

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to construction disruption assistance;
3 creating part XIII of ch. 288, F.S., entitled the
4 "Construction Disruption Assistance Act"; creating s.
5 288.9991, F.S.; providing a short title; creating s.
6 288.9992, F.S.; providing legislative findings and
7 purpose; creating s. 288.9993, F.S.; providing
8 definitions; creating s. 288.9994, F.S.; establishing
9 rulemaking authority; creating s. 288.9995, F.S.;
10 establishing the Construction Impact Relief Program
11 within the Department of Commerce pursuant to the
12 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund; requiring the
13 department to provide specified financial assistance
14 to eligible small businesses within construction
15 zones; requiring the department to develop a public
16 awareness and marketing campaign to promote the
17 program in partnership with specified entities;
18 requiring applicants to submit specified information
19 with their applications; creating s. 288.9996, F.S.;
20 directing the department to establish a hotline to
21 provide information about the program; creating s.
22 288.9997, F.S.; establishing an annual reporting
23 requirement; providing an effective date.

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

26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

Section 1. Part XIII of chapter 288, Florida Statutes, consisting of sections 288.9991, 288.9992, 288.9993, 288.9994, 288.9995, 288.9996, and 288.9997, is created and entitled the "Construction Disruption Assistance Act."

Section 2. Section 288.9991, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

288.9991 Short title.-This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Construction Disruption Assistance Act."

Section 3. Section 288.9992, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

288.9992 Legislative findings; purpose.-The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Prolonged state and local government construction projects that directly block access to small businesses cause significant financial and operational hardships, which negatively impact local economies and threaten the livelihoods of business owners and employees.

(2) It is the purpose of this act to establish a program to provide financial relief, promotional support, and loss coverage to small businesses adversely impacted by state and local government construction projects, ensuring their resilience and viability during essential infrastructure improvements.

Section 4. Section 288.9993, Florida Statutes, is created

51 **to read:**

52 288.9993 Definitions.-As used in this part, the term:

53 (1) "Construction zone" means the immediate area where
54 construction activities directly restrict physical or visual
55 access to a small business, including partial or complete
56 obstruction of entryways, parking, or signage visibility.

57 (2) "Demonstrable loss" means a verifiable reduction in
58 revenue, property damage, or increased operational costs
59 directly attributed to state or local government construction
60 activities.

61 (3) "Department" means the Department of Commerce.

62 (4) "Eligible small business" means a business with 50 or
63 fewer employees whose primary access points are obstructed by
64 state or local government construction activities directly
65 adjacent to or in front of the business, as determined by the
66 department.

67 (5) "Program" means the Construction Impact Relief Program
68 established in s. 288.9995.

69 **Section 5. Section 288.9994, Florida Statutes, is created**
70 **to read:**

71 288.9994 Rulemaking authority.-By October 1, 2025, the
72 department shall adopt rules to implement this part, including,
73 but not limited to, guidelines for the award of grants and loans
74 under the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund established under s.
75 288.101.

76 **Section 6. Section 288.9995, Florida Statutes, is created**
77 **to read:**

78 288.9995 Construction Impact Relief Program.-

79 (1) The Construction Impact Relief Program is created
80 within the department pursuant to the Florida Job Growth Grant
81 Fund established under s. 288.101. Under this program, the
82 department shall:

83 (a) Provide financial assistance to eligible small
84 businesses within construction zones, including:

85 1. Grants of up to \$25,000 per construction phase for
86 demonstratable loss.

87 2. Low-interest loans of up to \$100,000, not to exceed 3
88 percent per year, for the operational costs of eligible small
89 businesses during construction disruptions.

90 (b) Develop a public awareness and marketing campaign to
91 promote the program in partnership with local chambers of
92 commerce and other business organizations and to encourage
93 customer support for small businesses adversely impacted by
94 state and local government construction activities. Such
95 marketing campaign efforts shall include, but are not limited
96 to, all of the following:

97 1. Digital advertising campaigns.

98 2. Local event sponsorships and promotions.

99 3. Signage and outreach.

100 (2) An applicant seeking to obtain financial assistance

101 under paragraph (1)(a) shall submit an application to the
 102 department. The application shall require documentation of
 103 demonstrable loss and a plan for the use of funds.

104 **Section 7. Section 288.9996, Florida Statutes, is created**
 105 **to read:**

106 288.9996 Program hotline.-The department is directed to
 107 establish a hotline to provide information about the program to
 108 small business owners.

109 **Section 8. Section 288.9997, Florida Statutes, is created**
 110 **to read:**

111 288.9997 Annual reporting requirement.-The department
 112 shall submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of
 113 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
 114 which summarizes the performance of the program, including the
 115 total number of small businesses and residents served, the total
 116 funds disbursed, and the program outcomes.

117 **Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.**