

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.

30 |

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

32 |

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

35 | 15.01 Duties.—

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

40 | (2) The Department of State shall have the custody of the  
 41 | constitution and Great Seal of this state, and of the original  
 42 | statutes thereof, and of the resolutions of the Legislature, and  
 43 | of all the official correspondence of the Governor. The  
 44 | department shall keep in its office a register and an index of  
 45 | all official letters, orders, communications, messages,  
 46 | documents, and other official acts issued or received by the  
 47 | Governor or the Secretary of State, and record these in a book  
 48 | numbered in chronological order. The Governor, before issuing  
 49 | any order or transmission of any official letter, communication,  
 50 | or document from the executive office or promulgation of any

51 official act or proceeding, except military orders, shall  
52 deliver the same or a copy thereof to the Department of State to  
53 be recorded.

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

56 15.182 International travel by state-funded musical,  
57 cultural, or artistic organizations; notification to the  
58 Department of State Economic Opportunity.—

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:

88 288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

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

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

100 ~~(d) Verify entitlement to sales and use tax exemptions~~

101 ~~pursuant to United States Department of State guidelines and~~  
102 ~~identification methods.~~

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

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

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

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

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

126 ~~maintained.~~

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

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

136 288.8165 Citizen support organizations.—

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

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

145 (b) Organized and operated to conduct programs and  
 146 activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and  
 147 bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and  
 148 administer, in its own name, securities, funds, objects of  
 149 value, or other property, real or personal; and make  
 150 expenditures to or for the direct or indirect benefit of the

151 Office of International Affairs;

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

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

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

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

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

170 (3) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each citizen support organization shall  
171 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
172 215.981.

173 (4) FUTURE REPEAL.—This section is repealed October 1,  
174 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

175 Section 5. Section 288.012, Florida Statutes, is amended

176 to read:

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

190       (1) The department is authorized to:

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

196       (b) Enter into agreements with governmental and private  
197 sector entities to establish and operate offices in other  
198 countries which contain provisions that may conflict with the  
199 general laws of the state pertaining to the purchase of office  
200 space, employment of personnel, and contracts for services. When



201 | agreements pursuant to this section are made which set  
202 | compensation in another country's currency, such agreements  
203 | shall be subject to the requirements of s. 215.425, but the  
204 | purchase of another country's currency by the department to meet  
205 | such obligations shall be subject only to s. 216.311.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

231 (3) Each international office shall annually submit to  
 232 Enterprise Florida, Inc., a complete and detailed report on its  
 233 activities and accomplishments during the previous fiscal year  
 234 for inclusion in the annual report required under s. 288.906. In  
 235 the format and by the annual date prescribed by Enterprise  
 236 Florida, Inc., the report must set forth information on:

237 (a) The number of Florida companies assisted.

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

240 (c) The number of trade leads generated.

241 (d) The number of investment projects announced.

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

244 (f) The number of representation agreements.

245 (g) The number of company consultations.

246 (h) Barriers or other issues affecting the effective  
 247 operation of the office.

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

250 (j) Marketing activities conducted.

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

253 (l) Activities conducted with Florida's other  
 254 international offices.

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

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

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

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

276 | exercise an exemption in any other context shall be restricted  
277 | to the specific instance for which the exemption is to be  
278 | exercised.

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

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

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

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

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301 international, and local governmental entities to operate  
302 international offices.

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

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