Florida Trade Data Center~~, Small Business Development Centers,
42 and any other organizations that the department ~~STEP~~ deems
43 appropriate. The coordination may encompass export assistance
44 and referral services, export financing, job-training programs,
45 educational programs, market research and development, market
46 promotion, trade missions, e-commerce, and mentoring and
47 matchmaking services relative to the expansion of trade between
48 this state ~~Florida~~ and the Caribbean Basin. The initiative shall
49 also form alliances with multilateral, international, and
50 domestic funding programs from this state ~~Florida~~, the United
51 States, and the Caribbean Basin to coordinate systems and
52 programs for fundamental assistance in facilitating trade and
53 investment.

54 (3) ~~STEP shall administer the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade~~
55 ~~Initiative pursuant to a performance-based contract with the~~
56 ~~Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.~~ The
57 department ~~Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development~~
58 shall develop performance measures, ~~standards, and sanctions~~ for

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59 the initiative, which. ~~Performance measures~~ must include, but
60 are not limited to, the number of businesses assisted, † the
61 number of urban businesses assisted, † and the increase in value
62 of exports to the Caribbean which is attributable to the
63 initiative.

64 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.