

By Senator Hooper

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to economic development; amending s.  
3       20.60, F.S.; requiring the Secretary of Economic  
4       Opportunity to appoint deputy secretaries and  
5       directors for specified divisions of the Department of  
6       Economic Opportunity; amending s. 163.3175, F.S.;  
7       revising the list of local governments affected by  
8       Naval Support Activity Orlando; conforming a provision  
9       to changes made by the act; amending s. 201.25, F.S.;  
10      exempting loans made with funds administered by the  
11      Department of Economic Opportunity from certain taxes;  
12      amending s. 288.018, F.S.; revising requirements  
13      relating to the Florida Rural Development Grants  
14      Program; amending s. 288.065, F.S.; removing a  
15      requirement that certain repayments under the Rural  
16      Community Development Revolving Loan Fund be matched;  
17      amending s. 288.0655, F.S.; revising grant  
18      requirements and authorizations relating to the Rural  
19      Infrastructure Fund; revising limits on grant awards;  
20      amending s. 288.075, F.S.; revising the definition of  
21      the term "economic development agency"; amending s.  
22      288.8017, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
23      by the act; amending s. 288.9604, F.S.; deleting a  
24      future repeal of the Florida Development Finance  
25      Corporation; amending ss. 288.980 and 288.985, F.S.;  
26      conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
27      amending s. 288.987, F.S.; renaming the Florida  
28      Defense Support Task Force as the Florida Defense  
29      Support Council; amending s. 331.3081, F.S.; revising

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

30 the composition of Space Florida's board of directors;  
31 providing requirements for appointments to and  
32 vacancies on the board; amending s. 446.71, F.S.;  
33 revising requirements relating to the Everglades  
34 Restoration Agricultural Community Employment Training  
35 Program; defining terms; authorizing, rather than  
36 requiring, the department to adopt rules; amending s.  
37 695.03, F.S.; requiring the Secretary of Economic  
38 Opportunity, rather than the Governor, to appoint  
39 certain commissioners of deeds; reenacting s.  
40 288.106(2)(c), F.S., relating to the tax refund  
41 program for qualified target industry businesses, to  
42 incorporate the amendment made to s. 288.075, F.S., in  
43 a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

44  
45 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46  
47 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
48 20.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

49 20.60 Department of Economic Opportunity; creation; powers  
50 and duties.—

51 (3)

52 (b) The secretary:

53 1. May create offices within the Office of the Secretary  
54 and within the divisions established in paragraph (a) to promote  
55 efficient and effective operation of the department.

56 2. Shall appoint deputy secretaries for the Division of  
57 Strategic Business Development, the Division of Community  
58 Development, and the Division of Workforce Services and

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

59 directors for the Division of Finance and Administration and the  
60 Division of Information Technology ~~a director for each division,~~  
61 who shall directly administer his or her division and be  
62 responsible to the secretary.

63 Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) and subsection  
64 (3) of section 163.3175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

65 163.3175 Legislative findings on compatibility of  
66 development with military installations; exchange of information  
67 between local governments and military installations.—

68 (2) Certain major military installations, due to their  
69 mission and activities, have a greater potential for  
70 experiencing compatibility and coordination issues than others.  
71 Consequently, this section and the provisions in s.

72 163.3177(6)(a), relating to compatibility of land development  
73 with military installations, apply to specific affected local  
74 governments in proximity to and in association with specific  
75 military installations, as follows:

76 (i) Naval Support Activity Orlando, including Bugg Spring  
77 and Naval Ordnance Test Unit, associated with Lake, Marion,  
78 Orange, and Sumter Counties and Groveland, Howey-in-the-Hills,  
79 Leesburg, County and Orlando, and Wildwood.

80 (3) The Florida Defense Support Council ~~Task Force~~ may  
81 recommend to the Legislature changes to the military  
82 installations and local governments specified in subsection (2)  
83 based on a military base's potential for impacts from  
84 encroachment, and incompatible land uses and development.

85 Section 3. Subsection (4) is added to section 201.25,  
86 Florida Statutes, to read:

87 201.25 Tax exemptions for certain loans.—There shall be

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

88 exempt from all taxes imposed by this chapter:

89 (4) Any loan made with funds administered by the Department  
90 of Economic Opportunity.

