

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to children's initiative projects;
 3 amending s. 409.147, F.S.; revising legislative
 4 findings and intent; revising definitions; revising
 5 the objectives for specified working groups within the
 6 Florida Children's Initiatives; providing that such
 7 initiatives are administratively housed in the
 8 Department of Children and Families; exempting such
 9 initiatives from control, supervision, or direction by
 10 the department or any other state department;
 11 requiring such initiatives to be managed by not-for-
 12 profit corporations; conforming provisions to changes
 13 made by the act; providing an effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
 17 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), subsection
 18 (2), paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3), subsection (4),
 19 paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (5), paragraphs (a), (b),
 20 (c), (d), (f), and (g) of subsection (6), and subsections (7)
 21 through (14) of section 409.147, Florida Statutes, are amended
 22 to read:

23 409.147 Florida Children's Initiatives.—

24 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

25 (a) The Legislature finds that:

26 | 1. There are neighborhoods in this ~~the~~ state where the
27 | infrastructure and opportunities that middle-class communities
28 | take for granted are nonexistent or so marginal that they are
29 | ineffective.

30 | 2. In many instances, children living in these
31 | neighborhoods are not read to by an adult on a regular basis and
32 | attend a prekindergarten education program at a much lower rate
33 | than children in other communities. These children experience
34 | below-average performance on standardized tests and graduate
35 | from high school in fewer numbers. Most of these children are
36 | eligible for the free or reduced-price school lunch program.

37 | 3. Children in these neighborhoods often suffer from high
38 | rates of asthma, a higher risk of lead poisoning, and inadequate
39 | health care, and they are routinely exposed to violence and
40 | crime.

41 | 4. In spite of these obstacles, these neighborhoods are
42 | many times home to strong individuals and institutions that are
43 | committed to making a difference in the lives of children and
44 | their families.

45 | (2) POLICY AND PURPOSE.—It is the policy of this state to
46 | provide the necessary means to assist local communities, the
47 | children and families who live in those communities, and the
48 | private sector in creating a sound educational, social, and
49 | economic environment. To achieve this objective, the state
50 | intends to provide investments sufficient to encourage community

51 partners to commit financial and other resources to severely
 52 disadvantaged areas. The purpose of this section is to establish
 53 a process that clearly identifies the severely disadvantaged
 54 areas and provides guidance for developing a new social service
 55 paradigm that systematically coordinates programs that address
 56 the critical needs of children and their families and for
 57 directing efforts to rebuild the basic infrastructure of the
 58 community. The Legislature, therefore, declares the creation of
 59 Florida Children's Initiatives, through the collaborative
 60 efforts of government and the private sector, to be a public
 61 purpose.

62 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

63 (c) "Planning team" means a Florida Children's Initiative
 64 planning team established under this section.

65 (d) "Resident" means a person who lives in or operates a
 66 small community-based business or organization within the
 67 boundaries of a Florida ~~the~~ Children's Initiative.

68 (4) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE NOMINATING PROCESS.—A
 69 county or municipality, or a county and one or more
 70 municipalities together, may apply to the Ounce to designate an
 71 area as a Florida Children's Initiative after the governing
 72 body:

73 (a) Adopts a resolution that:

74 1. Finds that an area exists in such county or
 75 municipality, or in the county and one or more municipalities,

76 that chronically exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of
 77 poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, as well as
 78 limited access to quality educational, health care, and social
 79 services.

80 2. Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or
 81 redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of the area is
 82 necessary for ~~in the interest of~~ improving the health, wellness,
 83 education, living conditions, and livelihoods of the children
 84 and families who live in the county or municipality.

85 3. Determines that the revitalization of the area can
 86 occur only if this ~~the~~ state and the private sector invest
 87 resources to improve infrastructure and the provision of
 88 services.

89 (b) Establishes a ~~children's initiative~~ planning team as
 90 provided in subsection (5).

91 (c) Develops and adopts a strategic community plan as
 92 provided in subsection (6).

93 (d) Identifies or creates a not-for-profit corporation ~~not~~
 94 ~~for profit~~ as provided in subsection (7).

95 (5) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE PLANNING TEAM.—

96 (a) After the governing body adopts the resolution
 97 described in subsection (4), the county or municipality shall
 98 establish a Florida Children's Initiative planning team.

