

By Representative Westbrook

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to counties; repealing s. 327,
3 ch. 96-410, Laws of Florida, which provides
4 that once a small county meets the population
5 requirements and qualifies for programs under
6 ss. 40.015, 163.05, 163.3177, 163.3191,
7 212.055, 218.075, 218.65, 252.373, 265.2861,
8 403.706, and 403.7095, F.S., it shall retain
9 that qualification until it exceeds a
10 population of 75,000; amending the following
11 provisions to increase from 50,000 to 75,000
12 the maximum population limit to qualify as a
13 small county: s. 163.05, F.S., which
14 establishes a technical assistance program for
15 small counties; s. 163.3177, F.S., which
16 provides that certain elements of a local
17 government comprehensive plan are optional for
18 small counties; s. 163.3191, F.S., which
19 authorizes the state land planning agency to
20 enter into agreements with small counties to
21 focus on selected issues or elements when
22 updating their comprehensive plans; s. 165.061,
23 F.S., which provides population requirements
24 for incorporation of municipalities in small
25 counties; s. 212.055, F.S., which authorizes
26 certain small counties to use proceeds of the
27 local government infrastructure surtax for
28 long-term maintenance costs associated with
29 landfill closure; s. 218.075, F.S., which
30 authorizes the Department of Environmental
31 Protection and water management districts to

1 waive or reduce permit processing fees for
2 small counties under certain conditions; s.
3 252.373, F.S., which provides criteria small
4 counties must meet to qualify for funds from
5 the Emergency Management, Preparedness, and
6 Assistance Trust Fund; s. 288.063, F.S., which
7 provides that certain small counties are
8 qualified for contracts with the Office of
9 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development for
10 transportation projects; s. 288.065, F.S.,
11 which provides for loans to small counties from
12 the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan
13 Fund; s. 373.441, F.S., which requires
14 consideration of special provisions when an
15 environmental resource permit program is
16 delegated to small counties; s. 394.467, F.S.,
17 which provides special requirements for
18 recommendation of involuntary placement of
19 patients in small counties; s. 403.4131, F.S.,
20 which encourages a regional approach to litter
21 control and prevention programs in small
22 counties; s. 403.706, F.S., which authorizes
23 small counties to provide their residents with
24 the opportunity to recycle in lieu of achieving
25 solid waste reduction goals; s. 403.719, F.S.,
26 which provides use of waste tire grants by
27 small counties; s. 403.973, F.S., which
28 provides for expediting permit review and for
29 technical assistance for certain projects in
30 small counties; and s. 468.609, F.S., which
31 provides special requirements relating to

1 certification of employees of small counties as
2 building code administrator, plans examiner, or
3 inspector; amending s. 403.7061, F.S., to
4 conform; amending s. 218.65, F.S., relating to
5 emergency and supplemental distributions from
6 the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax
7 Clearing Trust Fund; revising the population
8 limitation for purposes of provisions which
9 exempt small counties from certain criteria
10 imposed to qualify for an emergency
11 distribution; deleting a requirement that a
12 county must be eligible for an emergency
13 distribution in order to qualify for a
14 supplemental distribution; amending ss. 259.032
15 and 373.59, F.S.; removing a requirement that
16 small counties levy a specified millage or
17 suffer a specified percentage of tax loss in
18 order to receive payments in lieu of taxes from
19 funds in the Conservation and Recreation Lands
20 Trust Fund or Water Management Lands Trust Fund
21 for tax losses incurred as a result of
22 acquisitions under the Florida Preservation
23 2000 Program; amending s. 403.7095, F.S.;
24 revising the population limitation for purposes
25 of provisions which authorize annual solid
26 waste and recycling grants to small counties
27 and deleting the expiration date for such
28 grants; providing an effective date.

29
30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
31

1 Section 1. Section 327 of chapter 96-410, Laws of
2 Florida, is hereby repealed.

3 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 163.05, Florida
4 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

5 163.05 Small County Technical Assistance Program.--

6 (3) The purpose of this section is to provide
7 technical assistance to small counties to enable them to
8 implement workable solutions to financial and administrative
9 problems. As used in this section, "small county" means a
10 county that has a population of 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or less.

