

CHAPTER 98-304

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 945

An act relating to environmental equity and justice; creating s. 760.854, F.S.; creating the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice; providing purpose of the center; creating s. 381.101, F.S.; creating the Community Environmental Health Program; providing purposes of the program; providing for a Community Environmental Health Advisory Board; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 760.854, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

760.854 Center for Environmental Equity and Justice.—

(1) There is hereby established the Center for Environmental Equity and Justice.

(2) The purpose of the center is to conduct and facilitate research, develop policies, and engage in education, training, and community outreach with respect to environmental equity and justice issues.

(3) The Center for Environmental Equity and Justice shall be established at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University within the Environmental Sciences Institute.

(4) The Center for Environmental Equity and Justice shall sponsor students to serve as interns at the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Community Affairs, and other relevant state agencies. The Center may enter into a memorandum of understanding with these agencies to address environmental equity and justice issues.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated \$672,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to implement the provisions of this act.

Section 3. Section 381.101, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

381.101 Community Environmental Health Program; creation; purposes.—

(1) There is created the Community Environmental Health Program. The primary purpose of the program is to ensure the availability of public health services to members of low-income communities that may be adversely affected by contaminated sites located in or near the community. These services extend beyond health services that are currently provided pursuant to chapter 154 and include measures to address the health effects that are associated with exposure to environmental contamination.

(2) The Department of Health shall establish a Community Environmental Health Advisory Board. The majority of board members shall be low-income residents. The board must also include representatives from the respective county health departments, health care professionals and providers, and elected officials. The board shall identify the community environmental health needs and types of services which should be provided.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Low-income community" means a contiguous grouping of residences with a significant portion of occupants who have a family income equal to or below 100 percent of the most recent federal poverty level and who are exposed to multiple sources of environmental contamination.

(b) "Contaminated site" means any contiguous land, surface water, or groundwater areas that contain contaminants that may be harmful to human health or the environment and includes federal Superfund sites and state or federally designated Brownfield areas.

Section 4. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund during the 1998-1999 fiscal year for the Community Environmental Health Program.

Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming law.

Approved by the Governor May 29, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 29, 1998.