91 Section 4. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (1)  
92 and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of section 288.018,  
93 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

94 288.018 Regional Rural Development Grants Program.—

95 (1)

96 (b) The department shall establish a ~~matching~~ grant program  
97 to provide funding to regional economic development  
98 organizations for the purpose of building the professional  
99 capacity of those organizations. Building the professional  
100 capacity of a regional economic development organization  
101 includes hiring professional staff to develop, deliver, and  
102 provide needed economic development professional services,  
103 including technical assistance, education and leadership  
104 development, marketing, and project recruitment. ~~Matching~~ Grants  
105 may also be used by a regional economic development organization  
106 to provide technical assistance to local governments, local  
107 economic development organizations, and existing and prospective  
108 businesses.

109 (c) A regional economic development organization may apply  
110 annually to the department for a ~~matching~~ grant. The department  
111 is authorized to approve, on an annual basis, grants to such  
112 regional economic development organizations. The maximum amount  
113 an organization may receive in any year will be \$50,000, or  
114 \$250,000 for any three regional economic development  
115 organizations that serve an entire region of a rural area of  
116 opportunity designated pursuant to s. 288.0656(7) if they are

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

117 recognized by the department as serving such a region.

118 ~~(d) Grant funds received by a regional economic development~~  
119 ~~organization must be matched each year by nonstate resources in~~  
120 ~~an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contribution.~~

121 (2) In approving the participants, the department shall  
122 consider the demonstrated need of the applicant for assistance  
123 and require the following:

124 ~~(b) Demonstration that each unit of local government has~~  
125 ~~made a financial or in-kind commitment to the regional~~  
126 ~~organization.~~

127 ~~(c) Demonstration that the private sector has made~~  
128 ~~financial or in-kind commitments to the regional organization.~~

129 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
130 288.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

131 288.065 Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund.—

132 (2)

133 (c) All repayments of principal and interest shall be  
134 returned to the loan fund and made available for loans to other  
135 applicants. However, in a rural area of opportunity designated  
136 by the Governor, and upon approval by the department, repayments  
137 of principal and interest may be retained by the applicant if  
138 such repayments are dedicated ~~and matched~~ to fund regionally  
139 based economic development organizations representing the rural  
140 area of opportunity.

141 Section 6. Subsection (1), paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of  
142 subsection (2), and subsection (3) of section 288.0655, Florida  
143 Statutes, are amended to read:

144 288.0655 Rural Infrastructure Fund.—

145 (1) There is created within the department the Rural

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

146 Infrastructure Fund to facilitate the planning, preparing, and  
147 financing of infrastructure ~~projects~~ in rural communities which  
148 will encourage job creation, capital investment, and the  
149 strengthening and diversification of rural economies by  
150 promoting tourism, trade, and economic development.

151 (2)

152 (b) To facilitate access of rural communities and rural  
153 areas of opportunity as defined by the Rural Economic  
154 Development Initiative to infrastructure funding programs of the  
155 Federal Government, such as those offered by the United States  
156 Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of  
157 Commerce, and state programs, including those offered by Rural  
158 Economic Development Initiative agencies, and to facilitate  
159 local government or private infrastructure funding efforts, the  
160 department may award grants for up to 75 ~~50~~ percent of the total  
161 infrastructure ~~project~~ cost or up to 100 percent of the total  
162 infrastructure project cost for a project located in a rural  
163 community or a rural area of opportunity as those terms are  
164 defined in s. 288.0656(2) which is also located in a fiscally  
165 constrained county as described in s. 218.67(1). ~~Eligible~~  
166 ~~projects must be related to specific job creation or job-~~  
167 ~~retention opportunities.~~ Eligible uses of funds ~~projects may~~  
168 ~~also~~ include improving any inadequate infrastructure that has  
169 resulted in regulatory action that prohibits economic or  
170 community growth, reducing the costs to community users of  
171 proposed infrastructure improvements that exceed such costs in  
172 comparable communities, and improving access to and the  
173 availability of broadband Internet service. Eligible uses of  
174 funds shall include improvements to public infrastructure for

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

175 industrial or commercial sites, upgrades to or development of  
176 public tourism infrastructure, and improvements to broadband  
177 Internet service and access in unserved or underserved rural  
178 communities. Improvements to broadband Internet service and  
179 access must be conducted through a partnership or partnerships  
180 with one or more dealers, as defined in s. 202.11(2), and the  
181 partnership or partnerships must be established through a  
182 competitive selection process that is publicly noticed.

