

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; authorizing the Department of  
17          State to support the establishment of citizen support  
18          organizations for certain purposes; defining the term  
19          "citizen support organization"; prohibiting the  
20          department from allowing a citizen support  
21          organization to use certain services, property, or  
22          facilities if the organization does not provide equal  
23          membership and employment opportunities; requiring  
24          citizen support organizations to provide for a certain  
25          financial audit; providing a scheduled repeal;

26 amending s. 288.012, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
27 changes made by the act; providing an effective date.  
28

29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
30

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

33 15.01 Duties.—

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

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

51 | be recorded.

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

54 |       15.182 International travel by state-funded musical,  
55 | cultural, or artistic organizations; notification to the  
56 | Department of State Economic Opportunity.—

57 |       (1) If a musical, cultural, or artistic organization that  
58 | receives state funding is traveling internationally for a  
59 | presentation, performance, or other significant public viewing,  
60 | including an organization associated with a college or  
61 | university, such organization shall notify the Department of  
62 | State Economic Opportunity in writing of its intentions to  
63 | travel, together with the date, time, and location of each  
64 | appearance. The notice shall be provided to the department at  
65 | least 30 days prior to the date the international travel is to  
66 | commence or, when an intention to travel internationally is not  
67 | formed at least 30 days in advance of the date the travel is to  
68 | commence, as soon as feasible after forming such travel  
69 | intention. The department shall take an active role in informing  
70 | such artistic organizations of the responsibility to provide  
71 | notice of international travel intentions.

72 |       (2) The Department of State Economic Opportunity, in  
73 | conjunction with the Department of Economic Opportunity and  
74 | Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall act as an intermediary between  
75 | performing musical, cultural, and artistic organizations and

76 Florida businesses to encourage and coordinate joint  
77 undertakings. Such coordination may include, but is not limited  
78 to, encouraging business and industry to sponsor cultural  
79 events, assistance with travel of such organizations, and  
80 coordinating travel schedules of cultural performance groups and  
81 international trade missions.

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

91 Section 3. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (2) and  
92 subsection (3) of section 288.816, Florida Statutes, are amended  
93 to read:

94 288.816 Intergovernmental relations.—

95 (2) The state protocol officer shall be responsible for  
96 all consular relations between the state and all foreign  
97 governments doing business in Florida. The state protocol  
98 officer shall monitor United States laws and directives to  
99 ensure that all federal treaties regarding foreign privileges  
100 and immunities are properly observed. The state protocol officer

101 shall:

102 ~~(c) Issue certificates to such foreign governmental~~  
103 ~~officials after verification pursuant to proper investigations~~  
104 ~~through United States Department of State sources and the~~  
105 ~~appropriate foreign government.~~

106 ~~(d) Verify entitlement to sales and use tax exemptions~~  
107 ~~pursuant to United States Department of State guidelines and~~  
108 ~~identification methods.~~

109 (3) The state protocol officer may ~~shall operate the~~  
110 ~~sister city and sister state program and establish such new~~  
111 ~~programs as needed to further global understanding through the~~  
112 ~~interchange of people, ideas, and culture between Florida and~~  
113 ~~the world. To accomplish this purpose, the state protocol~~  
114 ~~officer shall have the power and authority to:~~

115 (a) Coordinate and carry out activities designed to  
116 encourage the state and its subdivisions to participate in  
117 sister city and sister state affiliations with foreign countries  
118 and their subdivisions. Such activities may include a State of  
119 Florida sister cities conference.

120 (b) Encourage cooperation with and disseminate information  
121 pertaining to the Sister Cities International Program and any  
122 other program whose object is to promote linkages with foreign  
123 countries and their subdivisions.

124 (c) Maximize any aid available from all levels of  
125 government, public and private agencies, and other entities to

126 facilitate such activities.

