

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Department of Economic Opportunity; creating s. 288.112, F.S.; requiring the department to create a web page accessible through its Internet website that provides certain information; providing the purpose of the web page; requiring the department to collect all local business information available to the department; requiring the department to request the relevant local government to provide any otherwise unavailable information; requiring local governments to provide notice of changes in information collected by the department; authorizing local government entities to provide a summary that includes certain information for the department's web page; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 288.112, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

(1) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall create a web page, accessible through its Internet website, dedicated solely to the collection and publication of data and information that are relevant and of significance to the creation of new businesses within the state or the expansion of existing businesses within the state. The purpose of the web page is to:

27 (a) Provide a comprehensive overview of conditions that
28 exist within the various cities and counties of the state that
29 are conducive or advantageous to the creation of new businesses
30 or the expansion of existing businesses.

31 (b) Enable prospective employers both within and outside
32 the state to effectively and accurately evaluate the business
33 climate of cities and counties within the state.

34 (c) Provide prospective business owners and operators and
35 cities and counties within the state with immediate access to
36 specific charges and costs related to the establishment,
37 operation, and maintenance of a business in any city or county
38 within the state.

39 (2) (a) The department shall, by January 1, 2015, collect
40 all relevant information from any sources that are reasonably
41 available to the department as to the conditions within cities
42 and counties that impact the creation or expansion of businesses
43 within the boundaries of a city or county. If that information
44 is not reasonably available to the department, the department
45 shall request the otherwise unavailable information from the
46 relevant heads of local government entities.

47 (b) The department shall place all the collected
48 information on its web page as soon as practicable.

49 (c) Business information collected by the department shall
50 not include quality of life considerations. The information
51 collected by the department shall include, as applicable:

- 52 1. An indication as to whether the city or county, or a
 53 portion of the city or county, is designated as or contained
 54 within:
- 55 a. A rural area of critical economic concern.
 - 56 b. A foreign trade zone.
 - 57 c. An enterprise zone.
- 58 2. Current millage rates for all relevant taxing
 59 authorities, school districts, and special districts.
- 60 3. The rate of any local discretionary sales surtax.
 - 61 4. The rate of any local option food and beverage tax.
 - 62 5. The rate of any local option fuel tax.
 - 63 6. The rate of any local public service tax.
 - 64 7. A complete schedule for local business taxes, the
 65 categories for which local business taxes are collected, any
 66 cost difference or savings if more than one category of local
 67 business tax is required for the same business, and the average
 68 length of time for processing the application.
 - 69 8. A complete schedule and explanation of any other fees
 70 or taxes that may be imposed by the local government entity that
 71 would impact the establishment or expansion of a new business or
 72 new business location, and the average length of time for
 73 processing an application, including the following:
- 74 a. Construction licensing fees.
 - 75 b. Impact fees.
 - 76 c. Water and sewer connection fees.
 - 77 d. Stormwater fees and permits, specifically identifying

78 permitting requirements that exceed the requirements of the
79 water management districts.

80 e. Sign ordinance requirements, permits, and fees.

81 f. Tree and landscape ordinances, permits, and fees.

82 g. Local licenses required to perform any construction or
83 specialty trade within the local government entity's
84 jurisdiction, including the categories of licensure, fees
85 charged, requirements for competency and testing, and the
86 average length of time for processing an application.

87 h. A schedule of local fees charged for issuance of
88 building or demolition permits, including the categories of
89 permits and fees charged for each, and the average length of
90 time for reviewing and processing each type of application.

91 i. Local fees charged for any other applications for new
92 developments and the average length of time required for review
93 and processing of each type of application.

94 9. For each of the permits or fees imposed, whether the
95 application and fee information can be obtained from the local
96 government entity's website.

97 (d) Local government entities shall provide notice to the
98 department of any factor, such as the elimination of, addition
99 of, or change in any items specified in paragraph (c), as soon
100 as practicable.

101 (e) Local government entities may provide to the
102 department a summary of 1,500 words or less which shall be
103 included on the department's web page, stating the advantages to

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104 businesses that exist within the area of the local government
105 entity and including a link to the city's or county's website.
106 The summary may include quality of life considerations or other
107 factors that, in the determination of the local government
108 entity, create conditions that are favorable to business
109 creation or expansion.

110 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.