183 Authorized infrastructure may include the following public or  
184 public-private partnership facilities: storm water systems;  
185 telecommunications facilities; broadband facilities; roads or  
186 other remedies to transportation impediments; nature-based  
187 tourism facilities; or other physical requirements necessary to  
188 facilitate tourism, trade, and economic development activities  
189 in the community. Authorized infrastructure may also include  
190 publicly or privately owned self-powered nature-based tourism  
191 facilities, publicly owned telecommunications facilities, and  
192 broadband facilities, and additions to the distribution  
193 facilities of the existing natural gas utility as defined in s.  
194 366.04(3)(c), the existing electric utility as defined in s.  
195 366.02, or the existing water or wastewater utility as defined  
196 in s. 367.021(12), or any other existing water or wastewater  
197 facility, which owns a gas or electric distribution system or a  
198 water or wastewater system in this state where:

199       1. A contribution-in-aid of construction is required to  
200 serve public or public-private partnership facilities under the  
201 tariffs of any natural gas, electric, water, or wastewater  
202 utility as defined herein; and

203       2. Such utilities as defined herein are willing and able to

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

204 provide such service.

205 ~~(c) To facilitate timely response and induce the location~~  
206 ~~or expansion of specific job creating opportunities,~~ The  
207 department may award grants of up to \$300,000 for infrastructure  
208 feasibility studies, design and engineering activities, or other  
209 infrastructure planning and preparation activities. ~~Authorized~~  
210 ~~grants shall be up to \$50,000 for an employment project with a~~  
211 ~~business committed to create at least 100 jobs; up to \$150,000~~  
212 ~~for an employment project with a business committed to create at~~  
213 ~~least 300 jobs; and up to \$300,000 for a project in a rural area~~  
214 ~~of opportunity.~~ Grants awarded under this paragraph may be used  
215 in conjunction with grants awarded under paragraph (b), ~~provided~~  
216 ~~that the total amount of both grants does not exceed 30 percent~~  
217 ~~of the total project cost.~~ In evaluating applications under this  
218 paragraph, the department shall consider the extent to which the  
219 application seeks to minimize administrative and consultant  
220 expenses.

221 (e) To enable local governments to access the resources  
222 available pursuant to s. 403.973(18), the department may award  
223 grants for surveys, feasibility studies, and other activities  
224 related to the identification and preclearance review of land  
225 which is suitable for preclearance review. Authorized grants  
226 under this paragraph do not require a local match and ~~may not~~  
227 ~~exceed \$75,000 each, except in the case of a project in a rural~~  
228 ~~area of opportunity, in which case the grant may not exceed~~  
229 ~~\$300,000. Any funds awarded under this paragraph must be matched~~  
230 ~~at a level of 50 percent with local funds, except that any funds~~  
231 ~~awarded for a project in a rural area of opportunity must be~~  
232 ~~matched at a level of 33 percent with local funds. If an~~



21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

233 ~~application for funding is for a catalyst site, as defined in s.~~  
234 ~~288.0656, the requirement for local match may be waived pursuant~~  
235 ~~to the process in s. 288.06561.~~ In evaluating applications under  
236 this paragraph, the department shall consider the extent to  
237 which the application seeks to minimize administrative and  
238 consultant expenses.

239 (3) The department, in consultation with Enterprise  
240 Florida, Inc., the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing  
241 Corporation, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the  
242 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as  
243 appropriate, shall review and certify applications pursuant to  
244 s. 288.061. The review shall include an evaluation of the  
245 economic benefit ~~of the projects~~ and ~~their~~ long-term viability.  
246 The department shall have final approval for any grant under  
247 this section.

