

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the City of Jacksonville,
3 Duval County; providing for the abolition or
4 restructuring of certain community
5 redevelopment agencies currently existing
6 within the city and providing for the
7 redistribution of their powers, functions,
8 duties, liabilities, property and personnel;
9 amending chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, as
10 amended; creating the Jacksonville Economic
11 Development Commission to exist as an
12 autonomous body within the executive branch of
13 the consolidated government; providing for
14 designation as an industrial development
15 authority and as a community redevelopment
16 agency; providing for powers, duties,
17 functions, personnel and obligations of the
18 Jacksonville Sports Development Authority, the
19 Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority,
20 the Jacksonville International Airport
21 Community Redevelopment Authority, the Cecil
22 Field Development Commission and the Economic
23 Development Division of the Planning and
24 Development Department of the city; excluding
25 officials and employees of the commission from
26 civil service; transferring all existing
27 powers, duties, responsibilities and
28 authorities of the Jacksonville Downtown
29 Development Authority to the commission and
30 restructuring the authority as an advisory body
31 to the commission; amending chapter 89-509,

1 Laws of Florida, as amended; transferring to
2 the commission all powers, duties, functions,
3 personnel and obligations of the Jacksonville
4 Sports Development Authority; restructuring the
5 authority as an advisory body to the
6 commission; providing an effective date.
7

8 WHEREAS, currently there exists within the City of
9 Jacksonville a multitude of agencies, authorities, departments
10 and other entities that consider and deal with economic
11 development in the city, and

12 WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance to this
13 community to provide a structure and a plan for these entities
14 to utilize as they deal with economic development issues so as
15 to ensure coordination and nonconflicting direction, with this
16 effort being consolidated under an "umbrella entity" so as to
17 establish better coordination of the city's efforts in that
18 regard as well as to better utilize the authorities of
19 existing entities, organizations and boards, and

20 WHEREAS, economic development relates to an area of
21 vital concern to the public health, safety and welfare, and

22 WHEREAS, the city functions under a consolidated
23 government, being a municipal corporation which has
24 jurisdiction both as a municipality and a county, which
25 government extends territorially throughout Duval County, and

26 WHEREAS, the city has realized many benefits from the
27 centralized aspects of consolidation and desires to undertake
28 similar centralization of economic development programs so as
29 to ensure more efficient and practical means of addressing the
30 goals and strategies for economic development and to expand
31

1 the city's utilization of economic development "tools"
2 authorized by state law, and

3 WHEREAS, the proposed Jacksonville Economic Development
4 Commission will provide a focal point for economic development
5 in the city that, pursuant to this legislation, will result in
6 a centralization of economic development programs under the
7 auspices of one agency, with this centralization ensuring a
8 more efficient and practical means of addressing the goals,
9 objectives and strategies for future economic development in
10 the city, and

11 WHEREAS, the goals, objectives and authorities of Part
12 III of Chapter 159 and Part III of Chapter 163, Florida
13 Statutes, must be implemented to address the city's concerns
14 and objectives as permitted in this state law and as evidenced
15 herein and in the Jacksonville City Council resolution passed
16 in support of this legislation, and

17 WHEREAS, in the consolidation and expansion concerning
18 economic development, the city desires to establish procedures
19 of appointment, terms of office, and other procedures which
20 differ from the procedures established in portions of Chapters
21 159 and 163 of the Florida Statutes and which concern changes
22 in the charter of the Downtown Development Authority which may
23 be accomplished only by the Florida legislature, necessitating
24 the need for this special act, and

25 WHEREAS, the procedures established herein have been
26 approved by resolution of the Jacksonville City Council and do
27 not unreasonably detract from the reasonable and necessary
28 legislative authority of the council, NOW, THEREFORE,

29
30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

31

1 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this
2 act are found and declared to be true.

3 Section 2. Article 24 is added to chapter 92-341, Laws
4 of Florida, as amended, to read:

5 ARTICLE 24.

6 THE JACKSONVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

7 Section 24.01. Commission Created.--There is created
8 and established an autonomous body within the Office of the
9 Mayor which shall be known as the Jacksonville Economic
10 Development Commission. The commission is designated as the
11 sole community redevelopment agency for the city according to
12 part III, chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and as the sole
13 industrial development authority for the city according to
14 part III, chapter 159, Florida Statutes. The commission shall
15 serve as the city's only countywide community redevelopment
16 agency and its only countywide industrial development
17 authority with authority over all economic development
18 functions within the City of Jacksonville.

