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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Office of State-Federal Relations;
3 amending s. 14.23, F.S.; requiring the office to submit an
4 annual report to the Governor, President of the Senate,
5 and Speaker of the House of Representatives; providing an
6 effective date.

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

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10 Section 1. Section 14.23, Florida Statutes, is amended to
11 read:

12 14.23 State-Federal relations.—

13 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the
14 Legislature to establish mechanisms through which the
15 legislative and executive branches of state government can work
16 together in a cooperative alliance, to strengthen the state's
17 relationship with our Congressional Delegation and with federal
18 executive branch agencies, to improve our position in relation
19 to federal legislative initiatives which have a fiscal impact or
20 substantive policy impact on the state, and to establish and
21 maintain a viable network and communications structure to
22 facilitate the transmittal of essential information between
23 state and federal officials, and to take all necessary steps to
24 maximize the receipt of various federal funds by the State of
25 Florida. Florida's Congressional Delegation is, in this regard,
26 the most important linkage in representing Florida's interests
27 in the nation's capital. Therefore, the mechanisms and resources
28 created herein, for the furtherance of the state's

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29 | intergovernmental efforts, shall include the Congressional
30 | Delegation and be available to meet its needs.

31 | (2) CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS.—

32 | (a) There is created, within the Executive Office of the
33 | Governor, the Office of State-Federal Relations for the State of
34 | Florida, hereinafter referred to as the "office," to be located
35 | in Washington, D.C. The office shall represent both the
36 | legislative and executive branches of state government. The
37 | Legislature shall have direct access to the staff of the office.

38 | (b) The duties of the office shall be determined by the
39 | Governor, in consultation with the President of the Senate and
40 | the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and shall include,
41 | but not be limited to, the following:

42 | 1. To provide legislative and administrative liaison
43 | between state and federal officials and agencies and with
44 | Congress.

45 | 2. To provide grants assistance and advice to state
46 | agencies.

47 | 3. To assist in the development and implementation of
48 | strategies for the evaluation and management of the state's
49 | federal legislative program and intergovernmental efforts.

50 | 4. To facilitate the activities of Florida officials
51 | traveling to Washington, D.C., in the performance of their
52 | official duties.

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

55 | (3) COOPERATION.—For the purpose of centralizing the
56 | state-federal relations efforts of the state, state agencies and

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57 | their representatives shall cooperate and coordinate their
58 | state-federal efforts and activities with the office. State
59 | agencies which have representatives headquartered in Washington,
60 | D.C., are encouraged to station their representatives in the
61 | office.

62 | (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—By January 1 of each year, the office
63 | shall submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of
64 | the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
65 | detailing the office's budget, personnel, and activities.

66 | (5)~~(4)~~(a) NOMINATIONS TO FEDERAL REGIONAL FISHERIES
67 | MANAGEMENT COUNCILS.—The Governor is prohibited from nominating
68 | for appointment to any one of the federal fisheries management
69 | councils established under 16 U.S.C. ss. 1801 et seq., as
70 | amended, the name of any person who is, or who has been at any
71 | time during the 24 months preceding such nomination, a lobbyist
72 | for any entity of any kind whatsoever whose interests are or
73 | could be affected by actions or decisions of such fisheries
74 | management councils.

75 | (b) For purposes of this section, the term "lobbyist"
76 | means any natural person who is required to register pursuant to
77 | s. 11.045 or the equivalent federal statute and who, for
78 | compensation, seeks, or sought during the preceding 24 months,
79 | to influence the governmental decisionmaking of a reporting
80 | individual or procurement employee, as those terms are defined
81 | under s. 112.3148, or his or her agency, to encourage the
82 | passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or
83 | recommendation by such reporting individual or procurement
84 | employee or his or her agency.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.