248 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
249 288.075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

250 288.075 Confidentiality of records.—

251 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

252 (a) "Economic development agency" means:

253 1. The Department of Economic Opportunity;

254 2. Any industrial development authority created in  
255 accordance with part III of chapter 159 or by special law;

256 3. Space Florida created in part II of chapter 331;

257 4. The public economic development agency of a county or  
258 municipality or, ~~if the county or municipality does not have a~~  
259 ~~public economic development agency,~~ the county or municipal  
260 officers or employees assigned the duty to promote the general  
261 business interests or industrial interests of that county or

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

262 municipality or the responsibilities related thereto;

263 5. Any research and development authority created in  
264 accordance with part V of chapter 159; or

265 6. Any private agency, person, partnership, corporation, or  
266 business entity when authorized by the state, a municipality, or  
267 a county to promote the general business interests or industrial  
268 interests of the state or that municipality or county.

269 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 288.8017, Florida  
270 Statutes, is amended to read:

271 288.8017 Awards.—

272 (1) Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., shall make awards from  
273 available funds to projects or programs that meet the priorities  
274 for economic recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the  
275 disproportionately affected counties. Awards may be provided  
276 for:

277 (a) Ad valorem tax rate reduction within disproportionately  
278 affected counties;

279 (b) Local match requirements ~~of s. 288.0655~~ for projects in  
280 the disproportionately affected counties;

281 (c) Public infrastructure projects for construction,  
282 expansion, or maintenance which are shown to enhance economic  
283 recovery, diversification, and enhancement of the  
284 disproportionately affected counties;

285 (d) Grants to local governments in the disproportionately  
286 affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and  
287 trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond  
288 to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts  
289 Assistance Program;

290 (e) Grants to support programs that prepare students for

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

291 future occupations and careers at K-20 institutions that have  
292 campuses in the disproportionately affected counties. Eligible  
293 programs include those that increase students' technology skills  
294 and knowledge; encourage industry certifications; provide  
295 rigorous, alternative pathways for students to meet high school  
296 graduation requirements; strengthen career readiness  
297 initiatives; fund high-demand programs of emphasis at the  
298 bachelor's and master's level designated by the Board of  
299 Governors; and, similar to or the same as talent retention  
300 programs created by the Chancellor of the State University  
301 System and the Commission of Education, encourage students with  
302 interest or aptitude for science, technology, engineering,  
303 mathematics, and medical disciplines to pursue postsecondary  
304 education at a state university or a Florida College System  
305 institution within the disproportionately affected counties;

306 (f) Grants to support programs that provide participants in  
307 the disproportionately affected counties with transferable,  
308 sustainable workforce skills that are not confined to a single  
309 employer; and

310 (g) Grants to the tourism entity created under s. 288.1226  
311 for the purpose of advertising and promoting tourism and Fresh  
312 From Florida, and grants to promote workforce and  
313 infrastructure, on behalf of all of the disproportionately  
314 affected counties.

315 Section 9. Subsection (5) of section 288.9604, Florida  
316 Statutes, is amended to read:

317 288.9604 Creation of the corporation.-

318 ~~(5) This section is repealed July 1, 2023, and July 1 of~~  
319 ~~every fourth year thereafter, unless reviewed and saved from~~

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

320 ~~repeal by the Legislature.~~

321 Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
322 288.980, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

323 288.980 Military base retention; legislative intent; grants  
324 program.—

325 (2)

326 (b)1. The department shall annually request military  
327 installations in the state to provide the department with a list  
328 of base buffering encroachment lands for fee simple or less-  
329 than-fee simple acquisitions before October 1.

330 2. The department shall submit the list of base buffering  
331 encroachment lands to the Florida Defense Support Council ~~Task~~  
332 ~~Force~~ created in s. 288.987.

333 3. The Florida Defense Support Council ~~Task Force~~ shall,  
334 annually by December 1, review the list of base buffering  
335 encroachment lands submitted by the military installations and  
336 provide its recommendations for ranking the lands for  
337 acquisition to the department.

338 4. The department shall annually submit the list of base  
339 buffering encroachment lands provided by the Florida Defense  
340 Support Council ~~Task Force~~ to the Board of Trustees of the  
341 Internal Improvement Trust Fund, which may acquire the lands  
342 pursuant to s. 253.025. At a minimum, the annual list must  
343 contain for each recommended land acquisition:

344 a. A legal description of the land and its property  
345 identification number;

346 b. A detailed map of the land; and

347 c. A management and monitoring agreement to ensure the land  
348 serves a base buffering purpose.