99 (c) The planning team shall:

100 1. Develop a planning process that sets the direction for,

101 builds a commitment to, and develops the capacity to realize the
 102 Florida Children's Initiative concept.

103 2. Develop a vision of what the Florida Children's
 104 Initiative will look like when the challenges, problems, and
 105 opportunities in the Florida Children's Initiative are
 106 successfully addressed.

107 3. Identify important opportunities, strengths,
 108 challenges, and problems in the Florida Children's Initiative.

109 4. Develop a strategic community plan consisting of goals,
 110 objectives, tasks, the designation of responsible parties, the
 111 identification of resources needed, timelines for implementation
 112 of the plan, and procedures for monitoring outcomes.

113 (6) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY
 114 PLAN.—After the governing body adopts the resolution described
 115 in subsection (4), the working groups shall develop objectives
 116 and identify strategies for each focus area. The objectives,
 117 specified by focus area, for a working group may include, but
 118 not be limited to:

119 (a) Early development and care of children.

120 1. Providing resources to enable every child to be
 121 adequately nurtured during the first 3 years of life.

122 2. Ensuring that all schools are ready for children and
 123 all children are ready for school by the time they reach
 124 kindergarten.

125 3. Facilitating enrollment in half-day or full-day

126 prekindergarten for all 3-year-old and 4-year-old children.

127 4. Strengthening parent and guardian relationships with
128 care providers.

129 5. Providing support and education for families and child
130 care providers.

131 (b) Education of children and youth.

132 1. Increasing the level and degree of knowledge and
133 accountability of persons who are responsible for the
134 development and well-being of all children in each Florida ~~the~~
135 Children's Initiative.

136 2. Transforming ~~Changing~~ the structure and function of
137 schools to increase the quality and amount of time spent on
138 instruction and increase programmatic options and offerings.

139 3. Creating a safe and respectful environment for student
140 learning.

141 4. Identifying and supporting points of alignment between
142 a Florida ~~the~~ Children's Initiative community plan and the
143 school district's strategic plan.

144 (c) Health and wellness.

145 1. Facilitating enrollment of all eligible children in the
146 Florida Kidcare program and providing full access to high-
147 quality drug and alcohol treatment services.

148 2. Eliminating health disparities between racial and
149 cultural groups, including improving outcomes and increasing
150 interventions.

151 3. Providing fresh, good quality, affordable, and
 152 nutritious food within a Florida ~~the~~ Children's Initiative.

153 4. Providing all children in a Florida ~~the~~ Children's
 154 Initiative with access to safe structured and unstructured
 155 recreation.

156 (d) Youth support.

157 1. Increasing the high school graduation, postsecondary
 158 enrollment, and postsecondary completion rates among
 159 neighborhood youth ~~rate~~.

160 2. Increasing leadership development and employment
 161 opportunities for neighborhood youth.

162 (f) Adult education, training, and jobs.

163 1. Creating job opportunities for adults that lead to
 164 career development.

165 2. Establishing a career and technical school, or a
 166 satellite of such a school within a Florida ~~in the~~ Children's
 167 Initiative, which includes a one-stop career center.

168 (g) Community safety.

169 1. Providing a safe environment for all children at home,
 170 in school, and in the community.

171 2. Eliminating the economic, political, and social forces
 172 that lead to a lack of safety within the family, the community,
 173 schools, and institutional structures.

174 3. Assessing policies and practices, including sentencing,
 175 incarceration, detention, and data reporting, ~~in order~~ to reduce

176 youth incarceration, violence, crime, and recidivism.

177 (7) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES ~~INITIATIVE~~

178 CORPORATION.—

179 (a) The Florida Children's Initiatives as specified in
180 subsections (9)-(13) are administratively housed within the
181 department. However, these initiatives are not subject to
182 control, supervision, or direction by the department or any
183 other department of this state.

184 ~~(b)(a)~~ After the governing body adopts the resolution
185 described in subsection (4), establishes a ~~the~~ planning team as
186 provided in subsection (5), and develops and adopts a ~~the~~
187 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6), the
188 county or municipality shall either identify an existing,
189 qualified not-for-profit corporation or create a not-for-profit
190 corporation not for profit which shall be registered,
191 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter
192 617. The purpose of the not-for-profit corporation is to
193 facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership of
194 the ~~children's~~ initiative, and, if the area selected by the
195 governing body is designated as a Florida Children's Initiative,
196 to:

197 1. Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the
198 planning team to the corporation.

