

By Senator Altman

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Florida Commission on Poverty;  
3       creating the commission within the Department of  
4       Economic Opportunity; specifying the membership of the  
5       commission and the duration of members' terms;  
6       authorizing reimbursement for per diem and travel  
7       expenses; prescribing the powers and duties of the  
8       commission; requiring the commission to annually  
9       submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature;  
10      providing an effective date.

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

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14       Section 1. Florida Commission on Poverty.—

15       (1) The Florida Commission on Poverty is established and  
16 assigned to the Department of Economic Opportunity. The  
17 commission shall serve as an advisory board to the Governor and  
18 Cabinet, the Legislature, and appropriate state agencies and  
19 entities on matters relating to poverty.

20       (2) The commission shall consist of one voting member  
21 appointed by the Governor, one voting member appointed by the  
22 Chief Financial Officer, one voting member appointed by the  
23 President of the Senate, one voting member appointed by the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one voting member  
25 from the Florida Association for Community Action, Inc. All  
26 appointees must be confirmed by the Senate. The Governor may  
27 additionally appoint any number of nonvoting members who may  
28 concurrently hold public office with his or her term of service.  
29 Members of the commission must be residents of this state.

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30 (3) Members of the commission shall be appointed for 4-year  
31 terms and may be reappointed for successive terms. A vacancy  
32 shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the  
33 same manner as the original appointment.

34 (4) The commission shall meet at least twice each year at  
35 the call of the chair or at the request of a majority of its  
36 total voting membership. A majority of the total voting  
37 membership constitutes a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a  
38 majority of a quorum is necessary to take official action.

39 (5) Members of the commission shall serve without  
40 compensation, but voting members are entitled to reimbursement  
41 for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061,  
42 Florida Statutes.

43 (6) The commission shall:

44 (a) Annually elect a chair, who must be a voting member of  
45 the commission, and a vice chair.

46 (b) Conduct a study and develop strategies to address the  
47 causes of poverty in the state.

48 (c) Solicit the participation of counties in the study. A  
49 county that wishes to participate must submit an application to  
50 the commission that outlines current issues relating to poverty  
51 in that county. The commission shall develop procedures to  
52 approve or deny applications for participation.

53 (7) The commission may:

54 (a) Procure information and assistance from the state or  
55 any political subdivision, municipality, public officer, or  
56 governmental department or agency thereof.

57 (b) Contract for necessary goods and services.

58 (c) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and services

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59 from any local government, state government, or the Federal  
60 Government, or an agency thereof, or any other public or private  
61 source for the purpose of defraying clerical and administrative  
62 costs as may be necessary to carry out its duties under this  
63 section.

64 (8) By January 15 of each year, the commission shall submit  
65 an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
66 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing an  
67 accounting of its activities and recommendations for  
68 legislative, administrative, and regulatory reforms to  
69 facilitate efforts in mitigating the existence of poverty in  
70 this state.

71 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.