11 Section 3. Paragraph (i) of subsection (6) of section
12 163.3177, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to
13 read:

14 163.3177 Required and optional elements of
15 comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.--

16 (6) In addition to the requirements of subsections
17 (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following
18 elements:

19 (i) The optional elements of the comprehensive plan in
20 paragraphs (7)(a) and (b) are required elements for those
21 municipalities ~~units of local government~~ having populations
22 greater than 50,000, and those counties having populations
23 greater than 75,000, as determined under s. 186.901.

24 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (12) of section
25 163.3191, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to
26 read:

27 163.3191 Evaluation and appraisal of comprehensive
28 plan.--

29 (12)(a) The state land planning agency may enter into
30 a written agreement with a municipality of fewer than 5,000
31 residents or a county with fewer than 75,000 ~~50,000~~ residents

1 so that such a jurisdiction may focus planning resources on
2 selected issues or elements when updating its plan, if the
3 local government includes such a request in its report and the
4 agency approves the request. Approval of the request does not
5 authorize the local government to repeal or render ineffective
6 any existing portion or element of its local plan.

7 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
8 165.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 165.061 Standards for incorporation, merger, and
10 dissolution.--

11 (1) The incorporation of a new municipality, other
12 than through merger of existing municipalities, must meet the
13 following conditions in the area proposed for incorporation:

14 (b) It must have a total population, as determined in
15 the latest official state census, special census, or estimate
16 of population, in the area proposed to be incorporated of at
17 least 1,500 persons in counties with a population of 75,000 or
18 less ~~than 50,000~~, and of at least 5,000 population in counties
19 with a population of more than 75,000 ~~50,000~~.

20 Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
21 212.055, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to
22 read:

23 212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative
24 intent; authorization and use of proceeds.--It is the
25 legislative intent that any authorization for imposition of a
26 discretionary sales surtax shall be published in the Florida
27 Statutes as a subsection of this section, irrespective of the
28 duration of the levy. Each enactment shall specify the types
29 of counties authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be
30 imposed; the maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed,
31 if any; the procedure which must be followed to secure voter

1 approval, if required; the purpose for which the proceeds may
2 be expended; and such other requirements as the Legislature
3 may provide. Taxable transactions and administrative
4 procedures shall be as provided in s. 212.054.

5 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX.--

6 (d)1. The proceeds of the surtax authorized by this
7 subsection and any interest accrued thereto shall be expended
8 by the school district or within the county and municipalities
9 within the county, or, in the case of a negotiated joint
10 county agreement, within another county, to finance, plan, and
11 construct infrastructure and to acquire land for public
12 recreation or conservation or protection of natural resources
13 and to finance the closure of county-owned or municipally
14 owned solid waste landfills that are already closed or are
15 required to close by order of the Department of Environmental
16 Protection. Any use of such proceeds or interest for purposes
17 of landfill closure prior to July 1, 1993, is ratified.

18 Neither the proceeds nor any interest accrued thereto shall be
19 used for operational expenses of any infrastructure, except
20 that any county with a population of less than 75,000 ~~50,000~~
21 that is required to close a landfill by order of the
22 Department of Environmental Protection may use the proceeds or
23 any interest accrued thereto for long-term maintenance costs
24 associated with landfill closure. Counties, as defined in s.
25 125.011(1), may, in addition, use the proceeds to retire or
26 service indebtedness incurred for bonds issued prior to July
27 1, 1987, for infrastructure purposes.

28 2. For the purposes of this paragraph,
29 "infrastructure" means:

30 a. Any fixed capital expenditure or fixed capital
31 outlay associated with the construction, reconstruction, or

1 improvement of public facilities which have a life expectancy
2 of 5 or more years and any land acquisition, land improvement,
3 design, and engineering costs related thereto.

4 b. A fire department vehicle, an emergency medical
5 service vehicle, a sheriff's office vehicle, a police
6 department vehicle, or any other vehicle, and such equipment
7 necessary to outfit the vehicle for its official use or
8 equipment that has a life expectancy of at least 5 years.

