

HB 7167

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Trade Data Center; amending
3 ss. 288.012, 288.386, and 311.07, F.S.; revising
4 requirements for the operating plans of the state's
5 foreign offices, the coordination of activities by the
6 Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative, and the use of
7 program funds of the Florida Seaport Transportation and
8 Economic Development Program, to delete provisions
9 relating to the Florida Trade Data Center; providing an
10 effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (2)
15 of section 288.012, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16 288.012 State of Florida foreign offices.—The Legislature
17 finds that the expansion of international trade and tourism is
18 vital to the overall health and growth of the economy of this
19 state. This expansion is hampered by the lack of technical and
20 business assistance, financial assistance, and information
21 services for businesses in this state. The Legislature finds
22 that these businesses could be assisted by providing these
23 services at State of Florida foreign offices. The Legislature
24 further finds that the accessibility and provision of services
25 at these offices can be enhanced through cooperative agreements
26 or strategic alliances between state entities, local entities,
27 foreign entities, and private businesses.

28 (2) Each foreign office shall have in place an operational

29 | plan approved by the participating boards or other governing
 30 | authority, a copy of which shall be provided to the Office of
 31 | Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development. These operating plans
 32 | shall be reviewed and updated each fiscal year and shall
 33 | include, at a minimum, the following:

34 | (c) Provisions for access to information for Florida
 35 | businesses related to ~~through the Florida Trade Data Center.~~
 36 | ~~Each foreign office shall obtain and forward~~ trade leads and
 37 | inquiries ~~to the center on a regular basis.~~

38 | (d) Identification of new and emerging market
 39 | opportunities for Florida businesses. ~~Each foreign office shall~~
 40 | ~~provide the Florida Trade Data Center with a compilation of~~
 41 | ~~foreign buyers and importers in industry sector priority areas~~
 42 | ~~on an annual basis. In return, the Florida Trade Data Center~~
 43 | ~~shall make available to each foreign office, and to Enterprise~~
 44 | ~~Florida, Inc., the Florida Commission on Tourism, the Florida~~
 45 | ~~Ports Council, the Department of State, the Department of~~
 46 | ~~Citrus, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,~~
 47 | ~~trade industry, commodity, and opportunity information. This~~
 48 | ~~information shall be provided to such offices and entities~~
 49 | ~~either free of charge or on a fee basis with fees set only to~~
 50 | ~~recover the costs of providing the information.~~

51 | (e) Provision of access for Florida businesses to ~~the~~
 52 | ~~services of the Florida Trade Data Center,~~ international trade
 53 | assistance services provided by state and local entities,
 54 | seaport and airport information, and other services identified
 55 | by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

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56 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 288.386, Florida
 57 Statutes, is amended to read:

58 288.386 Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative.—

59 (2) To enhance initiative effectiveness and leverage
 60 resources, STEP shall coordinate initiative activities with
 61 Enterprise Florida, Inc., United States Export Assistance
 62 Centers, Florida Export Finance Corporation, ~~Florida Trade Data~~
 63 ~~Center~~, Small Business Development Centers, and any other
 64 organizations STEP deems appropriate. The coordination may
 65 encompass export assistance and referral services, export
 66 financing, job-training programs, educational programs, market
 67 research and development, market promotion, trade missions, e-
 68 commerce, and mentoring and matchmaking services relative to the
 69 expansion of trade between Florida and the Caribbean Basin. The
 70 initiative shall also form alliances with multilateral,
 71 international, and domestic funding programs from Florida, the
 72 United States, and the Caribbean Basin to coordinate systems and
 73 programs for fundamental assistance in facilitating trade and
 74 investment.

75 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 76 311.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

77 311.07 Florida seaport transportation and economic
 78 development funding.—

79 (3) (a) Program funds shall be used to fund approved
 80 projects on a 50-50 matching basis with any of the deepwater
 81 ports, as listed in s. 403.021(9)(b), which is governed by a
 82 public body or any other deepwater port which is governed by a
 83 public body and which complies with the water quality provisions

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84 of s. 403.061, the comprehensive master plan requirements of s.
85 163.3178(2)(k), and the local financial management and reporting
86 provisions of part III of chapter 218. However, program funds
87 used to fund projects that involve the rehabilitation of
88 wharves, docks, berths, bulkheads, or similar structures shall
89 require a 25-percent match of funds. ~~Program funds also may be
90 used by the Seaport Transportation and Economic Development
91 Council to develop with the Florida Trade Data Center such trade
92 data information products which will assist Florida's seaports
93 and international trade.~~

94 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.