

The Senate Select Committee on Florida's Economy

The forces which drive our state's economy are, in most cases, inherently linked to the national economy and often to the international economy. Florida, by itself, cannot achieve economic recovery. Government does not create prosperity. However, it is our duty to seize every opportunity to affect the odds in favor of our citizens, our communities, and our businesses.

The Senate Select Committee is created to develop and propose legislation that will create incentives and eliminate impediments to economic recovery and growth, and ensure that government functions more simply, more transparently, less expensively and more effectively.

The objectives of the committee include:

- Identifying and removing barriers to economic recovery and growth which may be within the control or subject to the influence of state government.
- Finding and reducing redundant, overlapping or non-essential regulatory activities which increases government spending and inhibits economic growth.
- Developing policies and incentives that will encourage business development and make Florida more competitive, including an assessment of Florida's tax structure.
- Accelerating public and private projects and programs which will produce or increase economic activity.
- Determining the best methods for accomplishing these purposes within the limited resources available to the state.

The Select Committee will develop statutory legislation as well as constitutional amendments, as necessary, to accomplish these objectives.

The committee will begin functioning immediately to develop the Senate's economic policy agenda in stages, over the next 24 months. The committee will operate on a tightly defined schedule that includes:

- inviting the people of Florida to offer their suggestions through:
 - establishing a website for public input;
 - conducting public hearings in several locations around the state;
 - surveying economic development councils, workforce boards, chambers of commerce and other similar groups; and
 - soliciting the recommendations of entrepreneurial leaders and representatives of the business sector within the state's economy through informal conversations, public testimony, written submissions and invitations to meet with the Select Committee.
- The Select Committee will begin a scope of research which will continue during the life of the committee including:
 - baseline data describing Florida's economic condition;
 - practices of other state and local governments which have acted effectively to improve economic performance and competitiveness and reduce non-essential costs and functions of government;
 - forecasting the potential impact of specific policy options considered by the Select Committee; and
 - utilizing appropriate existing information supplied by executive departments, the Revenue Estimating Conference and committees of the Legislature
- Public policy institutes and similar organizations may be approached to assist the committee on an ad hoc basis.

- The committee will introduce initial proposals by the opening of the 2009 Legislative Session.
- In the interim the Select Committee will continue to be active; conducting meetings, holding hearings, continuing to invite public input, and preparing proposed legislation for the 2010 session.

The Chairman of the Select Committee is authorized and directed to work closely with the House of Representatives, the Governor's Office and other chairs in the Senate.