9 Section 7. Section 218.075, Florida Statutes, is
10 amended to read:

11 218.075 Reduction or waiver of permit processing
12 fees.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
13 Department of Environmental Protection and the water
14 management districts shall reduce or waive permit processing
15 fees for counties with a population of 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or less
16 and municipalities with a population of 25,000 or less, or any
17 county or municipality not included within a metropolitan
18 statistical area. Fee reductions or waivers shall be approved
19 on the basis of fiscal hardship or environmental need for a
20 particular project or activity. The governing body must
21 certify that the cost of the permit processing fee is a fiscal
22 hardship due to one of the following factors:

23 (1) Per capita taxable value is less than the
24 statewide average for the current fiscal year;

25 (2) Percentage of assessed property value that is
26 exempt from ad valorem taxation is higher than the statewide
27 average for the current fiscal year;

28 (3) Any condition specified in s. 218.503, that
29 determines a state of financial emergency;

30 (4) Ad valorem operating millage rate for the current
31 fiscal year is greater than 8 mills; or

1 (5) A financial condition that is documented in annual
2 financial statements at the end of the current fiscal year and
3 indicates an inability to pay the permit processing fee during
4 that fiscal year.

5
6 The permit applicant must be the governing body of a county or
7 municipality or a third party under contract with a county or
8 municipality and the project for which the fee reduction or
9 waiver is sought must serve a public purpose. If a permit
10 processing fee is reduced, the total fee shall not exceed
11 \$100.

12 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and
13 paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 218.65, Florida
14 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to read:

15 218.65 Emergency distribution.--

16 (2) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that a
17 fiscal emergency exists in any county which meets the criteria
18 specified in paragraph (a), if applicable, and the criterion
19 specified in paragraph (b):

20 (a) If the county has a population of 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or
21 above:

22 1. In any year from 1977 to 1981, inclusive, the value
23 of net new construction and additions placed on the tax roll
24 for that year was less than 2 percent of the taxable value for
25 school purposes on the roll for that year, exclusive of such
26 net value; or

27 2. The percentage increase in county taxable value
28 from 1979 to 1980, 1980 to 1981, or 1981 to 1982 was less than
29 3 percent.

30 (7)(a) Any county ~~eligible for an emergency~~
31 ~~distribution pursuant to this section~~ the inmate population of

1 which in any year is greater than 7 percent of the total
2 population of the county is eligible for a supplemental
3 distribution for that year from funds expressly appropriated
4 therefor. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the
5 Department of Revenue shall calculate a supplemental
6 allocation for each eligible county equal to the current per
7 capita limitation pursuant to subsection (4) times the inmate
8 population of the county. If moneys appropriated for
9 distribution pursuant to this section for the current year are
10 less than the sum of supplemental allocations, each eligible
11 county shall receive a share of the appropriated amount
12 proportional to its supplemental allocation. Otherwise, each
13 shall receive an amount equal to its supplemental allocation.

14 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
15 252.373, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16 252.373 Allocation of funds; rules.--

17 (3) The department shall allocate funds from the
18 Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund
19 to local emergency management agencies and programs pursuant
20 to criteria specified in rule. Such rules shall include, but
21 are not limited to:

22 (a) Requiring that, at a minimum, a local emergency
23 management agency either:

24 1. Have a program director who works at least 40 hours
25 a week in that capacity; or

26 2. If the county has fewer than 75,000 ~~50,000~~
27 population or is party to an interjurisdictional emergency
28 management agreement entered into pursuant to s. 252.38(3)(b),
29 that is recognized by the Governor by executive order or rule,
30 have an emergency management coordinator who works at least 20
31 hours a week in that capacity.

1 Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (12) of
2 section 259.032, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended
3 to read:

4 259.032 Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund;
5 purpose.--

6 (12)

7 (b) Payment in lieu of taxes shall be available:

8 1. To counties which ~~levy an ad valorem tax of at~~
9 ~~least 9 mills or the amount of the tax loss from all completed~~
10 ~~Preservation 2000 acquisitions in the county exceeds 0.01~~
11 ~~percent of the county's total taxable value, and have a~~
12 population of 75,000 or less, and

13 2. To counties with a population of less than 100,000
14 which contain all or a portion of an area of critical state
15 concern designated pursuant to chapter 380 and to local
16 governments within such counties.

