

By Senator Detert

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Florida Small Business  
3           Development Center Network; amending s. 288.001, F.S.;  
4           providing that the network's statewide director is  
5           subject to the approval of the Board of Governors of  
6           the State University System; providing for removal for  
7           cause; requiring the statewide director to regularly  
8           update the Board of Governors and the Department of  
9           Economic Opportunity with certain information;  
10          providing that the Board of Governors, the department,  
11          and the network's statewide advisory board are jointly  
12          responsible for establishing certain policies and  
13          goals; providing for advisory board membership;  
14          providing for terms of membership; providing for  
15          certain member reimbursement; requiring the statewide  
16          director to work with regional small business  
17          development centers to establish and approve budgets;  
18          requiring the statewide director to establish certain  
19          accountability measures; requiring the statewide  
20          director to coordinate with the Board of Governors to  
21          establish an innovative incentive program; providing  
22          for funds to be disbursed to regional small business  
23          development centers that meet certain standards;  
24          providing that match funding may not be reduced for  
25          regional small business development centers receiving  
26          funds from the innovative incentive program; requiring  
27          the statewide director and the network to operate the  
28          program in compliance with federal laws and  
29          regulations; amending s. 1001.706, F.S.; providing the

28-00427-13

2013224

30 Board of Governors with certain powers and duties  
31 relating to the network; providing an effective date.  
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33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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35 Section 1. Section 288.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
36 read:

37 288.001 The Florida Small Business Development Center  
38 Network; purpose.—The Florida Small Business Development Center  
39 Network is the principal business assistance organization for  
40 small businesses in the state.

41 (1) As used in this section, the term:

42 (a) "Network" means the Florida Small Business Development  
43 Center Network.

44 (b) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the  
45 State University System.

46 (2) (a) The network's statewide director is subject to the  
47 approval of and may be removed for cause by the Board of  
48 Governors.

49 (b) The statewide director shall regularly update the Board  
50 of Governors and the department on the network's progress and  
51 outcomes, including information on businesses and entrepreneurs  
52 assisted by the network and the network's economic return to the  
53 state.

54 (3) The Board of Governors, the department, and the  
55 network's statewide advisory board are jointly responsible for  
56 establishing the network's statewide policies and goals to  
57 ensure that the network's policies and programs align with the  
58 statewide goals of the State University System and the statewide

28-00427-13

2013224

59 strategic economic development plan pursuant to s. 20.60.

60 (4) (a) The network's statewide advisory board shall consist  
61 of 17 members from across the state. At least 10 members must be  
62 representatives of the private sector who are knowledgeable of  
63 and sympathetic to the needs and challenges of small businesses.  
64 The members must represent various segments and industries of  
65 the Florida economy and must bring knowledge and skills to the  
66 statewide advisory board that would enhance the statewide  
67 advisory board's collective knowledge of small business  
68 assistance needs and challenges. The statewide advisory board  
69 must include the following members:

70 1. Three members appointed from the private sector by the  
71 President of the Senate.

72 2. Three members appointed from the private sector by the  
73 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

74 3. Three members appointed from the private sector by the  
75 Governor.

76 4. One member appointed by the statewide director from the  
77 private sector.

78 5. One member appointed by the host institution.

79 6. The President of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or his or her  
80 designee.

81 7. The Chief Financial Officer or his or her designee.

82 8. The President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce or his  
83 or her designee.

84 9. The Small Business Development Center Project Officer  
85 from the U.S. Small Business Administration at the South Florida  
86 District Office or his or her designee.

87 10. The President of the National Federation of Independent

28-00427-13

2013224

88 Businesses, Florida, or his or her designee.

89 11. The Executive Director of the Florida United Business  
90 Association or his or her designee.

91 (b) An appointed member shall serve a 4-year term beginning  
92 August 1, 2013, except that initially 2 members appointed by the  
93 Governor, 1 member appointed by the President of the Senate, 1  
94 member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
95 and the member appointed by the statewide director shall serve a  
96 term of 2 years. An appointed member may be reappointed to a  
97 subsequent term. Members of the statewide advisory board may not  
98 receive compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and  
99 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.

100 (5) The statewide director shall work with regional small  
101 business development centers that are part of the network to  
102 establish and approve the regional small business development  
103 center budgets and to ensure the budgets align with the  
104 network's statewide policy and goals. The statewide director  
105 shall also establish accountability measures to ensure the  
106 proper expenditure of funds and alignment with the network's  
107 statewide policy and goals. Accountability measures must include  
108 performance-based metrics for contractual agreements.

109 (6) The statewide director shall coordinate with the Board  
110 of Governors to establish an innovative incentive program for  
111 regional small business development centers to encourage  
112 adoption of small business assistance best practices by regional  
113 small business development centers.

114 (a) A resource or fund dedicated to the innovative  
115 incentive program shall be disbursed only to regional small  
116 business development centers that demonstrate best practices, as

28-00427-13

2013224

117 determined by performance-based metrics developed by the  
118 statewide director.

119 (b) Regional small business development centers receiving  
120 additional funds as a result of the innovative incentive program  
121 may not reduce matching funds dedicated to the small business  
122 development center program.

123 (7) The network and the statewide director must operate the  
124 program in compliance with federal laws and regulations,  
125 including terminating or suspending a regional director or other  
126 employee for actions that cause harm to the program or that  
127 cause the public to question the integrity of the program.

128 Section 2. Present subsections (8) through (11) of section  
129 1001.706, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (9)  
130 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (8) is added to  
131 that section, to read:

132 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

133 (8) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO THE FLORIDA SMALL  
134 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER NETWORK.—The Board of Governors has  
135 the powers and duties set forth in s. 288.001 to implement the  
136 Florida Small Business Development Center Network.

137 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.