

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [CS/HB 293](#)

**TITLE:** Office of Faith and Community

**SPONSOR(S):** Bankson

**COMPANION BILL:** [CS/SB 820](#) (Yarborough)

**LINKED BILLS:** None

**RELATED BILLS:** None

### Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

18 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Health & Human Services](#)

24 Y, 0 N



[State Affairs](#)

15 Y, 5 N

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill creates the Office of Faith and Community within the Executive Office of the Governor. The purpose of the office is to connect with Florida's faith and community networks and provide administrative support to the Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state government.

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## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill creates the Office of Faith and Community (Office) within the Executive Office of the Governor to serve the most vulnerable persons in Florida by connecting such persons with Florida's faith and community networks and providing administrative support to the [Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council](#). (Sections [1](#) and [2](#))

The bill provides that the Office will be led by a liaison, appointed by the Governor, who serves as a senior advisor to the Governor and connects with state agencies. The liaison is authorized to appoint a director. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides that the Office must:

- Advocate for faith-based and community-based organizations seeking access to, direction from, or support from state agencies.
- Establish and operate the Florida Faith and Community Phone, a dedicated phone line for faith-based and community-based leaders in this state to connect with the Executive Office of the Governor.
- Establish meaningful lines of communication to connect with and provide resources to faith-based and community-based organizations in this state.
- Develop and provide resources for enhanced connection between civil service systems, state agencies, and faith-based and community-based organizations in this state. Specifically, the office must use technology to connect state and local faith-based, community-based, and nonprofit-based organizations to address the identified needs of a community.
- Identify bureaucratic or regulatory burdens within state government that unnecessarily restrict, impede, or otherwise burden faith-based and community-based organizations from their involvement with, collaboration with, or service to the most vulnerable persons in Florida. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2025. (Section [3](#))

**STORAGE NAME:** h0293f.SAC

**DATE:** 4/17/2025

## FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

### STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state government as it creates an additional office within the Executive Office of the Governor, which may require additional funding and positions to support its duties. However, it appears that this office is currently operating and staffed with the personnel required by the bill.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

#### Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council

In 2006, the Legislature created the Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council (council)<sup>1</sup> and administratively housed it in the Executive Office of the Governor.<sup>2</sup> The council is composed of 25 members that include representatives from various faiths, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, foundations, corporations, and municipalities.<sup>3</sup> The council's purpose is to advise the Governor and the Legislature on policies, priorities, and objectives for the state's comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to the full extent permitted by law.<sup>4</sup> The council must submit an annual report that recommends, among other things:

- Best practices for ensuring that state policy decisions consider the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities.
- Best practices relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community-based organizations.<sup>5</sup>

#### Faith and Community Initiative

Created in 2019, the Governor's Faith and Community Initiative supports faith and community organizations of Florida. The initiative is led by a liaison and is tasked with the following:

- Hosting statewide faith calls, events, and special programming with the Governor, First Lady, and others to better connect faith and community networks with state leaders.
- Operating the Florida Faith and Community Red Phone, which is a direct line specifically created for Florida faith and community leaders to connect with the Executive Office of the Governor.
- Utilizing the CarePortal, a technology platform that allows faith institutions, non-profits, businesses, and individuals to see real time, verified, and vetted needs in his or her community.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> An "advisory council" is "an advisory body created by specific statutory enactment and appointed to function on a continuing basis for the study of problems arising in a specified functional or program area of state government and to provide recommendations and policy alternatives." S. [20.03\(7\), F.S.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Ch. 2006-9, L.O.F.](#)

<sup>3</sup> S. [14.31\(3\)\(b\), F.S.](#)

<sup>4</sup> S. [14.31\(2\), F.S.](#)

<sup>5</sup> S. [14.31\(5\), F.S.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Faith and Community Initiative, [Who we are](#) (last visited Mar. 19, 2025).

## BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Government Operations Subcommittee</a>	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	3/25/2025	Toliver	Walker
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require the Office of Faith and Community to use technology to connect state and local faith-based, community-based, and nonprofit-based organizations to address identified community needs, rather than specifically referencing the CarePortal.</li> </ul>			
<a href="#">Health &amp; Human Services Committee</a>	24 Y, 0 N	4/7/2025	Calamas	Clenord
<a href="#">State Affairs Committee</a>	15 Y, 5 N	4/17/2025	Williamson	Walker

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**THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.**  
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