17
18 For the purposes of this paragraph, "local government"
19 includes municipalities, the county school board, mosquito
20 control districts, and any other local government entity which
21 levies ad valorem taxes, with the exception of a water
22 management district.

23 Section 11. Paragraph (b) of subsection (14) of
24 section 373.59, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended
25 to read:

26 373.59 Water Management Lands Trust Fund.--

27 (14)

28 (b) Payment in lieu of taxes shall be available to
29 counties with a ~~for each year in which the levy of ad valorem~~
30 ~~tax is at least 9 mills or the amount of the tax loss from all~~
31 ~~completed Preservation 2000 acquisitions in the county exceeds~~

1 ~~0.01 percent of the county's total taxable value, and the~~
2 population of ~~is~~ 75,000 or less, and to counties with a
3 population of less than 100,000 which contain all or a portion
4 of an area of critical state concern designated pursuant to
5 chapter 380.

6 Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 288.063, Florida
7 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

8 288.063 Contracts for transportation projects.--

9 (3) With respect to any contract executed pursuant to
10 this section, the term "transportation project" means a
11 transportation facility as defined in s. 334.03(31) which is
12 necessary in the judgment of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
13 Economic Development to facilitate the economic development
14 and growth of the state. Except for applications received
15 prior to July 1, 1996, such transportation projects shall be
16 approved only as a consideration to attract new employment
17 opportunities to the state or expand or retain employment in
18 existing companies operating within the state, or to allow for
19 the construction or expansion of a state or federal
20 correctional facility in a county with a population of 75,000
21 ~~50,000~~ or less that creates new employment opportunities or
22 expands or retains employment in the county. The Office of
23 Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall institute
24 procedures to ensure that small and minority businesses have
25 equal access to funding provided under this section. Funding
26 for approved transportation projects may include any expenses,
27 other than administrative costs and equipment purchases
28 specified in the contract, necessary for new, or improvement
29 to existing, transportation facilities.

30 Section 13. Subsection (2) of section 288.065, Florida
31 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

1 288.065 Rural Community Development Revolving Loan
2 Fund.--

3 (2) The program shall provide for long-term loans,
4 loan guarantees, and loan loss reserves to units of local
5 governments within counties with populations less than 75,000
6 ~~50,000~~, or any county that has a population of 100,000 or less
7 and is contiguous to a county with a population less than
8 75,000 ~~50,000~~, as determined by the most recent official
9 estimate pursuant to s. 186.901, residing in incorporated and
10 unincorporated areas of the county. Requests for loans shall
11 be made by application to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
12 Economic Development. Loans shall be made pursuant to
13 agreements specifying the terms and conditions agreed to
14 between the local government and the Office of Tourism, Trade,
15 and Economic Development. The loans shall be the legal
16 obligations of the local government. All repayments of
17 principal and interest shall be returned to the loan fund and
18 made available for loans to other applicants.

19 Section 14. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
20 373.441, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21 373.441 Role of counties, municipalities, and local
22 pollution control programs in permit processing.--

23 (1) The department in consultation with the water
24 management districts shall, by December 1, 1994, adopt rules
25 to guide the participation of counties, municipalities, and
26 local pollution control programs in an efficient, streamlined
27 permitting system. Such rules shall seek to increase
28 governmental efficiency, shall maintain environmental
29 standards, and shall include consideration of the following:

30 (g) Special provisions under which the environmental
31 resource permit program may be delegated to counties with

1 populations of 75,000 or less, or municipalities with, or
2 local pollution control programs serving, populations of
3 50,000 or less; and

4 Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 394.467, Florida
5 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

6 394.467 Involuntary placement.--

7 (2) ADMISSION TO A TREATMENT FACILITY.--A patient may
8 be retained by a receiving facility or involuntarily placed in
9 a treatment facility upon the recommendation of the
10 administrator of a receiving facility where the patient has
11 been examined and after adherence to the notice and hearing
12 procedures provided in s. 394.4599. The recommendation must be
13 supported by the opinion of a psychiatrist and the second
14 opinion of a clinical psychologist or another psychiatrist,
15 both of whom have personally examined the patient within the
16 preceding 72 hours, that the criteria for involuntary
17 placement are met. However, in counties of less than 75,000
18 ~~50,000~~ population, if the administrator certifies that no
19 psychiatrist or clinical psychologist is available to provide
20 the second opinion, such second opinion may be provided by a
21 licensed physician with postgraduate training and experience
22 in diagnosis and treatment of mental and nervous disorders or
23 by a psychiatric nurse. Such recommendation shall be entered
24 on an involuntary placement certificate, which certificate
25 shall authorize the receiving facility to retain the patient
26 pending transfer to a treatment facility or completion of a
27 hearing.

