

HB 1313

2009

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to state-federal relations; amending s.
3 14.23, F.S.; revising legislative intent; providing for
4 direct access of the Legislative Committee on
5 Intergovernmental Relations to staff of the Office of
6 State-Federal Relations; expanding duties of the office;
7 providing for appointment of a Florida Federal Grants
8 Coordinator by the President of the Senate and the Speaker
9 of the House of Representatives; providing that the
10 coordinator serve at the pleasure of the President of the
11 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
12 requiring the coordinator to report to the committee;
13 providing duties and responsibilities of the coordinator;
14 providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Section 14.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to
19 read:

20 14.23 State-Federal relations.--

21 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the
22 Legislature to establish mechanisms through which the
23 legislative and executive branches of state government can work
24 together in a cooperative alliance, to strengthen the state's
25 relationship with our Congressional Delegation and with federal
26 executive branch agencies, to improve our position in relation
27 to federal legislative initiatives which have a fiscal impact or
28 substantive policy impact on the state, and to establish and

HB 1313

2009

29 maintain a viable network and communications structure to
30 facilitate the transmittal of essential information between
31 executive and legislative branch state officials and
32 congressional and federal officials, and to take all necessary
33 steps to maximize the receipt of various federal funds by the
34 State of Florida. Florida's Congressional Delegation is, in this
35 regard, the most important linkage in representing Florida's
36 interests in the nation's capital. Therefore, the mechanisms and
37 resources created herein, for the furtherance of the state's
38 intergovernmental efforts, shall include the Congressional
39 Delegation and be available to meet its needs.

40 (2) CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS;
41 FLORIDA FEDERAL GRANTS COORDINATOR.--

42 (a) There is created, within the Executive Office of the
43 Governor, the Office of State-Federal Relations for the State of
44 Florida, hereinafter referred to as the "office," to be located
45 in Washington, D.C. The office shall represent both the
46 legislative and executive branches of state government. The
47 Legislature and the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental
48 Relations shall have direct access to the staff of the office.

49 (b) The duties of the office shall be determined by the
50 Governor, in consultation with the President of the Senate and
51 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and shall include,
52 but not be limited to, the following:

53 1. To provide legislative and administrative liaison
54 between executive and legislative branch state officials and
55 federal officials and agencies and with Congress.

56 2. To provide grants assistance and advice to state
57 agencies.

58 a. In furtherance of this goal, the President of the
59 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
60 appoint a Florida Federal Grants Coordinator within the office
61 who shall have direct access to the staff of the office for
62 necessary support. The Florida Federal Grants Coordinator shall
63 serve at the pleasure of the President of the Senate and the
64 Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall report to the
65 Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

66 b.(I) The Florida Federal Grants Coordinator shall ensure
67 that the Legislature and state agencies are kept informed of
68 grants-funding activities and opportunities in Washington, D.C.,
69 that will affect the state.

70 (II) The Florida Federal Grants Coordinator shall maintain
71 an economic information clearinghouse that includes federal
72 economic stimulus awards data and other federal awards data
73 received in this state. The Florida Federal Grants Coordinator
74 shall maintain continuous contact with all state agencies to
75 facilitate their federal funding efforts.

76 (III) In cooperation with the Chief Financial Officer, the
77 Florida Federal Grants Coordinator shall be responsible for
78 gathering information and data concerning the mortgage
79 foreclosure situation and the state and federal opportunities
80 available to remedy the situation. The Florida Federal Grants
81 Coordinator shall promote mediation and arbitration efforts
82 between lenders and borrowers to restructure loans.

HB 1313

2009

83 3. To assist in the development and implementation of
84 strategies for the evaluation and management of the state's
85 federal legislative program and intergovernmental efforts.

86 4. To facilitate the activities of Florida officials
87 traveling to Washington, D.C., in the performance of their
88 official duties.

89 (c) The head of the office shall be the director, who
90 shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

91 (3) COOPERATION.--For the purpose of centralizing the
92 state-federal relations efforts of the state, state agencies and
93 their representatives shall cooperate and coordinate their
94 state-federal efforts and activities with the office. The office
95 shall, in all matters vital to the Legislature, cooperate with
96 the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. State
97 agencies which have representatives headquartered in Washington,
98 D.C., are encouraged to station their representatives in the
99 office.

100 (4) (a) NOMINATIONS TO FEDERAL REGIONAL FISHERIES
101 MANAGEMENT COUNCILS.--The Governor is prohibited from nominating
102 for appointment to any one of the federal fisheries management
103 councils established under 16 U.S.C. ss. 1801 et seq., as
104 amended, the name of any person who is, or who has been at any
105 time during the 24 months preceding such nomination, a lobbyist
106 for any entity of any kind whatsoever whose interests are or
107 could be affected by actions or decisions of such fisheries
108 management councils.

109 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "lobbyist"
110 means any natural person who is required to register pursuant to

HB 1313

2009

111 s. 11.045 or the equivalent federal statute and who, for
112 compensation, seeks, or sought during the preceding 24 months,
113 to influence the governmental decisionmaking of a reporting
114 individual or procurement employee, as those terms are defined
115 under s. 112.3148, or his or her agency, to encourage the
116 passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or
117 recommendation by such reporting individual or procurement
118 employee or his or her agency.

119 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.