

By Senator Gruters

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to international affairs; amending s.  
3       15.01, F.S.; requiring the Secretary of State to serve  
4       as the state protocol officer; requiring the Secretary  
5       of State to take certain actions relating to the state  
6       protocol manual; amending s. 15.182, F.S.; requiring  
7       that certain organizations provide notice of  
8       international travel to the Department of State,  
9       rather than the Department of Economic Opportunity;  
10      requiring the Department of State, The Department of  
11      Economic Opportunity, and Enterprise Florida, Inc., to  
12      work in conjunction for a certain purpose; amending s.  
13      288.816, F.S.; revising the duties of the state  
14      protocol officer; authorizing, rather than requiring,  
15      the state protocol officer to take certain actions;  
16      creating s. 288.8165, F.S.; authorizing the Office of  
17      International Affairs within the Department of State  
18      to support the establishment of citizen support  
19      organizations for certain purposes; defining the term  
20      "citizen support organization"; authorizing the office  
21      to adopt rules; prohibiting the office from allowing a  
22      citizen support organization to use certain services,  
23      property, or facilities if the organization does not  
24      provide equal membership and employment opportunities;  
25      requiring citizen support organizations to provide for  
26      a certain financial audit; providing a scheduled  
27      repeal; amending s. 288.012, F.S.; conforming  
28      provisions to changes made by the act; providing an  
29      effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 15.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15.01 Duties.—

(1) The Secretary of State shall serve as the state protocol officer. In consultation with the Governor and other governmental officials, the Secretary of State shall develop, maintain, publish, and distribute the state protocol manual.

(2) The Department of State shall have the custody of the constitution and Great Seal of this state, and of the original statutes thereof, and of the resolutions of the Legislature, and of all the official correspondence of the Governor. The department shall keep in its office a register and an index of all official letters, orders, communications, messages, documents, and other official acts issued or received by the Governor or the Secretary of State, and record these in a book numbered in chronological order. The Governor, before issuing any order or transmission of any official letter, communication, or document from the executive office or promulgation of any official act or proceeding, except military orders, shall deliver the same or a copy thereof to the Department of State to be recorded.

Section 2. Section 15.182, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15.182 International travel by state-funded musical, cultural, or artistic organizations; notification to the Department of State ~~Economic Opportunity~~.—

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59 (1) If a musical, cultural, or artistic organization that  
60 receives state funding is traveling internationally for a  
61 presentation, performance, or other significant public viewing,  
62 including an organization associated with a college or  
63 university, such organization shall notify the Department of  
64 State Economic Opportunity of its intentions to travel, together  
65 with the date, time, and location of each appearance.

66 (2) The Department of State Economic Opportunity, in  
67 conjunction with the Department of Economic Opportunity and  
68 Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall act as an intermediary between  
69 performing musical, cultural, and artistic organizations and  
70 Florida businesses to encourage and coordinate joint  
71 undertakings. Such coordination may include, but is not limited  
72 to, encouraging business and industry to sponsor cultural  
73 events, assistance with travel of such organizations, and  
74 coordinating travel schedules of cultural performance groups and  
75 international trade missions.

76 (3) An organization shall provide the notification to the  
77 Department of State required by this section at least 30 days  
78 before the date the international travel is to commence or, when  
79 an intention to travel internationally is not formed at least 30  
80 days in advance of the date the travel is to commence, as soon  
81 as feasible after forming such travel intention. The Department  
82 of State shall take an active role in informing such groups of  
83 the responsibility to notify the department of travel  
84 intentions.

85 Section 3. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) and  
86 subsection (3) of section 288.816, Florida Statutes, are amended  
87 to read:

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88 288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

89 (2) The state protocol officer shall be responsible for all  
90 consular relations between the state and all foreign governments  
91 doing business in Florida. The state protocol officer shall  
92 monitor United States laws and directives to ensure that all  
93 federal treaties regarding foreign privileges and immunities are  
94 properly observed. The state protocol officer shall:

95 ~~(c) Issue certificates to such foreign governmental~~  
96 ~~officials after verification pursuant to proper investigations~~  
97 ~~through United States Department of State sources and the~~  
98 ~~appropriate foreign government.~~

99 ~~(d) Verify entitlement to sales and use tax exemptions~~  
100 ~~pursuant to United States Department of State guidelines and~~  
101 ~~identification methods.~~

102 (3) The state protocol officer may ~~shall operate the sister~~  
103 ~~city and sister state program and establish such new programs as~~  
104 ~~needed to further global understanding through the interchange~~  
105 ~~of people, ideas, and culture between Florida and the world. To~~  
106 ~~accomplish this purpose, the state protocol officer shall have~~  
107 ~~the power and authority to:~~

108 (a) Coordinate and carry out activities designed to  
109 encourage the state and its subdivisions to participate in  
110 sister city and sister state affiliations with foreign countries  
111 and their subdivisions. Such activities may include a State of  
112 Florida sister cities conference.