28 Section 16. Subsection (5) of section 403.4131,
29 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 403.4131 "Keep Florida Beautiful, Incorporated";
31 placement of signs.--

1 (5) Each county is encouraged to initiate a litter
2 control and prevention program or to expand upon its existing
3 program. The department shall establish a system of grants
4 for municipalities and counties to implement litter control
5 and prevention programs. In addition to the activities
6 described in subsection (1), such grants shall at a minimum be
7 used for litter cleanup, grassroots educational programs
8 involving litter removal and prevention, and the placement of
9 litter and recycling receptacles. Counties are encouraged to
10 form working public private partnerships as authorized under
11 this section to implement litter control and prevention
12 programs at the community level. The grants authorized
13 pursuant to this section shall be incorporated as part of the
14 recycling and education grants. Counties that have a
15 population under 75,000 ~~50,000~~ are encouraged to develop a
16 regional approach to administering and coordinating their
17 litter control and prevention programs.

18 Section 17. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section
19 403.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 403.706 Local government solid waste
21 responsibilities.--

22 (4)

23 (d) A county with a population of 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or
24 less may provide its residents with the opportunity to recycle
25 in lieu of achieving the goal set forth in paragraph (a). For
26 the purposes of this subsection, the "opportunity to recycle"
27 means that the county:

28 1.a. Provides a system for separating and collecting
29 recyclable materials prior to disposal that is located at a
30 solid waste management facility or solid waste disposal area;
31 or

1 b. Provides a system of places within the county for
2 collection of source-separated recyclable materials.

3 2. Provides a public education and promotion program
4 that is conducted to inform its residents of the opportunity
5 to recycle, encourages source separation of recyclable
6 materials, and promotes the benefits of reducing, reusing,
7 recycling, and composting materials.

8
9 If a county with a population of 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or less decides
10 to provide the opportunity to recycle in lieu of achieving the
11 goal set forth in paragraph (a), the county shall notify the
12 department by October 1, ~~1993~~, of such decision, and shall
13 provide the department with a description of how the county
14 intends to provide the opportunity to recycle. The department
15 shall take into consideration the description provided by the
16 county in determining the amount of grant moneys to be
17 provided to the county pursuant to s. 403.7095.

18 Section 18. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
19 403.7061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 403.7061 Requirements for review of new
21 waste-to-energy facility capacity by the Department of
22 Environmental Protection.--

23 (3) An applicant must provide reasonable assurance
24 that the construction of a new waste-to-energy facility or the
25 expansion of an existing waste-to-energy facility will comply
26 with the following subsections:

27 (c) The county in which the facility is located will
28 achieve the 30-percent waste reduction goal set forth in s.
29 403.706(4) by the time the facility begins operation. For the
30 purposes of this section, the provisions of s. 403.706(4)(d)

31

1 for counties with populations of 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or less do not
2 apply.

3 Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
4 403.7095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

5 403.7095 Solid waste management grant program.--

6 (7)(a) Annual solid waste and recycling grants shall
7 be available to counties with populations of fewer than 75,000
8 ~~50,000~~. The sum of \$50,000 shall be available annually to
9 each eligible county from the Solid Waste Management Trust
10 Fund ~~through 1996~~. These grants shall be made by October 1 of
11 each year to any county applying to the department prior to
12 August 1 of any given year.