19 Section 24.02. Definitions.--As used in this article:

20 (1) "Commission" means the Jacksonville Economic
21 Development Commission.

22 (2) "City" and "City of Jacksonville" mean the City of
23 Jacksonville created pursuant to s. 9 of Art. VIII of the 1885
24 Constitution of the State of Florida.

25 (3) "Council" means the council of the City of
26 Jacksonville.

27 (4) "Mayor" means the mayor of the City of
28 Jacksonville.

29 (5) "Executive Director" means the executive director
30 of the commission.

31

1 (6) "Code" means the Ordinance Code of the City of
2 Jacksonville.

3 Section 24.03. Commission membership.--The membership
4 of the commission is established at seven members, consisting
5 of the chairman of the Downtown Development Authority and six
6 members, who shall be residents of the City of Jacksonville
7 and who shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the
8 Council. The mayor shall appoint a chairman who shall serve
9 until such time as another chairman may be appointed by the
10 mayor. Each member of the commission shall serve a term of 2
11 years or until a successor is appointed. Apart from the
12 chairman of the Downtown Development Authority, of the members
13 first appointed, three members shall serve terms of 1 year
14 each, and the remaining three members shall serve terms of 2
15 years each. Thereafter all members appointed to the commission
16 shall serve terms of 2 years. No member appointed to the
17 commission for three consecutive full terms shall be eligible
18 for appointment to a next succeeding term. The members shall
19 serve as commissioners of the community redevelopment agency
20 under part III, chapter 163, Florida Statutes, and they shall
21 also serve as members of the industrial development authority
22 under part III, chapter 159, Florida Statutes. All business of
23 the commission shall be conducted at meetings wherein at least
24 four members of the commission are present and voting.

25 Section 24.04. Individual Ex Officio Advisors to the
26 commission.--The following individual ex officio advisors are
27 named to assist the commission in an advisory or fact-finding
28 role as may be requested individually or collectively of them
29 by the commission so as to effectuate the centralized economic
30 development goals of the commission. No ex officio advisor
31 shall serve simultaneously as both an ex officio advisor and

1 as an appointed member of the commission. These individual ex
2 officio advisors shall be:

3 (1) The President of the Council of the City of
4 Jacksonville.

5 (2) The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of
6 the Jacksonville Electric Authority.

7 (3) The Managing Director of the Jacksonville
8 Transportation Authority.

9 (4) The President/Chief Executive Officer of the
10 Jacksonville Port Authority.

11 (5) The Chairman of the Sports Development Authority.

12 (6) The Chairman of the Cecil Field Development
13 Commission.

14 (7) The Chairman of the Jacksonville International
15 Airport Community Redevelopment Authority.

16 (8) The Executive Director of the Duval County Housing
17 Finance Authority.

18 (9) The Chairman of the Duval County State Legislative
19 Delegation or his or her designee, who shall be a member of
20 the delegation.

21 (10) The Chairman of the NAACP or his or her designee.

22 (11) The Chairman of the Urban League or his or her
23 designee.

24 Section 24.05. Technical Support Advisors to the
25 commission.--The following individual technical support
26 advisors are named to assist the commission in such technical
27 support roles as may be requested individually or collectively
28 of them by the commission so as to effectuate the centralized
29 economic development goals of the commission. These individual
30 technical support advisors shall be the directors or the board
31 members, as appropriate, of the following entities:

