

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to poverty; creating s. 14.292, F.S.;  
 3           providing legislative intent; creating the Florida  
 4           Commission on Poverty in the Executive Office of the  
 5           Governor; providing for membership of the commission;  
 6           providing for terms of members; providing for powers  
 7           and duties of the commission; requiring reports;  
 8           providing an effective date.

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

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 12           Section 1.   Section 14.292, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 13   read:

14           14.292 Florida Commission on Poverty.-

15           (1) There is established in the Executive Office of the  
 16 Governor the Florida Commission on Poverty. The commission shall  
 17 serve as an advisory board to the Governor and Cabinet, the  
 18 Legislature, and appropriate state agencies and entities on  
 19 matters relating to poverty.

20           (2) The commission shall consist of 5 voting members to be  
 21 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. A member  
 22 must be a resident of the state. Any number of nonvoting members  
 23 may be appointed by the Governor and may hold public office.

24           (3) Members of the commission shall be appointed for 4-  
 25 year terms and may be reappointed for successive terms. A  
 26 vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term

27 in the same manner as the original appointment.

28 (4) The commission shall meet at the call of the chair or  
29 at the request of a majority of its total voting membership, but  
30 shall meet at least twice a year. A majority of the total voting  
31 membership shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote  
32 of a majority of a quorum is necessary to take official action.

33 (5) Members of the commission shall serve without  
34 compensation, but voting members shall be reimbursed for per  
35 diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061.

36 (6) The commission shall:

37 (a) Annually elect a chair and a vice chair. To be  
38 eligible to serve as chair, an individual must be a voting  
39 member of the commission.

40 (b) Conduct a study and develop strategies to address the  
41 causes of poverty in the state.

42 (c) Solicit the participation of counties in the study. A  
43 county that wishes to participate must submit an application to  
44 the commission that outlines current issues relating to poverty  
45 in that county. The commission shall develop procedures to  
46 approve or deny applications for participation.

47 (d) Prepare an annual report detailing its activities  
48 during the preceding year and, to the extent practicable,  
49 compile and synthesize any reports that it accepted on behalf of  
50 the Governor. The commission's annual report shall be presented  
51 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
52 the House of Representatives by January 15 of each year. The

53 report shall also include specific recommendations for any  
54 necessary legislative, administrative, or regulatory reform, and  
55 the commission's assessment of the state of poverty in the  
56 state.

57 (7) The commission may:

58 (a) Secure assistance from all state departments and  
59 agencies in order for the commission to avail itself of  
60 expertise at minimal cost.

61 (b) Procure information and assistance from the state or  
62 any political subdivision, municipality, public officer, or  
63 governmental department or agency thereof.

64 (c) Contract for necessary goods and services.

65 (d) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and  
66 services from any local government, state government, or the  
67 Federal Government, or any of their agencies, or any other  
68 public or private source for the purpose of defraying clerical  
69 and administrative costs as may be necessary in carrying out its  
70 duties under this section.

71 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.