

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 221 Enterprise Zones/Polk County

SPONSOR(S): Albritton and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 480

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee	11 Y, 0 N	Tecler	West
2) Finance & Tax Subcommittee			
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 65 enterprise zones.

The bill provides authority for the cities of Auburndale, Bartow, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Lake Wales, Mulberry, and Polk City to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for designation of enterprise zones within Polk County. The cities specified in this bill may apply individually, jointly, and or in concert with the county. The bill authorizes the Department to designate up to eight enterprise zones, consisting of no more than one enterprise zone for each city, either individually or in combination with the county. The Department must establish the initial effective date of each enterprise zone.

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) estimated the bill will have a negative impact on state funds as follows: \$100,000 in FY 2013-14, \$300,000 in FY 2014-15 and \$300,000 in FY 2015-16. Further, the REC determined the bill will have an insignificant impact on local government.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

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 65 enterprise zones.¹

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:²

Community Population	Mileage Limit
150,000 or more	20 sq. mi.
50,000 - 149,999	10 sq. mi.
20,000 - 49,999	5 sq. mi.
7,500 - 19,999	3 sq. mi.
7,499 or less	3 sq. mi.

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,

¹ 2013 Fact Sheet, Florida Enterprise Zone Program, The Department of Economic Opportunity, on file with the Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee.

² Section 290.0055(4)(a) and (b), F.S.

- Identifying ways to remove regulatory burdens,
- 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, 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 an Enterprise Zone
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 the cities of Auburndale, Bartow, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Lake Wales, Mulberry, and Polk City to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for designation of enterprise zones within Polk County. The cities specified in this bill may apply individually, jointly, and or in concert with Polk County. The bill does not provide an application deadline.

The bill authorizes the Department to designate up to eight enterprise zones, consisting of no more than one enterprise zone for each city, either individually or in combination with the county. The Department must establish the initial effective date of each enterprise zone.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 290.0079, F.S., authorizing the cities of Auburndale, Bartow, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Lake Wales, Mulberry, and Polk City to apply to the Department of Economic Opportunity for designation of an enterprise zone.

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

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

The Revenue Estimating Conference estimated the bill will have a negative impact of \$100,000 on state funds in FY 2013-14, \$300,000 in FY 2014-15 and \$300,000 in FY 2015-16.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

Revenue Estimating Conference determined the bill will have an insignificant impact on local government.

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:

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