- 1 (1) The Planning and Development Department of the
2 city.
- 3 (2) The Jacksonville Film Commission.
- 4 (3) Sister cities.
- 5 (4) International Relations and Marketing Development
6 Commission.
- 7 (5) Research and Development Authority.
- 8 (6) Jacksonville Enterprise Zone Development Agency.
- 9 (7) Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund
10 Advisory Committee.
- 11 (8) Overall Economic Development Plan Committee.
- 12 (9) Jacksonville Economic Development Company.
- 13 (10) Enterprise North Florida Corporation.
- 14 (11) City departments as appropriate.
- 15 (12) Small Business Advisory Committee.
- 16 (13) Tourist Development Council.
- 17 (14) Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- 18 (15) The Superintendent of Duval County Public
19 Schools.
- 20 (16) The President of the University of North Florida.
- 21 (17) The President of Florida Community College,
22 Jacksonville.
- 23 Section 24.06. Executive Director.--The chief
24 operating officer of the commission shall be its executive
25 director, who shall be appointed by the mayor after
26 consultation with the commission. The executive director shall
27 be responsible for managing the affairs of the commission
28 subject to its supervision and shall serve at the pleasure of
29 the mayor. The executive director shall also serve as an
30 administrative aide to the mayor and in that capacity shall
31 serve as the mayor's liaison to the Downtown Development

1 Authority and shall attend all meetings of that authority. The
2 executive director will employ the personnel to administer and
3 operate the commission in accordance with applicable law,
4 available appropriations and employee authorizations. The
5 executive director shall have such other duties and
6 responsibilities as required by the commission. The executive
7 director's salary shall be set by the mayor after consultation
8 with the commission.

9 Section 24.07. Scope of Authority.--The commission
10 shall operate with all the powers and authority of a community
11 redevelopment agency under part III, chapter 163, Florida
12 Statutes, and as an industrial development authority under
13 part III, chapter 159, Florida Statutes, and is authorized to
14 function throughout all of the territorial limits of the City
15 of Jacksonville, Florida, as its only community redevelopment
16 agency and only industrial development authority. As the
17 city's sole community redevelopment agency, the commission
18 shall be successor to and hereafter exercise all authority,
19 power and responsibility which has heretofore been vested by
20 resolution or ordinance of the council in either the
21 Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority or the
22 Jacksonville International Airport Community Redevelopment
23 Authority. While it is intended that the commission shall have
24 city-wide authority as both the city's industrial development
25 authority and community redevelopment agency, the commission
26 must secure council approval consistent with those powers and
27 duties specifically retained by the council in Section 30.705
28 of the code and as required by part III of chapter 159 and
29 part III of chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

30 Section 24.08. Transfer of functions and
31 personnel.--On July 1, 1997, the powers, duties, functions,

1 liabilities, property and personnel of certain entities shall
2 be transferred to and become the responsibility of the
3 Jacksonville Economic Development Commission, as it is
4 intended that these entities become advisory bodies to the
5 commission which shall succeed to their former duties,
6 responsibilities and functions. Any ordinance or law, the
7 provisions of which conflict with the transfer authorized and
8 mandated in this act are repealed to the extent of such
9 conflict. Those entities whose powers, duties, functions,
10 liabilities, property and personnel shall be transferred to
11 the commission are:

12 (1) The Jacksonville Downtown Development Authority,
13 except for its advisory and fact-finding responsibilities.

14 (2) The Jacksonville Sports Development Authority
15 created under chapter 89-509, Laws of Florida, except for its
16 advisory and fact-finding responsibilities.

17 (3) The Economic Development Division of the Planning
18 and Development Department as set forth in the Jacksonville
19 City Code, including, but not limited to, chapter 30, part 7,
20 including all boards and commissions concerned with economic
21 development which are staffed by the division.

22 (4) Any existing authority, functions or personnel
23 held by the Jacksonville International Airport Community
24 Redevelopment Authority. Upon completion of this transition,
25 the Jacksonville International Airport Community Redevelopment
26 Authority shall continue to function in the nature of an
27 advisory and fact-finding body to the commission concerning
28 the area formerly under its jurisdiction.

29 (5) Any existing authority, functions or personnel
30 held by the Cecil Field Development Commission, including any
31 personnel under the authority of the mayor who are similarly

1 assigned. Upon completion of this transition, the Cecil Field
2 Development Commission shall continue to function in the
3 nature of an advisory and fact-finding body to the commission
4 concerning the area formerly under its jurisdiction.