113 (b) Encourage cooperation with and disseminate information  
114 pertaining to the Sister Cities International Program and any  
115 other program whose object is to promote linkages with foreign  
116 countries and their subdivisions.

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117 (c) Maximize any aid available from all levels of  
118 government, public and private agencies, and other entities to  
119 facilitate such activities.

120 ~~(d) Establish a viable system of registration for sister  
121 city and sister state affiliations between the state and foreign  
122 countries and their subdivisions. Such system shall include a  
123 method to determine that sufficient ties are properly  
124 established as well as a method to supervise how these ties are  
125 maintained.~~

126 ~~(e) Maintain a current and accurate listing of all such  
127 affiliations. Sister city affiliations shall not be discouraged  
128 between the state and any country specified in s. 620(f)(1) of  
129 the federal Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, with  
130 whom the United States is currently conducting diplomatic  
131 relations unless a mandate from the United States Government  
132 expressly prohibits such affiliations.~~

133 Section 4. Section 288.8165, Florida Statutes, is created  
134 to read:

135 288.8165 Citizen support organizations.-

136 (1) CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.-The Office of  
137 International Affairs within the Department of State may support  
138 the establishment of citizen support organizations to provide  
139 assistance, funding, and promotional support for  
140 intergovernmental programs. For the purposes of this section, a  
141 "citizen support organization" means an organization that is:

142 (a) A Florida corporation not for profit incorporated under  
143 chapter 617 and approved by the Department of State;

144 (b) Organized and operated to conduct programs and  
145 activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and

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146 bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and  
147 administer, in its own name, securities, funds, objects of  
148 value, or other property, real or personal; and make  
149 expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of the  
150 Office of International Affairs;

151 (c) Determined by the Office of International Affairs to be  
152 consistent with the goals of the office and in the best  
153 interests of the state; and

154 (d) Approved in writing by the Office of International  
155 Affairs to operate for the direct or indirect benefit of the  
156 office. Such approval must be given in a letter of agreement  
157 from the office.

158 (2) USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND PROPERTY.—

159 (a) The Office of International Affairs may adopt rules  
160 requiring citizen support organizations to meet certain  
161 requirements in order to use the office's administrative  
162 services, property, or facilities.

163 (b) The Office of International Affairs may not allow a  
164 citizen support organization to use any administrative services,  
165 property, or facilities of the state if the citizen support  
166 organization does not provide equal membership and employment  
167 opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color,  
168 religion, sex, age, or national origin.

169 (3) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each citizen support organization shall  
170 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
171 215.981.

172 (4) FUTURE REPEAL.—This section is repealed October 1,  
173 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

174 Section 5. Section 288.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to

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175 read:

176 288.012 State of Florida international offices; ~~state~~  
177 ~~protocol officer; protocol manual.~~—The Legislature finds that  
178 the expansion of international trade and tourism is vital to the  
179 overall health and growth of the economy of this state. This  
180 expansion is hampered by the lack of technical and business  
181 assistance, financial assistance, and information services for  
182 businesses in this state. The Legislature finds that these  
183 businesses could be assisted by providing these services at  
184 State of Florida international offices. The Legislature further  
185 finds that the accessibility and provision of services at these  
186 offices can be enhanced through cooperative agreements or  
187 strategic alliances between private businesses and state, local,  
188 and international governmental entities.

189 (1) The department is authorized to:

190 (a) Establish and operate offices in other countries for  
191 the purpose of promoting trade and economic development  
192 opportunities of the state, and promoting the gathering of trade  
193 data information and research on trade opportunities in specific  
194 countries.

195 (b) Enter into agreements with governmental and private  
196 sector entities to establish and operate offices in other  
197 countries which contain provisions that may conflict with the  
198 general laws of the state pertaining to the purchase of office  
199 space, employment of personnel, and contracts for services. When  
200 agreements pursuant to this section are made which set  
201 compensation in another country's currency, such agreements  
202 shall be subject to the requirements of s. 215.425, but the  
203 purchase of another country's currency by the department to meet

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204 such obligations shall be subject only to s. 216.311.

205 (2) Each international office shall have in place an  
206 operational plan approved by the participating boards or other  
207 governing authority, a copy of which shall be provided to the  
208 department. These operating plans shall be reviewed and updated  
209 each fiscal year and shall include, at a minimum, the following:

210 (a) Specific policies and procedures encompassing the  
211 entire scope of the operation and management of each office.