199 2. Begin the implementation and governance of the
200 strategic ~~children's initiative~~ community plan.

201 3. Update the strategic community plan every 5 years to
 202 reflect, at a minimum, the current status of the area served by
 203 the Florida Children's Initiative; the goals, objectives, and
 204 strategies for each focus area; and the tasks required to
 205 implement the strategies for the upcoming year.

206 ~~(c)-(b)~~ The Ounce must provide technical assistance to the
 207 corporation to facilitate the achievement of the plans created
 208 under subsection (6).

209 (8) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING.—Unless
 210 otherwise specified in the general appropriations act:

211 (a) State funding for Florida Children's Initiatives must
 212 be awarded through a performance-based contract that links
 213 payments to the achievement of outcomes directly related to the
 214 goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks outlined in the
 215 strategic community plan.

216 (b) This act is intended to support the development of a
 217 network of Florida Children's Initiatives focus areas in
 218 disadvantaged neighborhoods throughout this state. To that end,
 219 counties that do not currently have a Florida Children's
 220 Initiative and are trying to establish an initiative have
 221 priority for designation by the Ounce ~~funding available under~~
 222 ~~this subsection.~~

223 (9) ~~CREATION OF MIAMI CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE, INC.—~~

224 (a) There is created within the Liberty City neighborhood
 225 in Miami-Dade County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Miami

226 Children's Initiative ~~that shall be~~ managed by an entity
227 organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for profit~~ which
228 ~~shall be~~ registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in
229 compliance with chapter 617 and this section. ~~An entity may not~~
230 ~~be incorporated until the governing body has adopted the~~
231 ~~resolution described in subsection (4), has established the~~
232 ~~planning team as provided in subsection (5), and has developed~~
233 ~~and adopted the strategic community plan as provided in~~
234 ~~subsection (6). The corporation shall be known as the Miami~~
235 ~~Children's Initiative, Inc., and shall be administratively~~
236 ~~housed within the Department of Children and Families. However,~~
237 ~~Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., is not subject to control,~~
238 ~~supervision, or direction by the Department of Children and~~
239 ~~Families in any manner. The Legislature determines, however,~~
240 ~~that~~ Public policy dictates that the Miami Children's Initiative
241 operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most open and accessible
242 manner consistent with its public purpose. Therefore, the
243 Legislature specifically declares that the Miami Children's
244 Initiative ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119, relating to
245 public records, chapter 286, relating to public meetings and
246 records, and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of
247 commodities or contractual services.

248 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that
249 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of
250 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places

251 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and
 252 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to
 253 reach every willing member of the neighborhood.

254 (10) ~~CREATION OF THE NEW TOWN SUCCESS ZONE.~~

255 (a) There is created within the City of Jacksonville
 256 Council District 9 in Duval County a ~~10-year~~ project called the
 257 New Town Success Zone ~~that shall be~~ managed by an entity
 258 organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for profit that is~~
 259 registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance
 260 with chapter 617 and this section. ~~The New Town Success Zone is~~
 261 ~~not subject to control, supervision, or direction by any~~
 262 ~~department of the state in any manner. The Legislature~~
 263 ~~determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates that the New
 264 Town Success Zone operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most open
 265 and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.
 266 Therefore, the Legislature declares that the New Town Success
 267 Zone ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119, relating to public
 268 records, chapter 286, relating to public meetings and records,
 269 and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of commodities or
 270 contractual services.

271 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that
 272 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of
 273 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places
 274 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and
 275 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to

276 reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to
 277 participate in the project.

278 (11) ~~CREATION OF THE~~ ORLANDO PARRAMORE KIDZ ZONES ~~ZONE.~~-

279 (a) There is created within the City of Orlando in Orange
 280 County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Orlando Kidz Zones managed
 281 by an entity organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for~~
 282 ~~profit that is~~ registered, incorporated, organized, and operated
 283 in compliance with chapter 617 and this section. ~~The Parramore~~
 284 ~~Kidz Zone program is not subject to the control, supervision, or~~
 285 ~~direction of any department of the state. The Legislature~~
 286 ~~determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates that the
 287 Orlando Kidz Zones operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most open
 288 and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.
 289 Therefore, the Legislature ~~specifically~~ declares that the
 290 Orlando Kidz Zones ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119,
 291 relating to public records, chapter 286, relating to public
 292 meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to the
 293 procurement of commodities or contractual services.