5 (6) On July 1, 1997, all of the employees of the
6 organizations listed above, both appointed and within the
7 classified civil service of the city, shall be transferred to
8 the commission and shall become appointed employees of the
9 commission. These employees shall not retain any civil service
10 status that they may have had prior to becoming an employee of
11 the commission unless any civil service employee who is to be
12 transferred elects to retain his or her civil service status
13 and in such case he or she shall serve as an employee of the
14 commission with no loss in civil service status or benefits
15 that he or she may have accrued prior to transfer.

16 Section 24.09. Transition period.--The 90 calendar
17 days immediately following the effective date of this act or
18 as soon thereafter as is practicable, shall be a period of
19 transition during which the operations and function of all of
20 the city's economic development efforts shall be transitioned
21 to the commission. During this period the city shall exercise
22 all due diligence to effectuate this process of transition and
23 shall assign the manpower and provide the resources necessary
24 to accomplish this objective.

25 Section 24.10. Fiscal and budgetary functions.--The
26 commission shall have fiscal and budgetary functions subject
27 to the following limitations:

28 (1) The fiscal year of the commission shall commence
29 on October 1 of each year and end on the following September
30 30.

31

1 (2) The commission shall prepare and submit its
2 proposed budget for the ensuing year to the mayor setting
3 forth its estimated gross revenues and estimated requirements
4 for operations and maintenance expenses, debt service and
5 depreciation. The commission's budget shall be included within
6 the annual budget of the general government and shall be
7 submitted in accordance with Section 106.204 of the Ordinance
8 Code as it exists or may be from time to time amended.

9 (3) All revenues generated from Tax Increment Funds
10 shall be used only for the purposes for which such funds are
11 raised. There shall be a full and separate annual accounting
12 for each such Tax Increment Fund which shall be reserved for
13 economic initiatives with no charges for the City's Full Cost
14 Allocation Plan (Indirect Costs).

15 Section 24.11. Execution of instruments; examination
16 of claims.--All instruments in writing necessary to be signed
17 by the commission shall be executed by the chairman and
18 secretary or by such officer, agent, or employee of the
19 commission as it may by resolution designate. The commission
20 shall provide for the examination of all payrolls, bills, and
21 other claims and demands against the commission to determine
22 before the same are paid that they are duly authorized, in
23 proper form, correctly computed, legally due and payable and
24 that the commission has funds on hand to make payment.

25 Section 24.12. Utilization of central
26 services.--Except as the council may provide, the commission
27 shall utilize the central services of the city and shall pay
28 for them on a cost-accounted basis. The commission may utilize
29 such other services of the city as may be mutually agreed upon
30 from time to time and may pay for them on a fair and
31 reasonable basis. The commission shall purchase all supplies,

1 contractual services, capital improvements and professional
2 services in compliance with the same ordinances and
3 regulations which apply to the city when making such
4 purchases. The commission shall be required to use the legal
5 services of the city, except in those cases when the chief
6 legal officer of the city determines that the legal staff
7 cannot provide legal services in the required legal area.

8 Section 3. Subsection (c) of section 17.06 of chapter
9 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended, is amended to read:

10 Section 17.06. Applicability of civil service system
11 to employees of consolidated government.--The civil service
12 provisions of this charter shall be applicable to all
13 employees of the consolidated government except:

14 (c) Members of boards and commissions, including all
15 persons employed by the Jacksonville Economic Development
16 Commission.

17 Section 4. Section 20.01 of Article 20 of chapter
18 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended, is amended to read:

19 ARTICLE 20.

20 JACKSONVILLE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

21 Section 20.01 Authority created.--There is hereby
22 created and established an advisory board to the Jacksonville
23 Economic Development Commission ~~a body politic and corporate~~
24 to be known as the Jacksonville Downtown Development
25 Authority, ~~an independent agency of the City of Jacksonville~~
26 for the general purpose of making recommendations to the
27 commission concerning the planning, coordinating
28 revitalization and redevelopment of the Jacksonville downtown
29 area.

30 Section 5. Section 20.02 of Article 20 of chapter
31 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended, is amended to read:

1 Section 20.02. Definitions.--As used in this article:

2 (a) "Authority" means the Jacksonville Downtown
3 Development Authority.

4 (b) "Charter" means the charter of the City of
5 Jacksonville.

