

CS/CS/HB 371

2016

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Council on Poverty;
 3 establishing the council within the Department of
 4 Economic Opportunity; specifying the membership of the
 5 council; providing for organization of the council;
 6 authorizing reimbursement for per diem and travel
 7 expenses; prescribing the scope of the council's
 8 activities; requiring the council to annually submit a
 9 report to the Governor and Legislature; requiring the
 10 council's abolition by a specific date; providing an
 11 effective date.

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

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 15 Section 1. Florida Council on Poverty.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.—The Florida Council on
 17 Poverty is established and assigned to the Department of
 18 Economic Opportunity as an advisory council, as defined in s.
 19 20.03, Florida Statutes. The council shall be administratively
 20 housed within the Department of Economic Opportunity.

21 (2) COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP.—The council shall consist of five
 22 members who shall be residents of this state. The members shall
 23 be appointed as follows:

24 (a) The Governor shall appoint one member who must be from
 25 the Florida Association for Community Action, Inc.

26 (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall appoint one member.

27 (c) The Commissioner of Agriculture shall appoint one
 28 member.

29 (d) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member.

30 (e) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
 31 appoint one member.

32 (3) MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION.—

33 (a) The first meeting of the council shall be held no
 34 later than August 1, 2016. Thereafter, the council shall meet at
 35 least twice each year. Meetings may be held via teleconference
 36 or other electronic means.

37 (b) Members of the council shall annually elect from its
 38 membership a chair and vice chair. The council shall meet at the
 39 call of the chair or at such times as may be prescribed by the
 40 council.

41 (c) Three members of the council constitute a quorum, and
 42 a meeting may not be held unless a quorum is present. The
 43 affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the council
 44 present is necessary for any official action by the council.

45 (d) Members of the council shall serve without
 46 compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel
 47 expenses in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

48 (4) SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES.—The council shall:

49 (a) Conduct a review of policies and programs that work to
 50 move people out of poverty.

51 (b) Develop strategies to address the causes of poverty in
 52 the state.

53 (c) Develop recommendations to reduce the percentage of
54 people living in poverty in the state.

55 (d) Study the academic outcomes for children in poverty
56 and develop recommendations on how to improve such outcomes.

57 (5) REPORT.—By January 15 of each year, beginning in 2018,
58 the council shall submit an annual report to the Governor, the
59 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
60 Representatives containing an accounting of its activities and
61 recommendations for legislative, administrative, and regulatory
62 reforms to facilitate efforts in mitigating the existence of
63 poverty in this state.

64 (6) TERMINATION.—The Florida Council on Poverty shall be
65 abolished on July 1, 2019.

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