

By Senator Smith

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

26  
27   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

28  
29          Section 1. Part XIII of chapter 288, Florida Statutes,

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30 consisting of ss. 288.9991-288.9997, Florida Statutes, is  
31 created and entitled the "Construction Disruption Assistance  
32 Act."

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

35 288.9991 Short title.—This part shall be known and may be  
36 cited as the "Construction Disruption Assistance Act."

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

39 288.9992 Legislative findings; purpose.—The Legislature  
40 finds and declares that:

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

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

51 Section 4. Section 288.9993, Florida Statutes, is created  
52 to read:

53 288.9993 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

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

58 (2) "Demonstrable loss" means a verifiable reduction in

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59 revenue, property damage, or increased operational costs  
60 directly attributed to state or local government construction  
61 activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

79 288.9995 Construction Impact Relief Program.—

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

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

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

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

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

- 98       1. Digital advertising campaigns.  
99       2. Local event sponsorships and promotions.  
100       3. Signage and outreach.

101       (2) An applicant seeking to obtain financial assistance  
102 under paragraph (1)(a) must submit an application to the  
103 department. The application must require documentation of  
104 demonstrable loss and a plan for the use of funds.

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

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

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

112       288.9997 Annual reporting requirement.—The department  
113 shall, by November 1 of each year, submit an annual report to  
114 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
115 the House of Representatives which summarizes the performance of  
116 the program, including the total number of small businesses and

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117 residents served, the total funds disbursed, and the program  
118 outcomes.

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