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 27 Section 1. Section 288.93, Florida Statutes, is created in
 28 part VIII of chapter 288, Florida Statutes, to read:

29 288.93 Smart region zones.—

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

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

36 (b) Create or designate a smart region zone center of
 37 excellence with the purpose of improving knowledge transfer
 38 across the state, tracking measurable impact, and serving as a
 39 clearinghouse for smart region zone projects and pilot projects.
 40 A regional governmental entity or a not-for-profit corporation
 41 under s. 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code which
 42 specializes in smart region planning may be designated as the
 43 smart region zone center of excellence. The smart region zone
 44 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 analyzed to provide better insights for
 48 policymakers, promote transparency, and track the progress of
 49 smart region zone projects; and

50 2. Develop practices and strategies to assist other

51 counties with creating smart region zones.

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

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

59 2. Allow for technology innovators to test new products
60 and services in a supervised and flexible regulatory ecosystem;
61 and

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

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

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

76 (b) Whether the project serves pilot startup technologies
 77 in the smart region zone.

78 (c) Whether the project serves the strategic interests of
 79 the state.

80 (d) The extent to which the project contributes to
 81 economic activity in the state, including job creation,
 82 increased wages, and increased revenues.

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

85 (3)(a) Each smart region zone center of excellence shall
 86 submit a quarterly report to Enterprise Florida, Inc. The report
 87 must provide details on projects within the smart region zone
 88 relating to infrastructure, open data exchange, and startup
 89 piloting.

90 (b) After each project in a smart region zone is
 91 completed, the smart region zone center of excellence must
 92 submit a project report to the Governor, the President of the
 93 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
 94 Enterprise Florida, Inc. The report must demonstrate the
 95 project's impact on the smart region zone, how the project is
 96 meeting the goals of the smart region zone strategic plan, and
 97 the current or projected return on investment of the project.

98 (c) At the end of each fiscal year, each smart region zone
 99 center of excellence shall submit an annual report to the
 100 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House

HB 835

2022

101 of Representatives, and Enterprise Florida, Inc. The report must
102 list all of the projects completed within the smart region zone
103 over the previous fiscal year, the impact and return on
104 investment of such projects, the extent to which the smart
105 region zone center of excellence met the goals of the smart
106 region zone strategic plan, and the priorities of the smart
107 region zone center of excellence for the upcoming fiscal year.

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