1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to the Florida Commission on Poverty;

3   creating the commission within the Department of

4   Economic Opportunity; specifying the membership of the

5   commission and the duration of members' terms;

6   authorizing reimbursement for per diem and travel

7   expenses; prescribing the powers and duties of the

8   commission; requiring the commission to annually

9   submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature;

10   providing an effective date.

11

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

13

14   Section 1. Florida Commission on Poverty.—

15   (1) The Florida Commission on Poverty is established and

16   assigned to the Department of Economic Opportunity. The

17   commission shall serve as an advisory board to the Governor and

18   Cabinet, the Legislature, and appropriate state agencies and

19   entities on matters relating to poverty.

20   (2) The commission shall consist of one voting member

21   appointed by the Governor, one voting member appointed by the

22   Chief Financial Officer, one voting member appointed by the

23   President of the Senate, one voting member appointed by the

24   Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one voting member

25   from the Florida Association for Community Action, Inc. All

26   appointees must be confirmed by the Senate. The Governor may

27 additionally appoint any number of nonvoting members who may

28 concurrently hold public office with his or her term of service.

29 Members of the commission must be residents of this state.

30   (3) Members of the commission shall be appointed for 4-

31 year terms and may be reappointed for successive terms. A

32 vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term

33 in the same manner as the original appointment.

34   (4) The commission shall meet at least twice each year at

35 the call of the chair or at the request of a majority of its

36 total voting membership. A majority of the total voting

37 membership constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a

38 majority of a quorum is necessary to take official action.

39   (5) Members of the commission shall serve without

40 compensation, but voting members are entitled to reimbursement

41 for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061,

42 Florida Statutes.

43   (6) The commission shall:

44   (a) Annually elect a chair, who must be a voting member of

45 the commission, and a vice chair.

46   (b) Conduct a study and develop strategies to address the

47 causes of poverty in the state.

48   (c) Solicit the participation of counties in the study. A

49 county that wishes to participate must submit an application to

50 the commission that outlines current issues relating to poverty

51 in that county. The commission shall develop procedures to

52 approve or deny applications for participation.

53   (7) The commission may:

54   (a) Procure information and assistance from the state or

55   any political subdivision, municipality, public officer, or

56   governmental department or agency thereof.

57   (b) Contract for necessary goods and services.

58   (c) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and

59   services from any local government, state government, or the

60   Federal Government, or an agency thereof, or any other public or

61   private source for the purpose of defraying clerical and

62   administrative costs as may be necessary to carry out its duties

63   under this section.

64   (8) By January 15 of each year, the commission shall

65   submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of the

66   Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

67   containing an accounting of its activities and recommendations

68   for legislative, administrative, and regulatory reforms to

69   facilitate efforts in mitigating the existence of poverty in

70   this state.

71   Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.