127 ~~(d) Establish a viable system of registration for sister~~  
128 ~~city and sister state affiliations between the state and foreign~~  
129 ~~countries and their subdivisions. Such system shall include a~~  
130 ~~method to determine that sufficient ties are properly~~  
131 ~~established as well as a method to supervise how these ties are~~  
132 ~~maintained.~~

133 ~~(e) Maintain a current and accurate listing of all such~~  
134 ~~affiliations. Sister city affiliations shall not be discouraged~~  
135 ~~between the state and any country specified in s. 620(f)(1) of~~  
136 ~~the federal Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, with~~  
137 ~~whom the United States is currently conducting diplomatic~~  
138 ~~relations unless a mandate from the United States Government~~  
139 ~~expressly prohibits such affiliations.~~

140 Section 4. Section 288.8165, Florida Statutes, is created  
141 to read:

142 288.8165 Citizen support organizations.—

143 (1) CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Department of State  
144 may authorize the establishment of citizen support organizations  
145 to provide assistance, funding, and promotional support for the  
146 intergovernmental programs of the department. For the purposes  
147 of this section, a "citizen support organization" means an  
148 organization which:

149 (a) Is a Florida corporation not for profit incorporated  
150 under chapter 617 and approved by the Department of State.

151        (b) Is organized and operated to conduct programs and  
152 activities; raise funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and  
153 bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and  
154 administer, in its own name, securities, funds, or real or  
155 personal property; and make expenditures for the benefit of the  
156 intergovernmental programs of the department; except that such  
157 organization may not receive funds from the department by grant  
158 or gift unless specifically authorized by the Legislature. If  
159 the citizen support organization by contract provides fiscal and  
160 administrative services to the department for a grant or program  
161 that benefits the intergovernmental programs of the department,  
162 the organization may be reimbursed or compensated for such  
163 services by the department if the services are a direct benefit  
164 to the intergovernmental programs of the department.

165        (c) The department has determined to be consistent with  
166 the goals of the intergovernmental programs of the department  
167 and in the best interests of the state.

168        (d) Is approved in writing by the department to operate  
169 for the benefit of the intergovernmental programs of the  
170 department. Such approval must be stated in a letter of  
171 agreement from the Secretary of State.

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

173        (a) The department may permit a citizen support  
174 organization to use department property, facilities, and  
175 personnel free of charge. A citizen support organization may use

176 department property, facilities, and personnel if such use is  
177 consistent with the approved purpose of that citizen support  
178 organization and if such use does not unreasonably interfere  
179 with the general public's use of department property,  
180 facilities, and personnel for established purposes.

181 (b) The department may prescribe conditions upon the use  
182 by a citizen support organization of department property,  
183 facilities, or personnel.

184 (c) The department may not permit the use of any property,  
185 facilities, or personnel of the state by a citizen support  
186 organization that does not provide equal membership and  
187 employment opportunities to all persons regardless of race,  
188 color, national origin, religion, sex, or age.

189 (3) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each citizen support organization shall  
190 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
191 215.981.

192 (4) FUTURE REPEAL.—This section is repealed October 1,  
193 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

194 (4) FUTURE REPEAL.—This section is repealed October 1,  
195 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

196 Section 5. Section 288.012, Florida Statutes, is amended  
197 to read:

198 288.012 State of Florida international offices; ~~state~~  
199 ~~protocol officer; protocol manual.~~—The Legislature finds that  
200 the expansion of international trade and tourism is vital to the



201 overall health and growth of the economy of this state. This  
202 expansion is hampered by the lack of technical and business  
203 assistance, financial assistance, and information services for  
204 businesses in this state. The Legislature finds that these  
205 businesses could be assisted by providing these services at  
206 State of Florida international offices. The Legislature further  
207 finds that the accessibility and provision of services at these  
208 offices can be enhanced through cooperative agreements or  
209 strategic alliances between private businesses and state, local,  
210 and international governmental entities.

211 (1) The department is authorized to:

212 (a) Establish and operate offices in other countries for  
213 the purpose of promoting trade and economic development  
214 opportunities of the state, and promoting the gathering of trade  
215 data information and research on trade opportunities in specific  
216 countries.

217 (b) Enter into agreements with governmental and private  
218 sector entities to establish and operate offices in other  
219 countries which contain provisions that may conflict with the  
220 general laws of the state pertaining to the purchase of office  
221 space, employment of personnel, and contracts for services. When  
222 agreements pursuant to this section are made which set  
223 compensation in another country's currency, such agreements  
224 shall be subject to the requirements of s. 215.425, but the  
225 purchase of another country's currency by the department to meet

226 | such obligations shall be subject only to s. 216.311.