212 (b) A comprehensive, commercial strategic plan identifying  
213 marketing opportunities and industry sector priorities for the  
214 country in which an international office is located.

215 (c) Provisions for access to information for Florida  
216 businesses related to trade leads and inquiries.

217 (d) Identification of new and emerging market opportunities  
218 for Florida businesses. This information shall be provided  
219 either free of charge or on a fee basis with fees set only to  
220 recover the costs of providing the information.

221 (e) Provision of access for Florida businesses to  
222 international trade assistance services provided by state and  
223 local entities, seaport and airport information, and other  
224 services identified by the department.

225 (f) Qualitative and quantitative performance measures for  
226 each office, including, but not limited to, the number of  
227 businesses assisted, the number of trade leads and inquiries  
228 generated, the number of international buyers and importers  
229 contacted, and the amount and type of marketing conducted.

230 (3) Each international office shall annually submit to  
231 Enterprise Florida, Inc., a complete and detailed report on its  
232 activities and accomplishments during the previous fiscal year



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233 for inclusion in the annual report required under s. 288.906. In  
234 the format and by the annual date prescribed by Enterprise  
235 Florida, Inc., the report must set forth information on:

236 (a) The number of Florida companies assisted.

237 (b) The number of inquiries received about investment  
238 opportunities in this state.

239 (c) The number of trade leads generated.

240 (d) The number of investment projects announced.

241 (e) The estimated U.S. dollar value of sales confirmations.

242 (f) The number of representation agreements.

243 (g) The number of company consultations.

244 (h) Barriers or other issues affecting the effective  
245 operation of the office.

246 (i) Changes in office operations which are planned for the  
247 current fiscal year.

248 (j) Marketing activities conducted.

249 (k) Strategic alliances formed with organizations in the  
250 country in which the office is located.

251 (l) Activities conducted with Florida's other international  
252 offices.

253 (m) Any other information that the office believes would  
254 contribute to an understanding of its activities.

255 (4) The Department of Economic Opportunity, in connection  
256 with the establishment, operation, and management of any of its  
257 offices located in another country, is exempt from the  
258 provisions of ss. 255.21, 255.25, and 255.254 relating to  
259 leasing of buildings; ss. 283.33 and 283.35 relating to bids for  
260 printing; ss. 287.001-287.20 relating to purchasing and motor  
261 vehicles; and ss. 282.003-282.00515 and 282.702-282.7101

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262 relating to communications, and from all statutory provisions  
263 relating to state employment.

264 (a) The department may exercise such exemptions only upon  
265 prior approval of the Governor.

266 (b) If approval for an exemption under this section is  
267 granted as an integral part of a plan of operation for a  
268 specified international office, such action shall constitute  
269 continuing authority for the department to exercise the  
270 exemption, but only in the context and upon the terms originally  
271 granted. Any modification of the approved plan of operation with  
272 respect to an exemption contained therein must be resubmitted to  
273 the Governor for his or her approval. An approval granted to  
274 exercise an exemption in any other context shall be restricted  
275 to the specific instance for which the exemption is to be  
276 exercised.

277 (c) As used in this subsection, the term "plan of  
278 operation" means the plan developed pursuant to subsection (2).

279 (d) Upon final action by the Governor with respect to a  
280 request to exercise the exemption authorized in this subsection,  
281 the department shall report such action, along with the original  
282 request and any modifications thereto, to the President of the  
283 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within 30  
284 days.

285 (5) Where feasible and appropriate, international offices  
286 established and operated under this section may provide one-stop  
287 access to the economic development, trade, and tourism  
288 information, services, and programs of the state. Where feasible  
289 and appropriate, such offices may also be collocated with other  
290 international offices of the state.

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291 (6) The department is authorized to make and to enter into  
292 contracts with Enterprise Florida, Inc., to carry out the  
293 provisions of this section. The authority, duties, and  
294 exemptions provided in this section apply to Enterprise Florida,  
295 Inc., to the same degree and subject to the same conditions as  
296 applied to the department. To the greatest extent possible, such  
297 contracts shall include provisions for cooperative agreements or  
298 strategic alliances between private businesses and state,  
299 international, and local governmental entities to operate  
300 international offices.

301 ~~(7) The Governor may designate a state protocol officer.~~  
302 ~~The state protocol officer shall be housed within the Executive~~  
303 ~~Office of the Governor. In consultation with the Governor and~~  
304 ~~other governmental officials, the state protocol officer shall~~  
305 ~~develop, maintain, publish, and distribute the state protocol~~  
306 ~~manual.~~

307 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.