6 (c) "City" and "City of Jacksonville" means the City
7 of Jacksonville created pursuant to s. 9 of Art. VIII of the
8 1885 Constitution of the State.

9 ~~(d) "Executive director" means the chief executive
10 officer of the authority.~~

11 (d)~~(e)~~ "Council" means the council of the City of
12 Jacksonville.

13 (e)~~(f)~~ "Mayor" means the mayor of the City of
14 Jacksonville.

15 (f)~~(g)~~ "Member" means a member of the authority.

16 (g)~~(h)~~ "Jacksonville Downtown Area" means the core
17 area in the City of Jacksonville ~~as so~~ designated ~~hereinbelow~~
18 as lying within the territorial limits of the authority on
19 June 30, 1997 and as may be amended by the council from time
20 to time for purposes of this article.

21 (h) "Commission" means the Jacksonville Economic
22 Development Commission.

23 ~~(i) "Planning department" means the planning
24 department of the City of Jacksonville.~~

25 ~~(j) "Former authority" means the Jacksonville Downtown
26 Development Authority as created by chapter 71-693, Laws of
27 Florida.~~

28 Section 6. Section 20.03 of Article 20 of chapter
29 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended, is repealed, and a new
30 section 20.03 is created, to read:

31 Section 20.03. Transfer of authority.--

1 (1) On July 1, 1997, the commission shall assume all
2 powers, duties and functions formerly held by the authority,
3 and the commission is hereby declared to be the legal
4 successor to all such powers, duties and functions and shall
5 be entitled to exercise the same as well as any others
6 heretofore delegated to or exercised by the authority.

7 (2) Any functions of the authority which were
8 performed by it under any law, resolution, contract, rule or
9 regulation which remain unfulfilled as of July 1, 1997, shall
10 thereafter be performed by the commission and the authority's
11 assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records (as needed
12 by the commission) and unexpended balances of appropriations
13 are transferred to the commission as of that date. The mayor
14 is authorized to make such determinations as may be necessary
15 with regard to the transfers mandated by this section and to
16 make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel,
17 assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records and
18 unexpended balances of appropriations as he may deem necessary
19 to accomplish an orderly transfer from the authority to the
20 commission, subject to the council-approved budget and
21 accounting code of the city.

22 (3) All plans, programs, projects, recommendations,
23 contract agreements, rules and regulations which were made,
24 approved or undertaken by the authority prior to July 1, 1997,
25 are ratified and confirmed and shall continue in effect,
26 according to their terms until modified, terminated,
27 superseded or revoked either by their own terms, operation of
28 law, or by action of the commission in accordance with law.
29 The commission shall be substituted for the authority in all
30 such plans, programs, projects, recommendations, contracts,
31

1 agreements, rules and regulation and shall have full power in
2 connection therewith as provided herein.

3 Section 7. Section 20.05 of Article 20 of chapter
4 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended, is repealed, and a new
5 section 20.05 is created, to read:

6 Section 20.05. Functions and duties.--On July 1, 1997,
7 all powers and duties formerly exercised by the authority
8 pursuant to this section shall survive, be transferred to and
9 become the powers and duties of the commission as provided in
10 Sections 24.07 and 24.08 of this charter. Thereafter the
11 authority shall function as an advisory body to the commission
12 to undertake fact-finding on downtown issues and provide
13 advice to the commission on issues of importance to the
14 downtown area. The authority will also perform the initial
15 review, analysis and negotiation of downtown development
16 projects. The authority shall have and perform such other
17 duties and responsibilities as may be assigned to it from time
18 to time by the commission. The commission shall be responsible
19 for and shall provide to the authority all resources necessary
20 for the authority to effectively achieve its duties and
21 responsibilities. Such resources shall include a dedicated
22 staff assigned to the authority by the executive director of
23 the commission to manage all matters before the authority.

24 Section 8. Sections 20.06, 20.07, 20.08, and 20.09 of
25 Article 20 of chapter 92-341, Laws of Florida, as amended, are
26 hereby repealed.

27 Section 9. Section 1 of chapter 89-509, Laws of
28 Florida, is repealed, and a new Section 1 is created, to read:

29 JACKSONVILLE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

30 Section 1. Authority created.--There is hereby created
31 and established an advisory board to the Jacksonville Economic

1 Development Commission, hereinafter called "the commission,"
2 to be known as the Jacksonville Sports Development Authority,
3 hereinafter called "the authority," for the general purpose of
4 making findings of facts related to sports issues and
5 providing advice to the commission on issues of importance to
6 sports-related functions.

7 Section 10. Section 3 of chapter 89-509, Laws of
8 Florida, is repealed, and a new section 3 is created to read:

9 Section 3. Transition of authority.--

10 (1) On July 1, 1997, the commission shall assume all
11 powers, duties and functions formerly held by the authority
12 and the commission is hereby declared to be the legal
13 successor to all such powers, duties and functions and shall
14 be entitled to exercise the same as well as any others
15 heretofore delegated to or exercised by the authority.

16 (2) Any functions of the authority which were
17 performed by it under any law, resolution, contract, rule or
18 regulation which remain unfulfilled as of July 1, 1997, shall
19 thereafter be performed by the commission and the authority's
20 assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records (as needed
21 by the commission) and unexpended balances of appropriations
22 are transferred to the commission as of that date. The mayor
23 is authorized to make such determinations as may be necessary
24 with regard to the transfers mandated by this section and to
25 make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel,
26 assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records and
27 unexpended balances of appropriations as he may deem necessary
28 to accomplish an orderly transfer from the authority to the
29 commission, subject to the council-approved budget and
30 accounting code of the city.

31

1 (3) All plans, programs, projects, recommendations,
 2 contract agreements, rules and regulations which were made,
 3 approved or undertaken by the authority prior to July 1, 1997,
 4 are ratified and confirmed and shall continue in effect,
 5 according to their terms, until modified, terminated,
 6 superseded or revoked either by their own terms, operation of
 7 law, or by action of the commission in accordance with law.
 8 The commission shall be substituted for the authority in all
 9 such plans, programs, projects, recommendations, contracts,
 10 agreements, rules and regulation and shall have full power in
 11 connection therewith as provided herein.

12 Section 11. Section 4 of chapter 89-509, Laws of
 13 Florida, is repealed, and a new section 4 is created, to read:

14 Section 4. Functions and duties.--On July 1, 1997, all
 15 powers and duties formerly exercised by the authority pursuant
 16 to this act shall survive, be transferred to and become the
 17 powers and duties of the commission as provided in Section
 18 24.08 of this charter. Thereafter the authority shall function
 19 as an advisory body to the commission to make findings of fact
 20 and render advice and assistance concerning the developing,
 21 planning, coordinating, stimulating, enhancing, promoting, or
 22 procuring sports-related facilities, organizations, and events
 23 for the citizens of the City of Jacksonville. This purpose is
 24 hereby deemed to be a public purpose, including the
 25 procurement of sports franchises. The authority shall provide
 26 advice to the commission regarding activity designed to
 27 stimulate and promote sports events and related activities to
 28 be held and performed in whole or in part in the greater
 29 Jacksonville economic area, and may recommend that the
 30 commission sponsor or cosponsor such events with private
 31 citizens or public or private organizations, or any

1 combination thereof. The authority shall also assist the
2 commission in obtaining maximum utilization of the sports
3 facilities owned and operated by the city. The authority shall
4 have and perform such other duties and responsibilities as may
5 be assigned to it from time to time by the commission. The
6 Jacksonville Economic Development Commission shall be
7 responsible for and shall provide the authority with all
8 resources necessary for the authority to effectively achieve
9 its duties and responsibilities.

10 Section 12. Sections 5, 6, and 7 of chapter 89-509,
11 Laws of Florida, are hereby repealed.

12 Section 13. If any clause, section or provision of
13 this act shall be declared to be unconstitutional or invalid
14 for any cause or reason, the same shall be eliminated from
15 this act, and the remaining portion of said act shall be in
16 force and effect and be as valid as if such invalid portion
17 thereof had not been incorporated therein.

18 Section 14. The provisions of this act shall be
19 liberally construed in order to effectively carry out the
20 purposes of this act.

21 Section 15. In any conflict with the provisions of
22 general or special law, the provisions of this act shall
23 control.

24 Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.
25
26
27
28
29
30
31