

By Senator Brodeur

9-00833A-22

20221098\_\_

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to smart region zones; creating s.  
3       288.93, F.S.; authorizing a group of four or more  
4       contiguous counties to apply to Enterprise Florida,  
5       Inc., to receive designation as a smart region zone;  
6       providing requirements for such designation;  
7       authorizing the designated smart region zone centers  
8       of excellence and certain projects within a smart  
9       region zone to apply to Enterprise Florida, Inc., for  
10      funding; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to give  
11      consideration to specified factors when determining  
12      funding amounts; requiring smart region zone centers  
13      of excellence to submit quarterly reports containing  
14      specified information to Enterprise Florida, Inc.;  
15      requiring smart region zone centers of excellence to  
16      submit project reports containing specified  
17      information to the Governor, the Legislature, and  
18      Enterprise Florida, Inc., after the completion of each  
19      project in a smart region zone; requiring smart region  
20      zone centers of excellence to submit annual reports  
21      containing specified information to the Governor, the  
22      Legislature, and Enterprise Florida, Inc.; providing  
23      an effective date.

24  
25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26  
27       Section 1. Section 288.93, Florida Statutes, is created and  
28      incorporated into part VIII of chapter 288, Florida Statutes, to  
29      read:

9-00833A-22

20221098\_\_

30 288.93 Smart Region Zones.-

31 (1) A group of four or more contiguous counties may apply  
32 to Enterprise Florida, Inc., to receive designation as a smart  
33 region zone. To receive this designation, the counties must do  
34 all of the following:

35 (a) Submit a map depicting the geographic area or areas to  
36 be designated as a smart region zone.

37 (b) Create or designate a smart region zone center of  
38 excellence with the purpose of improving knowledge transfer  
39 across this state, tracking measurable impact, and serving as a  
40 clearinghouse for smart region zone projects and pilot projects.

41 A regional governmental entity or a not-for-profit corporation  
42 under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which  
43 specializes in smart region planning may be designated as the  
44 center of excellence. The center of excellence shall:

45 1. Designate or partner with an open-source data exchange  
46 wherein public, private, and nonprofit data sources may be  
47 collected and used to drive better insights for policymakers,  
48 promote transparency, and track the progress of projects; and

49 2. Develop practices and strategies to assist other  
50 counties with creating smart region zones.

51 (c) Develop a smart region strategic plan with the center  
52 of excellence and submit the plan to Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
53 The plan must specify how the smart region zone will:

54 1. Advance activities and infrastructure associated with  
55 the Internet of Things technology, transportation, public  
56 safety, health, education, and related services within the zone;

57 2. Allow for technology innovators to test new products and  
58 services in a supervised and flexible regulatory ecosystem; and

9-00833A-22

20221098\_\_

59           3. Accelerate start-up companies' technologies for the  
60 purpose of economic development, job creation, and innovation of  
61 public sector processes. Such companies may be located anywhere  
62 in the United States.

63           (2) The designated smart region zone center of excellence  
64 and any projects within a smart region zone which are consistent  
65 with the zone's smart region strategic plan may apply to  
66 Enterprise Florida, Inc., to receive funding appropriated by the  
67 Legislature to Enterprise Florida, Inc., for such purpose. For  
68 purposes of determining funding amounts for projects applying  
69 under this subsection, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall give  
70 consideration to all of the following:

71           (a) Whether the project uses smart technologies to enhance  
72 components of the smart zone region's infrastructure.

73           (b) Whether the project serves pilot start-up technologies  
74 in the smart zone region.

75           (c) Whether the project serves the strategic interests of  
76 the state.

77           (d) The extent to which the project contributes to economic  
78 activity in this state, including job creation, increased wages,  
79 and increased revenues.

80           (e) The amount of investments or commitments made by the  
81 owner or developer of the project.

82           (3) (a) Each smart region zone center of excellence shall  
83 submit a quarterly report to Enterprise Florida, Inc. The report  
84 must provide details on projects within the smart region zone  
85 relating to infrastructure, open data exchange, and start-up  
86 piloting.

87           (b) After each project is completed in a smart region zone,

9-00833A-22

20221098\_\_

88 the smart region zone center of excellence must submit a project  
89 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker  
90 of the House of Representatives, and Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
91 The report must demonstrate the project's impact on the smart  
92 region zone, how the project is meeting the goals of the smart  
93 region zone strategic plan, and the current or projected return  
94 on investment of the project.

95 (c) At the end of each fiscal year, each smart region zone  
96 center of excellence shall submit an annual report to the  
97 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House  
98 of Representatives, and Enterprise Florida, Inc. The report must  
99 list all of the projects completed within the smart region zone  
100 over the previous fiscal year, the impact and return on  
101 investment of such projects, the extent to which the center of  
102 excellence met the goals of the smart region zone strategic  
103 plan, and the center of excellence's priorities for the upcoming  
104 fiscal year.

105 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.