

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1219 Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

SPONSOR(S): Bracy

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1158

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Collins	West
2) Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

House Bill 1219 creates the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

See Fiscal Comments.

This bill has an effective date of July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council

The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council (council)¹ was created by Executive Order of the Governor in November 2004 to help state government coordinate to efforts to partner with faith-based and community-based organizations to address social needs within Florida communities.² The Legislature codified this order in 2006.³

The council consists of a 25-member board of advisors which may include representatives from various faiths, faith-based organizations, foundations, corporations and municipalities. The Governor is responsible for appointing 17 members; the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints 4 members; and the President of the Senate appoints 4 members. The council is required to meet at least once per quarter to review and recommend in a report to the Governor and the Legislature:

- How faith-based and community-based organizations can best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services, regardless of an organization's orientation, whether faith-based or secular.
- How best to develop and coordinate activities of faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives, enhance such efforts in communities, and seek such resources, legislation, and regulatory relief as may be necessary to accomplish these objectives.
- How best to ensure that state policy decisions take into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities.
- How best to identify and promote best practices across state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community based organizations.
- How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and special projects.
- How best to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community-based initiatives.
- How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based programs.
- How best to develop and implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and communities in this state.
- How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives.
- How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems.
- How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.
- How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.

A report is due to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President of the Senate by February 1 of each year by the council that contains an accounting of its activities and recommends policies, priorities, and objectives for the state's comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower,

¹ Section 14.31, Florida Statutes

² Executive Order No. 04-245, November 18, 2004

³ Laws of Florida, Ch. 2006-9

and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community-based organizations. The council may not make any recommendations, however, that conflict with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the public funding provision of s. 3, Art. I of the State Constitution.

In 2011, the Legislature passed SB 898 repealing the portion of the law which would allow the council to sunset on June 30, 2011.⁴

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (OFBNP) is responsible for building bridges between the federal government and nonprofit organizations, both secular and faith-based, to better serve Americans in need. This mission is advanced through the 11 Agency Centers across government and a Strategic Advisor at the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Originally known as the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, this office was created by executive order by President George W. Bush on January 29, 2001. It is presently managed by Joshua DuBois, Executive Director, and operates with a 15-member advisory council appointed by the President for one year terms. The OFBNP works with state offices for faith-based and neighborhood partnerships in 24 states and the District of Columbia. In Florida, OFBNP works with the Volunteer Florida Foundation, a non-profit charity established, organized, and operated exclusively as a direct support organization to support and assist the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (office) within DEO. The purpose of the office is to:

- Promote and coordinate community service and volunteer participation in faith-based and community-based organizations throughout the state.
- Identify and removed unnecessary administrative barriers to create greater access for partnership and enhance the capacity of faith-based and community-based organizations to implements successful programs.
- Develop strategies to eliminate barriers to funding and other resource opportunities for faith-based and community-based organizations.

The office will be provided administrative and staff support from DEO.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates the Office of Faith-Based and Community-Initiatives within the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

⁴ Laws of Florida, Ch. 2011-155

⁵ The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service was created in 1994 by the Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

2. Expenditures:

DEO has not determined the fiscal impact of this bill on the department. The cost to provide administrative and staff support is indeterminate.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a municipality or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill does not require a reduction of the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES