

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to children's zones; creating s. 409.147,
3 F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; providing
4 policy and purpose; providing definitions; providing a
5 process for nominating and selecting a children's zone;
6 providing for the governing body of a county or
7 municipality to adopt a resolution designating a
8 children's zone; specifying contents of the resolution;
9 requiring the governing body to establish a children's
10 zone planning team; providing powers and responsibilities
11 of the planning team; requiring the planning team to
12 designate working groups; specifying focus areas for the
13 working groups; providing for the development of a
14 strategic community plan; providing objectives for each
15 focus area; requiring the governing body to create a
16 corporation not for profit for specified purposes;
17 establishing the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., pilot
18 project; providing for management by an entity organized
19 as a corporation not for profit; providing geographic
20 boundaries for the zone; providing for designation and
21 appointment of a board of directors; providing for
22 meetings and duties of the board of directors; providing
23 per diem and travel expenses; requiring the board to enter
24 into a contract to develop a business plan; providing for
25 reports to the Legislature; establishing the Jacksonville
26 Children's Zone pilot project; providing for management by
27 an entity organized as a corporation not for profit;
28 providing for a request for proposals process to identify

29 an existing corporation to manage the zone; providing
30 geographic boundaries for the zone; providing for an
31 oversight committee; requiring the corporation to enter
32 into a contract to develop a business plan; providing for
33 reports to the Legislature; establishing the Orlando
34 Children's Zone pilot project; providing for management by
35 the City of Orlando or a not-for-profit corporation;
36 providing geographic boundaries for the zone; providing
37 for funding for the zone to be disbursed through a donor-
38 advised fund; providing a definition; providing for
39 advisory groups; providing for reports to the Legislature;
40 requiring the Department of Children and Family Services
41 to contract with certain private not-for-profit
42 corporations for specified purposes; requiring the
43 corporation to provide evaluation, fiscal management, and
44 oversight of the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., and the
45 Jacksonville Children's Zone pilot projects; providing a
46 contingent effective date.

47
48 WHEREAS, the State of Florida is often referred to as the
49 Sunshine State, a term that suggests warm weather, a carefree
50 lifestyle, and unlimited potential for nurturing hope and
51 realizing dreams for a fulfilling and productive life, and

52 WHEREAS, communities within the state suffering from
53 fragile infrastructures and multiple social ills are home to
54 families for whom those obstacles limit, or completely preclude,
55 their ability to create a good quality of life for themselves
56 and for their children, and

57 WHEREAS, a proposed community initiative known as a
 58 children's zone, which is modeled after the long-established and
 59 successful Harlem Children's Zone, seeks to change that
 60 experience, and

61 WHEREAS, the initiative will be based on the belief that in
 62 order to help children from troubled communities become healthy
 63 adults and responsible, fulfilled members of their communities,
 64 two things must happen: first, they must be surrounded by a
 65 critical mass of adults who are effective parents engaged in
 66 activities with their children; and second, early in their
 67 lives, they must be exposed to sound health care, intellectual
 68 and social stimulation, and consistent guidance from loving,
 69 attentive adults, and

70 WHEREAS, the initiative seeks to establish a comprehensive,
 71 community-based, coordinated, and targeted system of strategies
 72 and services to revitalize communities with an increased sense
 73 of culture, pride, and togetherness, to support parents, and to
 74 provide comprehensive care for all children within the zone,
 75 NOW, THEREFORE,

76

77 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

78

79 Section 1. Section 409.147, Florida Statutes, is created
 80 to read:

81 409.147 Children's zones.--

82 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

83 (a) The Legislature finds that:

84 1. There are neighborhoods in the state where the

85 infrastructure and opportunities that middle-class communities
86 take for granted are nonexistent or so marginal that they are
87 ineffective.

88 2. Children living in these neighborhoods are read to by
89 an adult on a regular basis and attend a prekindergarten
90 education program at a much lower rate than children in other
91 communities. These children experience below-average performance
92 on standardized tests and graduate from high school in fewer
93 numbers. Most of these children are eligible for the free or
94 reduced-price school lunch program.

95 3. Children in these neighborhoods often suffer from high
96 rates of asthma, a higher risk of lead poisoning, and inadequate
97 health care, and they are routinely exposed to violence and
98 crime.

99 4. In spite of these obstacles, these neighborhoods are
100 many times home to strong individuals and institutions that are
101 committed to making a difference in the lives of children and
102 their families.

103 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
104 assist disadvantaged areas within the state in creating a
105 community-based service network that develops, coordinates, and
106 provides quality education, accessible health care, youth
107 development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and
108 affordable housing for children and families living within its
109 boundaries.

110 (2) POLICY AND PURPOSE.--It is the policy of this state to
111 provide the necessary means to assist local communities, the
112 children and families who live in those communities, and the

113 private sector in creating a sound educational, social, and
 114 economic environment. To achieve this objective, the state
 115 intends to provide investments sufficient to encourage community
 116 partners to commit financial and other resources to severely
 117 disadvantaged areas. The purpose of this section is to establish
 118 a process that clearly identifies the severely disadvantaged
 119 areas and provides guidance for developing a new social service
 120 paradigm that systematically coordinates programs that address
 121 the critical needs of children and their families and for
 122 directing efforts to rebuild the basic infrastructure of the
 123 community. The Legislature, therefore, declares the creation of
 124 children's zones, through the collaborative efforts of
 125 government and the private sector, to be a public purpose.

126 (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

127 (a) "Governing body" means the commission or other
 128 legislative body charged with governing a county or
 129 municipality.

130 (b) "Ounce" means the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida,
 131 Inc.

132 (c) "Planning team" means a children's zone planning team
 133 established under this section.

134 (d) "Resident" means a person who lives or operates a
 135 small community-based business or organization within the
 136 boundaries of the children's zone.

137 (4) CHILDREN'S ZONE NOMINATING PROCESS.--A county or
 138 municipality, or a county and one or more municipalities
 139 together, may apply to the Ounce to designate an area as a
 140 children's zone after the governing body:

141 (a) Adopts a resolution that:

142 1. Finds that an area exists in such county or
143 municipality, or in the county and one or more municipalities,
144 that chronically exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of
145 poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, as well as
146 limited access to quality educational, health care, and social
147 services.

148 2. Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or
149 redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of the area is
150 necessary in the interest of improving the health, wellness,
151 education, living conditions, and livelihoods of the children
152 and families who live in the county or municipality.

153 3. Determines that the revitalization of the area can
154 occur only if the state and the private sector invest resources
155 to improve infrastructure and the provision of services.

156 (b) Establishes a children's zone planning team as
157 provided in subsection (5).

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

160 (d) Creates a corporation not for profit as provided in
161 subsection (7).

162 (5) CHILDREN'S ZONE PLANNING TEAM.--

163 (a) After the governing body adopts the resolution
164 described in subsection (4), the county or municipality shall
165 establish a children's zone planning team.

166 (b) The planning team shall include residents and
167 representatives from community-based organizations and other
168 community institutions. At least half of the members of the

169 planning team shall be residents.

170 (c) The planning team shall:

171 1. Develop a planning process that sets the direction for,
 172 builds a commitment to, and develops the capacity to realize the
 173 children's zone concept.

174 2. Develop a vision of what the children's zone will look
 175 like when the challenges, problems, and opportunities in the
 176 children's zone are successfully addressed.

177 3. Identify important opportunities, strengths,
 178 challenges, and problems in the children's zone.

179 4. Develop a strategic community plan consisting of goals,
 180 objectives, tasks, the designation of responsible parties, the
 181 identification of resources needed, timelines for implementation
 182 of the plan, and procedures for monitoring outcomes.

183 (d) The planning team shall designate working groups to
 184 specifically address each of the following focus areas:

185 1. Early development and care of children.

186 2. Education of children and youth.

187 3. Health and wellness.

188 4. Youth support.

189 5. Parent and guardian support.

190 6. Adult education, training, and jobs.

191 7. Community safety.

192 8. Housing and community development.

193 (6) CHILDREN'S ZONE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PLAN.--After the
 194 governing body adopts the resolution described in subsection
 195 (4), the working groups shall develop objectives and identify
 196 strategies for each focus area. The objectives, specified by

197 focus area, for a working group may include, but not be limited
 198 to:

199 (a) Early development and care of children.

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

202 2. Ensuring that all schools are ready for children and
 203 all children are ready for school.

204 3. Facilitating enrollment in half-day or full-day
 205 prekindergarten for all 3-year old and 4-year old children.

206 4. Strengthening parent and guardian relationships with
 207 care providers.

208 5. Providing support and education for families and child
 209 care providers.

210 (b) Education of children and youth.

211 1. Increasing the level and degree of accountability of
 212 persons who are responsible for the development and well-being
 213 of all children in the children's zone.

214 2. Changing the structure and function of schools to
 215 increase the quality and amount of time spent on instruction and
 216 increase programmatic options and offerings.

217 3. Creating a safe and respectful environment for student
 218 learning.

219 4. Identifying and supporting points of alignment between
 220 the children's zone community plan and the school district's
 221 strategic plan.

222 (c) Health and wellness.

223 1. Facilitating enrollment of all eligible children in the
 224 Florida Kidcare program and providing full access to high-

225 quality drug and alcohol treatment services.

226 2. Eliminating health disparities between racial and

227 cultural groups, including improving outcomes and increasing

228 interventions.

229 3. Providing fresh, good quality, affordable, and

230 nutritious food within the children's zone.

231 4. Providing all children in the children's zone with

232 access to safe structured and unstructured recreation.

233 (d) Youth support.

234 1. Increasing the high school graduation rate.

235 2. Increasing leadership development and employment

236 opportunities for youth.

237 (e) Parent and guardian support.

238 1. Increasing parent and adult literacy.

239 2. Expanding access for parents to critical resources,

240 such as jobs, transportation, day care, and after-school care.

241 3. Improving the effectiveness of the ways in which

242 support systems communicate and collaborate with parents and the

243 ways in which parents communicate and collaborate with support

244 systems.

245 4. Making the services of the Healthy Families Florida

246 program available to provide multiyear support to expectant

247 parents and persons caring for infants and toddlers.

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

249 1. Creating job opportunities for adults that lead to

250 career development.

251 2. Establishing a career and technical school or a

252 satellite of such a school in the children's zone that includes

253 a one-stop career center.

254 (g) Community safety.

255 1. Providing a safe environment for all children at home,

256 in school, and in the community.

257 2. Eliminating the economic, political, and social forces

258 that lead to a lack of safety within the family, the community,

259 schools, and institutional structures.

260 3. Assessing policies and practices, including sentencing,

261 incarceration, detention, and data reporting, in order to reduce

262 youth violence, crime, and recidivism.

263 (h) Housing and community development.

264 1. Strengthening the residential real estate market.

265 2. Building on existing efforts to promote socioeconomic

266 diversity when developing a comprehensive land use strategic

267 plan.

268 3. Promoting neighborhood beautification strategies.

269 (7) CHILDREN'S ZONE CORPORATION.--After the governing body

270 adopts the resolution described in subsection (4), the county or

271 municipality shall create a corporation not for profit which

272 shall be registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in

273 compliance with chapter 617. The purpose of the corporation is

274 to facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership

275 of the children's zone, and, if the area selected by the

276 governing body is designated as a children's zone, to:

277 (a) Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the

278 planning team to the corporation.

279 (b) Begin the implementation and governance of the

280 children's zone community plan.

281 (8) CREATION OF MAGIC CITY CHILDREN'S ZONE, INC., PILOT
 282 PROJECT.--

283 (a) There is created within the Liberty City neighborhood
 284 in Miami-Dade County a 10-year pilot project zone that, by
 285 November 1, 2008, shall be managed by an entity organized as a
 286 corporation not for profit which shall be registered,
 287 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter
 288 617. The corporation shall be known as the Magic City Children's
 289 Zone, Inc., and shall be administratively housed within the
 290 Belafonte Tacolcy Center. However, Magic City Children's Zone,
 291 Inc., is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by
 292 the Belafonte Tacolcy Center in any manner. The Legislature
 293 determines, however, that public policy dictates that the
 294 corporation operate in the most open and accessible manner
 295 consistent with its public purpose. Therefore, the Legislature
 296 specifically declares that the corporation is subject to chapter
 297 119, relating to public records, chapter 286, relating to public
 298 meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to procurement
 299 of commodities or contractual services.

300 (b) This pilot project zone is designed to encompass an
 301 area that is large enough to include all of the necessary
 302 components of community life, including, but not limited to,
 303 schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial
 304 areas, and common space, yet small enough to allow programs and
 305 services to reach every willing member of the neighborhood.
 306 Therefore, the geographic boundaries of the pilot project zone
 307 are:

308 1. Northwest 79th Street to the north;

309 2. Northwest 36th Street to the south;
 310 3. North Miami Avenue to the east; and
 311 4. Northwest 27th Avenue to the west.
 312 (c)1. The corporation shall be governed by a 15-member
 313 board of directors. The board of directors shall consist of the
 314 following members:
 315 a. The chief executive officer of the Belafonte Tacolcy
 316 Center.
 317 b. The executive director of the Carrie P. Meek
 318 Entrepreneurial Education Center, Miami-Dade College.
 319 c. The director of the Parks and Recreation Department of
 320 the City of Miami.
 321 d. The director of the Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.
 322 e. The chief executive officer of the Urban League of
 323 Greater Miami.
 324 f. The director of the Liberty City Service Partnership.
 325 g. The regional superintendent of the Miami-Dade County
 326 Public Schools.
 327 h. The president of the Student Government Association of
 328 Northwestern High School.
 329 i. The president of the Student Government Association of
 330 Edison High School.
 331 j. The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association
 332 of Northwestern High School.
 333 k. The president of the Parent Teacher Student Association
 334 of Edison High School.
 335 l. Four members from the local private business sector, to
 336 be appointed by a majority vote of the members designated in

337 sub-subparagraphs a.-k., all of whom must have significant
338 experience in one of the focus areas specified in subsection
339 (6).

340 2. All members of the board of directors shall be
341 appointed no later than 90 days following the incorporation of
342 the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., and:

343 a. Eleven members initially appointed pursuant to this
344 paragraph shall each serve a 4-year term.

345 b. The remaining initial four appointees shall each serve
346 a 2-year term.

347 c. Each member appointed thereafter shall serve a 4-year
348 term.

349 d. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which
350 the original appointment was made, and a member appointed to
351 fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of that term.

352 e. A member may not serve more than 8 years in consecutive
353 terms.

354 3. The board of directors shall annually elect a
355 chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the board's
356 members. The members may, by a vote of eight members, remove a
357 member from the position of chairperson or vice chairperson
358 before the expiration of his or her term as chairperson or vice
359 chairperson. His or her successor shall be elected to serve for
360 the balance of the term of the chairperson or vice chairperson
361 who was removed.

362 4. The board of directors shall meet at least four times
363 each year upon the call of the chairperson, at the request of
364 the vice chairperson, or at the request of a majority of the

365 membership. A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum.
 366 The board of directors may take official action by a majority
 367 vote of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is
 368 present. The board may conduct its meetings through
 369 teleconferences or other similar means.

370 5. A member of the board of directors may be removed by a
 371 majority of the membership. Absence from three consecutive
 372 meetings results in automatic removal.

373 6. Each member of the board of directors shall serve
 374 without compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for per
 375 diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061 while in the
 376 performance of his or her duties.

377 7. The corporation shall create a standing advisory board
 378 to assist in any part of its delegated duties. The membership of
 379 the standing advisory board shall reflect the expertise
 380 necessary for the implementation of the children's zone pilot
 381 project.

382 8. The board of directors has the power and duty to:

383 a. Adopt articles of incorporation and bylaws necessary to
 384 govern its activities.

385 b. Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the
 386 children's zone planning team to the corporation.

387 c. Begin the implementation and governance of the
 388 children's zone community plan.

389 d. Enter into a contract with a management consultant who
 390 has experience working with social service and educational
 391 entities for the purpose of developing a 10-year comprehensive
 392 business plan to carry out the provisions of this section.

393 (d) Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., shall submit an
 394 annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
 395 the House of Representatives by January 31, 2009, and by January
 396 31 of each year thereafter, which shall include a comprehensive
 397 and detailed report of its operations, activities, and
 398 accomplishments for the prior year as well as its goals for the
 399 current year. The initial report shall also include information
 400 concerning the status of the development of a business plan.

401 (9) CREATION OF JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S ZONE PILOT
 402 PROJECT.--

403 (a) There is created within the Grand Park/New Town
 404 Neighborhood in the City of Jacksonville a 10-year-pilot project
 405 zone that, by November 1, 2008, shall be managed by an entity
 406 organized as a corporation not for profit which shall be
 407 registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance
 408 with chapter 617. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
 409 (7), a request for proposals shall be issued to identify an
 410 existing qualified, not-for-profit corporation to implement the
 411 program. The Legislature determines, however, that public policy
 412 dictates that the corporation operate in the most open and
 413 accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. Therefore,
 414 the Legislature specifically declares that the corporation is
 415 subject to chapter 119, relating to public records, chapter 286,
 416 relating to public meetings and records, and chapter 287,
 417 relating to procurement of commodities or contractual services.

418 (b) This pilot project zone is designed to encompass an
 419 area that is large enough to include all of the necessary
 420 components of community life, including, but not limited to,

421 schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial
 422 areas, and common space, yet small enough to allow programs and
 423 services to reach every willing member of the neighborhood.
 424 Therefore, the geographic boundaries of the pilot project zone
 425 are:

- 426 1. West 21st Street to the north;
- 427 2. West Beaver Street to the south;
- 428 3. Myrtle Avenue, Kings Road, and Canal Street to the
 429 east; and
- 430 4. Division Street and CSX Railroad to the west.

431 (c) The Jacksonville Children's Zone shall be managed by
 432 the selected not-for-profit corporation.

433 (d) The corporation shall enter into a contract with a
 434 management consultant who has experience working with social
 435 service and educational entities for the purpose of developing a
 436 10-year comprehensive business plan to carry out the provisions
 437 of this subsection.

438 (e) To assist with such management, an oversight committee
 439 shall be created within the not-for-profit corporation that may
 440 include, but is not limited to, the following members:

- 441 1. The president of Edward Waters College.
- 442 2. The principal of Smart Pope Livingston Elementary
 443 School.
- 444 3. The principal of Eugene Butler Middle School.
- 445 4. The principal of Grand Park Alternative School.
- 446 5. A representative of the Northwest Citizens Planning
 447 Advisory Committee, District 5.
- 448 6. A business representative from the Jacksonville

449 Children's Zone.

450 7. A representative of a faith-based organization that
 451 operates in the Jacksonville Children's Zone.

452 8. A youth member who lives in the Jacksonville Children's
 453 Zone.

454 9. A parent or guardian who lives in the Jacksonville
 455 Children's Zone.

456 10. The director of the Jacksonville Children's
 457 Commission.

458 11. The director of the Recreation and Community Services
 459 Department of the City of Jacksonville.

460 12. The director of the Duval County Health Department.

461 13. A representative of the Department of Children and
 462 Family Services.

463 14. Three additional members who may or may not live in
 464 the Jacksonville Children's Zone.

465 (f) The Jacksonville Children's Zone shall submit an
 466 annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
 467 the House of Representatives by January 31, 2009, and by January
 468 31 of each year thereafter, which shall include a comprehensive
 469 and detailed report of operations, activities, and
 470 accomplishments for the prior year as well as its goals for the
 471 current year. The initial report shall also include information
 472 concerning the status of the development of a business plan.

473 (10) CREATION OF ORLANDO CHILDREN'S ZONE PILOT PROJECT.--

474 (a) There is created within the Parramore Heritage
 475 Community in the City of Orlando a 10-year-pilot project zone
 476 that shall be the Orlando Children's Zone, which shall be

477 managed by the City of Orlando or a not-for-profit corporation
 478 designated by the City of Orlando to manage the pilot project
 479 and designated as a children's zone.

480 (b) This pilot project zone encompasses a 1.4 square-mile
 481 community in which more than 2,000 children from birth to 18
 482 years of age reside and encompasses an area that is large enough
 483 to include all of the necessary components of community life,
 484 including , but not limited to, schools, places of worship,
 485 recreational facilities, commercial areas, and common space, yet
 486 small enough to allow programs and services to reach every
 487 willing member of the neighborhood. The geographic boundaries of
 488 the Orlando Children's Zone pilot project are:

- 489 1. State Road 50 to the north;
- 490 2. Gore Street to the south;
- 491 3. Interstate 4 to the east; and
- 492 4. Orange Blossom Trail to the west.

493 (c) The Orlando Children's Zone pilot project shall be
 494 managed by the City of Orlando or a not-for-profit corporation
 495 designated by the City of Orlando to manage the pilot project.
 496 Pilot project funding shall be dispersed through a donor-advised
 497 fund. The term "donor-advised fund" means a management and
 498 investment vehicle for the receipt of charitable contributions,
 499 the assets of which are owned and held by a charitable not-for-
 500 profit corporation for distribution for such charitable purposes
 501 as determined by the entity establishing the fund.

502 (d) The Orlando Children's Zone pilot project shall
 503 include, in an advisory capacity, representatives from business,
 504 governmental, and community groups operating within the Orlando

505 Children's Zone pilot project boundaries.

506 (e) The Orlando Children's Zone pilot project shall submit
507 an annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker
508 of the House of Representatives by January 31, 2009, and by
509 January 31 of each year thereafter, which shall include a
510 comprehensive and detailed report of operations, activities, and
511 accomplishments for the prior year as well as its goals for the
512 current year.

513 Section 2. The Department of Children and Family Services
514 shall contract with an existing private not-for-profit
515 corporation incorporated for the purpose of identifying,
516 funding, supporting, and evaluating programs and community
517 initiatives to improve the development and life outcomes of
518 children and to preserve and strengthen families with a primary
519 emphasis on education and community support. The existing
520 private not-for-profit corporation shall be responsible for the
521 evaluation, fiscal management, and oversight of the Magic City
522 Children's Zone, Inc., and the Jacksonville Children's Zone
523 pilot projects.

524 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008,
525 subject to a specific appropriation to provide a grant for a 3-
526 year period for the purpose of implementing this act, which
527 includes contracting with a not-for-profit corporation for the
528 development of a business plan and for the evaluation, fiscal
529 management, and oversight of the Magic City Children's Zone,
530 Inc., and Jacksonville Children's Zone pilot projects.