

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 of State  
 4           Federal Relations to submit an annual report; providing an  
 5           effective date.

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

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

11           14.23   State-Federal relations.—

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

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29 | Delegation and be available to meet its needs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 |       (3) COOPERATION.—For the purpose of centralizing the  
 55 | state-federal relations efforts of the state, state agencies and  
 56 | their representatives shall cooperate and coordinate their

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

61 | (4) ANNUAL REPORT

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

66 | (5) (a) ~~(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.