

HB 75

2015

1 A bill to be entitled

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

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19 Section 1. Section 288.112, Florida Statutes, is created  
20 to read:

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

Page 1 of 5

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

hb0075-00

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, 2016, 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 average  
86 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

HB 75

2015

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, 2015.