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

349 Section 11. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
350 (2) of section 288.985, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

351 288.985 Exemptions from public records and public meetings  
352 requirements.—

353 (1) The following records held by the Florida Defense  
354 Support Council ~~Task Force~~ are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s.  
355 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

356 (a) That portion of a record which relates to strengths and  
357 weaknesses of military installations or military missions in  
358 this state relative to the selection criteria for the  
359 realignment and closure of military bases and missions under any  
360 United States Department of Defense base realignment and closure  
361 process.

362 (b) That portion of a record which relates to strengths and  
363 weaknesses of military installations or military missions in  
364 other states or territories and the vulnerability of such  
365 installations or missions to base realignment or closure under  
366 the United States Department of Defense base realignment and  
367 closure process, and any agreements or proposals to relocate or  
368 realign military units and missions from other states or  
369 territories.

370 (c) That portion of a record which relates to the state's  
371 strategy to retain its military bases during any United States  
372 Department of Defense base realignment and closure process and  
373 any agreements or proposals to relocate or realign military  
374 units and missions.

375 (2) (a) Meetings or portions of meetings of the Florida  
376 Defense Support Council ~~Task Force~~, or a workgroup of the  
377 council ~~task force~~, at which records are presented or discussed

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

378 that are exempt under subsection (1) are exempt from s. 286.011  
379 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.

380 Section 12. Section 288.987, Florida Statutes, is amended  
381 to read:

382 288.987 Florida Defense Support Council ~~Task Force~~.—

383 (1) The Florida Defense Support Council ~~Task Force~~ is  
384 created.

385 (2) The mission of the council ~~task force~~ is to make  
386 recommendations to preserve and protect military installations  
387 to support the state's position in research and development  
388 related to or arising out of military missions and contracting,  
389 and to improve the state's military-friendly environment for  
390 servicemembers, military dependents, military retirees, and  
391 businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the  
392 state.

393 (3) The council ~~task force~~ shall be comprised of the  
394 Governor or his or her designee, and 12 members appointed as  
395 follows:

396 (a) Four members appointed by the Governor.

397 (b) Four members appointed by the President of the Senate.

398 (c) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
399 Representatives.

400 (d) Appointed members must represent defense-related  
401 industries or communities that host military bases and  
402 installations. All appointments must be made by August 1, 2011.  
403 Members shall serve for a term of 4 years, with the first term  
404 ending July 1, 2015. However, if members of the Legislature are  
405 appointed to the council ~~task force~~, those members shall serve  
406 until the expiration of their legislative term and may be

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

407 reappointed once. A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of  
408 the unexpired term in the same manner as the initial  
409 appointment. All members of the council are eligible for  
410 reappointment. A member who serves in the Legislature may  
411 participate in all council ~~task force~~ activities but may only  
412 vote on matters that are advisory.

413 (4) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
414 House of Representatives shall each designate one of their  
415 appointees to serve as chair of the council ~~task force~~. The  
416 chair shall rotate each July 1. The appointee designated by the  
417 President of the Senate shall serve as initial chair. If the  
418 Governor, instead of his or her designee, participates in the  
419 activities of the council ~~task force~~, then the Governor shall  
420 serve as chair.

421 (5) The Secretary of Economic Opportunity, or his or her  
422 designee, shall serve as the ex officio, nonvoting executive  
423 director of the council ~~task force~~.

424 (6) The council ~~task force~~ shall submit an annual progress  
425 report and work plan to the Governor, the President of the  
426 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each  
427 February 1.

428 (7) The department shall contract with the council ~~task~~  
429 ~~force~~ for expenditure of appropriated funds, which may be used  
430 by the council ~~task force~~ for economic and product research and  
431 development, joint planning with host communities to accommodate  
432 military missions and prevent base encroachment, advocacy on the  
433 state's behalf with federal civilian and military officials,  
434 assistance to school districts in providing a smooth transition  
435 for large numbers of additional military-related students, job

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

436 training and placement for military spouses in communities with  
437 high proportions of active duty military personnel, and  
438 promotion of the state to military and related contractors and  
439 employers. The council ~~task force~~ may annually spend up to  
440 \$250,000 of funds appropriated to the department for the council  
441 ~~task force~~ for staffing and administrative expenses of the  
442 council ~~task force~~, including travel and per diem costs incurred  
443 by council ~~task force~~ members who are not otherwise eligible for  
444 state reimbursement.