13 Section 20. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
14 403.719, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 403.719 Waste tire grants.--

16 (1) The department shall administer a program to make
17 grants to counties that seek, individually or collectively,
18 to:

19 (i) Counties with populations less than 75,000 ~~50,000~~
20 may use waste tire grants for any solid waste related purpose;
21 or

22 Section 21. Subsections (2) and (9) of section
23 403.973, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to
24 read:

25 403.973 Expedited permitting.--

26 (2) The Governor, through the Office of Tourism,
27 Trade, and Economic Development, shall direct the creation of
28 regional permit action teams, for the purpose of expediting
29 review of permit applications submitted by businesses creating
30 at least 100 jobs, or the creation of at least 50 jobs if the
31 project is located in an enterprise zone, in a county having a

1 population of less than 75,000 ~~50,000~~ or in a county having a
2 population of less than 100,000 which is contiguous to a
3 county having a population of less than 75,000 ~~50,000~~, as
4 determined by the most recent decennial census, residing in
5 incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. Jobs are
6 defined as full-time equivalent positions not including
7 construction jobs. The regional teams shall be established
8 through the execution of memoranda of agreement between the
9 office and the respective heads of the Departments of
10 Environmental Protection, Community Affairs, Transportation,
11 and Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Game and Fresh
12 Water Fish Commission, appropriate regional planning councils,
13 and any appropriate water management districts. The memoranda
14 of agreement should also accommodate participation in this
15 expedited process by local governments and federal agencies as
16 circumstances warrant.

17 (9) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
18 Development, working with the Rural Economic Development
19 Initiative and the teams established through the memoranda of
20 agreement, shall provide technical assistance in preparing
21 permits for counties having a population of less than 75,000
22 ~~50,000~~ residents, or counties having less than 100,000
23 residents which are contiguous to counties having less than
24 75,000 ~~50,000~~ residents. Additional assistance may include,
25 but not be limited to, guidance in land development
26 regulations and permitting processes, working cooperatively
27 with state, regional, and local entities to identify areas
28 within these counties which may be suitable or adaptable for
29 preclearance review of specified types of land uses and other
30 activities requiring permits.

31

1 Section 22. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section
2 468.609, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 468.609 Administration of this part; standards for
4 certification; additional categories of certification.--

5 (7)

6 (b) Any individual who holds a valid certificate
7 issued by the Southern Building Code Congress International,
8 the Building Officials Association of Florida, the South
9 Florida Building Code (Dade and Broward), or the Council of
10 American Building Officials certification programs, or who has
11 been approved for certification under one of those programs
12 not later than October 1, 1995, shall be deemed to have
13 satisfied the requirements for receiving a standard
14 certificate in the corresponding category prescribed by this
15 part. Employees of counties with a population of less than
16 75,000 ~~50,000~~, or employees of municipalities with a
17 population of less than 3,500, shall be deemed to have
18 satisfied the requirements for standard certification where
19 such employee is approved for certification under one of the
20 programs set forth in this paragraph not later than October 1,
21 1998.

22 Section 23. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.
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588-103-97

HOUSE SUMMARY

Repeals provisions enacted in 1996 that specify that if a county meets the required 50,000 population limit, thus qualifying as a "small county" and becoming eligible for specified special programs, it shall remain qualified for those programs until it exceeds a population of 75,000.

Amends various provisions which provide special programs or requirements for small counties, to increase the maximum population for such counties from 50,000 to 75,000. These provisions relate to:

- 1. A technical assistance program.
- 2. Required elements of the local comprehensive plan and requirements for updating plans.
- 3. Incorporation of municipalities.
- 4. Use of local government infrastructure surtax revenues.
- 5. Reduction or waiver of environmental permit processing fees, delegation of certain permit programs, and expediting permit review for certain projects.
- 6. Qualification for loans from the Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund and Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund and for certain transportation project assistance.
- 7. Recommendation for involuntary placement of patients.
- 8. Litter control programs, recycling, and use of waste tire grants.
- 9. Certification of building code administrators.

Revises the population limitation with respect to emergency distributions from the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund and deletes the requirement that a county must be eligible for an emergency distribution in order to qualify for a supplemental distribution.

Removes a requirement that small counties levy a specified millage or suffer a specified percentage of tax loss in order to receive payments in lieu of taxes for tax losses incurred as a result of acquisitions under the Florida Preservation 2000 Program.

Revises the population limitation with respect to solid waste and recycling grants to small counties and deletes the expiration date for such grants.