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

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

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

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

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

243 |       (e) Provision of access for Florida businesses to  
 244 | international trade assistance services provided by state and  
 245 | local entities, seaport and airport information, and other  
 246 | services identified by the department.

247 |       (f) Qualitative and quantitative performance measures for  
 248 | each office, including, but not limited to, the number of  
 249 | businesses assisted, the number of trade leads and inquiries  
 250 | generated, the number of international buyers and importers

251 | contacted, and the amount and type of marketing conducted.

252 |       (3) Each international office shall annually submit to  
253 | Enterprise Florida, Inc., a complete and detailed report on its  
254 | activities and accomplishments during the previous fiscal year  
255 | for inclusion in the annual report required under s. 288.906. In  
256 | the format and by the annual date prescribed by Enterprise  
257 | Florida, Inc., the report must set forth information on:

258 |       (a) The number of Florida companies assisted.

259 |       (b) The number of inquiries received about investment  
260 | opportunities in this state.

261 |       (c) The number of trade leads generated.

262 |       (d) The number of investment projects announced.

263 |       (e) The estimated U.S. dollar value of sales  
264 | confirmations.

265 |       (f) The number of representation agreements.

266 |       (g) The number of company consultations.

267 |       (h) Barriers or other issues affecting the effective  
268 | operation of the office.

269 |       (i) Changes in office operations which are planned for the  
270 | current fiscal year.

271 |       (j) Marketing activities conducted.

272 |       (k) Strategic alliances formed with organizations in the  
273 | country in which the office is located.

274 |       (l) Activities conducted with Florida's other  
275 | international offices.

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

278 (4) The Department of Economic Opportunity, in connection  
279 with the establishment, operation, and management of any of its  
280 offices located in another country, is exempt from the  
281 provisions of ss. 255.21, 255.25, and 255.254 relating to  
282 leasing of buildings; ss. 283.33 and 283.35 relating to bids for  
283 printing; ss. 287.001-287.20 relating to purchasing and motor  
284 vehicles; and ss. 282.003-282.00515 and 282.702-282.7101  
285 relating to communications, and from all statutory provisions  
286 relating to state employment.

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

289 (b) If approval for an exemption under this section is  
290 granted as an integral part of a plan of operation for a  
291 specified international office, such action shall constitute  
292 continuing authority for the department to exercise the  
293 exemption, but only in the context and upon the terms originally  
294 granted. Any modification of the approved plan of operation with  
295 respect to an exemption contained therein must be resubmitted to  
296 the Governor for his or her approval. An approval granted to  
297 exercise an exemption in any other context shall be restricted  
298 to the specific instance for which the exemption is to be  
299 exercised.

300 (c) As used in this subsection, the term "plan of

301 operation" means the plan developed pursuant to subsection (2).

302 (d) Upon final action by the Governor with respect to a  
 303 request to exercise the exemption authorized in this subsection,  
 304 the department shall report such action, along with the original  
 305 request and any modifications thereto, to the President of the  
 306 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within 30  
 307 days.

308 (5) Where feasible and appropriate, international offices  
 309 established and operated under this section may provide one-stop  
 310 access to the economic development, trade, and tourism  
 311 information, services, and programs of the state. Where feasible  
 312 and appropriate, such offices may also be collocated with other  
 313 international offices of the state.

314 (6) The department is authorized to make and to enter into  
 315 contracts with Enterprise Florida, Inc., to carry out the  
 316 provisions of this section. The authority, duties, and  
 317 exemptions provided in this section apply to Enterprise Florida,  
 318 Inc., to the same degree and subject to the same conditions as  
 319 applied to the department. To the greatest extent possible, such  
 320 contracts shall include provisions for cooperative agreements or  
 321 strategic alliances between private businesses and state,  
 322 international, and local governmental entities to operate  
 323 international offices.

324 ~~(7) The Governor may designate a state protocol officer.~~  
 325 ~~The state protocol officer shall be housed within the Executive~~

326 | ~~Office of the Governor. In consultation with the Governor and~~  
327 | ~~other governmental officials, the state protocol officer shall~~  
328 | ~~develop, maintain, publish, and distribute the state protocol~~  
329 | ~~manual.~~

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