445 Section 13. Section 331.3081, Florida Statutes, is amended  
446 to read:

447 331.3081 Board of directors.—

448 (1) Space Florida shall be governed by a 14-member 13-  
449 ~~member independent board of directors that consists of the~~  
450 ~~members appointed to the board of directors of Enterprise~~  
451 ~~Florida, Inc., by the Governor, the President of the Senate, and~~  
452 ~~the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to s.~~  
453 ~~288.901(5)(a)8. and the Governor, who shall serve ex officio, or~~  
454 ~~who may appoint a designee to serve, as the chair and a voting~~  
455 ~~member of the board, the secretary of the Department of Economic~~  
456 Opportunity, six members appointed by the Governor, three  
457 members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three  
458 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
459 Representatives.

460 (2) In making their appointments, the Governor, the  
461 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
462 Representatives shall ensure that the composition of the board  
463 of directors reflects this state's aerospace industry and is  
464 representative of the intent, duties, and purpose of Space



21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

465 Florida.

466 (3) Members appointed before July 1, 2023, shall continue  
467 to serve for the remainder of their current term. As the terms  
468 of such members expire, successors must be appointed to 4-year  
469 terms.

470 (4) A vacancy on the board of directors must be filled for  
471 the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the  
472 original appointment.

473 Section 14. Section 446.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
474 read:

475 446.71 Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community  
476 Employment Training Program.—

477 ~~(1) The Department of Economic Opportunity, in cooperation~~  
478 ~~with the state board as defined in s. 445.002, shall establish~~  
479 ~~the Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community Employment~~  
480 ~~Training Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity.~~  
481 ~~The Department of Economic Opportunity shall use funds~~  
482 ~~appropriated to the program by the Legislature to provide grants~~  
483 ~~to stimulate and support training and employment programs that~~  
484 ~~seek to match persons who complete such training programs to~~  
485 ~~nonagricultural employment opportunities in areas of high~~  
486 ~~agricultural unemployment, and to provide other training,~~  
487 ~~educational, and information services necessary to stimulate the~~  
488 ~~creation of jobs in the areas of high agricultural unemployment.~~  
489 ~~In determining whether to provide funds to a particular program,~~  
490 ~~the Department of Economic Opportunity shall consider the~~  
491 ~~location of the program in proximity to the program's intended~~  
492 ~~participants.~~

493 ~~(2)~~ The Legislature supports projects that improve the

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

494 economy in the Everglades Agricultural Area. In recognition of  
495 the employment opportunities and economic development generated  
496 by new and expanding industries in the area, such as the  
497 Airglades Airport in Hendry County and the development of an  
498 inland port in Palm Beach County, the Legislature finds that  
499 training the citizens of the state to fill the needs of these  
500 industries significantly enhances the economic viability of the  
501 region.

502 (2) As used in this section, the term:

503 (a) "Department" means the Department of Economic  
504 Opportunity.

505 (b) "Employer-based training program" means a program  
506 established by, or to be established by, a business in this  
507 state that provides training for in-demand nonagricultural  
508 occupations for its employees.

509 (c) "Everglades Agricultural Area" has the same meaning as  
510 in s. 373.4592(15).

511 (d) "Institution-based training program" means a  
512 certificate program or other program of study provided by a  
513 public or private university, college, or technical or  
514 vocational training institution which provides training for in-  
515 demand nonagricultural occupations.

516 (e) "Program" means the Everglades Restoration Agricultural  
517 Community Employment Training Program.