294 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass the Orlando
 295 neighborhoods of Parramore, Mercy Drive, and Englewood. All
 296 three of these neighborhoods are ~~an area that is~~ large enough to
 297 include all of the necessary components of community life,
 298 including, but not limited to, schools, places of worship,
 299 recreational facilities, commercial areas, and common space, yet
 300 small enough to allow programs and services to reach every

301 member of the neighborhoods ~~neighborhood~~ who is willing to
 302 participate in the project.

303 (12) ~~CREATION OF~~ THE TAMPA SULPHUR SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD OF
 304 PROMISE (SSNOP) ~~SUCCESS ZONE~~.—

305 (a) There is created within the City of Tampa in
 306 Hillsborough County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Tampa Sulphur
 307 Springs Neighborhood of Promise (SSNOP) ~~that shall be~~ managed by
 308 an entity organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for~~
 309 ~~profit that is~~ registered, incorporated, organized, and operated
 310 in compliance with chapter 617 and this section. ~~The Tampa SSNOP~~
 311 ~~Success Zone is not subject to control, supervision, or~~
 312 ~~direction by any department of the state in any manner. The~~
 313 ~~Legislature determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates
 314 that the Tampa SSNOP operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most
 315 open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.
 316 Therefore, the Legislature declares that the Tampa SSNOP
 317 ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119, relating to public
 318 records, chapter 286, relating to public meetings and records,
 319 and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of commodities or
 320 contractual services.

321 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that
 322 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of
 323 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places
 324 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and
 325 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to

326 reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to
 327 participate in the project.

328 (13) ~~CREATION OF~~ THE OVERTOWN CHILDREN AND YOUTH
 329 COALITION.—

330 (a) There is created within the City of Miami in Miami-
 331 Dade County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Overtown Children and
 332 Youth Coalition ~~that shall be~~ managed by an entity organized as
 333 a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for profit that is~~ registered,
 334 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter
 335 617 and this section. ~~The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition~~
 336 ~~is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by any~~
 337 ~~department of the state in any manner. The Legislature~~
 338 ~~determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates that the
 339 Overtown Children and Youth Coalition operates ~~corporation~~
 340 ~~operate~~ in the most open and accessible manner consistent with
 341 its public purpose. Therefore, the Legislature declares that the
 342 Overtown Children and Youth Coalition ~~corporation~~ is subject to
 343 chapter 119, relating to public records, chapter 286, relating
 344 to public meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to the
 345 procurement of commodities or contractual services.

346 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that
 347 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of
 348 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places
 349 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and
 350 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to

351 reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to
 352 participate in the project.

353 (14) IMPLEMENTATION.—

354 (a) The Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., the New Town
 355 Success Zone, the Orlando Parramore Kidz Zones Zone, the Tampa
 356 SSNOP ~~Success Zone~~, and the Overtown Children and Youth
 357 Coalition have been designated as Florida Children's Initiatives
 358 consistent with the legislative intent and purpose of s. 16,
 359 chapter 2009-43, Laws of Florida, and as such shall each assist
 360 the disadvantaged areas of this ~~the~~ state in creating a
 361 community-based service network and programming that develops,
 362 coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health
 363 care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment,
 364 and safe and affordable housing for children and families living
 365 within their boundaries.

366 (b) ~~In order~~ To implement this section for the Florida
 367 Children's Initiatives listed in this section ~~Miami Children's~~
 368 ~~Initiative, Inc.~~, the department ~~of Children and Families~~ shall
 369 contract with a not-for-profit corporation, to work in
 370 collaboration with the governing body to adopt the resolution
 371 described in subsection (4), to establish the planning team as
 372 provided in subsection (5), and to develop and adopt the
 373 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6). The not-
 374 for-profit corporation is also responsible for the development
 375 of a strategic business plan and for the evaluation, fiscal

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376 | management, and oversight of the Florida Children's Initiatives
377 | ~~Miami Children's Initiative, Inc.~~

378 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.