518 (3) The department, in cooperation with the state board as  
519 defined in s. 445.002, shall establish the Everglades  
520 Restoration Agricultural Community Employment Training Program.  
521 The department shall use funds appropriated to the program by  
522 the Legislature to provide grants to stimulate and support

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

523 employer-based training programs and institution-based training  
524 programs that seek to match persons who complete such training  
525 programs to nonagricultural employment opportunities in the  
526 Everglades Agricultural Area and any rural areas of opportunity  
527 as designated by the Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656(2) (d)  
528 which include DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and  
529 Okeechobee Counties and the cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and  
530 South Bay, and Immokalee. The department shall use program funds  
531 to provide other training, educational, and information services  
532 necessary to stimulate the creation of jobs in the Everglades  
533 Agricultural Area and in any rural areas of opportunity as  
534 designated by the Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656(2) (d) which  
535 include DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and  
536 Okeechobee Counties and the cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and  
537 South Bay, and Immokalee. In determining whether to provide  
538 funds to a particular employer-based training program or  
539 institution-based training program, the department must consider  
540 the location of such training program in proximity to the  
541 program's intended participants.

542 (4) Program funds may be used to provide for grants for  
543 tuition for ~~public or private technical or vocational~~  
544 institution-based training programs. Program funds may also be  
545 used for ~~and~~ matching grants to employers to conduct employer-  
546 based training programs. Funds may be used, ~~or~~ for the purchase  
547 of equipment ~~necessary to be used~~ for training purposes, the  
548 hiring of instructors, or any other purpose directly associated  
549 with the employer-based training program or institution-based  
550 training program. For the first 6 months of each fiscal year,  
551 the department shall set aside up to 50 percent of the funds

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

552 appropriated to the program by the Legislature to fund employer-  
553 based training programs. At the end of the 6-month period, any  
554 unused funds from the set-aside funds may be used to provide  
555 funding for institution-based training programs.

556 (5)-(4) The department of Economic Opportunity may not award  
557 a grant to any employer-based given training program if the  
558 grant which exceeds 50 percent of the total cost of the program.  
559 However, if, unless the employer-based training program is  
560 located within a rural area of opportunity, the department may  
561 award a grant of in which case the grant may exceed 50 percent  
562 of the total cost of the program and up to 100 percent of  
563 program costs. Employer matching contributions may include in-  
564 kind services, including, but not limited to, the provision of  
565 training instructors, equipment, and training facilities. The  
566 department must prioritize grants to employer-based training  
567 programs that are located in the Everglades Agricultural Area or  
568 in any rural areas of opportunity as designated by the Governor  
569 pursuant to s. 288.0656(2)(d) which include DeSoto, Glades,  
570 Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties and the  
571 cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay, and Immokalee.

572 (6)-(5) Before awarding a grant pursuant to granting a  
573 request for funds made in accordance with this section, the  
574 department of Economic Opportunity shall enter into a grant  
575 agreement with the employer or requester of funds and the  
576 institution receiving funding through the program. Such  
577 agreement must include all of the following information:

578 (a) An identification of the personnel necessary to conduct  
579 the instructional program, the qualifications of such personnel,  
580 and the respective responsibilities of the parties for paying

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

581 costs associated with the employment of such personnel.

582 (b) An identification of the estimated length of the  
583 instructional program.

584 (c) An identification of all direct, training-related  
585 costs, including tuition and fees, curriculum development, books  
586 and classroom materials, and overhead or indirect costs.

587 (d) An identification of special program requirements that  
588 are not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

589 ~~(7)(6)~~ The department of ~~Economic Opportunity~~ may grant up  
590 to 100 percent of the tuition for an institution-based a  
591 training program participant who currently resides, and has  
592 resided for the preceding 12 months at least 3 of the 5  
593 immediately preceding years, within the Everglades Agricultural  
594 Area or in any rural areas of opportunity as designated by the  
595 Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656(2) (d), which include DeSoto,  
596 Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties and  
597 the cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay, and  
598 Immokalee, as described in s. 373.4592 and in counties that  
599 provide for water storage and dispersed water storage that are  
600 located in rural areas of opportunity as described in s.  
601 288.0656.

602 ~~(8)(7)~~ Employer-based training programs established in the  
603 Everglades Agricultural Area or in any rural areas of  
604 opportunity as designated by the Governor pursuant to s.  
605 288.0656(2) (d), which include DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry,  
606 Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties and the cities of Pahokee,  
607 Belle Glade, and South Bay, and Immokalee, must include  
608 opportunities to obtain the qualifications and skills necessary  
609 for jobs related to federal and state restoration projects, the

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

610 Airglades Airport in Hendry County, an inland port in Palm Beach  
611 County, or other industries with a verifiable, demonstrated  
612 interest in operating within the Everglades Agricultural Area or  
613 in any rural areas of opportunity as designated by the Governor  
614 pursuant to s. 288.0656(2)(d), which include DeSoto, Glades,  
615 Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Okeechobee Counties and the  
616 cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay, and Immokalee,  
617 ~~and in counties that provide for water storage and dispersed~~  
618 ~~water storage that are located in rural areas of opportunity as~~  
619 ~~described in s. 288.0656.~~

620 ~~(9)(8)~~ The department may ~~of Economic Opportunity~~ shall  
621 adopt rules to implement this section.

622 Section 15. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 695.03,  
623 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

624 695.03 Acknowledgment and proof; validation of certain  
625 acknowledgments; legalization or authentication before foreign  
626 officials.—To entitle any instrument concerning real property to  
627 be recorded, the execution must be acknowledged by the party  
628 executing it, proved by a subscribing witness to it, or  
629 legalized or authenticated in one of the following forms:

630 (2) OUTSIDE THIS STATE BUT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.—An  
631 acknowledgment or a proof taken, administered, or made outside  
632 of this state but within the United States may be taken,  
633 administered, or made by or before a civil-law notary of this  
634 state or a commissioner of deeds appointed by the Secretary of  
635 Economic Opportunity ~~Governor of this state~~; a judge or clerk of  
636 any court of the United States or of any state, territory, or  
637 district; by or before a United States commissioner or  
638 magistrate; or by or before any notary public, justice of the

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

639 peace, master in chancery, or registrar or recorder of deeds of  
640 any state, territory, or district having a seal, and the  
641 certificate of acknowledgment or proof must be under the seal of  
642 the court or officer, as the case may be. If the acknowledgment  
643 or proof is taken, administered, or made by or before a notary  
644 public who does not affix a seal, it is sufficient for the  
645 notary public to type, print, or write by hand on the  
646 instrument, "I am a Notary Public of the State of ...(state)...,  
647 and my commission expires on ...(date)...."

648 (3) OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES OR WITHIN FOREIGN  
649 COUNTRIES.—An acknowledgment, an affidavit, an oath, a  
650 legalization, an authentication, or a proof taken, administered,  
651 or made outside the United States or in a foreign country may be  
652 taken, administered, or made by or before a commissioner of  
653 deeds appointed by the Secretary of Economic Opportunity  
654 ~~Governor of this state~~ to act in such country; before a notary  
655 public of such foreign country or a civil-law notary of this  
656 state or of such foreign country who has an official seal;  
657 before an ambassador, envoy extraordinary, minister  
658 plenipotentiary, minister, commissioner, charge d'affaires,  
659 consul general, consul, vice consul, consular agent, or other  
660 diplomatic or consular officer of the United States appointed to  
661 reside in such country; or before a military or naval officer  
662 authorized by 10 U.S.C. s. 1044a to perform the duties of notary  
663 public, and the certificate of acknowledgment, legalization,  
664 authentication, or proof must be under the seal of the officer.  
665 A certificate legalizing or authenticating the signature of a  
666 person executing an instrument concerning real property and to  
667 which a civil-law notary or notary public of that country has

21-01750B-23

20231664\_\_

668 affixed her or his official seal is sufficient as an  
669 acknowledgment. For the purposes of this section, the term  
670 "civil-law notary" means a civil-law notary as defined in  
671 chapter 118 or an official of a foreign country who has an  
672 official seal and who is authorized to make legal or lawful the  
673 execution of any document in that jurisdiction, in which  
674 jurisdiction the affixing of her or his official seal is deemed  
675 proof of the execution of the document or deed in full  
676 compliance with the laws of that jurisdiction.

677 Section 16. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
678 made by this act to section 288.075, Florida Statutes, in a  
679 reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
680 288.106, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

681 288.106 Tax refund program for qualified target industry  
682 businesses.—

683 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

684 (c) "Average private sector wage in the area" means the  
685 statewide private sector average wage or the average of all  
686 private sector wages and salaries in the county or in the  
687 standard metropolitan area in which the business is located.

688 Section 17. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.